

laughfest
in lowell



page 16



lhs sports



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Lowell Red Arrow wrestlers are three-peat state champions



The 2016 Division II Wrestling State Champion Red Arrows.

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity wrestling grappled their way through Sturgis, Goodrich and St. Johns en route to their third consecutive Division II State Championship at Central Michigan University's McGuirk Arena last Saturday afternoon.

Action kicked off Friday night when the heavily favored two-time defending state champion Red Arrows took to the mat against Sturgis in the state quarterfinals. Sturgis jumped to an 18-10 lead in the early part of the rotation but Lowell put a stop to

their momentum sweeping the rest of the duel.

Recording wins by decision for the team were Bryce Dempsey (10-0), John Russell (12-1) and Avry Mutschler (11-5). Winning by pin were Danny Kruse (2:51), Max Dean (3:15), Hunter Browning

(5:12), Sam Russell (1:21), Lucas Hall (1:04) and Zeth Dean (1:24); Channing Perry earned his win by technical fall.

The win advanced the Arrows to their sixth straight semi-final appearance where they met Goodrich

High School. In what turned out to be a nail-biter the Arrows took an early 12-0 lead but saw their opponent log victories in five of the seven matches that followed

Three-peat wrestling champs, continued, page 9

Winter Gathering highlights Person of the Year and chamber member achievements

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce held their annual Winter Gathering of the membership at the Grand Volute Ballroom

on Thursday, Feb. 25. The awards were presented after dinner, cocktails and entertainment by the Easy Idle Band. This year's Brick

awards went to Main Street BBQ, Fountain View of Lowell and Compositelch.

"I believe it's just a wonderful evening,

recognizing individuals and companies that do such wonderful things in Lowell," said Kurt Lardie, Fountain View administrator. "It's just a fun event."

The Best Business to Watch award also went to Main Street BBQ.

Winter Gathering, continued, page 3



Addorio Technologies co-owners Tony Dommer and Betsy Davidson (at left) with their Business Appreciation award; (at right) Coach Noel Dean made a few brief remarks upon receiving the Non-Profit Spotlight award presented by Rick Seese.



Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year Mike Sprenger, owner of Springrove Variety.

50
CENTS



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



Maria McGovern surrounded by her students at Murray Lake Elementary.

Staff Member of the Month at Murray Lake

Kindergarten teacher, Maria McGovern, was named Murray Lake Staff Member of the Month for January. McGovern is in her 11th year at Murray Lake and also spent several years teaching at Bushnell Elementary. "Maria works very hard to get each of her students to reach his or her highest potential. She shows great enthusiasm and energy with her students," commented Murray Lake principal, Brent Noskey.

wonderful grade to teach. The children develop so many of their skills. It's very rewarding when you have students who, at the start of the year, only know a few letters and sounds, but by the end of the year are reading books and writing sentences," said McGovern.

When she is not at school, McGovern is busy with her three boys and husband. Together, they enjoy many different sporting activities, playing games, Cub Scout/Boy Scout events and going out to dinner. "They keep me hopping. I'm honored to be MLE's Staff Member of the Month," added McGovern.

"I can't think of a better place to be. The staff, parents and students are all amazing! My kindergarten teammates, Mrs. Pike and Mrs. Byrne, are the best! Kindergarten is such a



along main street

GILDA'S CLUBHOUSE ACTIVITIES

Breast Cancer Support Group - Tuesday, March 1, 6-7:30 pm. A monthly support group for those diagnosed with breast cancer to learn and share together. They will meet the first Tuesday of every month. The Lowell Clubhouse is located at 314 South Hudson Street. The free cancer and grief support programs are made possible to residents of Lowell and surrounding communities by the Pink Arrow Pride, Lowell Community Wellness and Lowell Senior Neighbors. For more information, call (616) 897-8600 or (800) 326-1419, or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow.

WEST MICHIGAN

REGIONAL ART COMPETITION

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

FACEBOOK BASICS CLASS

A free Facebook's basics class will be held on March 9 from 6 to 8 pm at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St. Register by calling 897-8260, ext. 33.

