

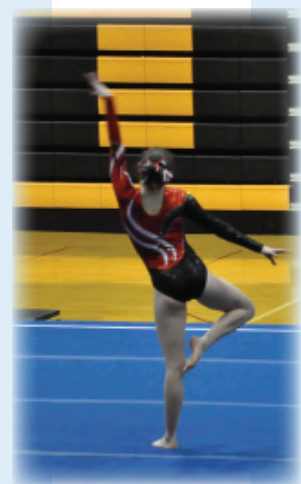
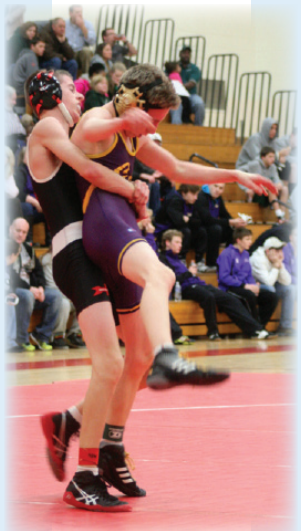
## school board meeting



page 3



lhs sports



page 8, 9 & 14

## With all the discussion of water quality in the state, Lowell's water passes with flying colors

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Flint has been in the national news quite a bit lately after the city's water was found to be contaminated with lead when they switched from treated city of Detroit water to the highly polluted Flint River water. The lead contamination caused serious health problems for local residents and a political scandal involving governor Rick Snyder, who eventually issued a statement apologizing for his role in the disaster.

Flint is only 99 miles away from Lowell; you could drive there in an hour and a half. Lowell's water treatment plant is 39 years old and serves over 5,000 homes and businesses. Could Lowell's water have lead in it too?

"Not here, not with the plant we have," Lowell water treatment supervisor Brian VanVeelen said from behind his desk in the laboratory at the water treatment plant, 1596 Bowes Rd. "[Flint's] biggest problem was they changed their source water, then it got really aggressive and it started eating at the pipes and that's where you

**"We monitor it constantly."**

~ Brian VanVeelen

get your lead exposure. This plant was built in 1977 and it hasn't changed since. The process has been the same and we've never had a problem."

The state requires them to test the water for lead every three years. They have records of these tests going back to 1992. The highest lead level ever recorded

in Lowell's water was six parts per billion, which was recorded in 1992. The last time the water was tested for lead was in 2013, when there were three parts per billion. The next test will be conducted this year between June 1 and Sept. 30. They will sample water from at least 20 random locations around the city. If the lead level in any sample is above 15 parts per billion, they are required to fix the issue immediately.

"We usually test homes," VanVeelen said. "We try to test older, high risk homes that might have older pipes and test those. This year we're going to test at King Milling as well. They requested to

Lowell water,  
continued, page 2



VanVeelen holds a jar of Lowell tap water from 1976, the year before the plant was built.

## Michigan's presidential primary slated for March 8

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Michigan's presidential primary is on Tuesday, March 8 and Michigan voters will choose two people from an extensive list of candidates.

The names on the Republican side will be Jeb Bush, Ben Carson, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Carly Fiorina, Lindsey Graham, Mike Huckabee, John Kasich, George Pataki, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio, Rick Santorum, and Donald Trump.

On the Democrat's side will be Hillary Clinton, Rocky De La Fuente, Martin O'Malley, and Bernie Sanders. That's right, Rocky De La Fuente, a former used car salesman from California, is on Michigan's primary ballot.

If you wanted to vote in this primary, Monday, Feb. 8, was the final day you could register. Those who wish to receive absentee ballots must postmark their

mailed applications by 2 pm on Saturday, March 5. The presidential election will eventually take place on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Michigan has a "closed primary," meaning you have to decide on your party affiliation and vote only for a candidate from that party. Independent thinkers are not welcome and there will be no more picking the other guy's craziest candidate in order to skew the results. The party you pick in the primary is a matter of public record and you must declare your party affiliation before you can vote.

There also won't be any third parties on the ballot, as Michigan's primary is limited to Republicans and Democrats. Candidates don't even have to do anything to get on the ballot. At some point in November the Secretary of State issues a "list of the individuals generally advocated by the national news media to be

potential candidates." Then the state party chairperson checks the list over and issues their own revised list to the Secretary of State. After that all the candidates have to do is campaign until the end.

Mitt Romney won on the Republican side the last two Michigan primaries. Michigan went for Barack Obama in 2012, but picked Hillary Clinton in 2008. Donald Trump last appeared in a Michigan primary back in 2000 when he was running as the sole "Reform Party" candidate. The Reform Party was founded by Ross Perot in 1995. In Michigan's first presidential primary back in 1916 Michigan picked Henry Ford to be the Republican nominee for president. Theodore Roosevelt also pulled 383 votes from Michiganders in that election, running as a member of the "National Progressive" party.

## Sheriff's department once again warns of telephone scam

Kent County area residents are being contacted by phone by individuals claiming to be associated with the IRS. These individuals are advising the victim(s) that they have an arrest warrant for failure to pay back taxes. The caller instructs the victim(s) that they have to pay an amount of money or they will be arrested.

The caller instructs the victim(s) to obtain a prepaid credit card from a local store (CVS, Walmart, Rite Aid, etc.) for a specific amount. The victim(s) are told to call the caller back. The victim(s) is requested to provide the numbers

on the back of the prepaid card. Once the numbers are given, the money is then taken off the card by the suspect and the fraud has been completed.

This is a scam that has happened quite often, but most recently has increased in volume concerning the amount of victims. The Kent County Sheriff Department and IRS do not ever conduct business in this manner.

If you receive the call, don't become a victim of this crime, contact your local law enforcement agency or the Kent County Sheriff Department at 616-632-6357.

50  
CENTS



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 5 3 8 3 2

# Lowell water, continued

be added in. They're very proactive about water quality because they do a lot of food grade work. They're very conscious about what they're doing."

There is a full laboratory in the water treatment plant where VanVeelen and the other staff run various tests on the water every single day, making sure that it's clean of all contaminants.

"Every day we run a bunch of different tests in house," VanVeelen said. "We test for alkalinity, pH

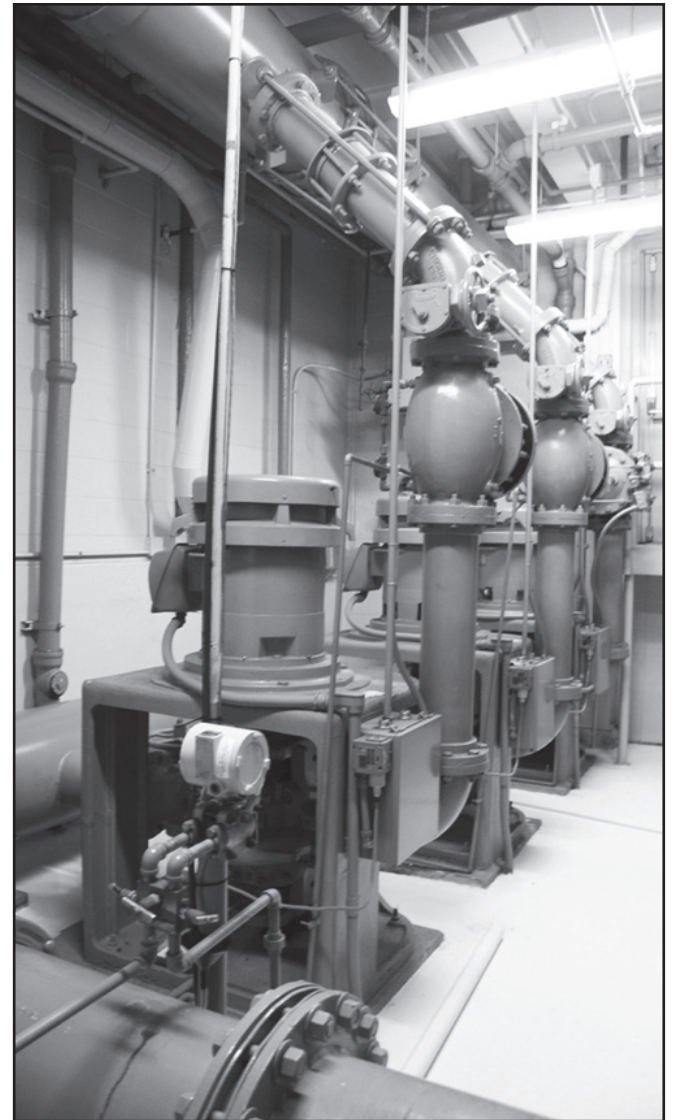
and hardness, which is the amount of calcium in the water. We do pull out of wells, so it is very hard. This is a softening plant. We soften the water, but we don't soften it all the way. We're not able to. A house water softener will soften to zero, no hardness whatsoever. We get it down to about 140 parts [per billion]. That's as soft as we can get it here with the process that this plant was designed for. If you get it

any softer than that, your pH starts getting to a point where it's way too high and the water gets aggressive. Then you'll start to get white water. Nobody wants that. Everything in the plant is adjustable, so if we see we're getting too soft or too hard, we can adjust the pH. We monitor it constantly."

There are a few tests that are too complicated for the laboratory at the plant.

"Every year we do a series of tests for the DEQ

that we can't do here because the testing equipment is too expensive," VanVeelen said. "We only do these tests once a year, so we outsource it. They test for a whole pile of stuff, it's a huge list. We've never had a violation [on the yearly tests] ever, as far as I know, concerning anything in our system. They look for things like trihalomethane, which is a byproduct of the disinfection process. When disinfecting the water, you get an organic byproduct.



The plant is 39 years old, but very well maintained and running perfectly.



## along main street

### FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Thurs., Feb. 18 at 1 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

### BLUEGRASS MUSIC JAM

Free Bluegrass music jam session on Sat., Feb. 20 from 2:30 to 5:00 pm at King building at the fairgrounds. Come to jam or listen. Everyone welcome.

### 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](http://www.lowellartsmi.org)

### DOWNTOWN LOWELL GALLERY HOP

LowellArts! and nearby galleries on Main Street will be open March 10 with special evening hours. Participants: Flat River Cottage & Night Forest Jewelry, Chimera Design, Glass House Designs, and Flat River Gallery and Framing. Area restaurants will also participate by offering special one-night-only discounts for event-goers. LowellArts! invites the public to view the West Michigan Regional Art Competition, meet the artists and enjoy an art-filled evening in downtown Lowell. And, take a sneak peek - tour the pre-renovated space and future home of LowellArts! at 221 and 223 West Main Street. More details at [www.lowellartsmi.org](http://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.



