

new florist settles in



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water for flint



page 9



Ihs sports



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LL&P board approves major equipment purchase

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The Lowell Light & Power board of directors had their latest regular meeting on Thursday, Feb. 4. The meeting was attended by every board member as well as two members of the public.

The board approved the purchase of four pieces of “major equipment” that will be used to get the Rolls Royce turbine engine up and running. They bought a switch gear for \$110,450, a 5,000 KVA transformer for \$58,795, a 500 KVA transformer for \$10,595 and a recloser control for \$17,790, for a total of \$197,630.

“We’ll use [the Rolls Royce turbine] in the summer when we have peak demand on our system,” said Light & Power general manager Greg Pierce.

Pierce offered the board a brief update about the biodigester.

“The new contractor, the new operator [Viola], has been there for a couple of weeks now,” Pierce said. “They have uncovered a number of areas that they think were not being operated to the best efficiency of the system. They made recommendations and we are starting to implement some of those recommendations. [...] It looks like it’s going to get everything up to where the original expectation was.”

Light & Power’s accountant said that he projects no “significant rate increase” in the near future.

“If we meet our target requirements in growth and revenue we will not, as I project, need a significant

rate increase,” said Light & Power chief accountant Steve Donkersloot. “If we don’t meet our requirements for growth and revenue,

then there’s the potential for a large rate increase.”

Donkersloot said he will present more information about this to the board at

their next meeting, which will be at the Light & Power building at 6 pm on Friday, March 11.



Lowell Light & Power board of directors approved \$197,630 worth of “major equipment” last week.

Noel Dean inducted into Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Red Arrow varsity football coach Noel Dean is scheduled for induction into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame on Saturday, March 12, at the Crisler Arena on the campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Dean is among 14 outstanding Michigan coaches who were selected by their peers for the honor this year. The ceremony to celebrate this year’s inductees will feature a social hour, dinner and guest speaker Wolverine football head coach Jim Harbaugh.

Dean began coaching in 1991 at Burton Bendle High School where the then 22 year old’s first season ended a disappointing 3-6. His second season ended even more dismal at 1-8. But with something to prove, Dean stayed on and a mere three seasons later led that team to the state semifinals.

Since taking over the Lowell program the following season Dean has

achieved more than 200 wins at the helm of the Red Arrows adding up to six trips to the state finals, including the team’s recent bid against Detroit Martin Luther King and three state championships. Only 37 times in his twenty year history in Lowell have the Arrows walked off the field as losers.

According to Lowell athletic director Dee Crowley, Dean’s impact goes far beyond the football field, “We’re glad that high school football coaches in Michigan are recognizing coach Dean for his contributions to high school football and our community. Lowell has benefited from coach Dean’s vision and mission in developing a strong football program, his development of young men and his service leadership in giving back to community and others.”

Crowley encourages football alumni, parents,

Coaching hall of fame,
continued, page 2

Still time to include your business in chamber directory

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Next month a new publication called “The Business of Living in Lowell” will go to print. The magazine will have feature articles about Lowell’s unique, thriving businesses. The articles will introduce the people who make the business run and show what makes each place indispensable.

“Reading a story is intriguing, [it] gives us important information that we may not have known, their history and much more,” said executive director of the chamber of commerce Liz Baker. “It’s also a piece that is designed to be a coffee table book or a reference material that will be kept for immediate or future contact with our businesses. It serves as a marketing or promotional piece, driving community residents and visitors to use and support the local economy. We are excited to partner with our local newspaper/shopping guide to produce this piece.”

It is important to

spend local money at local businesses. Big conglomerates headquartered in cities that care little about FROM, Pink Arrow Pride or even you (except for your credit card number, which they find very useful).

“Supporting your local economy is extremely important,” Baker said. “By supporting local you are helping to shape and mold our community. Independent businesses are unique and give our community a distinct personality. Every dollar spent locally versus a national business returns three times more money to our local economy. Local businesses create a healthy environment: their footprint is usually smaller, they carry more locally-made products, locate closer to residents and create less traffic and air pollution. Local businesses provide customer satisfaction, provide jobs and opportunities, give back to the community and enhance the local democracy and the health of local residents.”

Baker said that simply taking a walk downtown will show anyone how special Lowell businesses are.

“Look around. Check out all the businesses, organizations and churches the Greater Lowell Community provides,” Baker said. “Walk up and down Main St., get online at discoverlowell.org, search the chamber site or give us a call.”

Another way to “shop local” without going outside very much is to check out the Lowell Community Expo which will be at the high school on March 26 from 9 am to 3 pm. Dozens of local businesses participate in the Expo, where they offer samples, entertainment, perform demonstrations and more.

There is still time to have your business featured in this publication. If you would like to be included please call the Ledger office at 616-897-9261 and ask to speak to either Jon or Kurt.

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CENTS



Coaching hall of fame, continued

current players and the Red Arrow community of fans at large to join Dean for the momentous occasion. "It would be great to have a large section of Red Arrows

at Crisler Arena to join in this honor."

Tickets are priced at \$38 and can be obtained by sending payment to M.H.S.F.C.A. along with

a self-addressed return envelope to Mr. Gandalf Church/Hall of Fame Banquet, 1223 Hillcrest Ave., St. Joseph, MI 49085;

by calling 269-449-6553 or by emailing gchurch@sjschools.org. The deadline for purchasing tickets is March 5.



along main street

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

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

CELEBRATE 160 YEARS

First Congregational U.C.C., 865 Lincoln Lake, will be celebrating 160 years on March 13 with a free luncheon following the 10 am service. All are welcome.



Noel Dean, pictured on the sideline at Ford Field last November, will be inducted into the M.H.S.F.C.A. Hall of Fame on March 12.

college news

Michigan Technological University honored the achievements of nearly 400 undergraduate and graduate students at its midyear commencement on Dec. 19, including the following

students from the local area, of Ada: Payton Novak with a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. Parents are Shannon Gales and Brent Novak.

LAS
Elementary
Lunch Menus
week of 2/22/16

MONDAY: Yogurt parfait w/granola & cheese stick, strawberries, Bannett beef & cheese nacho, refried beans, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, celery sticks, applesauce, mixed fruit.

TUESDAY: Beef & cheese nacho, refried beans, Bannett yogurt parfait w/Goldfish & cheese stick, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, banana, chilled peas.

WEDNESDAY: Pancakes & sausage, hashbrown stars, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, grapes, apple.

THURSDAY: Grilled cheese sandwich, tomato soup, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, broccoli florets, mandarin oranges, fruit goop.

FRIDAY: Homemade cheese pizza on WIG crust, side salad, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, mixed fruit, juice.

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Pasquale returns to role as city manager of Lowell

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

After all the upheaval in city government lately, it must be somewhat comforting to see Dave Pasquale return to the role of city manager, a title he held for 24 years. Pasquale is 69 now. He is taking over after one of the most controversial city managers in Lowell's history and will also be dealing with a new city council.

Pasquale is no stranger to the inner workings of city politics. He was only 40 years old back on June 24, 1987, when the Ledger printed three paragraphs worth of things he'd already accomplished before he ever set foot in Lowell.

Pasquale was born in Buffalo, New York and grew up in nearby Fredonia. He first came to Michigan when he attended the University of Detroit. Pasquale graduated from the U of D in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science degree in political science. Pasquale also holds three master's degrees. He received a Master of Public Administration degree

from George Washington University in 1971. He earned a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1974 and in 1981 Pasquale earned a Master of Arts in geography from Michigan State University.

Pasquale began his career in city government in 1973 when he took a position as an intern planner with the city of Norfolk, Virginia. In 1974 Pasquale became the associate planner with the York County Planning Commission in York, South Carolina. In 1975 Pasquale moved back to Michigan when he accepted a position as planning director for the city of Alma. In 1980 Pasquale moved to Garden City where he also worked as city planner. In August of 1981 Pasquale took a position as the director of community development in Mt. Pleasant and was promoted to assistant city manager in December of the same year.

In Mt. Pleasant Pasquale had been the head of the community affairs division which oversees building inspections, parks and recreation, community development and reviewing all their budgets. He also served as the secretary to the planning commission and as director of personnel, he negotiated with the four unions representing

Mt. Pleasant municipal employees. While at Mt. Pleasant, Pasquale supervised the complete update of the city's zoning ordinance and coordinated work on a new master plan. He also was responsible for the city's acquisition of four major state and federal grants during his six years there.