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. Details at www.lowellartsmi.org

SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Lowell High School seniors - General local scholarship applications are available in the counseling office. To be fair to all students, applications will not be accepted after 3:30 pm on Friday, March 11. Don't forget to include two letters of recommendation, transcript and personal statement. For more information please call Mrs. Nauta at 987-2913.

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.



lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

tutors needed

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled information sessions on Monday, March 7, at 2 pm and Wednesday, March 9, at 6 pm for prospective volunteer tutors. These sessions last one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the center and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Literacy Center of W. Michigan is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in the community. Based on the 2003 National Assessment for Adult Literacy and the 1992 National Adult Literacy Survey, up to 14.6

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

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

BOWNE TOWNSHIP CITY OF LOWELL LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

ABSENTEE VOTER INFORMATION

The City and Township Clerks will be available at the following locations on Saturday, March 5, 2016 for any registered voter who would like to apply for or return an absentee voter ballot for the March Presidential Primary Election.

Sandra Kowalczyk
Bowne Township
11am - 2pm
8240 Alden Nash
Aldo, MI 49302
(616) 868-6846

Sue Ullery
City of Lowell
9am - 2pm
301 East Main
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-8457

Linda S. Regan
Lowell Charter Township
11am - 2pm
2910 Alden Nash SE
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-7600

Mari Stone
Vergennes Township
11am - 2pm
10381 Bailey Dr
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-5671

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Deadline for classified advertising is Monday at 5 pm

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Winter Gathering, continued

“It was humbling,” said Main Street BBQ co-owner Erin VanEpps. “It’s a great honor. It was very nice. We knew Lowell was a great place to be.”



Kurt Lardie accepting the Brick award for Fountain View of Lowell from Staci Chambers, associate executive of the Lowell YMCA

The Business Appreciation award went to Addorio Technologies.

“We’re very excited, very surprised, very honored, very excited,” said Addorio Technologies co-owner Betsy Davidson. “It was a great night. Humbling.”

Pink Arrow Pride scored the Non-Profit Spotlight award.

“I can’t say enough good things about the schools and the school administration,” said Pink Arrow Pride organizer Perry Beachum. “They allow us to move forward and be creative.”

Mike Sprenger, owner of Springrove Variety, was named the Person of the Year. The award was presented by Bob Pfaller.

“Twenty-one years ago when I first came into Lowell, I turned the corner and I said, ‘Wow,’” Sprenger said. “What I saw, some people probably take for granted, but 21 years later I still come into town and say, ‘Wow.’”

“I just thought it went so well and it was a great night,” said Liz Baker, director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.



A perennial favorite, the Easy Idle Band provided musical entertainment during the evening’s festivities.



Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, was first to speak at the dinner and Bob Pfaller presented the Person of the Year award to Mike Sprenger.



The Lowell Rotary Club is accepting grant applications from local non-profit organizations seeking financial assistance with projects.

Grant eligibility requirements and the grant application can be found at our website www.lowellrotary.org

If you have any questions email us at info@lowellrotary.org

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLYING IS MARCH 23RD.




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Friday: 8 am - Noon
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FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES

IT'S TAX TIME!


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Music By Morris (Moros) Chapiro
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WE SHIP UPS
The Buyers Guide
105 N. Broadway Lowell

kidsView



by Sierra Hieshetter

Last week we got six inches of snowfall and then our school canceled classes for the day. Then this week, it happened again. I love snow days. They are not only a great opportunity to get outside and have

fun, it is also a great way to experience nature at its finest. After spending the morning outside sledding and having a snowball fight with my brother, my dad took us to Subway for lunch. I thought as we drove through town, we would see kids playing in their yards, sledding, building snow forts, and having snowball fights. Instead I saw nothing like that. Yards with snow untouched and parks empty of life. I thought that was awful.

How obsessed is our society with technology that we can't even enjoy one of the nicest snow days we've had so far this season? Nature is a gift and if we don't stop and appreciate moments like that, they will pass by and be gone forever. My suggestion would be for everyone to spend more time outside and treasure every moment nature gives you. Each moment in time is different, so make sure to experience as many of them as possible.

...

There are only two mistakes one can make along the road to truth; not going all the way, and not starting.