### Family Dentistry Since 1994

- Gentle Dentistry for Children & Adults
- Immediate Emergency Treatment
- Cosmetic Dentistry, Teeth Whitening
- Preventive Care
- Extractions/Broken Tooth Repaired
- Dentures (Same Day Repair)
- Implants
- Insurance Plans Accepted

Accepting New Patients

"Gentle & Painless Dentistry Is Our Goal"

Hours:  
Monday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Tuesday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Wednesday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Thursday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Judd T. Carroll D.M.D.  
103 East Main • Lowell, Michigan  
(616) 897-7595  
[www.juddcarrolldentistry.com](http://www.juddcarrolldentistry.com)

**FLAT RIVER ELECTRIC, LLC**

www.flatriverelectric.com  
Email: info@flatriverelectric.com

616.987-0596

- \* Residential
- \* Multi-Family
- \* Commercial

**WINDOWS/SIDING  
DOORS/INSULATION/GUTTERS**

SAVE **50% OFF**

**HEATING/COOLING BILLS  
GUARANTEED!!!**

SAVE 10% OFF WITH THIS COUPON

897-7380 [allweatherseal.com](http://allweatherseal.com)

219 E. Main Lowell

**All-Weather Seal**

We add chlorine to the water, just enough so there's a barrier against it. There's just enough chlorine so if there is some exposure, it won't be able to grow. It's a very minute amount of chlorine, so hopefully you can't taste it, but some people say they can."

It must not taste too bad, Lowell's water has won multiple "best tasting water" awards. Every year they enter a sample in a national competition put on by the American Water Works Association.

"Since I took over, which was four-and-a-half

years ago, we've entered four times and won the regionals three times," VanVeelen said. "We'll be back again this spring. We go to the state competition every year, but we haven't sealed the deal on that yet. My goal is to win state, I really want that award."

VanVeelen said that the water from the four huge wells behind the plant is naturally excellent, they just make it perfect.

"We're very lucky in the quality of water that we have here," VanVeelen said. "It's good right out of the wells. It's very good water."

## the lowell ledger

(USPS 453-834)

Published weekly for \$25 a year for zipcodes beginning with 483 or 485; \$36 a year any other zip code.

Deadline for display advertising is Friday at Noon  
Deadline for classified advertising is Monday at 5 pm

Jon Jacobs ..... Publisher  
Jeanne Boss ..... Editor  
Tim McAllister ..... Contributing Reporter  
Kathryn Alwood ..... Contributing Reporter  
Emmy Janowiak ..... Classified/Accounting  
Jon Jacobs ..... Advertising Sales

(616) 897-9261

email: [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com)  
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday  
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:  
**The Lowell Ledger**  
PO Box 128 - Lowell, MI 48331  
[www.thelowellledger.com](http://www.thelowellledger.com)

# Board of Education regular meeting updates

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Lowell Area Schools Board of Education had their latest regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 8 at the Runciman building, 300 High St. The board heard a song, bought a bus, paid for some major renovation projects and took care of other business at the one hour meeting.

LHS student Megan Ritchie serenaded the board with a song from the high school's upcoming musical production of "Peter Pan." Ritchie, who will play the lead role of Peter Pan, performed a song called "Neverland" and gave each member of the board a free ticket to the show. The play's elaborate special effects will include actors flying through the air and will take place at the Lowell Performing Arts Center from March 11 through March 19.

Denise Washburn, Nancy Breuker and Karen Eldridge, staff at Murray Lake Elementary, gave a presentation describing monthly trips the first graders take to Fountain View of Lowell. The kids and the seniors spend time together doing activities,



singing songs, telling stories and having fun.

"We do it to build relationships across generations, bring youthful energy to residents, promote positive social interactions and perspectives on aging, and to honor and respect their elders," one of the staff members said.

The board voted to spend \$767,792 on a long list of "summer sinking fund" maintenance projects, including asphalt paving of school parking lots, new fire doors, track resurfacing, roofing parts of the high school, new soil and more.

"When you look at the total cost, it is a little bit more than what we've spent in the past on the summer projects as a whole package," said superintendent Greg Pierce. "That just means next year's

package will be a little bit smaller."

"It has to be done and waiting is only going to make it more expensive," said board president Jim Turner. "That is what the citizens passed the millage for, to keep the buildings up."

The board will buy two new buses for \$168,830.25. They're getting one conventional 71-passenger school bus for \$83,740.25 and one lift bus for \$85,090.

"This is in keeping with the district's goal to replace older buses," Turner said.

The board's next meeting will be a work session at the Runciman building on Monday, Feb. 22 at 6 pm. Their next regular meeting will be at the Runciman building on Monday, March 14 at 7 pm.

LHS student Megan Ritchie performed a song from the upcoming LHS production of "Peter Pan."

## PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF LOWELL 2016 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The City of Lowell Board of Review for 2016 will be held at the Lowell City Hall, 301 E Main St SE, on the following dates:

**Organizational Meeting:**  
Tuesday, March 8th, 11:30am

**Appeal Hearings:**  
Monday, March 14th, 9:00am to 3:00pm  
Wednesday, March 16th, 3:00pm to 9:00pm

Meetings are by Appointment, to schedule, contact: City Hall @ ph. 616.897.8457

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests and to equalize the 2016 assessments. By City Charter, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 8th 2016

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2016 are as follows:

Commercial	48.62	1.0284
Residential	45.96	1.0879
Industrial	52.65	0.9497
Personal Property	50.00	1.0000

**Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice**  
The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3 days' notice.

Contact: Dave Pasquale -  
City Manager, ph. 616.897.8457



**We want to be your Other Family Doctor.**

- Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day
- Evenings & Saturday Hours Available
- Early Drop-offs & House Calls
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Science Diet Pet Foods
- Boarding & Grooming

**ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL**

Call 897-8484  
11610 East Fulton Street • Lowell, Michigan

**WE ACCEPT**

Phone Orders Welcome  
Lowell Ledger  
897-9261

**WE MAKE**

**COLOR COPIES**

DISCOUNTS OFFERED FOR LARGER QUANTITIES

the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway • 897-9261 • Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8-5; Fri 8 - noon

**WE MAKE**

**COLOR COPIES**

DISCOUNTS OFFERED FOR LARGER QUANTITIES

the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway • 897-9261 • Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8-5; Fri 8 - noon

# business directory

**FRY DADDY'S**  
608 West Main Street  
Lowell, MI 49331  
**897-FISH**  
Fish Steaks Wine Sauce -  
Cucumber Slaws  
**DAILY SPECIALS**  
Open Monday - Saturday  
Sunday 3-5  
Best Fish in Town!!!



**Rich's Service Co.**  
In-Home Appliance Repair  
Dryer Vent  
Cleaning  
**INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE**  
WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS  
GAS RANGE DISHWASHERS • STOVES • DISHWASHERS  
209 E. Main St. **RICH CURTIS**  
Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686



**KIRK COLLINS**  
Owner  
**Snowboat**  
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.  
Auto Value  
1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI  
(616) 897-9231  
HOURS: MON • FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3



**THE LAURELS OF KENT**  
A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center  
• Rehab Services • Respite Stays  
• Long Term Care • Palliative Care  
Able to admit 24/7  
350 North Center Street  
Lowell, Michigan  
**616-897-8473** or  
**616.292.1031**  
[www.laurelsokent.com](http://www.laurelsokent.com)



**BILL WHEELER**  
Certified Public  
Accountant  
W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN  
103 Riverside Dr.  
Lowell, Michigan 49331  
**616-897-7711**



**Arctic Inc.**  
Heating & Cooling  
• Heating • Air Conditioning • Mini Split • Ductless Systems  
• Air Treatment Systems • Forced Air Heat • Steam Radiators  
• Hot Water Radiators • Ductwork • Heat Pumps  
• Gas, Electric and Oil Furnaces, Boilers, Heat Exchangers  
• Radiant Heating Systems



**Eckman Landscape Construction**  
Hard Scapes • Brick Paving •  
Boulder Walls • Retaining Walls •  
Decks • Fences • Tractor Services •  
Back • Much  
Joel Eckman, owner  
Lowell  
**616-892-2688**  
[joel@eckman99@yahoo.com](mailto:joel@eckman99@yahoo.com)



**LAMPLIGHT GRILL**  
**Steak Burgers**  
DOWNTOWN IONIA  
[lamplightionia.com](http://lamplightionia.com)  
**573-2233**



**HANSON REAL ESTATE GROUP .COM**  
**(616) 682.9225**



**WE SHIP UPS**  
The Buyers Guide  
105 N. Broadway Lowell



## outdoors

elbow room

Dave Stegehuis

Traveling in other states and other countries can sometimes feel a bit confining. Even if there is plenty of open space, these areas are typically closed to the public. In places open to visitors, movement and activities are usually significantly restricted. That is not the case in Michigan. If you want to experience all that is available outdoors to the citizens and visitors of Michigan, you had better get started or you will run out of time to get it done.

Here we will focus on the four national forests located in our state. Keep in mind there are also recreation areas, forests, and game areas managed by the state for the use of all citizens and visitors. These combined lands include lakes, streams, wetlands, meadows, forests, and

mountains which provide recreation, industrial resources, and habitat for everything that walks, flies, swims, or crawls in Michigan.

Manistee and Huron national forests occupy close to a million acres in the northern Lower Peninsula. Ottawa national forest in the Western Upper Peninsula also covers almost one million acres. Hiawatha national forest occupies large areas in the central Upper Peninsula and in the eastern U.P. and adds up to about 900,000 acres.

This total of almost 3 million acres of public access land in the federal system added to state land provides plenty of room to pursue just about any outdoor activity you can mention. Fees are charged at some sites like campgrounds

and boat launches, where regular maintenance and management are required. Available annual passes make entry to fee locations convenient. Seniors qualify for a lifetime pass. Otherwise, all national forests have websites which provide information about how to locate a park and what features are available.