Decades later when Pasquale announced his retirement, the July 14, 2010 edition of the Ledger printed another list, this time detailing all of the things he accomplished while city manager of Lowell.

"The accomplished projects included a new fire station, the completion of the waste water treatment plant, a new library, the renovation of the city hall, the downtown renovation, complete streetscape renovation of downtown in the late 1990s, improvements to the water distribution system, development of Stoney Lakeside Park in the early 1990s and the dog park. [...] Current city projects include the bridge replacement with an expected completion by Oct. 1."

Pasquale has remained in Lowell since he retired in 2011 and has not been close to inactive.

"I've been involved with the community and with certain things that are happening around town," Pasquale said. "I've been



David Pasquale is back in the city manager's office.

involved with some boards and commissions here. I've been on the fire board; I have been on the airport board; I have been involved with my church, I go to First Baptist; I'm a board member of the Alpha Women's Center, so there's been a number of things."

He also got a paying gig for a little while.

"For about a year and a half I was over at Grand Rapids Township, helping them out with planning and zoning," Pasquale said. "I did a short stint with Gaines Township too. I like working with communities."

Pasquale said he paid attention to the Mark Howe situation as it unfolded, but declined to comment on it in any way.

"I was watching," Pasquale said. "I really

don't want to make any comments on it at this time, just because there's a sensitivity to it. That would be my feeling. I don't know what to tell you beyond that."

He said that tentative plans are for the new city manager to take office this summer.

"Usually it takes roughly four months," Pasquale said. "I would anticipate that you're looking at somebody here in June. That's what I'm estimating right now. It could be wrong, it could be more, but you're looking at roughly about that time. It's a process you go through, starting with advertising. They're going to be utilizing the Michigan Municipal League. The league has people there that can take a city council through in terms of advertising. They ask, 'What are you looking for in a manager?' and things like that. After advertising you look at resumes and then set up interviews. It doesn't have to be a long, drawn out process as long as they stay on task. We need to get going."

Instead of focusing on the past, Pasquale said he wants the Lowell community to heal and move past all the controversy.

"If you look at Lowell and what's happening now and what happened, say, 20 years ago, it's a big change and it's nice to be a part of it," Pasquale said. "You see businesses opening up here, you see people buying

houses and moving here; it's gratifying to see that things are happening here. A lot of people [in Lowell] have a feeling that there's something they need to be doing for their community. I notice that more here than in other communities. You can walk down the sidewalk and say hello to so many people. You could stop at Gary's Meats and say hello to Gary and Aaron Laux, you'll see Mike Sprenger, you'll see Jack Reagan, the Doyles at King Milling, Cliff Yankovich over at Chimera; there's so many people doing good on Main Street. It's a hub of activity."

He said he has communicated with members of the city council and reported that, despite a rocky start, they are determined to do a good job for the city.

"They want to look at getting things done," Pasquale said. "They're going to be doing stuff. There are so many projects going on. You'll have a chance to see that at the next meeting on Tuesday [Feb. 16]. They've got a full docket."

Pasquale said the forward momentum of Lowell's economy would not be destroyed by changes in the city manager's office or awkward city council meetings.

"The city is always evolving," Pasquale said. "If it isn't evolving, it's dying. There are a lot of things that will be going on. We want to keep things going that way."

college news

Michigan Technological University honored the achievements of nearly 400 undergraduate and graduate students at its midyear commencement on Dec. 19, including the following students from the local area, of Ada: Payton Novak with a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. Parents are

Shannon Gales and Brent Novak.

Matt Proefke made the Dean's List of the College of Business and Ferris State University for the Fall 2015 semester. He is the son of Mark and Judy Proefke of Lowell.



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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council, sitting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, will hold a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331 to consider the following variance request:

118, 121, 125 and 127 Monroe Street SE – The City of Lowell has requested a variance to allow for a parking lot to be constructed within 20 feet of the Monroe Street right of way. The Zoning Ordinance requires a 20 foot front yard setback for all off-street parking lots; thus, a variance was requested.

Information regarding this request and the Zoning Ordinance are available for public viewing at City Hall, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan, during regular business hours. Written comments will be received until the time of the hearing.



Susan Ulery
City Clerk

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off the cuff

Jeanne Boss

The good old days. Interesting phrase. Now may I quote Carly Simon and say, "These are the good old days,?" At the risk of sounding trite I have to add - you need a little sand to irritate the oyster and create that pearl.

Recently, one of our youngest writers made a reference to TV shows like Leave It To Beaver (1957 - 1963) and The Brady Bunch (1969 - 1974) extolling family values. Having grown up with those shows I immediately was saddened by this perception.

Of course it's common for anyone who remembers these shows to look back fondly on their childhood and not see, or not remember, how things really were and that we have actually made quite a bit of progress since then. But, in my humble opinion, we would be doing our children an injustice to pass these "memories" on to our children representing them as better days.

Life evolves. With that evolution comes different issues (sand) that need to be worked through (the pearl).

When you consider the fact that Barbara Billingsley

(the actress that played Beaver Cleaver's mother) was playing a stay-at-home housewife in the fifties who had to patiently wait until her husband came home to make the smallest decision, whether it be disciplining the children or whether or not to change the window screens. She couldn't so much as get a loan in her own name, let alone have any say about her own reproductive freedom. Although she always appeared to be ever so happy, while dressed to the nines in high heels

•••

Memories are the key not to the past, but to the future.

~ Corrie Ten Boom

and pearls, she cooked, did dishes and answered the door. She rarely had an opinion of her own that could not be overruled by the man of the house.

A little more than a decade later, the happy Brady Bunch came along. Somehow, they were both widowed and the opening song portrayed this as a somewhat pleasant event that left each of them with three children to raise. But Mrs. Brady was also only slightly more liberated than

Mrs. Cleaver - she did wear slacks after all. Her new husband did allow her to have an opinion, as long as he had the last word. A slight bit of evolution. And she had a housekeeper. Geez! Just when the fashions started to relax and women could wear pants she clearly wasn't capable of taking care of all those kids and doing all that housework.

In reality, the man who portrayed the father on that show and the woman who played the housekeeper were both gay. Of course during that period of time and the former good old days before that, they had to hide their sexuality or they would not have been employable. Good old Mr. Brady and poor housekeeping Alice would never have been known and loved nostalgically by any of us.

Oh I understand, every time something is different and new it feels strange and wrong. That's that sand again. And today we have situations that, when you think about it, will look just as ridiculous years from now but are challenging for us none the less.

We now have a president, that little Beaver Cleaver could never have imagined back in his time. And can you just envision the look on Mr. Brady's face when he was told that women were now running for the highest office in the land? We are evolving. Even as I write, Justice Antonin Scalia has died and our president must nominate his successor. Let's watch and see how the Neanderthals of today try to express their "good old days" philosophy and try to convince us he shouldn't be allowed to do his job. Hopefully, that attitude will also be extinct some day in the future.

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viewpoint

to the editor

diappointed with name calling

To the editor:
I read the recent letters from Ms. Geldersma and Ms. Bieri and while I know neither personally, they both sound like wonderful seniors who are concerned about the direction our city is taking. I agree; I am concerned too.

However, I think the residents of Senior Neighbors have been misled about the nature of our new councilmembers. Ms. Geldersma and Ms. Bieri seem concerned that we haven't given our new council a chance to prove themselves, but in reality, we are well-acquainted with how the new councilmembers and their friends operate.

Councilmember Alan Teelander has run a website for years dedicated to picking apart city operations and calling people names. Since his election, councilmember Teelander has removed most of the content from the website but thanks to the Internet archive (archive.org) it lives on.

Councilmember Teelander's website has,

among other things, called our former mayor a "patsy-city-manager-slave" and posted a photo of the late Jim Hall with a patch drawn on his eye and captioned "Pirate Jim Hall."

Since when is mocking and name-calling okay? I'm guessing Ms. Geldersma and Ms. Bieri would say 'never.' And yet our city is now being run by people who have used name-calling and mocking as their main method of making a point.

I would love to think that councilmember DeVore and councilmember Phillips knew nothing about the site and what it said, but the reality is that this website and its readers, were the main champions of their campaigns. How could they not know?