~ Buddha


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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 on:
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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viewpoint

to the editor

thumbs up to council

To the Editor,
It's gratifying to see that our new city council has made such a quick and fair settlement with the former city manager. A thumbs up to our new city council. With that being said, the city council has more pressing matters to contend with. The council should acknowledge if they are or are not in the process of going forward this year with the milling and repaving of Jefferson St. from Avery St. to Fremont St. which was scheduled to be

completed in the year 2016. The council should also be discussing the building of a new lift station. The two most important projects in maintaining the city, are its roads and the lift station. Another important project is Lowell's pension plan. It needs to be fully vested, not set to the side to become another burden like the city roads. There's a parking lot projected to be built in the downtown area but that's the DDA's obligation, not the general funds. The general fund already has

burdens beyond its means. The Lowell Cable TV Fund belongs to the constituents of Lowell, not the city council and it should be the LCTV fund board's decision to whom it awards the yearly interest to. The LCTV fund wasn't meant to serve just one applicant but a diverse portion of our society. I don't believe there's anything the council can say or do that allows them to abuse their authority. The city council should never ever override the authority of the LCTV fund board unless the constituents of Lowell vote to allow them to do so.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard
Lowell

taxes matter

Dear Editor,
"Yes, there is a Tax Man."

With apologies to Francis Church, author of 'Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus' I would like to address a question asked at the last city council meeting. When a speaker addressed the council without identifying his home address, I asked where he lived. A township resident sitting next to me, responded, "What difference does it make?"

The difference is that just before the council meeting all the residents, business owners and property owners within the city of Lowell had to pay

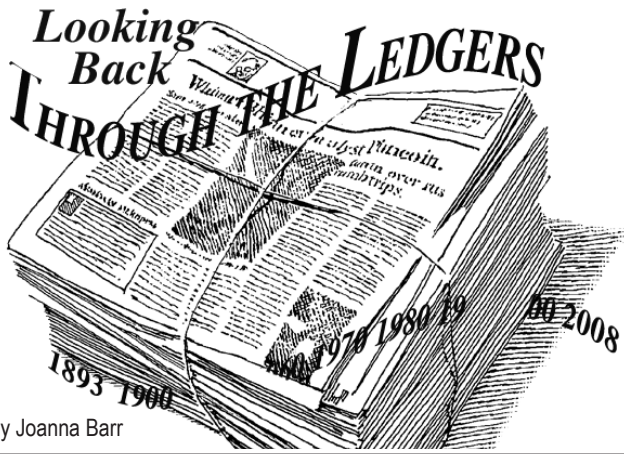
the tax man. Our winter taxes were due by February 14th. You see, non-resident ratepayers of LL&P are not required to pay taxes within the city. That does not mean these people are not a part of the community, it simply means that the taxes they pay go to their township instead. Certainly no one would discourage their comments at council meetings - all are welcome. However, it is important to identify yourself and your home address to establish your connection within the community when addressing city council, especially for the YouTube viewers at home.

But the question brings up a truly important point. When election time comes around, non-resident taxpayers and ratepayers do not have a voice at the ballot box. Perhaps what is needed is a group or organization,

open to both taxpayer and non-taxpayer alike, who share a common vision of forward growth. We want to foster, encourage and continue the forward progress Lowell has enjoyed over the past few years. Rather than having one non-resident speak through and for many citizens, we need many community members speaking in unison directly to the council.

And as a reminder to all citizens and taxpayers of Lowell, our tax payments fund every part of our city government, from the hardworking folks in the Public Works Department to our exemplary interim city manager, Dave Pasquale. We are truly fortunate to have Dave back at the helm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Dickerman
Lowell



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal March 4, 1891

Grand River is higher than it has been before in two years. Friday and Saturday it backed up so that they were unable to run the mills.

The paths of the Lowell Lighting and Power Co. have fallen in easy places. They now have 17 commercial lights (arc) besides about 250 incandescent lights. Pretty good business for not having been established quite six months.

The present high water in Grand River will settle the question of the feasibility of the Comstock site for the West Michigan Society fair. Grand River at Gd. Rapids is higher than it has been before in five years and if the overflow is not detrimental to the site, there will be no further occasion to kick.