It is not common for so many people to have easy access to millions of acres of scenic natural areas to pursue an extensive list of diverse recreational activities. It is common for us to take for granted those things which become familiar. Be reminded as you drive north through the Lower Peninsula and across the U.P., the miles of forest land you see passing by the window belong to you. Explore possibilities to take advantage of your good fortune. There is plenty of elbowroom.

...  
Those who improve with age embrace the power of personal growth and personal achievement and begin to replace youth with wisdom, innocence with understanding, and lack of purpose with self-actualization.

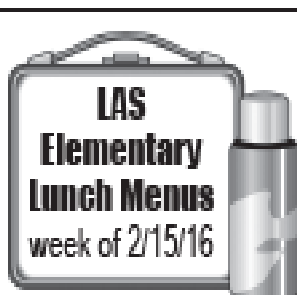
~ Bo Bennett

## kidsView



by Sierra Hieshetter

**LAS Elementary Lunch Menus**  
week of 2/15/16



**MONDAY:** No school. Mid-winter break.

**TUESDAY:** Sweet & sour popcorn chicken over brown rice, seasoned green beans, Bismarkit popcorn chicken, whole, seasoned green beans, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber coins, apple, grapes.

**WEDNESDAY:** Cinnamon glazed French toast w/eggs, hashbrown stars, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, cinnamon applesauce, orange slices.

**THURSDAY:** Hot dog on bun, mashed potatoes & gravy, Bismarkit baked beans instead of mashed potatoes, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, blueberries, pineapple, apple, Bismarkit cherry tomatoes instead of blueberries.

**FRIDAY:** Tony's cheese pizza, baked beans, Bismarkit baby carrots instead of baked beans, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, mixed fruit juice.

In my opinion, the TV can be a wonderful thing. It can take viewers from sporting events, to documentaries and the news. But TV is a lot different now than it used to be. You can do pretty much anything on it these days, from surfing the web to listening to music. Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, and Roku are all things to supposedly enhance your viewing experience. Apart from that, there are the TV shows themselves. Shows used to be more family oriented and often had a good theme. Shows like Leave it to Beaver and The Brady Bunch taught us the value of family and friendship. These days there are so many to choose from and they are becoming increasingly more wacky as networks run out of ideas. They are also becoming more age restricted as

the demographic changes and I think more shows contain adult content rather than being geared toward families.

With all of the new streaming services and on demand TV, networks are having a hard time competing. That is why we have shows like My Diet Is Better Than Yours and Toddlers in Tiaras. I am able to watch these shows even without having cable!

I can't even imagine what low quality shows are on cable. They advertise over 200 channels, but how much of that is good? I'm betting not much. All I am saying is that when a network comes up with an idea, it had better be a good one, because I'm tired of having one out of every 10 shows be decent!

**TO ADVERTISE**  
in the  
**LEDGER**  
BUSINESS DIRECTORY  
Call 616.897.9261

**WE SHIP UPS**  
The Buyers Guide  
105 N. Broadway  
Lowell • 897-9555



# viewpoint

## to the editor

### vote responsibly

Dear Editor,  
I owe the people of Lowell an apology. I did not vote in the November city council election. Like most citizens of this community I quietly watched what was happening at city hall and with LL&P and the union employees. The employees looked like victims and it is hard not to feel sympathy for the small David against a mighty Goliath. However, I also had enough respect for Sharon Ellison and the sitting council to let them do their job as best they could. As the current city council might agree, they have a

difficult job - even in the best of times.  
Late in September Jim Hall passed away making it a forgone conclusion that we would have a major change in our council. In truth, I was leaning toward a vote for the reformers based upon the rumors floating around town. But I see it as my civic duty to inform myself before any vote, so I read as much as possible. I looked to the previous Lowell Ledger articles regarding the city council. I visited the lowellcityhall.com blog hosted and written by Alan Teelander.

It was here that I began to have some doubts about these reformers. The articles written by Teelander seemed to me to be based on negative perceptions rather than hard facts. I tried on my own to fact check some of the points made on the site, but could not. Teelander used innuendo to disparage the existing city council with every post.  
In the end, I was more confused than ever. I simply sat this election out. I decided to just let the chips fall where they may. I suspect I was not alone.  
So today, we are reaping what was sown that November day. Our new city council seems to have an agenda to tear down all that was in place, a sort of "scorched earth" policy. Yet we have heard no details as

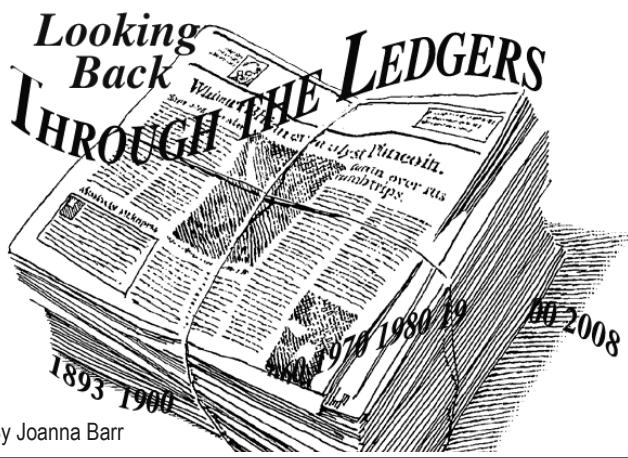
to what their new city plan will be and what our city might look like two years down the road.  
I've gone back to review Mr. Teelander's blog. Perhaps I missed something. Maybe there is a master plan that I failed to see back in October. However, the blog pages have been taken down since the election. One of Mr. Teelander's favorite questions is "What are they hiding?" So today, sir, I ask the same question of you.  
And to the people of Lowell and others like me, let us never allow ourselves to be swayed by rumors and innuendo again. Let's look for the facts and vote responsibly.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Dickerman  
Lowell

### residents will be watching

Dear Editor,  
At a packed city council meeting on Monday Peggy Covert (non-city resident, non-city taxpayer and LL&P customer) called for the resignation of the Lowell Light and Power board members. Peggy gathered all the signatures on the petitions for each of the new councilmembers - who have disrupted and embarrassed our city - and worked hard to make sure they were elected.  
When is the new council going to stop listening to outsiders, act appropriately and make decisions based on facts instead of rumors? Their version of transparency includes: lack of public discussion, no public comments, no explanation given for their actions and several documented violations of the Open Meeting Act.

The number of unhappy voters who spoke at that meeting indicates the overwhelming disapproval of the actions taken so far by this council. Honest motives and decisions as well as some level of competency must be demonstrated for them to remain in office.  
It's ironic that Dave Pasquale who was unacceptable to Jeff Altoft and Matt Mayer as a temporary city councilmember was the unanimous choice for the interim city manager. This group needs someone to clean up the mess they created and Dave's willingness to serve speaks much more to his character than theirs.  
City residents are and will be watching.  
Sincerely,  
Sharon Ellison  
Lowell



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal February 11, 1891

Epley & Devine, of Stanton, old Lowell boys, have closed out their business there and will remove to Iron Mountain, where they will engage in the lumber business. All their old Lowell friends—and they are numerous—with them success in their new venture.  
F. D. Tarleton's family are returning to Lowell to live. Mr Tarleton is going on the road for the Princess Dressing Case Co. and Frank has a position with the Lowell Furniture Co.  
Miss Ada Lockwood, of Northstreet, spent part of last week visiting her sister Miss Rosa Lockwood. She was en route to Grand Rapids, where she will take a course in the business college.  
Belding is taking active steps—lively ones too—looking towards incorporating as a village. These preliminary steps should have been taken long ago, so as to have sufficient time to have a first-class charter drawn, one that would not have to be amended every session of the legislature.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 17, 1916

Honors shared - Greenville girls and Lowell boys victors in last games. Lowell and Greenville each shared the honors of a victory Tuesday night, the visiting girls winning from the locals by a 16 to 13 score while the

Lowell boys were victors in their contest, capturing 17 to 11. The games proved highly interesting to the large crowd of spectators present, there being something doing at the time. The Greenville girls put up a great game and deserved their victory although our girls played fast and furiously. Evelyn Curtiss, running center, had a difficult task in hand as her opponent was one of the visitors' strong players. However, Evelyn did very well. Next year she should be a star. Helena Flogaus and Ruth Gibbson featured the game with their playing. After a slow start the boys came back in the second half and played the Greenville lads off their feet. Every man on the home team performed creditably, each individual playing as though his very existence depended on the result of the contest.

A cloud of smoke hanging over Jones' meat market Sunday caused the fire alarm to be sounded. 'Twas only a bunch of waste paper in the stove, but doubtless the firemen needed the exercise. They haven't been called out for some time.

The Ledger regrets that the Boosters day advertising committee did not see fit to lay its full bill of particulars before the five thousand five hundred readers of this paper, but have chosen a more expensive and less effective method of publicity. Nevertheless, we urge our readers to find if possible copies of the bill which will be mailed instead and come to Lowell on Boosters days, February 24, 25 and 26. You will be well repaid for the trouble; and on another occasion of the same sort the needed information will doubtless be made more accessible to you.

Lee E. Lampkin. The rising young man recently elected assistant cashier of the City State bank of Lowell, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Lampkin of Keene Township. He graduated from Lowell high school in 1912 and afterward took a post graduate course. For two years he has been employed by the City State bank where he has won the confidence of its officials and the good will of the public, showing a business capacity that promises well for the future.

A Portland man sent his wife's dressmaker a note of thanks for saying she would make no more gowns until the old bill was paid. The women are wondering how it will work out; but hubby still chuckles over his best money-saving scheme.

### get on with running the city

To the Editor,  
We had the pleasure of meeting with Mike DeVore from the city council today during the scheduled coffee with council at Senior Neighbors. I am so grateful

that this council is willing to adapt their schedules to what is convenient for us. It was a calm question and answer time and certainly

To the Editor,  
continued, page 7

## We love to hear from you!



The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher. Opinions expressed in in "To The Editor" are not the views of the Ledger employees or the publisher. All letters are subject to editing. Thank you letters and advertising will not be printed.  
Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.

Your Hometown  
News Source

the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway • Lowell, MI 49331  
616.897.9261

ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

# college news

Northern Michigan University announces the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester.

The following local students qualified with a grade point average of 4.00: of Ada: Amelia Richards and Ariana Roberts.