It saddens me that people with a history of supporting negative, bullying behavior are now running our city. And it saddens me even more that they are preying on our seniors and manipulating them for personal gain.

Sincerely,
Maryalene LaPonsie
Lowell

the time is not only ripe it's rotten

To the Editor,

The time is not only ripe it's rotten for a forensic audit of the city of Lowell and Lowell Light and Power. The time is past due to put to rest all character assassinations of any person deemed effective at countering the "old boy" regime that existed up until last November when a new city council was sworn in, having been elected by a process far more democratic than presidential elections which employ the thoroughly undemocratic Electoral College.

In Lowell we have direct democracy and the people spoke loudly and clearly. With new city government leaders in place there is no greater need than to first of all, find out where we have been. Facts are required to displace innuendos and to that end Lowell would do well in following in the footsteps of many other Michigan municipalities by conducting a thorough

forensic audit. Not only would there be a team of certified public accountants, professional investigators licensed by the State of Michigan would take the audit further, following the money.

And People of Lowell: Isn't it only fair that a person who buys their electricity from Lowell Light and Power, such as Peggy Covert, have the right to speak out at the only forum that has any control over LLP, the city council, without fear of attack or intimidation tactics which only help suppress participatory democracy? Again, take a close look at who is defending your democratic rights and who is attacking them. We have to understand where we've been before we can determine where we're going.

Yours truly,
Stephen Thurtell
Lowell

people are finally paying attention

To the Editor,

I keep hearing Sharon Ellison spouting off about a couple of non city residents being too involved in city

matters. I seem to remember that she relied on Vergennes Township people for her election campaign. Doesn't she realize city manager

Mark Howe was not a city resident but he ran this city for years, creating most of the problems we are dealing with now? I'm glad we have neighbors who care enough to get involved in our city. This is what Lowell is all about, neighbors helping neighbors.

Thank you neighbors.

At least people are finally paying attention. Thank you city council for having the courage to do what you were voted in for. Remember to speak into the microphone so people can hear what's really going on.

John Erickson
Lowell

council is just new to the job

Letter to the Editor,

There are a few constituents that are bitter over the outcome of the city council election and the firing of the city manager. Some have criticized the new city council from day one. Some portray the new city council as incompetent and having an ax to grind.

I don't believe the new city council is incompetent, just new to their job and as for having an ax to grind maybe, but I believe redemption would be the proper word. I believe it's the new city council's job to redeem a system that's gone astray. There are needed changes to be made in the system.

First, the city council should be making an attempt at answering, with the best of their knowledge, all questions pertaining to the city at council meetings unless there's a legal reason why they can't. There should be a public hearing

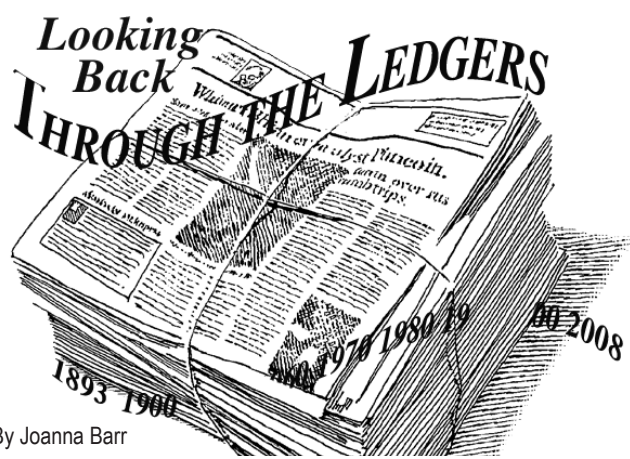
in advance on any subject the council decides to take a vote on. The city council votes on behalf of its constituents and in doing so, each councilmember should be obligated to justify their vote.

Those three suggestions would go a long way in redeeming a system that's gone astray. A system that denied the employees of the Department of Public Works a just contract. A system that denied the constituents of Lowell their right to be part of the decision making. It's time to have a just system, not a rigged system where the council can do as they please.

The council's main responsibility is to serve the community, not dictate to it. The city council might have the final say but I say again, they're not there to be the sole decider.

Jim Howard
Lowell

To The Editor, continued, page 7



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal February 18, 1891

There was a good turnout to the dance last Friday night at the Hall. By the way, there is always a good turnout to the dances at Alton; there is only one thing to mar the happiness of those present and that is some of the "boys" (who don't care for themselves or any body else) bringing bottles of liquor there and getting so drunk before morning that they don't know anything at all.

Diphtheria is raging in the family of Garrett Farrell. At last account three children being dead and the fourth one not expected to live.

Mr. Lester, from Saranac, has opened one of largest

dry good stores we have ever had here [Ada.] We all welcome him, as a store of that kind we have always been wanting.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 24, 1916

Night school opens – fine opportunity for Lowell's young and young. Can Lowell maintain a Night school? Other communities are doing so, and old and young are enrolling to the number that the capacity of school plants are tested.

Goes to Dowagiac – Call up higher comes to Lowell Superintendent. Superintendent Frazee has been elected to the superintendency of the schools of Dowagiac by unanimous vote of the board of education and will immediately tender his resignation to the Lowell school officers, to take effect at the close of the school year. Dowagiac is a city of 6,000 population and has a corps of forty-six teachers, it is the first time in a period of years that the Dowagiac school board has chosen a superintendent by unanimous vote.

The Michigan Central Railroad Co. are hauling their annual supply of ice for all their eating houses, depots and offices from Chicago to Detroit, and throughout Michigan. The ice comes from George Lake, near West Branch, and is about 14 inches thick.

Looking Back, continued, page 6

We love to hear from you!



Your Hometown
News Source

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

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

Lowell Odyssey of the Mind teams prepare for regional tournament

Seven teams from Lowell Area Schools met recently at Cherry Creek Elementary to show

off their creativity in a dress rehearsal for their upcoming competition. The Lowell teams will travel to

Greenville Middle School on Saturday, Feb. 27 for the Region 2 Odyssey of the Mind competition. The

teams will compete with performances that they have been working on since October. Their long-term performances include a team-built vehicle that will travel between two team-created ecosystems to process items; a humorous

performance showing three animals' points of view while showing emotions and solving problems; a performance about an object that comes to life when it is touched by something magical; and a structure

built using only balsa wood and glue that will balance and support as much weight as possible. On the day of competition, the teams will also be judged on how well they solve a spontaneous problem.



The No-Cycle Recycle team from Murray Lake, Alto and Cherry Creek Elementary, left to right: Max del Rosario, Isaac Lemire, Karina Peplinski and Hunter Stepanovich.



The Furs, Fins, Feathers & Friends team from Lowell Middle School, left to right: Nick Momany, Andrew Serne, Hayden Lowrie, Josh Momany and Abby Davis.



The Furs, Fins, Feathers & Friends team from Murray Lake and Cherry Creek Elementary, left to right: Luci Foreman, Maya Kemp, Emmaline Wasciuk (hidden behind tree), Max Stoner, Anderson Stoner and Evan Bray.

Saranac florist opens sister store in Lowell

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Mindy Free is the owner of Village Floral West, 1004 W. Main, which opened in January. The new flower shop is the "sister store" of Free's flower shop in Saranac, the original Village Floral which Free has owned for five years. She said she definitely has noticed differences between the consumers at her two stores.

"It's been exciting and challenging learning a new town and what this town requires versus Saranac," Free said. "It is different. In Saranac, it's a much smaller town so the volume of flowers is different in each store. I'm finding in this town people prefer roses and lilies for this [Valentine's Day] holiday. In Saranac, it's usually just a mixed bouquet of different flowers. I do not know why."

Free said she's been into flowers since she was a kid, but had to work for years in other industries to save money to start her business.

"It always has been something that interested me since I was young," Free said. "I worked at a place in Belding for five years. Once our kids were all pretty much grown my husband and I decided that I could leave corporate American and give this a whirl. I worked for a industrial

equipment company for ten years and then I worked for a dentist for 12 years doing office work, reception, billing, that kind of thing. This is definitely more fun, but it's a lot harder work. Being your own boss is a great thing and it does have its bonuses, but you work a lot harder. There are a lot more hours. I'm working 70, 80 hours this week. Any holiday, we'll all be putting in 60 or more hours."