Grand Rapids city boundaries have been enlarged without a dissenting vote in the legislature. That city is bound to reach the 100,000 mark if it has to take in all of Kent Co.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 9, 1916

Zeps jar windows - former Lowell Citizen hears air ship engines. Leicester, England, 18, 2, 1916. Friend Johnson:—* Enclosed is money order for \$2.04 for Ledger for current year. We enjoy the paper as usual but of course many of the names are new to us. Here, everything is war. It looks now as though all men between 19 and 40 will be called into service. It isn't over yet. The midland air raid of Zeppelins was not far from us. Some of the bombs shook the windows of our house and we could hear the engines of the

Zeps plainly. Considerable damage was done at some of the neighboring towns. At evening all windows must be darkened—no lights showing under heavy penalty. Trusting you may have continued success with The Ledger, I am Yours truly, J. H. Rickert.

A knitting factory - Project discussed by Board of Trade Tuesday night. A representative of the Globe Knitting Works, Grand Rapids, met an informal gathering of Board of Trade members and citizens at the City hall Tuesday evening, with a view of starting a knitting factory here, not as a branch of the Globe works, but as a separate and distinct institution, to employ seventy-five people.

Another large project. The Lowell Board of Trade is in receipt of a communication from a gentleman who states that he is about to start a 400-acre farm school or summer colony with accommodations for 4,000 people, and seeks the cooperation of the Board of Trade, as the farm—which he claims to own—"is nearer Lowell than any other town." The proposition is so unusual that he has been requested to appear before the Board in person; and his further elucidation of the project is awaited with interest.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 6, 1941

Expect crowd at bond burning. Supt. W. W. Gumser in charge of arrangements for the bond burning celebration scheduled for Friday evening, March 21, announces that a complete program will be available for next week's issue of the Ledger. The event is in observance of the final payment on the high school building bond. Main features of the program will be a talk by Arthur F. Frazee of Dowagiac, superintendent of the local schools when the building was erected in 1915; Miss Katherine Perry's reading of the early school history; and the bond burning by Sec'y F. F. Coons of the Lowell Board of Education. A large crowd of local residents and alumni is expected to attend.

Neckwear fashions. Lace collars and cuffs are very popular today. Famous designers are styling them for dressing up a frock. You can make your own or purchase inexpensive sets and change the appearance of an old dress. Pique and crisp organdy are used while some are made like bibs and tucked down the dress front. But nothing is less attractive than a slightly soiled neckpiece that is bedraggled and mussed. It doesn't take long to launder the collar and

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; duplicate comments/authors within a short period may be dismissed. 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.



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In The Service

Air Force 1st Lt. Melissa Hawks has been named the Company Grade Officer of the Year for 2015 for the 90th Mission Support Group at F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.

Selection was based on Hawks' exemplary duty performance, job knowledge, leadership qualities, teamwork, significant self-improvement, personal achievements, and notable accomplishments, and community service and support. She was selected from a field of 25 eligible

individuals for her hard work and outstanding accomplishments.

Hawks is currently serving as an officer in charge of requirements and optimization with the 90th Civil Engineer Squadron, F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. She has served in the military for two years.

Hawks is the daughter of Ed and Marcia Hawks of Ada.

She is a 2008 graduate of Lowell High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in 2013 from Michigan Technological University.



At Your Local Library

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

KDL Reads: Calligraphy:

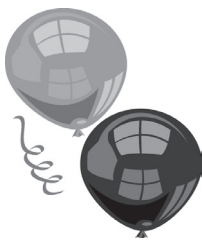
Students will learn basic modern calligraphy and how to enhance their own handwriting with lettering techniques. Use this with journaling to truly find your voice and express yourself beautifully. Pre-registration is required. Wed., March 16 at 6:30 pm.

...

There are no facts, only interpretations.

~Friedrich Nietzsche

happy birthday



MARCH 2

Mary Vezino, Roger MacNaughton, Anna Kline, Lisa Schoen.

MARCH 5

Don Silvis, Michael Nearing, Brandy Washburn.

MARCH 3

Sarah Newell.