The following local students qualified with a grade point average of 3.50-3.99: of Ada: Drew Bouwkamp, Hunter Bronkema, Tyler Lenderink, and Johnathon Stasiak; of Lowell: Rachel Bazen and Brie Blattner.

The University of Alabama announced the dean's list and president's list for the 2015 fall semester.

The following local students were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or above): of Ada: Thomas P. Murray III; and of Alto: Alec R. Krueger. The following local

students were named to the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all As): of Alto: Jacqueline P. Andreano, Thomas Malachi Andreano, and Lauren Ashley Balut; of Lowell: Adrienne M. Rife, Austin M. Rife, and Christine Mari Ringel.

# business matters

Laurel Health Care Company (Laurel), announced that it has been acquired in a transaction involving Omega Health Care REIT (Omega) and Mohammad Qazi, owner of Ciena Healthcare (Ciena). Qazi purchased the operations of Laurel consisting of 36 skilled nursing and rehab facilities

and six assisted living facilities that Laurel operates in Ohio, Michigan, North Carolina, Virginia, and Indiana. The 42 facilities encompass a total of 4,050 beds and employ approximately 5,200 full- and part-time employees.

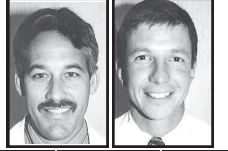
According to Qazi, "the finalized transaction reflects months of cooperative

efforts from the leadership of Laurel, Omega and Ciena. The teamwork and collaboration put forth will position Laurel Health Care Company to have a seamless continuation of the services they provide, as they continue to operate under the Laurel brand name. Ciena and Laurel will continue to focus on providing high quality of care to all of our residents and our combined resources and experience will allow us to raise the bar even higher." Qazi will serve

as the president and CEO of both Laurel and Ciena.

Barbara Lombardi, vice president of operations of Laurel, stated, "We remain committed to our mission of creating a legacy by exceeding the needs and expectations of those we serve, while embracing 'The Laurel Way,' a mission which has served us well for many years and will continue to guide us in the future. We look forward to our new relationship with Qazi and Ciena.

# health



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

## shingles

Shingles is a painful, blistering rash that can occur in people of all ages. It always presents on an area of skin that is on one side of the body. This means the rash does not cross the midline of the body. It usually starts with a tingling or burning sensation on an area of skin that turns into painful, small red blisters by the second or third day.

Shingles is a reactivation of the chicken pox virus. Anyone who has ever had chicken pox is susceptible to developing shingles. Shingles is not contracted from another person, rather it is a reactivation of the chicken pox virus that has been lying dormant in the body.

An outbreak of shingles tends to occur more often in the elderly and in people who may be immunocompromised. An immunocompromised person is someone who may be receiving chemotherapy, or someone whose immune system is worn down. A person's immune system can be temporarily worn down from emotional stress or physical stress, like

another infection or illness.

Exposure to someone with shingles will not cause shingles, however it can cause chicken pox in those who have never had chicken pox. Shingles may also be contagious to someone who is immunocompromised. Therefore, it is important that a person who has shingles avoid those who have not had the chicken pox, may be receiving chemotherapy, may be ill or may be pregnant.

If you think you may have shingles it is important to visit your health care provider immediately. There are antiviral medications which can decrease the severity and length of the outbreak, but they must be started within the first three days to be most effective.

There is a vaccine available to decrease the risk of a shingles outbreak; it's called Zostavax and it's available at most pharmacies without a prescription. It is recommended that all men and women receive Zostavax at age 60, or sooner for those who may be at higher risk of a shingles outbreak.

*Planning A Wedding?*



We offer the Carlson Craft line of invitations.

**LITHO**

105 N. Broadway • Lowell  
616.897.9261

**The Classifieds:**  
Your Ticket to Local Finds

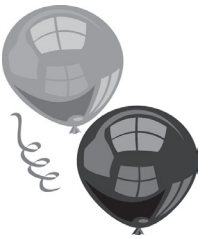


Call or go online to **browse, buy or sell!**

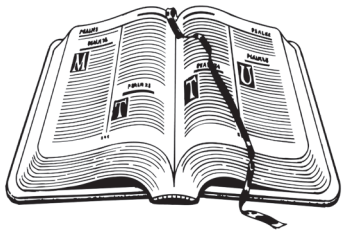
the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway, Lowell • Ph. 897-9261  
classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

# happy birthday



# area church



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**  
865 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-21  
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

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES  
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)  
897-7888 - www.fbclowell.org  
Pastor Joe Pickers, Lead Pastor  
Pastor Phil Zocco - Pastor of Health Ministries  
Cristal Banks, Director of Children's Ministries  
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....10:45 am (Nursery provided)  
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....11:00 am (Nursery Adult)  
Admission (2-6 using school year) Wednesdays, 8:15 to 9:15 am  
Middle & High School - the school year, Wednesdays, 7 pm

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

**ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
402 Amity St. • 897-9820  
www.stmarylowell.com  
Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 10:30 AM  
Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM  
Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER MISSONI 897-7915  
SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 383, OPTION FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

**LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
discover. grow. share.  
621 E. Main Street  
897-5936  
www.lowellumc.com  
Summer Worship (through Sept. 6) 9:30 a.m. only  
Barrier-free entrance  
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9 & 11 a.m.  
SUNDAY SCHOOL.....11:15 a.m.  
Pastor Brad Brillhart

**FEBRUARY 10**  
Richard Korb, Eric Kimble.

**FEBRUARY 11**  
Julie Kenney, Judy Goodwin.

**FEBRUARY 12**  
Peg Stanford, Kurt Roudabush, Travis Bergy, Jan Herb, Penny Spanbauer.

**FEBRUARY 13**  
Deb Heydenburg, Emily Gerard, Jodi Kennedy, Alyssa Ellis-Roach, Thomas Alberts Jr.

**FEBRUARY 14**  
Heather Claypool, Carol Leyman, Gerri Ellison, Scott Treglia, Lori Rice.

**FEBRUARY 15**  
Jim VanDyke, DeeAnn Merriman, Deanne Newell, Marcus Kline, Adam Confer.

**FEBRUARY 16**  
Matthew Schuitema, Tracey Main.

**WE SHIP UPS!**  
Our Prices Can't Be Beat!  
Call Us for a Price Quote!  
Weight, dimensions & Zip Code  
Required for a Quote  
the lowell ledger  
105 N. Broadway, 897-9261



# Air Zoo at Alto Elementary

Alto Elementary hosted over 150 people for the second annual Air Zoo show last Friday evening. Families explored the science of superheroes and super villains while discovering the “attraction” of Magneto’s super power; making objects disappear like the Invisible Woman; creating thunder and lightning like Storm; and turning things instantly to ice like Iceman. The fun themed

night disguised learning as play with a cape and a mask. The Air Zoo utilizes a team of top educators to create and execute interactive programs that educate and stimulate students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This is the second time the Air Zoo has visited Alto thanks to the work of the school’s Parent Teacher Organization.



# To the Editor, continued

**negative voices making noise**

demonstrated that much information is available from this council if people simply respectfully ask legitimate questions and allow for answers. It sounds as though the reason questions about the specifics of Mr. Howe’s dismissal are not being answered is to protect him by not airing his inappropriate behavior in public any more than it has already been. We found out that the concern expressed at the council meeting about grants not being completed because of Mr. Howe’s absence is totally unfounded. In fact it seems that interim city manager Dave Pasquale is one of the best grant writers around. It was also stated at the council meeting that there would be no city booth at the Expo. Again this seems to be untrue. There are plans to have a booth and probably even have councilmembers there to greet the public.

By being respectful and considerate of these councilmembers there was much good information that we found out.

It seems that this council really does have a plan and a great vision for the direction they are going if the people will just give them a chance to actually move forward and get on with the business of running the city. At the end of the meeting Mr. DeVore mentioned that this was the first meeting where he didn’t get yelled at. Isn’t that a sad commentary for this city? Let’s stop all the name calling, accusations and drama. Everyone has been given more than adequate opportunity to air their grievances. Now let’s let these men get on with their job of running the city.

To the Editor,

I don’t understand why people keep saying that city manager Mark Howe was fired without the public being given any reason. Did those people not attend the meeting; did they not read the Lowell Ledger or are they just listening to rumors? A statement given by mayor pro tem Mike DeVore in the city council meeting of January 19 gave their official stand on this issue and it was reported in the Lowell Ledger on January 27.

Let’s remember also that Mark Howe spent years fighting city workers during which time he violated state labor laws and the workers’ Constitutional rights as verified by multiple administrative law judges. As WOODTV 8 reminded us “The city appealed that decision but the state denied most of that appeal and

ruled in favor of the union workers in Jan. 2015.” <http://woodtv.com/2016/01/20/lowell-city-council-fires-city-manager/>

The fact that he chose to appeal that decision and the former council supported his choice, cost taxpayers many more months of controversy and money which should have been spent on the dedicated longtime workers, disintegrating roads and antiquated equipment. All of this when there was already a perfectly good example of a contract in place with the police department. Perhaps this was part of the reason for a changing of the guard in the last election.

Let’s also remember that this new council has been working with Howe since November giving them plenty of firsthand experience with him in personnel matters that are confidential and rightfully

not open to public scrutiny. As far as how he was let go, I understand that Howe knew that he would be fired and could have requested this be done behind closed doors. A few negative voices are sure making a lot of noise to drown out the true facts of the situation. All they are accomplishing is continuing to make the city look bad and keeping it from moving forward.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Covert  
Lowell



## Oak Meadow

TREE SERVICE INC.

**Got Sick Trees? We Can Help!**

- Disease & Insect Treatment
- Deep Root Fertilization
- Pruning, Removal, Stump Grinding

Affordable & Locally Owned  
Fully Insured


**Call Today!**  
616-890-2348






### Plug Into the Power of Newspaper Advertising

Want to give your business a powerful boost? Place your advertising where it will be seen and used.



**616-897-9555**  
lowellbuyersguide.com

*49% of adults read a newspaper on an average day.*

*Did you know 70 million people visited a newspaper website in the last 30 days?*

the lowell **ledger**

**616-897-9261**  
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

105 N. Broadway  
Lowell, Michigan

*77% of readers acted on a newspaper ad in the last month.*

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

## AREN'T YOU READY FOR A BETTER DENTAL EXPERIENCE?



*At Family Dentistry of Lowell, traditional dental services meet modern dentistry...with a feminine touch.*

Dr. Wilson and Dr. Byrd welcome you and your family into our calming and nurturing environment.