She said the store doesn't only sell flowers, they also offer a range of gift ideas so one doesn't have to travel all over town.

"I like to offer some gift items, especially for men," Free said. "I find they don't want to have to come here and then go to Meijer or somewhere else to get the candle, the stuffed animal, the balloon or whatever. I get a lot of people that come in here looking for bereavement gifts so I carry a line of wind chimes and memory stones that are made to be outdoors. They're quite popular as a sympathy gift for a family member."

If it seems like florists always jack up the prices whenever there's a holiday that traditionally requires flowers, Free said that is absolutely true, but there is a reason the prices go up.

"It is all dependent on what I pay my wholesaler,

who buys them from the farms," Free said. "The farms that grow them set the prices, then that trickles down to you. We don't do enough volume that we can buy directly from the farms, we have to go through a wholesaler. That raises our prices, because they have to make their cut. When the growers know there's going to be a demand, like on Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, wedding season, the farms charge more money, so I have to charge more money. That's an unfortunate part of it. Also, we're making less profit than we normally would because I'm not raising my prices to reflect the increase that I'm being charged. I'm charging more, but not enough to make up the difference. For example, roses. I have a 100 percent increase in my price for roses this time of year, but I can't raise my price and charge 100 percent more than I usually do."

Free said that her flower stores are successful because of the superb experience she strives to provide for her customers.

"I try to give excellent customer service and excellent product and I hope that they'll continue to come back and use us as their florist in the long run," Free said.



Mindy Free, owner of Village Floral West.

Lowell Youth Advisory Council helps to provide water for the residents of Flint

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

After hearing about the tragic circumstances surrounding the water supply in Flint, Lowell's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) got to work doing their part to assist Flint residents by providing clean bottled water.

Senior Kelsey Emmanuel brought the idea of action to advisor Chaye Klomprens after the situation touched an emotional chord with her.

"When I first heard about the water crisis I felt great sympathy for the people of Flint. It was upsetting to see their health, families and lives so severely affected by something they could not control or see coming. It is hard to imagine the feeling of shock and frustration that the families of Flint have to face," said Emmanuel.

Embracing the idea, the group quickly got to work spreading awareness and making a plan to collect, store and donate water. "Lowell High School sits within a very supportive community and I thought it would be a great idea to have our school come together to bring in water donations," explained Emmanuel. "My advisor and fellow YAC members



Students pictured with some of the collected water, from left to right: Derek Massey, Chaye Klomprens, Kelsey Emmanuel.

were very supportive and loved the idea! To prepare for the week we made signs and announcements to spread the word to students and families to

bring in monetary and water donations."

After a week of collection, the drive raised more than expected, according to Klomprens,

"We collected 24 cases of water and enough money to purchase 67 more cases. All together we donated 91 cases which equals 3,640 bottles of water."

Klomprens said she is impressed with her students' drive and willingness to serve in this and other service projects. "I am always surprised by these young adults and their true desire to help those in need. These students take great pride in what they do and in being positive role models for their peers," explained Klomprens.

Emmanuel said that she will carry the lessons of community, learned in Lowell, forward with her after graduation when she heads to New York

University this fall to study international relations. "I feel it is important for students to learn to serve others because it is the key to building strong leadership and character. As individuals, we tend to do our best when we have the opportunity to be part of something larger than ourselves. By serving others, students gain the opportunity to develop a sense of selflessness and appreciation towards others," Emmanuel concluded.

Emmanuel honored by MHSAA as Class A scholar award recipient

Kelsey Emmanuel, of Lowell, was among 32 Class A Scholar-Athlete honorees awarded by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Farm Bureau Insurance, in its 27th year of sponsoring the award, will give \$1,000 college scholarships to 32 individuals who represent their member schools in at least one sport in which the Association sponsors a postseason tournament. The first 30 scholarships are awarded proportionately by school classification and the number of student-athletes involved in those classes; also, there are two at-large honorees who can come from any classification.

Students applying for the Scholar-Athlete award must be carrying at least a 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) grade-point average and have previously won a letter in a varsity sport in which the Michigan High School Athletic Association sponsors a postseason tournament. Other requirements for the applicants were to show

active participation in other school and community activities and produce an essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Emmanuel played two years of varsity volleyball and will run her third year of varsity track and field this spring. She ran two seasons of varsity cross country and played two seasons of sub-varsity basketball. She served as volleyball captain in the fall, junior varsity basketball captain as a sophomore and earned sportsmanship awards in two sports. Emmanuel is participating in her third year of Lowell Youth Advisory Council, this year as treasurer; and is secretary in her second year of student council. Also, she is in her second year of National Honor Society, fourth of Lady Arrows Varsity C club and was part of a State Farm "Celebrate my Drive" safe driving campaign in 2013 that placed among the top 50 nationally. She participated in Lowell's musical and

Christmas play as a junior. She plans to attend New York University and study international relations.

Each of the scholarship recipients will be honored at halftime ceremonies of the Class C boys basketball

final game March 26 at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing. Commemorative medallions will be given to the finalists in recognition of their accomplishments.

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Red Arrow - BASKETBALL SPORTS

Arrows top Scots 66-45, Beachler reaches milestone

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Going into last Friday night's OK White conference game against Caledonia, the Red Arrow varsity basketball team had only one goal in mind; win. They did just that topping the Scots 66-45 in a performance that also pushed junior point guard Matt Beachler over the 1,000 point threshold, a fact no one was aware of until after the game.

Beachler himself, in another display of the sharp shooter's humble nature, only became aware of the feat after logging onto social media. "It was very surprising when I heard about it. I had no idea I was even close," admitted Beachler.

A starter for the Red Arrows since his freshman year, Beachler is averaging nearly 19 points per game this season and tallying about four rebounds and three assists defensively. His versatility has made him one of the most scouted players in the state with more than 50 schools interested, including 11 Division I offers.

With one school record already under his belt, most points scored in a game when he scored 44 against Hastings last season, Beachler now seems

poised to grab another after reaching the milestone basket Friday. The school's current career scoring record, set by Denny DeWitt in 1971, is 1,251 points.

Though it is likely inevitable that he will replace DeWitt in the record books, Beachler maintains his focus on the task at hand, dominating conference competition. "Our main focus right now is competing for an OK White championship," stated Beachler.