MARCH 6

Pat Covell, Darlene McClure.

MARCH 4

Scott Vashaw, Bryce Tulppo, Patrick N. Johnson, Art Warning, Jared Brzezniak, Dawn Emelander.

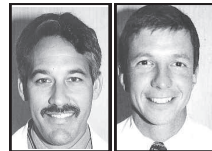
MARCH 7

Carrie Metternick, Marshal Mooney, Michael Barnes, Shirley Canfield.

MARCH 8

Amber Rittersdorf, DJ Main, Charles Drake, Colleen Lally.

health



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

low testosterone

Testosterone is an androgen, or male hormone. It is responsible for most male sexual characteristics. Testosterone is produced in the testicles and regulated by glands in the brain. Doctors can treat low testosterone with a gel, patch, injection, or tablet that sticks into the gums.

A blood test is obtained to verify the diagnosis of low testosterone. It should be drawn in the morning when testosterone levels are highest.

If you have low testosterone, treatment can help your symptoms. Recent studies found that it helped with sexual function and depression. Men who have a low testosterone blood test and have symptoms can consider treatment. Treatment can improve sex drive, sexual functioning and fatigue. Discuss the pros and cons of treatment with your doctor. Lifestyle changes, such as increasing exercises, eating a healthier diet and losing weight may help the symptoms of low testosterone without need for medication.

Many of the signs and symptoms of low testosterone are vague. They can include:

- loss of interest in sex;
- difficulty getting an erection;
- fertility problems;
- tiredness and k of energy;
- depression;
- loss of body hair; and
- muscle weakness.

business matters



Greenridge Realty announced that Joshua McCracken received Realtor of the Month in February.

This award recognizes McCracken for his outstanding success and achievements.



Joshua McCracken

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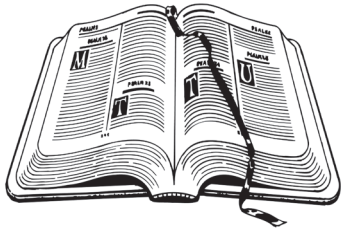
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Looking Back, continued

cuffs in mild suds, ironing is easy and quick. You can press the neckwear on a Turkish towel and the result is more satisfactory.

Old covered bridge now open. The old covered bridge over the Thornapple river at Ada has received much publicity of late through the efforts of the Ada Ladies' Literary Club project to have the bridge repaired and restored. The job is now finished and the bridge opened again to pedestrians.

The Michigan Bell Telephone Company will start an interesting series of advertisements in March to be carried in 250 Michigan newspapers including the Ledger. The series will tell the story of the vast extent of the state's natural resources, of their development and distribution and the important part the telephone plays in both production and distribution and in bringing together producer and consumer. The series will be highly educational.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger March 10, 1966

Headline: Council plans increase in fire chief's pay and duties. Modernization and improvement of the Lowell Fire Department was given a thorough going over at the council meeting on Monday night. The need for better administration policies and training is in immediate need, the Council decided. Increase of the fire chief's pay from \$300 a year to \$1,200 a year

was recommended by the City Manager. The duties and work of the job would be increased to warrant an improvement in the payment for services. While other departments of the city have been improved and modernized over the years, the fire department still operates much the same as it did 50 years ago.

A hilarious comedy about a very special white rabbit, "Harvey," will be portrayed by the all-school cast in this Spring's production on Friday and Saturday evenings, April 1 and 2. The play is being sponsored by the Lowell High all-school players and will be staged in the high school auditorium at 8 p. m. each evening. The lead role, that of Elwood P. Doud, is portrayed by Bill Stinchcomb.