Heated neck pillows and blankets will help you slowly relax.

We also offer personal headphones with access to the music of your choice.

Doesn't your family deserve a better dental experience?



**Family Dentistry of Lowell**  
147 NORTH CENTER STREET, LOWELL  
616-897-4835  
[WWW.FAMILYDENTISTRYOFLOWELL.COM](http://WWW.FAMILYDENTISTRYOFLOWELL.COM)

Thank you,  
Jan Bieri  
Lowell

**LOW COST SPAY & NEUTER**

No restrictions. Available for everyone. Also vaccinations, tests and parasite control

**Call 897-8865**  
[www.spayneuterexpress.com](http://www.spayneuterexpress.com)

Your local agent insures your

# Life



**Mark Johnson**  
[mjohnson@fbins.com](mailto:mjohnson@fbins.com)  
616-940-8181



**Kristin Johnson**  
[kjohnson@fbins.com](mailto:kjohnson@fbins.com)  
616-940-1151



**FARM BUREAU INSURANCE**

Michigan's Insurance Company



[MarkJohnsonAgency.com](http://MarkJohnsonAgency.com)

**6095 28th Street, Grand Rapids**

# Red Arrow - GYMNASTICS SPORTS

## Gymnasts suffer slim margin loss to Kenowa Hills

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Maura Fitzpatrick led Lowell varsity gymnastics in conference action last Monday where the Arrows suffered a slim margin loss to Kenowa Hills 134.1 to 133.2.

“It was definitely a low team score for us. Kenowa was just the better team tonight,” said head coach Michele DeHaan following the meet. “They have a great program and we cannot open the door for them or they will take advantage of our mistakes.”

Fitzpatrick shined on all four events at the meet earning top scores for Lowell on each and claiming top all-around honors with a cumulative individual score of 34.25. The sophomore placed second behind teammate Corah Kaufman on the bars and the beam and claimed first on the vault and the floor exercise with scores of 8.775 and 9.0 respectively.

Other young talent shined as well as the large team continued to see growth and strength

from their underclassmen members. According to DeHaan, “Freshman Corah Miller has stepped up this year and is showing she is definitely one to watch as she gets older. She has been solid competing on vault, bars and floor. Also, freshman Joslynn Battle has shined on floor this year. She seems to be edging out some of the upperclassmen and forcing her way into our top four in most meet[s] she competes in. She is another one to watch.”



Alise Forward doing a wolf jump in her beam routine.



Sarena Wilterdink doing her mount on the balance beam.



Emily Lothian performing her floor routine.

As the team draws nearer to the OK title meet later this month, they had the opportunity to compete twice more in in preparation for conference this week. On Monday when they headed to Forest Hills and today (Wednesday) they welcomed Rockford to the auxiliary gym for senior night starting at 7 pm.

Kenowa Hills 134.1 v. Lowell 133.2			
<b>VAULT</b>		<b>BEAM</b>	
Maura Fitzpatrick.....	8.775	Corah Kaufman.....	8.65
Alise Forward.....	8.675	Maura Fitzpatrick.....	8.6
Lauren Browning.....	8.6	Karmen Anderson.....	8.325
Corah Miller.....	8.6	Paige DeHaan.....	7.4
		Alise Forward.....	7.4
<b>BARS</b>		<b>FLOOR</b>	
Corah Kaufman.....	7.9	Maura Fitzpatrick.....	9.0
Maura Fitzpatrick.....	7.875	Sarena Wilterdink.....	8.525
Sarena Wilterdink.....	7.825	Joslynn Battle.....	8.425
Alise Forward.....	7.675	Karmen Anderson.....	8.35

**L** Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports  
Go Red Arrows!

the lowell ledger



# Red Arrow **SPORTS**

- WRESTLING

## Red Arrows win seventh consecutive OK White title

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Dominant is defined in the dictionary as more important, powerful or successful than most or all others. Dominant is defined in Lowell as Red Arrow varsity wrestling.

After knocking off their final conference competitor of the season on Wednesday 75-3, the undefeated Red Arrows faced the entire OK White at home on Friday where the successful squad picked up their seventh consecutive conference title.

Focused on the task at hand Lowell head coach R.J. Boudro said he was unaware of the streak going into the tournament, though he did feel sure the team would come up with the win. "I felt pretty confident that we could come away with a championship but like any other match or tournament, we try not to focus on those things. Our guys were just excited to wrestle and the rest took care of itself," said Boudro.

To ice the proverbial cake, the team saw 14 out of the 15 grapplers in their lineup earn the opportunity to compete for an individual championship. Nine Red Arrows claimed the top spot becoming conference champions in their individual weight classes.

Two freshman wrestlers, Jeff Leach and John Russell, picked up their first conference titles at 103 and 112 pounds respectively. Leach topped Ethan Griffith from Caledonia by fall in the semifinals, then beat Forest Hills Central's Donald Alm by major decision 13-0 to claim his title. Russell beat Mitchell Strawser from FHC by decision 11-5 in the semis and Tim Short from Caledonia by fall at 3:28 in the first-place match for his win.

Boudro said he was exceptionally pleased with their accomplishments. "It was really nice to see Jeff Leach and John Russell win titles. Winning a conference championship at that age is a big accomplishment."

Sam Russell earned first place at 125 pounds when he defeated T'Darrius Trice from Jenison by major decision 15-6 in the first-place contest after receiving two byes. Avry Mutschler grappled successfully in three rounds en route to his first-place finish at 130 pounds. Mutschler won his first matchup by fall at 1:17 over Connor Steffens from Grand Rapids Christian, enjoyed a bye in the quarterfinals and then topped Steffens again by fall to move on to the first place competition where he beat East Grand Rapids' Maddox Lee by technical fall.

Cousins Zeth and Max Dean also claimed top spots at the tournament. Zeth won both of his matchups, Enrique Gonzalez from Jenison and David Mainero from FHC, by technical fall for the 140 pound championship. Max won against GRC's Jarrett Dykema by technical fall twice before topping FHC's BJ Franovic by fall at 1:23 for first-place honors at 189 pounds.

Another Red Arrow dynamic duo, brothers David and Danny Kruse, also claimed a pair of first-place finishes. David earned two wins by decision over Jenison wrestler Brycin Alexander and FHC's Matt Mills for the win at 160. Danny earned a fall over Jason Alcalá from Caledonia and won his first-place finish against Garrett Harshberger from Jenison by 17-4 major decision for the title at 171.

Tyler Lynch earned a title at 119 pounds with falls over RJ Gauck of Jenison and Matt Silveri of Caledonia. Coach Boudro said he was happy to see Lynch pick up a title, "Tyler moved up a weight class and wrestled great."

Arrows earning second place included Bryce Dempsey at 145, George Gonzales at 152, Eli Boulton at 215 and Logan Blough at 285. Kyle Washburn picked up a fourth place at 135.



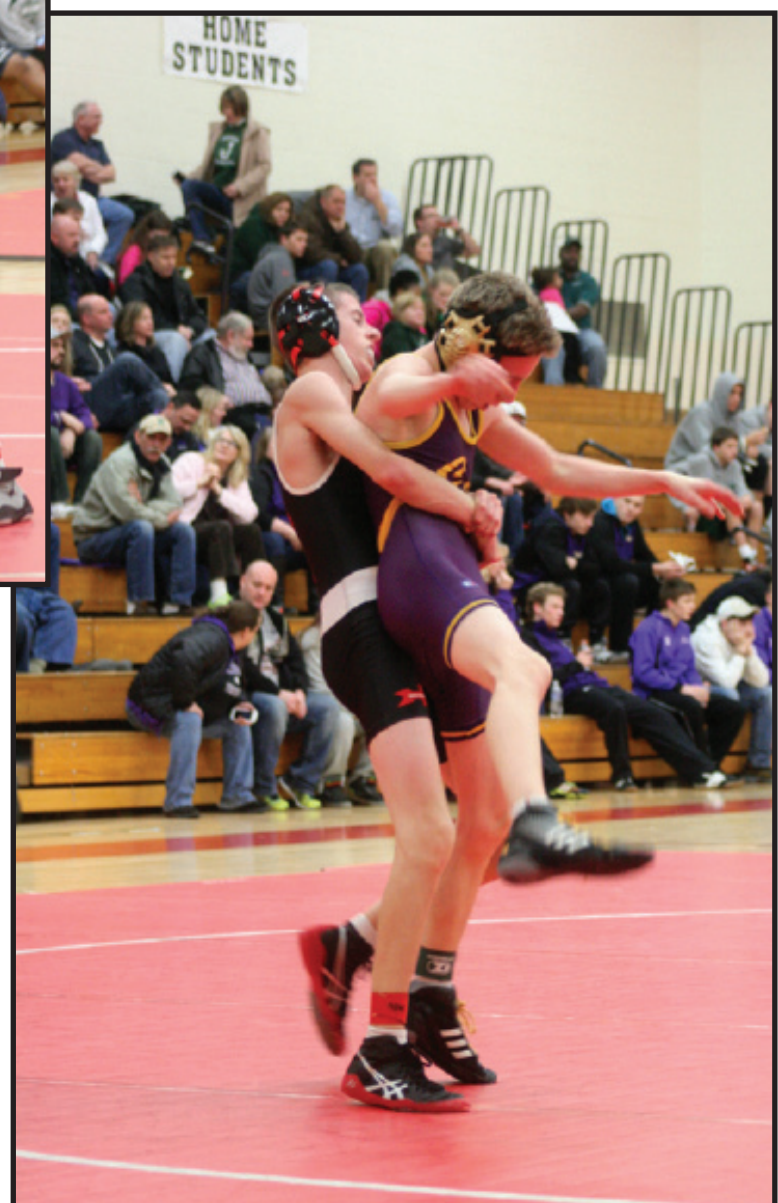
**Above, senior grappler Zeth Dean earned a technical fall over Enrique Gonzalez of Jenison.**



**At right, freshman John Russell won an 11-5 decision against Mitchell Strawser from FHC.**



**135 pound Kyle Washburn in action against Forest Hills Central during last Friday's victory.**



**At right, Jeff Leach, a freshman, topped Caledonia's Ethan Griffith by fall at 5:15.**

**This week the team will head straight into district play looking for a title against either Forest Hills Northern or East Grand Rapids on Wednesday evening beginning at 7 pm. Individual district competition will take place at home this Saturday morning at 9 am.**

# 2015 Water Quality Report for City of Lowell and Lowell Charter Township

## Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

## Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

## Where does my water come from?

Your water comes from 4 groundwater wells, each over 87 feet in depth, and drawing from the Grand River watershed. They are located at 1596 Bowes Road in Lowell behind the water plant.