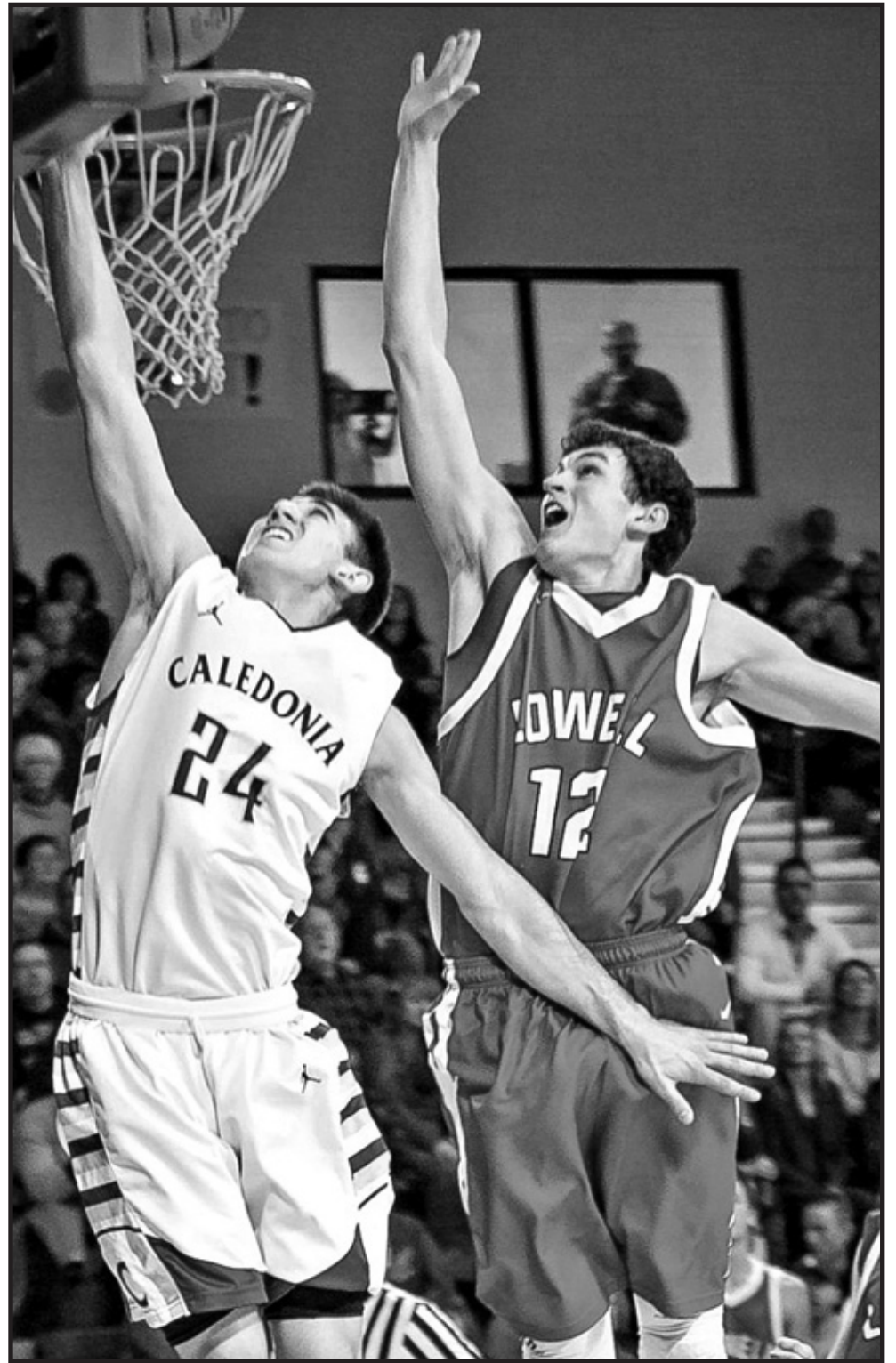
The team is 6-1 in conference play after their victory at Caledonia, having lost only to Grand Rapids Christian. Six Red Arrows scored in the game including three players in the double digits. Lowell had only a one-point advantage moving

in to the second half of the game, but their paramount offense put up 21 points in the third and defense kept Caledonia to just seven points in the fourth leading them to the win.

Beachler led all scorers with 24 points but credits much of his success on the court to his teammates, saying they set him up for his great shots. "My teammates do a great job of screening and sharing the ball. We have played together since third grade," said Beachler.

Other top scorers for Lowell included stand-out players Alex Anschutz who earned 15 points, Ryan Stevens who put up 13 and Gabe Steed who netted nine. Marcus Malling and Ethan Bates also contributed to the scoreboard in the win.

The Red Arrows look to improve to 7-1 this Friday when they welcome Forest Hills Central to Lowell High School for an OK White showdown tipping off at 7:30 pm.



Lowell's Matt Beachler picked up his 1,000th career point as a Red Arrow during the second period of Friday's game.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 13-194,034-DE

Estate of LAURA
LYNN LOOMAN, aka
Laura L. Looman,
deceased. Date of birth:
04/15/1971.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS: The
decendent, Laura Lynn
Looman, aka Laura
L. Looman, died
01/06/2016.

Creditors of the
decendent are notified

that all claims against
the estate will be forever
barred unless presented
to Kathleen Sue
VanderJagt, personal
representative, or to
both the probate court
at 180 Ottawa Avenue
NW, Grand Rapids, MI
49503 and the personal
representative within 4
months after the date
of publication of this
notice.

Craig A. Bruggink
(P29358)
429 Turner Ave., NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-456-5048

Kathleen Sue
VanderJagt
641 St. Clair Ave., NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534
616-791-1757

Sport summaries

ICE HOCKEY

Nick Vantil, Nolan Winterburn and Egan Simmons scored goals for the Lowell/Caledonia/South Christian ice hockey team last Friday night in action against Hudsonville. Neither team scored in a forced overtime leaving the game tied at 3. The team has two regular season games left this season, beginning at home this Friday against Northview High School. Puck drops at 7:30 inside the Kentwood Ice Arena.

GIRLS BOWLING

After a hard fought OK White loss to Caledonia last Monday, led by Ally Stockreef (184, 193), the Lowell varsity girls bowling team topped both Forest Hills Central and Byron Center High schools on the lanes Wednesday and Thursday. The ladies will meet Grand Rapids Christian in their last conference match up before entering tournament play today at Eastbrook Lanes.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Red Arrow varsity girls basketball fell to top performing OK White foe Caledonia last Friday by a score of 51-21. The team, now 5-12 overall and 1-6 in conference, called up JV players Darby Dean and Carly Hoekstra to join starters Breanna VanLaan, Cassie Dean, Regan Coxon, Bridget Garter and Ally Frederickson for the game.

SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Two senior Red Arrow student athletes made commitments to compete in their respective sports at the collegiate level last week. Noah Roth, a member of the Lowell scholastic shooting team, will take aim as a RedHawk at Martin Methodist College in Tennessee. Multi-sport athlete Mitchell Davis will continue his education at south central Michigan's Hillsdale College where he will hit the football field as a Charger.

BOYS BOWLING

Two losses and a win were the results of three contests held last week for the Lowell varsity boys bowling squad. Monday the team lost to Caledonia after a lower than average set of second round scores. Wednesday the Arrows steamrolled conference foe Forest Hills Central 25-5 led by Carson Clark (238, 268). Clark and Logan Smith led on Thursday against Byron Center where the team could not come up with a win. Over the weekend Clark placed second out of 80 bowlers in the pre-regional tournament.



Red Arrow SPORTS

- WRESTLING

Wrestlers claim Division II district championship

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The Red Arrow varsity wrestling team seems to have perfected the art of the sport. In fact, it appears the only thing they have not mastered is losing.

Last week, fresh off their seventh consecutive OK White conference

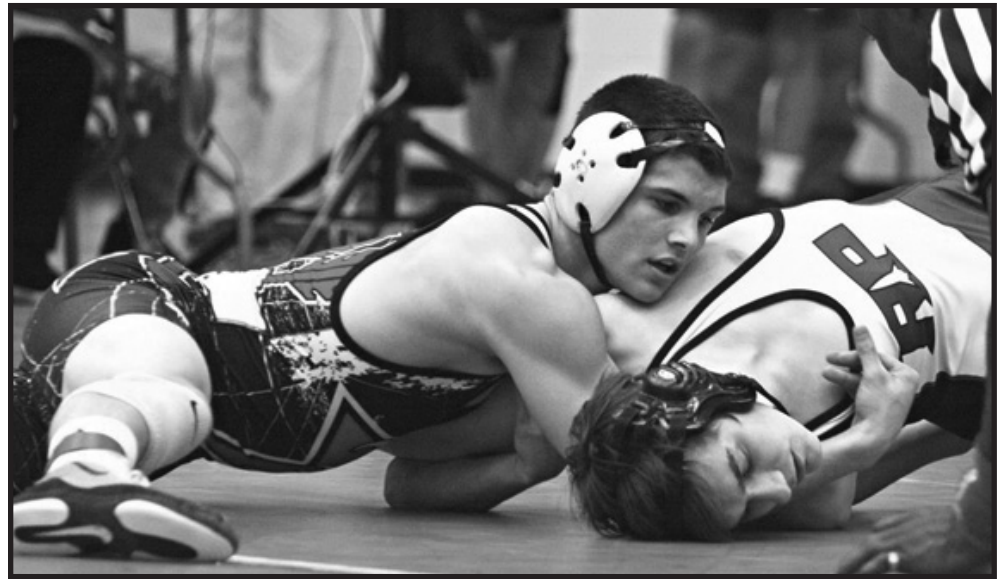
title, Lowell tore through Forest Hills Northern 76-6 in district competition at hosting East Grand Rapids High School to claim the Division II district title.

Lowell picked up the win by claiming victory in 13 out of 14 weight classes. Nine of those results

impressively came via pin including those by Jeff Leach (112), Tyler Lynch (119), Lucas Hall (125), Avry Mutschler (135), Kyle Washburn (140), Zeth Dean (145), George Gonzales (160), Austin Engle (171) and Max Bishop (285).