Register for fluoride use. Final requests and fees are now being accepted for the Summer Topical Fluoride program to be held in Alto Area. This program is being sponsored by the Alto Mothers Club in cooperation with the Kent County Health Department and the Michigan Department of Health. The topical application of sodium fluoride to newly erupted teeth will reduce new tooth decay by 40 percent in groups of children.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 6, 1991

Lowell's older generation still holds a "piece of the rock" in its memory, It's a 5-by-7 pillar of a landmark that's been built on romance, kisses and legend. It got its name, the "Kissing Rock," because following dances and/or movies teenagers use to park their automobile behind the rock where no one could see them, and, as Katharine Hepburn affectionately referred to it in the movie "On Golden Pond," they used to "suck face." The legend of the landmark lives on, today, through the stories of the older generation - today's grandparents. However, those too are fewer today as the stories of the "Kissing Rock's" history fades with the deaths of the landmark-storytellers. While its history may be fading and may someday be lost, reminders of its role in local history is evident in many area names. The Kissing Rock Avenue name (originally Onan Rock Road) came from the pillar, as did James C. Veen Observatory (Kissing Rock Observatory), and the Kissing Rock Estates. The story behind the legendary rock differs somewhat according to who's telling it. According to some, the road broke off into trails as it wound around the "Kissing Rock," which sat in the middle of the road. It wasn't until the early 40s that the rock was moved. Legend has it, a team of oxen pulled the rock from the middle of the road to its current spot. The workers stopped for a break so a guy could smoke his pipe. After he finished smoking his pipe, the workers and the team of a oxen were not able to move the rock again. So it was left where it still sits today. That's how legend has it," Casimir Lacic said. "Actually the rock was moved by a bulldozer." The Kent County Road Commission decided to straighten the road and thus moved the rock. With the history of romance, necking and kissing, a group of teenagers painted the words

"Ye Old Kiss'n Rock" on the pillar many years ago. Those words have been covered up with multitudes of words, graffiti and paintings. The rock currently is covered by a flag which was painted on it shortly after the Persian Gulf War started. Not unlike many years ago, it, too, was done in the hush of obscurity. The rock, while still in the middle of the road, sat higher than the road itself and had brush growing around it.

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, (616) 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	.8930
INDUSTRIAL RATIO	50.74	MULTIPLIER	.9854
RESIDENTIAL RATIO	47.64	MULTIPLIER	1.0495

**DENNIS MCKELVEY-ASSESSOR
RANDY WILCOX-SUPERVISOR
BOWNE TOWNSHIP**

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Red Arrow SPORTS

Arrows celebrate win over EGR

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

A top-notch 67-48 win over East Grand Rapids and a hard fought 52-40 loss to conference leader Grand Rapids Christian wrapped up the Red Arrow varsity basketball regular

conference schedule last week.

Tuesday on the road the team squared off against East Grand Rapids in the two team's final match up in the

OK White due to next year's conference realignment. Lowell outscored the Pioneers in all four quarters. Junior Matt Beachler led the effort with a huge 32 point performance.

Fellow junior Austin Branagan, dubbed Super Bran by fans on social media, seconded his effort with 17 points, followed by Gabe Steed who netted seven, Ryan Stevens and Alex Anschutz who each contributed five and Avery Buckius who kicked in one.

Friday at home the team honored their plethora of talented seniors before kicking off their high stakes game against GRC. "This particular group of seniors has done a great deal for the program," said head coach Kyle Carhart. "They have been a pleasure to coach, do an outstanding job in the classroom and have enjoyed tremendous success on the court. They have taught me a lot regarding my expectations of high school students. We will certainly

miss them and all they have done for Lowell basketball."

Playing for a share of the OK White conference title, a feat not accomplished in three decades, the Arrows went into Friday night's packed game with confidence, determination and laser sharp focus, but size trumped in the end as the Arrows lost sight of the would be historic win in the second half.

After maintaining a one point 6-5 lead after the first and a 20-17 lead at the half, the Arrows saw the Eagles make some adjustments that granted them a strong third quarter the Arrows were not able to recover from. "In the third quarter GRC made shots and they were able to take advantage of their size. We got some good looks in the quarter but were unable to get them to drop," explained Carhart.

The result was the Eagles outscoring the Arrows 18-7 garnering them the lead they did not surrender in the fourth



Ryan Stevens goes airborne for a layup during the team's final OK White match up.



Austin Branagan fights GRC's Xavier Tillman for the tip off Friday night.



Point guard Matt Beachler scored 51 points last week on the hardwood.

despite an Arrow rally, in part because of solid work from the free throw line.