## Source water assessment and its availability

The state performed an assessment of our source water in 2003 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to "very-high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our source is moderate.

## Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas

production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## How can I get involved?

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. Lowell City Council meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers at Lowell City Hall, 301 E. Main, Lowell, MI. Lowell Township meetings are held at 7:00pm on the first and third Mondays of each month at the Lowell Township hall, 2910 Alden Nash s.e. Lowell, MI. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact Brian VanVeelen at 897-5234. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/).

## Variance and Exemptions

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2015 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 to December 31, 2015. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year,

## Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Lowell is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low	Range High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
<b>Disinfectants &amp; Disinfectant By-Products</b>								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) City of Lowell	NA	80	16.6	ND	16.6	2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) Lowell Twp.	NA	80	12.9	ND	12.9	2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acid (ppb) City of Lowell	NA	60	2.0	ND	2.0	2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acid (ppb) Lowell Twp.	NA	60	1.4	ND	1.4	2015	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm) City of Lowell	4	4	.473	0.22	0.64	2015	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ) (ppm) Lowell Twp.	4	4	.46	.28	.64	2015	No	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.3	0.9	1.3	2015	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.70	NA	NA	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium (optional) (ppm)		MPL	18	13	18	2015	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
<b>Microbiological Contaminants</b>								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	0	0	NA	NA	2015	No	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal coliform/E. coli - in the distribution system (positive samples)	0	0	0	NA	NA	2015	No	Human and animal fecal waste
A violation occurs when a routine sample and a repeat sample, in any given month, are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.								
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	2.7	NA	NA	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits

# Water Quality Report, continued

minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring levels; these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

For more information please contact:

Water Plant Superintendent: Brian VanVeelen  
 Address: 1596 Bowes Rd. Lowell, MI 49331  
 Phone: (616) 897-5234  
 E-Mail: [bvanveelen@ci.lowell.mi.us](mailto:bvanveelen@ci.lowell.mi.us)

Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples Exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) City of Lowell & Lowell Twp.	0	15	0	6/14 thru 6/19 2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppb) City of Lowell & Lowell Twp.	1300	1300	0	6/14 thru 6-19 2013	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Unit Descriptions	
Term	Definition
ppm	ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb	ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
positive samples/month	positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive
positive samples	positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year
NA	NA: not applicable
ND	ND: Not detected
NR	NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended.

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	Definition
MCLG	MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variations and Exemptions	Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR	MNR: Monitored Not Regulated
MPL	MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level



## Dear EarthTalk: What are endocrine disruptors, how do they make their way into my body and what can I do to avoid them?

- Jo McGovern, Albany, NY

The endocrine system controls the various functions of cells, tissues and organs in our bodies through the secretion of hormones. The major glands that regulate the flow of these hormones include the pituitary, thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal glands, as well as the pancreas and reproductive glands (ovaries in women, testicles in men). A properly functioning system ensures optimum mood, growth, development, metabolism, sexual function and reproduction.

Endocrine disruptors are chemicals that mimic or block the action of natural hormones. According to the

Environmental Working Group (EWG), there is no end to the tricks that endocrine disruptors can play on our bodies. These chemicals can increase the production of certain hormones, decrease the production of others, turn one hormone into another, compete with essential nutrients and more.

Some 80 million pounds of atrazine, an herbicide named on EWG's *Dirty Dozen List of Endocrine Disruptors*, are applied in the U.S. each year. A 2010 University of California (UC) Berkeley study found that atrazine-exposed male amphibians were feminized as a result. Ten percent of those exposed developed into females that copulated with unexposed males and produced viable eggs. "Given the overwhelming evidence of unacceptable risk, I'm quite frankly surprised that atrazine is even still in use," said Dr. Tyrone Hayes, professor of Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley and the study's lead author.

Monsanto's Roundup, a trade name for glyphosate and the most widely used herbicide in the U.S. with 250 million pounds sprayed each year, was also recently found to have hormone disrupting capabilities. Studies released in 2015 determined that Roundup decreased levels of progesterone and corticosterone, a steroid hormone produced in the adrenal glands. An earlier study determined that even at lower, "non-toxic" exposure levels, Roundup reduced testosterone levels. Recently it was announced that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will analyze the impacts of atrazine and glyphosate on 1,500 endangered plants and animals under the terms of a settlement reached with the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD). "This settlement is the first step to reining in the widespread use of dangerous pesticides that are harming both wildlife and people," said Brett Hartl, CBD's endangered species policy director.

Buying organic produce and drinking filtered water can reduce your exposure to hormone-disrupting herbicides and pesticides. Another good reason to install a water filter is to remove perchlorate, a chemical that is also named on EWG's *Dirty Dozen* list. A 2010 study found that, in pharmacologic doses, perchlorate inhibits iodine uptake, an element needed for the production of thyroid hormones. The findings were alarming as adequate iodine intake is essential for normal neurodevelopment in infancy and childhood. While further research is needed to determine the impacts of perchlorate in the environment, the American Thyroid Association recommends that women who are planning a pregnancy or who are pregnant ingest 150 mg of iodine daily to ensure adequate iodine nutrition and to overcome the potential adverse effects of perchlorate exposure.

While it may be frightening to think about all the potential exposures to endocrine disruptors around us today, purchasing environmentally-conscious, natural-based products for you, your family and your home; eating organic, fresh, unpackaged foods and drinking filtered water from a glass container are simple ways to help keep your hormones and endocrine system in balance.

**CONTACTS:** EWG, [www.ewg.org](http://www.ewg.org); CBD, [www.biologicaldiversity.org](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org)

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](http://www.earthtalk.org). Or e-mail us your question: [editor@earthtalk.org](mailto:editor@earthtalk.org) or [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com)

# Looking Back, continued

## 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 13, 1941

Local residents will have an opportunity to see the new Panoram musical movie machine, just installed at Richmond's Café. This is a new innovation in the moving picture field promoted by Jimmie Roosevelt and is expected to attract much attention.

Tuberculin tests in Lowell schools. "The foe of youth—Tuberculosis" will be under discussion during the next two weeks in Lowell school because tuberculin tests will be offered to the students by the Grand Rapids Anti-tuberculosis society.

There is more or less kicking around here regarding the inadequate westbound mail service, there being no mail leaving for the west until 7:52 in the evening, Lowell time. The eastbound mail service is much

better, there being three mail trains in that direction each week day. Westbound air mail, if deposited in the local postoffice by 1:30 p.m. is taken to Detroit to be put aboard planes for the west.

It is not unreasonable to say that 100 or more new homes would be built in Lowell during the next two or three years if more "city" people knew of all the advantages this town has to offer. Some of these advantages were mentioned in this column last week. Judicious advertising could accomplish much. To make Lowell grow, let all the world know!

Plain windows replaced with Florentine glass. A marked improvement has been made at the Nazarene Church with installation of Florentine glass in the windows of the building, replacing the plain glass panes. John Taylor did the work of installing the new glass.

## 50 years ago Lowell Ledger February 17, 1966

Odell and Raisen are Golden Glove champs. When the final bout was over in the 35th annual running of the 1966 Golden Gloves tournament, the Lowell Athletic Club held two West Michigan championships and one State championship in the novice division. Last Wednesday night, in the Civic arena, Bruce Odell, 147-pounds, and Richard Raisen, 126-pounds, put on sparkling performances to cop the West Michigan championships in their respective weight divisions. A 1965 graduate of Lowell high school, 18-year-old Odell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Adelbert Odell, Lowell.

Teachers ask retroactive raise of \$200 for year. A negotiating committee of the Lowell Education Association spent over two hours debating the idea of giving Lowell teachers a \$200 raise in salary, retroactive to the beginning of the school year. The school board took no action, but indicated that they felt they wanted to consider any raise in the total salary schedule for the coming year.

Early Spring! Spring came early, we mean early February. The foot of snow disappeared over night and bright sunshine and 60 degree temperatures last week brought out everything but the crocus. Week-end high temperatures found boys and girls in convertibles with the top down, baseball games in progress, & boys

wrestling on the grass. All these signs of spring plus sighting of the first robin gave Lowell a real case of spring fever. Temperatures dropped Sunday and a little snow covered the ground on Monday, but warm sun prevented any slacking in the fever. Along with the nice things about spring, came a threat of high water in the Grand River, which subsided & deep mud on many country roads and in driveways.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 13, 1991

Showboat Valentine Dance, Saturday. The Lowell Showboat Corporation and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will host a Valentine Dinner Dance this Saturday (Feb. 16) at Larkin's "Other Place." The dinner menu includes chicken kiev, cheesy potatoes and salad. The talent for the nights of Showboat will also be announced. Those interested in attending are asked to try to get their call in or send in their reservation no later than Friday, Feb 15.

Light now expected in late Feb. or early March. Clear back in October of 1989, Lowell's City Council accepted the plan for new downtown parking and for the installation of a light at Valley Vista and M-21. The downtown area was completed over last summer. As for the light, well, the City still waits. "Everybody wants to know where the light is. The City is not doing the work, so we don't have any control," Lowell City Manager Dave Pasquale said. "I've been in constant contact with the City of Grand Rapids. I'm surprised the City is still talking to me." Pasquale said the work of putting in the light was suppose to start last week.

School board accepts appraisal on Qua-ke-Zik land. The Lowell School Board accepted the appraisal on the Qua-Ke-Zik Sportman's Club Property as submitted by appraiser, Chuck Green. The appraised value of the land, inclusive of the property on site and based on potential development, was set at \$442,000. The appraisal was the second one sought by the school. The first appraisal was based on farmland value. The appraised value was \$180,000. "I think it's pretty obvious that the second appraisal gives a more reasonable value of the land," Lowell Superintendent Fritz Esch said.