The Arrows doubled down on that top performance on Saturday when they welcomed the area's wrestling elite to compete in individual district competition at Lowell High School. This time eight Lowell wrestlers claimed district championships and 12 earned the right to advance to regional competition.

Several Arrows went undefeated at the competition en route to their championship titles, freshman Leach who won three consecutive matches to earn his title competing at 103 pounds, fellow frosh and state-ranked wrestler Mutschler at 130, Z. Dean who competed at 140 pounds, Bryce Dempsey who tallied a 4-0 record at 145 and Max Dean who maintained his undefeated season improving to 27-0 at 189 with his win.

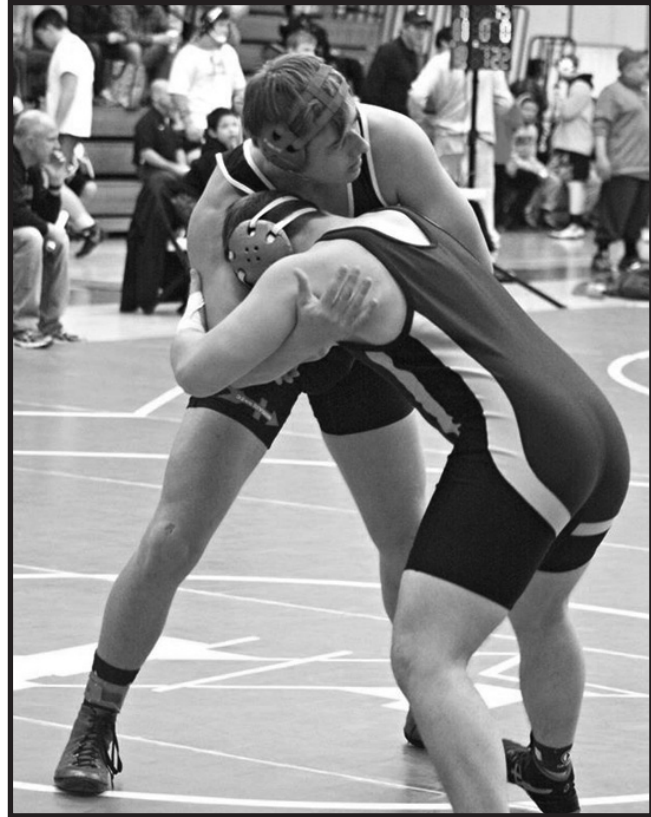


Senior Zeth Dean topped Muskegon Reeths-Puffer's Joseph Barringer during his flawless day at 140 pounds.

Four weight classes featured two Lowell grapplers, David Kruse and Keigan Yuhas, both competing at 160 pounds with Yuhas clinching third place after a 36-second pin and Kruse earning the championship extending his flawless 17-0 season. At 171 Engle placed sixth while Danny Kruse claimed the district title.

Competing against each other on the mat were Eli Boulton and Logan Blough who battled for third place at 215 pounds with Boulton

edging out the win. At 125 with Hall claiming first and Sam Russell and Lucas Hall Russell second after their both advanced to the finals match.



Logan Blough earned a come from behind decision victory over his Greenville opponent.

The team competes in the regional tournament at Sparta on Wednesday at 6 pm. A win will advance them to the finals where they would face either Sparta or Muskegon Reeths-Puffer for the title. Saturday the team heads to individual regional competition. The location of the tournament has yet to be announced.

Gymnasts suffer two slim margin losses

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity gymnastics suffered two slim margin losses last week when they faced Forest Hills United on the road and then welcomed Rockford/Sparta to their home gym for senior night.

Monday against Forest Hills the squad came up short of a win by just more than two points dropping the meet 141.975 to 139.65. Red Arrow gymnasts Corah Kaufman and Maura Fitzpatrick scored in the

top four for Lowell on all events and both also logged personal bests on the balance beam. According to head coach Michele DeHaan, "This was Corah and Maura's first nines on beam! They have some difficult skills that they have been falling on and I knew once they started staying on the beam they would score big."

The rest of the Lady Arrows also excelled on the event after struggling for much of the season on

the challenging event. "We had seven girls compete on beam today and six girls performed their routines without a fall. That hasn't happened for us yet this year and now that we are heading into the conference and regional meet soon, it was the perfect time for it to happen," said DeHaan adding, "The girls needed that confidence booster and to see what they are capable of."

Wednesday the team honored their two graduating seniors before facing Rockford/Sparta whom they trailed in the final tallies 139.975 to 136.3. Fitzpatrick, Kaufman, Alise Forward and Lauren Browning all performed well for the team, who kept pace despite the loss, with three scores at or above 9.0.

Sarena Wilterdink and Browning, the team's

two outgoing seniors, competed well in their last meet at Lowell High School which is always an emotional night, according to DeHaan. "These two young ladies have been part of our gymnastics program since they were in elementary school. Tonight Sarena had a strong beam routine she competes with such confidence. That is something that underclassmen don't typically bring to the team yet. Lauren also had a strong beam routine, but her vault was definitely the highlight for her. In previous years, she has scored many nines. This year has been a struggle though, coming back from an injury she had yet to hit that mark this year. I was so happy for her to hit that nine and score a 9.05 tonight on vault. Her perseverance has definitely taught her a life

lesson to never give up," said DeHaan.

Lowell has already qualified for regional competition as a team and

will see individual gymnasts competing as well, 16 on the vault; 12 on the bars; 11 on the beam; and 14 on the floor.



Alise Forward hitting her ending pose on floor.

This Saturday the team will face the entire conference as they seek the OK conference title at Kenowa Hills High School Saturday morning starting at 10 am.

Lowell 139.65		Lowell 136.3	
Forest Hills 141.975		Rockford/Sparta 139.975	
VAULT		VAULT	
Maura Fitzpatrick	8.65	Lauren Browning	9.05
Corah Miller	8.65	Corah Miller	8.6
Alise Forward	8.65	Hadyn Nash	8.45
Corah Kaufman	8.55	Paige DeHaan	8.1
BARS		BARS	
Corah Kaufman	8.975	Corah Kaufman	8.775
Maura Fitzpatrick	8.575	Lauren Browning	8.375
Alise Forward	8.475	Sarena Wilterdink	8.325
Sarena Wilterdink	8.3	Joslynn Battle	7.825
BEAM		BEAM	
Maura Fitzpatrick	9.2	Maura Fitzpatrick	9.0
Corah Kaufman	9.0	Sarena Wilterdink	8.55
Sela Bauman	8.6	Karmen Anderson	8.5
Karmen Anderson	8.5	Lauren Browning	8.1
FLOOR		FLOOR	
Maura Fitzpatrick	9.15	Karmen Anderson	9.0
Corah Kaufman	8.7	Alise Forward	8.475
Alise Forward	8.6	Corah Miller	8.425
Lauren Browning	8.525	Sarena Wilterdink	8.75

obituaries

FELDMAN

Feldman, Vivian Ferne (nee Wingeier) Age 88, passed away Thursday, February 11, 2016. She is survived by her husband Lyman; daughter Margaret Jackson, sons Keith (Cheri) Feldman and Kent (Dawn) Feldman, son-in-law Paul Jackson; three grandchildren Carmen Jackson, Brad (Laura) Jackson and Grant Jackson; two great-grandchildren Brooklyn and Trayer; brother-in-law Fred Feldman and three nieces. Upon graduating from the Butterworth Hospital School of Nursing, Vivian enjoyed her career as a surgical nurse. She resided in Alto, Michigan and Sarasota, Florida with her husband Lyman. Visitation was at the Apostolic Christian Fellowship Center, 7700 Wingeier Ave., Alto. Funeral service will be held Wednesday, February 17, 11:00 a.m. at the Apostolic Christian Church, 7157 Wingeier Ave., Elder Ted Steffen officiating. Interment Apostolic Christian Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made in Vivian's name to the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550.



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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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When to begin saving for retirement

After finishing school and landing their first jobs, the furthest thing on many young professionals' minds is retirement. Although the day young workers will cash their last paychecks and bid farewell to the workplace may be decades down the road, it's never too early to begin saving for retirement.

The sooner a person begins saving for retirement, the more time his or her money will have to grow. As more deposits are made and interest is compounded, retirement investments can grow considerably.