According to Carhart, "We knew that there was a chance that they would shoot some free throws. Due to our lack of size in comparison to GRC we needed to make up for that with effort and putting our bodies on the floor. That led to some foul calls and free throws. Credit to GRC they made enough to hurt us."

Beachler led the team offensively again logging 19 points in the win. Stevens (13), Branagan (6) and Buckius (2) also added to the game total.

Carhart said it was a tough loss for the team as they had hoped to mark their place in Lowell athletics history.

"A conference championship validates our hard work. The numbers on the banners are a presentation to those outside of the program that what we are doing is

working. Unfortunately we fell short of that goal. GRC was a better team and deserved the championship. However, our players know they did everything they could to put themselves in position to win the first title in 30 years. They generated an excitement around the program which has not been there in a long time. It was exciting to witness," said Carhart.

Lowell is still on the path to one of the team's best seasons with an overall record of 14-5 and each of their losses coming from powerhouse state ranked programs. Moving into districts coach Carhart said he will drive the team forward with this message, "Our season is not over. We have to be playing our best basketball in March in order to have a chance. It has been a long season but this is the time of year both mental and physical toughness is tested. Our players will be prepared to compete."

The Arrows will take on Ionia in non-conference play ahead of district competition which will kick off next Monday at Greenville High School when the Arrows will face Rockford. Tip off is scheduled for 7 pm.

Red Arrow - WRESTLING SPORTS

Three-peat wrestling champs, continued

leaving them behind 20-18. The back-and-forth battle came down to three points in the final round which was decided on by the bout at 145 pounds. Lowell's Zeth Dean came through topping opponent Sebastian Foglio 20-5 to seal the Arrows' 35-27 win. Also posting wins for Lowell were Max Dean (technical fall), Jeff Leach (10-6 decision), Hall (pin at 1:36), Mutschler (16-5 major decision), Dempsey (5-0 decision) and David and Danny Kruse (8-1 decision, pin at 0:27).

In the final round the Arrows faced a familiar rival in St. Johns for the Division II title. The two teams have represented at the state tournament well, each winning four state titles over the past eight years. Four of those have been won against each other. The two powerhouses promised for and delivered an action-packed final round with Lowell coming out on top 37-22 to earn their third straight championship.

The match opened at 135 pounds where Lowell

took a loss with Channing Perry on the mat. Despite the 10-0 major decision against him, Perry and many other young team members showed up big for the Arrows all season according to Boudro.

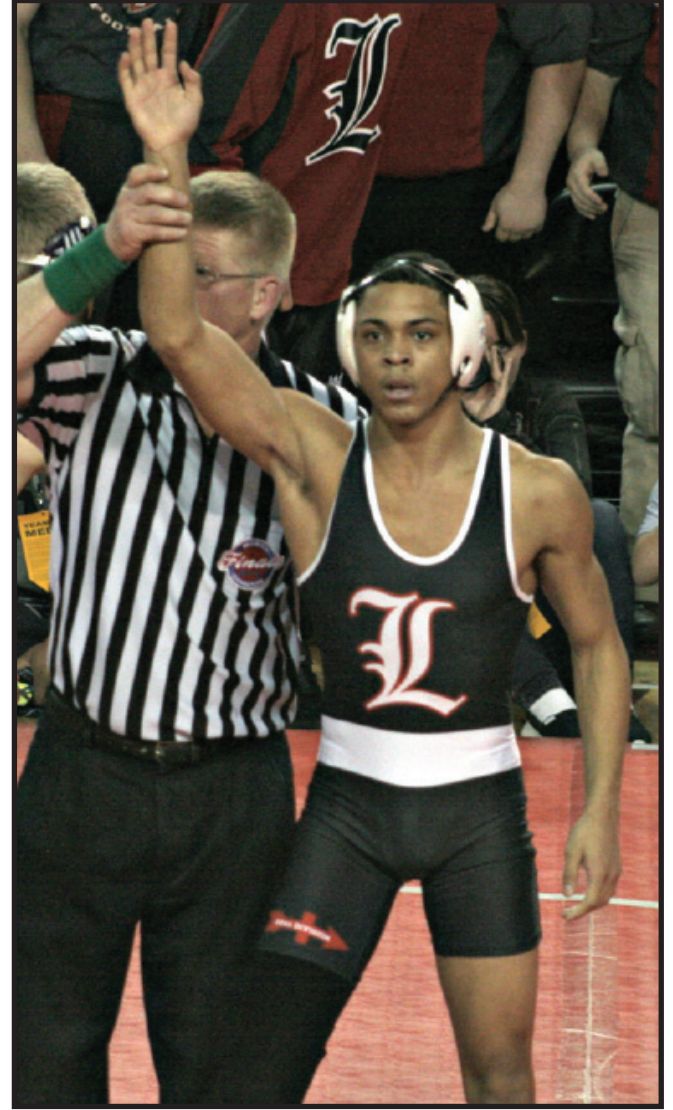
"This is the deepest squad I have ever coached. Guys like Austin Engle, Hunter Browning, Keigan Yuhas, Garrett Taylor, Garrett Pratt, Channing Perry, Kyle Washburn, Colton Churches, Lane Ryan have to split time with our varsity guys and they