### 2016 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE

# LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

**2910 Alden Nash Ave SE  
Lowell, MI. 49331**

### 2016 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Lowell Township Board of Review for 2016 will be held at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, on the following dates:

**Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 9 a.m. =  
Organizational Meeting**

**Monday, March 14, 2016 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
&  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2016 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2016 assessments. By board resolution, residents are allowed to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 14, 2016.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2016 are as follows:

Agricultural.....	47.41	1.0546
Commercial.....	52.37	.9547
Residential.....	47.37	1.0555
Industrial.....	48.45	1.0319
Personal.....	50.00	1.0000

**American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice**  
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 days notice.  
Contact: Supervisor Jerry Hale,  
2910 Alden Nash Ave SE  
616-897-7600

Board of Review Members, Sandra Graham, Nancie Matthews & James Foerch.  
Jerry Hale, Township Supervisor,  
Secretary of Board of Review.

## BOWNE TOWNSHIP TABULATOR TESTING

The public accuracy test of the tabulator  
Will be held on  
**Tuesday, February 16, 2016 At 12:30**  
In the Historic Township Hall,  
8240 Alden Nash Ave SE  
Alto, Michigan 49302 in preparation for  
The March 8, 2016 Presidential Primary.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk-Clerk

## LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

**NOTICE FOR TESTING OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Public Accuracy Test for the March 8, 2016 Presidential Primary Election will be conducted **Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash SE., Lowell, MI 49331.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk  
Lowell Charter Township

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

S	P	R	I	G	N	I	M	M	A	A	M		
P	I	A	N	O	A	L	A	B	I	L	B	O	
A	C	I	D	S	A	L	P	A	S	T	E	R	
M	A	D	I	S	O	N	L	I	N	C	O	L	N
A	I	R	M	E	N	D							
A	P	T	P	A	P	A	K	I	T	B	A	G	
D	I	R	T	T	O	N	S	T	I	L	E	R	
A	C	A	I	E	L	D	E	R	N	A	G	A	
M	O	D	E	M	K	A	M	E	G	R	I	N	
S	T	E	R	O	L	T	I	N	T	E	S	T	
N	I	N	E	A	W	E							
E	N	G	A	R	D	E	C	L	I	N	T	O	N
W	I	L	C	O	W	H	O	S	U	A	V	E	
E	L	A	T	E	S	U	N	T	R	E	A	T	
R	E	D	S	Y	E	S	Y	E	L	L	S		

3	1	8	4	7	9	6	2	5
9	5	7	6	2	8	1	4	3
6	2	4	1	5	3	7	9	8
5	6	3	7	9	1	4	8	2
7	9	1	8	4	2	5	3	6
8	4	2	3	6	5	9	1	7
1	3	9	5	8	6	2	7	4
4	8	6	2	1	7	3	5	9
2	7	5	9	3	4	8	6	1

Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

## SPORTS

## Boys win 2-1 in series of match ups last week

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

The Red Arrow varsity boys basketball team went 2-1 last week in a series of match ups on the road with Kenowa Hills, Jenison and New Haven high schools in a jam-packed schedule of play.

Tuesday the team faced non-conference foe Kenowa Hills where they won by ten points 52-42. The win was a quick bounce back for the team who lost their last contest against OK White competitor Grand Rapids Christian dropping them from first in the league. "While we were disappointed with the way that we played at GRC we knew that it was important to move forward and focus on what is left in front of

us," said head coach Kyle Carhart.

Lowell led Kenowa in every quarter except the second and maintained a four-point lead at halftime and an eight-point lead after the third. The win came on the back of a widespread offensive effort led by Matt Beachler who netted 14 points. Other Arrow scorers contributing in the win included Ryan Stevens (10), Avery Buckius (6), Gabe Steed (5), Alex Anschutz (2) and Carter Noskey and Zach Petroelije (1).

Friday the team headed out to Jenison in their second OK White showdown of the season. Lowell came out on top again, this time 66-49, thanks to a good showing from some of the

team's veteran players. According to Carhart, "Matt [Beachler] played well, in particular on the defensive side of the floor. He was the primary defender on one of the league's top scorers and shut him out through the last three quarters. Both Avery (Buckius) and Alex (Anschutz) continue to work their tails off around the basket and do all of the dirty work that does not always show up in the stat sheet. We could list several others because it takes a lot of guys playing well in order for us to be successful."

Point guard Stevens played particularly aggressive according to Carhart, leading Lowell scorers with 14 points, followed by Beachler with

11 and Steed, Anschutz and Austin Branagan with 10 each. Others contributing to the points total were Marcus Malling (3) and Carter Noskey (6).

Saturday at Union High School's Red Hawk Showcase the Arrows faced state ranked New Haven and held their own losing by a slim margin 52-48. Lowell trailed after the first by six and by only two at the half which ended with a score of 26-24. Lowell gained the lead in the third after out shooting New Haven 17-11 but saw their opponent's defense tighten up in the third. Keeping the Arrows to just 7 points in the fourth, New Haven was able to reestablish their lead and secure the win.

"Our guys played hard Saturday. They competed against a very good New Haven team and had a chance late in the game to make plays. I wish that I, personally, would have done things differently at the end of that game in order to help our players out. I was extremely proud of how they battled, especially after playing in a tough atmosphere at Jenison on Friday night. Playing against one of the top teams in the state only helps us moving forward," said Carhart.

Beachler led scoring in the game with 21 points followed by Steed (10), Stevens (8), Noskey (6) and Anschutz (4).

With just four conference games left on the schedule Carhart said that they are aware that the competition will be tougher the second time around, in particular when it comes to GRC. "GRC is a major roadblock because they are now in first. We can not worry about them yet though; we have to maintain our focus on our next game," explained Carhart.

This week the team, now 11-4 overall and 5-1 in conference, will face league rival Caledonia on Friday in the first of the four important games standing between the Arrows and an OK White championship. Tip off is scheduled for 7:30.

## Girls tally two wins over Kenowa Hills and Jenison

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity girls basketball tallied two wins last week besting non-conference foe Kenowa Hills 63-23 and OK White competitor Jenison 50-38 in their most successful week of the season.

Head coach Jake Strotheide said the wins were derived of the team's top-notch sportsmanship and teamwork, a spirit that has existed within the team all season despite their losing 11-4 record. "The girls were very focused in just playing harder for each other. We wanted to

control what we could and number one was controlling our effort on the floor. I thought that we played very hard and it payed off," said Strotheide.

Tuesday the Red Arrows welcomed Kenowa Hills for non-conference play and dominated on the hardwood outscoring their opponent in every quarter during the 63-23 win. Offensively the Arrows had two scorers in the double digits. Sophomore Cassie Dean who led all scorers with 19 points and junior Bridget Garter who had 16. But it was defense that won

the game. The squad led 32-16 at the half and continued their defensive dominance in the second where they kept Kenowa to just seven points.

Senior captains Ally Frederickson (11 rebounds, 5 blocks) and Bailey Reitsma (5 steals, 8 rebounds) led the Arrows in that effort. According to Strotheide, "Ally and Bailey really stood out defensively to me. As seniors, they came out and competed and got the other girls to want to match that intensity. We put tremendous pressure on

them all night. We knew it had to happen on the defensive end and I was very proud of the girls and their effort."

Friday in Jenison the Arrows took over Wildcat country winning the conference challenge 50-38 in front of a huge crowd in support of the school's Pink Out. "We were very honored to play in that game as we know the significance of playing for something bigger than us," said Strotheide, of the event that echoes Lowell's own Pink Arrow event. "It

was a really fun night as it was completely sold out and I thought we didn't back down from the atmosphere," Strotheide stated.

Leading by 12 after halftime 27-15, the Arrows faced the fired up Wildcats in the second half as they stormed back into the game in the fourth cutting Lowell's lead to only one. The girls kept the pressure on and landed some big last minute baskets to secure the 50-38 win. Regan Coxon had an outstanding night for the Arrows defensively and put twelve points on

the scoreboard. Garter led offensively with 22 points.

Moving forward Strotheide said the team will work by the motto of play hard and see what happens. "We know that we have some really hard games coming up, but I know that our girls are excited for the challenge," concluded Strotheide.

This week the ladies will enjoy a light schedule with only one game against OK White rival Caledonia on the road this Friday.

NOTICE  
VERGENNES  
TOWNSHIPACCURACY TEST  
OF VOTING EQUIPMENT

A public accuracy test of the voting equipment to be used in the March 8, 2016 Michigan Presidential Primary, an election to determine nominees for the Republican and Democratic parties, will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, MI 49331.

Mari C. Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

## Sport summaries

## BOYS BOWLING

Red Arrow varsity boys bowling broke even in conference play last week picking up a win over Grand Rapids Christian and falling to Jenison. Monday the team topped GRC by large margin 22-8 with Logan Smith and Carson Clark leading the way with high scores of 244 and 222 respectively. Friday against Jenison the team fell 17-13 with Clark on top with a 217.

## ICE HOCKEY

Lowell/Caledonia/South Christian hockey could not put together a win in a pair of match ups on the ice last week. On Friday the team traveled to Georgetown to take on the Jenison/Zeeland team during their Pink Out game. Playing

on pink ice the team fell 9-2 with goals coming from Nick Vantil and Alex Osborn. Saturday the team faced Portage Northern losing 4-1 with their lone goal coming from Ethan Campbell.

## GIRLS BOWLING

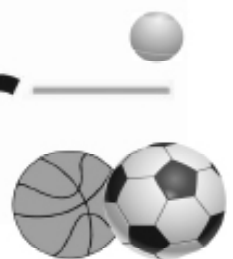
Lowell's varsity girls bowling team triumphed over Grand Rapids Christian but lost to Jenison in a pair of OK White conference competitions last week. Monday the team scored 19-11 over GRC but were dominated by Jenison on Friday 28-2. Ally Stockreef led the Arrows against the Wildcats with scores of 169 and 181.