Ideally, workers should begin saving as soon as possible. Compounding interest produces a better return

for professionals who start saving when they are young than for those who delay their retirement savings. Unfortunately, many of today's new workers are not prioritizing retirement. According to a study from Hewitt Associates, just 31 percent of Generation Y employees (individuals born after 1978) who are able to deposit money into a 401(k) retirement plan actually do so.

The easiest way to save for retirement is to make the process entirely automatic. One can achieve this by signing up for an employer-sponsored 401(k) or another retirement plan. When opening a 401(k), workers will have a predetermined portion of

their earnings deducted from their paychecks and deposited into the retirement account. Such contributions are made prior to being taxed, adding even more incentive to begin saving as soon as possible. Money deposited into a 401(k) will then be available for withdrawal when the employee reaches retirement age. If the employer has a matching program, even better, as that means the company will match employee contributions up to a certain percentage.

A person may also want to establish an IRA (individual retirement account). IRAs, which are available as traditional IRAs or Roth IRAs, are typically offered through financial establishments and provide tax-friendly ways to save for retirement. There are differences between traditional IRAs and

Roth IRAs, and these differences are related to taxes and may depend on when contributions are made as well as when withdrawals are made. Speak with a financial planner to help you determine the IRA best suited to your personal needs.

Young professionals may want to keep more of their retirement funds in stocks and aggressive accounts to earn more. As one gets older and closer to retirement, a conservative approach is more prudent. Advisors may suggest older professionals then begin investing in bonds and other less volatile opportunities.

Professionals of all ages can speak with a financial planner for more information regarding retirement savings. In addition, options to invest through an employer can be discussed with human resources personnel.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Will start at 3pm at:

Witt's Inn
2534 Alden Nash Ave NE
Lowell MI 49331

The March board of review of Vergennes Township will meet at the Vergennes Township Hall to hear appeals on:

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016
Hours from 3 pm to 9 pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016
Hours from 9 am to 3 pm

The Board will meet for the purpose of reviewing the tax roll and hearing all appeals.

You may appeal assessed valuation one of two ways:

- 1) To appear at the Board of Review, call on Monday or Wednesday from 9 am to 3 pm, (516) 897-5671, to schedule an appointment.

OR

- 2) * By letter addressed to:
Vergennes Township/Assessor
10831 Bailey Dr.
P.O. Box 208
Lowell MI 49331

*MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO MARCH 4, 2016

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

NOTICE BOWNE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review of Bowne Township will meet in the new Township Office Building located at 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto, Michigan on:

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016 - 1:00 P.M.
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016
9:00 A.M. - NOON
AND 1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016
1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
& 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

(NOTE - THE EVENING HOURS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING THE TAX ROLL AND HEARING ALL CLAIMS. YOU MAY APPEAL YOUR ASSESSED VALUATION ONE OF (2) WAYS: BY LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE BOWNE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR AND RECEIVED BY HIM PRIOR TO MARCH 6, 2016 OR BY APPEARING IN PERSON ON ONE OF THE DATES THE BOARD OF REVIEW MEETS.

THE TENTATIVE REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT MULTIPLIER REQUIRED BY PA 165 OF 1971 ARE:

AGRICULTURAL RATIO	48.21	MULTIPLIER	1.0371
COMMERCIAL RATIO	55.99	MULTIPLIER	.8830
INDUSTRIAL RATIO	50.74	MULTIPLIER	.9854
RESIDENTIAL RATIO	47.64	MULTIPLIER	1.0495

DENNIS MCKELVEY-ASSESSOR
RANDY WILCOX-SUPERVISOR
BOWNE TOWNSHIP

LHS Students of the Month for February

Lowell High School has announced that Trevor Labron, 11th grade; Kennedy Mitchell, 11th grade; and Nova Nietling, 11th grade; are the Lowell High School February Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting. Students are selected based on academic

achievement, character and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Labron, Mitchell and Nietling. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Labron was nominated by Cari Slot and she writes, "Trevor is currently a student in my fifth hour Computer II class. From the very first day of class he has given an outstanding effort on every project he is assigned.

Trevor accepts challenging material with excitement, while looking forward to the process of strategic problem solving. He is very helpful to others in class, assisting them and trying to explain without doing for his peers. It is a nice way to end the day, having someone come in with such a great attitude, ready to learn and expand their own database of knowledge."

Heidi Kolp nominated Mitchell and she writes, "Kennedy is a classic unsung hero. She is not the center of attention and she doesn't want to be, but she works wonders for those around her in quiet, competent ways. Kennedy has been helping me with the musical. She volunteered to visit the businesses in town and talk to them about advertising in the musical program. For a teenager to willingly go out in public to promote an activity is admirable and rare. She has been all around town, spending hours of her own



Trevor Labron



Kennedy Mitchell



Nova Nietling

time to the benefit of the entire program. Kennedy has also been pulling props without me asking her to and has stepped in to read for missing cast members at practice. Kennedy is always there when you need her and is happy to be of assistance. Most tellingly, I needed someone to debate without a partner in debate class to even out team numbers. Who immediately volunteered? Kennedy. She did not need the extra credit earned for working alone and she certainly did not

need the extra work with her busy schedule, but she was happy to oblige. Kennedy acquitted herself admirably and shouldered the entire pros side of a public forum debate, making points and explaining arguments no one else had thought to present. If you need something done well and quickly, Kennedy is your best bet. If you need someone dedicated and humble, you couldn't ask for better than Kennedy. I am ecstatic to have her help and honored to work with someone as selfless and committed as she is."

Nietling was nominated by both Kristin Schutte and Tricia Miller. Schutte writes, "With great enthusiasm I am nominating Nova Nietling as Student of the Month. Nova just completed a trimester with me in the College and Test Prep course and during that time I was impressed with her work ethic, her friendliness and her unique understanding coupled with her work ethic makes her a great young scientist full of promise for our future society."

areas, Nova has positioned herself to score well beyond her classmates on both the ACT and the SAT. However, while in my class, she never hesitated to help others in her various groups, painstakingly pulling apart math problems or English concepts to make them accessible to others. When students were given time to work on tests of their choice, Nova was always hovering over her books, focusing and learning from her mistakes. She is a curious student who questions and loves to learn. Most importantly though, she is a student with a warm heart and smile who quietly graces our hallways and contributes positively to Lowell High School." Miller writes, "Nova consistently demonstrates a higher level with a deep curiosity! She is great fun to teach and learn from. Her conceptual understanding coupled with her work ethic makes her a great young scientist full of promise for our future society."

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

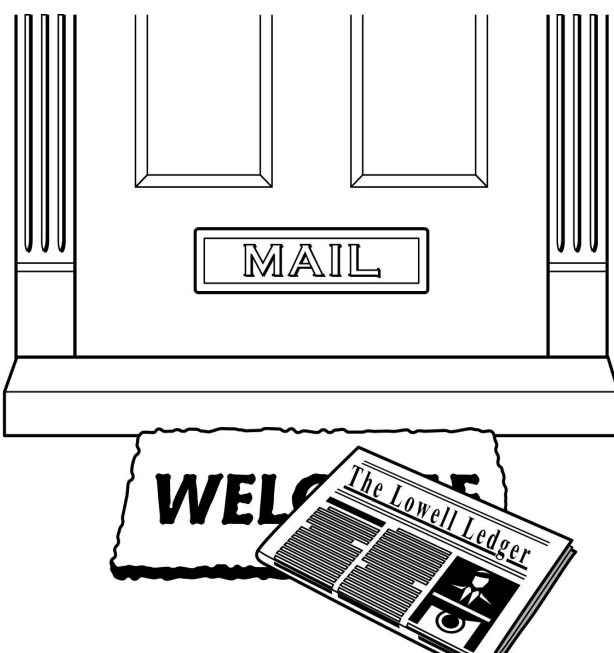
Board of Review Members, Sandra Graham, Nancie Matthews & James Foerch.
Jerry Hale, Township Supervisor,
Secretary of Board of Review.

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE 2016 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETINGS

The Grattan Township Board of Review will meet at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd, Belding, MI 48809 or:

Monday March 14, 2016 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Thursday March 17, 2016 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Call 616-691-8450 for appointment
Frank Force, Supervisor
Matt Frain, Assessor



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**STATEPOINT
CROSSWORD**

**THEME: THE
OSCARs**

ACROSS

1. Closet wood
6. Universal time
9. Baby's first word?
13. Courtyards
14. Galley equipment
15. Two-_____ like Janus
16. To eat greedily
17. "Much _____ About Nothing"
18. Give a speech
19. *Tarantino's "The _____ Eight"
21. *Matt Damon's nominated role
23. Party bowlful
24. Larger-than-life
25. *Competitor to The Oscars' 2016 broadcaster
28. Mt. Everest to Earth
30. Like meters and kilograms
35. Foot curve
37. World's Fair, e.g.
39. Get wool from sheep
40. Hard to find
41. Rekindled
43. "The Road Runner" corporation
44. Not hidden
46. Black Friday event
47. London subway
48. Moves down
50. Theories
52. Relieve from
53. *Oscar-winner De Niro in "Once _____ a Time in America"
55. Club on a card, e.g.

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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57. Barely adequate
 61. *Seven-time nominee Kate
 65. Like a lemon, tastewise
 66. *_____ Cube outta Compton
 68. Glittery stone
 69. Place to throw shrimp on the barbie
 70. *_____ Heflin, Supporting Actor winner in 1942
 71. With clear mind
 72. Moore in "Arthur" and Belushi in "Animal House"
 73. Paris in Tour de France, e.g.
 74. *What the winner for Film Editing does
- DOWN**
1. *Witherspoon won for starring in his biopic
 2. Europe's highest volcano
 3. "Doggone it!"
 4. *ABC did it to 2015's Academy Awards show
 5. Basket-making fiber
 6. Orr's score
 7. *Like Max
 8. Walk heavy-footed
 9. Marketplace
 10. Palm tree berry
 11. Of higher order
 12. Port in Yemen
 15. Military units
 20. Ritalin, e.g.
 22. Deadeye's forte
 24. _____ Make comprehensible
 25. *Cate Blanchett's 2015 role
 26. Audience's approval
 27. Nut holder
 29. *The two leads in 1979's "Kramer vs. Kramer"
 31. Not this
 32. Happen again
 33. More than one iamb
 34. *It stars Stallone
 36. This location
 38. Great masters' medium, pl.
 42. Allegro and lento, in music
 45. *Blacklisted screenwriter
 49. Baden-Baden, e.g.
 51. *Firth, nominated for 2009's "A _____ Man"
 54. EVOO source
 56. Imposter
 57. Rand McNally products
 58. UN civil aviation agency, acr.
 59. As opposed to gross
 60. *2001 Oscar-nominated movie starring #61 Across
 61. Direct one's way
 62. Sites
 63. Leave on the cutting room floor
 64. Kennedy and Turner
 67. _____ Campbell's container

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1	9		7		2		3	6
			1			2		9
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				1				3

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

Puzzle solutions on page 12

**THIS WEEK'S
ONLINE
POLL**

The Constitution calls for the president to appoint a new supreme court justice. Do you think he should appoint a judge or wait and allow the next administration to do it?

**TO VOTE IN
THIS WEEK'S
ONLINE POLL**

**WWW.
thelowellledger.com**



- FEBRUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 16**
- Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, 79, died suddenly at a resort in Texas. This leaves a vacancy on the court and the president plans to appoint a new justice. Some prominent Republicans have vowed to block any nomination presented.
 - Donald Trump, the Republican presidential front-runner says he is "very seriously" considering suing rival Sen. Ted Cruz. He continues to call Cruz a liar as well as keeping up a steady stream of criticism of George W. Bush.
 - Sports Illustrated has unveiled its 2016 Swimsuit Edition and for the first time plus-size model, Ashley Graham, is sharing the cover with two other models - Hailey Clauson and Ronda Rousey. This is the first time three models have graced the cover and the first time showing some diversity in body image.

Seriously Funny Stuff...in LOWELL!



MICHAEL PALASCAK EX-1
 Friday, March 18 / 8pm / Grand Volute-Lowell / \$22.50
 Most recently, Michael Palascak finished in the top five of last season of NBC's Last Comic Standing. His stand-up is clean, original, and funny. Michael makes fun of everything from T-Mobile to his relationship with his way too honest girlfriend. Marah Eskin, A.V. Club, calls Michael "A stand-up guy... He's nice, charming." Drew Hunt, Chicago Reader, writes, "In a lot of ways, he represents the ideal antidote to the sort of unbridled cynicism that pervades much of contemporary stand-up... (He) helps us to remember the escapist value of comedy."
 Underwritten by **KIDS BELIEVE CHARITY** LOWELL

KIDS JOKE TIME

Tuesday, March 15 / 6pm
 Kent District Library – Englehardt Branch / Free
 Kids are invited to take the stage during LaughFest through Kids Joke Time. Young comedians are encouraged to gather their favorite jokes and take the mic. What ensues makes this one of the most entertaining events during the festival.
 Underwritten by **OUR** GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



LAUGHTER YOGA

Tuesday, March 15 / 4:00pm
 Gilda's Club Lowell / Free
 This is not your typical yoga class – no yoga mat required. Expect to stretch your laugh muscles. Class is led by certified laughter yoga teacher Angela Essick Dykes.

CANCER IS NO LAUGHING MATTER – OR IS IT?

Saturday, March 19 / 7:00pm
 First Congregational Church of Lowell / Fast Pass
 Sister Sue Tracy, five time cancer survivor, former oncology chaplain for Spectrum Health, and Spirit of Gilda Award Winner will talk about how laughter and humor feeds our body, mind and spirit. She will share stories of her own cancer journey using her mixture of humor and faith.



GILDA'S CLUBHOUSE TOURS

Tuesday, March 15 / 1pm – 5pm
 Gilda's Club Lowell / Free
 Come see first-hand what LaughFest is all about. Take a tour of our Lowell Clubhouse at 314 South Hudson Street, and learn more about our facilities and programs.



Tickets for Lowell shows are available at **SPRINGROVE VARIETY** (123 Main St. Lowell, MI 49331)

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Check out the full list of showcases, talent, and events to date at

laughfestgr.org



All proceeds benefit the free cancer, grief, and emotional health support programs offered through Gilda's Club Grand Rapids

THANK YOU TO OUR PREMIER PARTNERS



Talbot accepts role as Lowell's varsity lacrosse coach

by Kathryn Atwood
 contributing reporter

After two years manning Lowell High School's JV boys lacrosse team, Eugene Talbot will head up the varsity team this spring replacing former coach Eric Bredin.

Before joining the Red Arrows' coaching staff Talbot had already developed a long history in the sport.

"I played for four years in high school at Loyola Academy in the Chicago land area, including a state championship. I also played two years of club lacrosse at the University of Kentucky. I truly love the combination of speed, physicality and finesse that the sport requires. It is unlike any sport that I have played to date," says Talbot.

After college, Talbot said he took his affection for the sport to the next level by signing on as an assistant varsity coach in Lexington, Kentucky, where he served for three years before making the move to Michigan. "Here I started out coaching the seventh/eighth-grade team at Northview for two seasons and then moved to the assistant varsity position for a year."



Eugene Talbot is now Lowell's head coach for varsity lacrosse.

In Lowell, Talbot says he is continually impressed by the athletes, school and community. "It is a very proud and tight knit community. There is a strong legacy of excellence, especially in athletics, that I hope to continue and add to."

Having served at the JV level, Talbot has had the opportunity to work with most of the now

varsity players and hopes to continue to develop those relationships and help the program to excel.

"I have spent much time discussing many aspects of the program with coach Bredin and appreciate the ongoing support that he has provided since he stepped down as head coach. My emphasis for the program is going to be to work towards becoming a staple in the community and the school, as well as grow the sport in our area."

Last season the team, who graduated only four seniors, finished the season with an overall record of 7-8 advancing them to the second round of playoff competition and 3-5 in conference landing them in fourth place.

Talbot will be speaking at a public boys and girls lacrosse kickoff party on February 18 at the high school inside the freshman commons at 6:30 pm to introduce himself. He will welcome guest speaker Grand Valley lacrosse head coach Tim Murray and introduce the sport to those that are interested in joining the team.

The new coach added, "Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing sports for a reason, it's fun. For those who are not a part of the program yet, come try us out. There is something for everyone in lacrosse."

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