Go Red Arrows!



the lowell

ledger



Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD**

**THEME: U.S. PRESIDENTS**

**ACROSS**

1. Bit of parsley
6. Jodie Foster's "\_\_\_'s Island"
9. Hat-tipper's word
13. Baby grand, e.g.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ mode
15. Baggins of the Shire
16. DNA and RNA
17. Any high mountain
18. Daisylike bloom
19. \*Hailed as the "Father of the Constitution"
21. \*First Republican President
23. Lungful
24. Darn a sock, e.g.
25. Bldg unit
28. \*John Adams to John Quincy Adams
30. Soldier's knapsack
35. Inside scoop
37. 16 of these in Tennessee Ernie Ford song
39. Masonic doorkeeper
40. Smoothie berry
41. \*George to George W.
43. Hindu serpent deity
44. Most are now wireless
46. Glacier's deposit
47. Smiley face
48. Chole\_\_\_\_\_
50. Windshield option
52. "C'\_\_\_\_\_ la vie!"
53. Number of judges on Supreme Court
55. Leave speechless
57. "On guard" to a fencer
61. \*Under him, the White House debuted its website

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13					14			15						
16					17			18						
19				20			21	22						
		23				24								
25	26	27		28		29		30		31	32	33	34	
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41			42		43				
44				45		46				47				
48					49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

# Knights of Columbus free throw champs

The Lowell Knights of Columbus held their annual Free Throw Championship last month at Murray Lake Elementary School. Boys and girls ages nine through 14 were invited to compete. Each contestant shoots 15 free throws. Those making the most (in each age group) were awarded trophies by the event coordinator Brent Noskey and were then invited to compete at the district level next Sunday in Rockford.

All winners had the opportunity to move on to regionals and the state finals. Several local Knights of Columbus members were at Murray Lake volunteering their time for this event.



Pictured, back row, left to right: Emma McCormick, Jeffrey Richards, Andrew Serne, and Alexander Pollock; front row, left to right: Emma Bruwer, Ava Skoog, Drew Veldman, and Tyler Lamoreaux.

**Want The Best Deal On TV & Internet?**

Call Now and Ask How!

**1-800-318-5121**

All offers require 24-month commitment and credit qualification. Call for program restrictions. © 2016 Dish Network. All rights reserved.

**Get DISH!**

promotional prices starting at only...

**\$19.99** /mo.

for 12 months.

**ADD HIGH-SPEED INTERNET**

**\$14.95** /mo.

where available

**dish**

© StatePoint Media

65. "Will comply" in radio communication
  66. One of five W's
  68. Smooth
  69. Fill with high spirits
  70. Tan maker
  71. October 31 option
  72. Scarlet and crimson
  73. Indeed
  74. Hollers
- DOWN**
1. Unwanted correspondence
  2. Type of type
  3. Policemen's surprise
  4. Calcutta's home
  5. Blake Lively's "\_\_\_ Girl"
  6. Indian flatbread
  7. "\_\_\_ at ease"
  8. Breakfast syrup
  9. Catchall abbr.
  10. \_\_\_phobia, fear of heights
  11. Cain's unfortunate brother
  12. Between dawn and noon
  15. Movie "Smokey and the \_\_\_"
  20. \_\_\_ Talk like Demosthenes
  22. Cartridge contents
  24. Official command
  25. \*First to live in Executive Mansion
  26. Lace loop
  27. \*Clinton signed
29. \*First "Dark Horse" presidential candidate
  31. Sound of a small bell
  32. Emanation from a loudspeaker
  33. Knight's breastplate
  34. \*First to run against a woman
  36. Wedding cake layer
  38. 18-wheeler
  42. Of the kidneys
  45. \*Liberia's capital named after him
  49. Jar cover
  51. "American Horror Story" disgraced clown
  54. Full of news
  56. Accustom
  57. Water carrier
  58. World's longest river
  59. Alternative to Saran
  60. Parts of play
  61. Flipside of pros
  62. Asian weight unit
  63. \*Like President's office
  64. Brooklyn players
  67. Tint

Puzzle solutions 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

SUDOKU

GOT KNEE PAIN?

Get a Pain-Relieving Knee Brace  
At Little or No Cost to You  
You May Qualify for Free Shipping  
We Do All The Paperwork  
Shoulder Braces, Ankle Braces,  
Back Braces Also Available

Medicare Patients  
Call Us Right Now  
**1-800-984-0360**

	1		4				2	
		7		2				3
			1		3	7		
	6	3	7			4		
7								6
		2			5	9	1	
		9	5		6			
4				1		3		
	7				4		6	

© StatePoint Media

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.



**FEBRUARY 3 - FEBRUARY 9**

- The Denver Broncos were victorious over the North Carolina Panthers at Superbowl 50 held in Santa Clara, CA. Bronco quarterback Peyton Manning, 39, refused to say whether or not he will retire saying he wanted to just enjoy the moment with friends and family and drink Budweiser. Even though he repeated that sentiment several times, Budweiser says he was not paid to mention the brand.
- The first-in-the-nation primary took place Tuesday in New Hampshire. Looks like Donald Trump for the Republicans and Bernie Sanders for the Democrats may be the winners. This will certainly have several more contenders bowing out of the race once the results are finally in.



# Lowell FFA teams advance to regionals

submitted by  
Kevin Nugent, FFA advisor

On Wednesday, February 3, 34 FFA members from Lowell traveled to Saranac to compete in the District Leadership contest. The events are designed to help students develop leadership skills and prepare them for future careers. Students research chosen topics in any area of agriculture and demonstrate their knowledge through speeches and presentations. The contest areas range from public speaking events to Job Interview and Parliamentary Procedure. Students from Lowell competed against students from five area schools, with the top two teams in each event advancing to compete at the regional level.

Lowell had members advance to the regional level in five of the eight contests in which they competed. Finishing in first place in the Jr. High Conduct of Meetings contest, middle school members had to demonstrate knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure. Team members included Elliot Kelley, Breanne Lett, William Link, Keegan Nugent, Ethan Nieuwkoop, Braeden Strouse and Riley Taylor.

Lowell also advanced in the Greenhand Conduct of Meetings, a parliamentary procedure contest for first-year high school students. Team members included Aili Fisher, Kaitlyn Florian, Hannah Foster, Sierra Heintzelman, Ethan Kelley,

Haley Nieuwkoop, Gracyn Slagell, and Abby Wester.

In the Agricultural Issues contest, members select a current issue facing agriculture and develop a skit to show the pros and cons of the issue. The team of Autumn French, Casey French, Jenna Harper, Emily Kropf, Lizzie Kuhns, Samuel Misak, and Connor Nugent presented on colony collapse of bees in apple orchards. They finished in first place and will also compete in the regional contests.

In the Extemporaneous Speaking contest, Brad Depew was given 30 minutes to prepare a four to six minute speech. He will be moving on to the regional contests after finishing in

first place. Kara Jefferies also competed in this contest for Lowell, finishing in fourth place.

In Creed Speaking, middle school or freshman members memorize and recite the FFA Creed and then answer questions on how the creed pertains to their life. Katie DeYoung finished in first place with Isis Lett placing second; both will compete at the regional contests. Lena Schlientz was named the alternate receiving a gold award.

The remaining students were all recognized with a gold award at the competitions but failed to advance. In the Demonstration contest, the team of Josh Kinsley

and Mark Rasch finished in fifth place with their demonstration on self-logging.

Keana Fahrni, Keegan Mebert and Richard Misak competed in the Job Interview contest after preparing a resume and cover letter and successfully going through a mock interview.

In the Prepared Public Speaking contest, Brad Stoffers and Kenneth VanOosten had to prepare a six to eight minute speech and answer questions about their topic.

The regional contest will be held on Wednesday, February 17 at Lowell High School. The top teams will advance to compete at the State Convention March 9-11 at Michigan State University.

FFA is a national youth leadership organization that strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The Lowell FFA has over 75 members in 7-12 grade.

## LowellArts! calls for entries to art competition

LowellArts! announces a call for entries to the 30th annual West Michigan Regional Art Competition. The competition is open to all visual art media by artists, 18 years and older, who currently reside in one of the following lower Michigan counties: Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Cass, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Kent, Mecosta, Muskegon, Montcalm, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa, Saint Joseph, and Van Buren.

This year's distinguished juror is Caitlin Doherty, curator and deputy director of curatorial affairs at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum MSU. A total of \$2,000 in cash awards will be presented in five categories.

Only original artwork completed within the past two years is eligible. Ineligible work includes artwork previously exhibited at LowellArts! or previously accepted into the West Michigan Regional Competition. Artists may submit one piece to be

juried with a non-refundable entry fee of \$30, or \$20 for LowellArts! members and students. Proceeds of fees help fund prizes and the ongoing programs and services of LowellArts!.

Entries must be hand-delivered or shipped to LowellArts!, 149 S. Hudson, PO Box 53, Lowell, MI 49331. Artwork drop off dates and times are Wednesday through Friday, February 24, 25 and 26, 10am-6pm and Saturday, February 27, 11 am-4 pm.

The selected entries will be on display at LowellArts! March 4 - April 16. Gallery hours are: Tuesday through Friday, 10 am-6 pm and Saturdays, 1-4 pm. A meet-the-artists reception and presentation of awards is scheduled for Thursday, March 10 from 6-8 pm.

For more information, contact LowellArts! 897-8545 or visit [www.lowellartsmi.org](http://www.lowellartsmi.org). To acquire images, please contact Janet Teunis, project director, at 616-897-8545 or [janet@lowellartsmi.org](mailto:janet@lowellartsmi.org)

## For all your PRINTING



Our complete  
design staff  
can handle  
your printing  
needs from  
black and  
white to  
full color!

Call us for a  
quote today!

616.897.9261

- Catalogs • Fliers • Coupons • Post Cards
- Posters • Brochures • Business Cards
- Envelopes • Booklets • Programs
- Banners • Signs ... AND SO MUCH MORE!

**The Thrifty Girl Boutique**  
Because Every Girl Deserves to Sparkle

**Fun, Funky & Fabulous Jewelry Finds  
ALL FOR \$5 OR LESS!**

Why drive to the city and pay twice as much for your costume jewelry when you can shop local and pay \$5 or less EVERY SINGLE DAY?

**1004 W. Main St.  
Lowell, MI 49331**  
Inside Brenda's Hair Salon

Monday - by appointment  
Tuesday - Thursday - 9 AM-6 PM  
Friday - 9 AM-6 PM  
Saturday - 8:30 AM-1 PM  
Sunday - by appointment

For appointments email:  
[itsallfivebucks@gmail.com](mailto:itsallfivebucks@gmail.com)