would be big contributors to other programs," said Boudro.

Veteran grappler Zeth Dean logged a loss at 140 pounds to Ian Parker in a 3-0 decision before the Arrows logged their first victory at 145 with Dempsey. Dempsey topped Braxton Parks by major decision 13-4. George Gonzales added a second win when he upset top-ranked Derek Droste at 152 pounds in a 4-3 decision. David Kruse lost a 5-4 decision at 160, followed by Eli Boulton who earned his first win by fall by pin at 189 and Logan Blough who earned a 7-3 decision victory at 215.

Senior Max Dean took to the mat at 285, where he had wrestled for the Arrows all day in a display of his dominant abilities, against a tough Jake Gnegy pulling out the 5-4 decision win despite being at an eighty pound deficit.

After consecutive losses from lightweights Browning and Leach at 103 and 112 the Arrows were tied with the Red Wings at 22. Sam Russell produced a pin at 119 in the next round that set the Arrows on their winning streak. Russell topped Cody Woods earning the pin at 1:24 putting the Arrows on top, Lucas Hall sealed the



Senior Lucas Hall took only 26 seconds to win his dual at 125 pounds.



Sophomore George Gonzales earned an upset victory over ranked St. Johns' wrestler Derek Droste.



The bond of brothers shines on the sideline following Sam Russell's win.

State qualified individual wrestlers will compete all day Friday and Saturday at The Palace of Auburn Hills near Detroit to round out another stellar season on the mat representing Lowell.



125 contest in less than a half a minute pinning Derek Selden with a twisting move that rendered him helpless sealing the mathematical win and freshman Mutschler added an 11-5 victory to the winning grand total of 37-22.

Boudro shared his pride following the trophy presentation that marked the team's "three-peat" and the

culmination of their 22-3 record as a team this season.

"Our wrestlers grow up with these expectations. Everybody expects us to get here, but they may not realize how hard it is. Our seniors have grown up with those expectations and they've been here every year. I'm proud of them and the work it took to get here," stated Boudro.

Red Arrow SPORTS

Red Arrow girls wrap up their regular season

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Red Arrow varsity girls basketball ended their regular season schedule last week with two OK White

losses, but did so with their best feet forward and smiles on their faces.

A 49-40 loss to East Grand Rapids on Tuesday

and a 55-22 fall to Grand Rapids Christian capped off a tough season for the Arrows last week. Despite the outcomes, the Arrows

stayed focused and positive honoring the team's three seniors along the way.

Senior Ally Frederickson, led the team with rebounds (7) and assists (3) against EGR and rebounds (9), blocks (4) and points (7) against GRC, in her last week playing at home in an Arrow uniform.

"She is just one of the best kids I've ever been around. She's been such a big part of our program off the court, helping with youth camps and going to youth basketball games. We have so many little "Red Arrows" that really look up to Ally," said head coach Jake Strotheide. "On the court she's been just as important. She'll leave Lowell as the all-time leader in blocks in a career, season and in a game. She's really tried her best to lead the right way and help others along the way."

Strotheide had glowing words for fellow seniors Breanna VanLaan and Bailey Reitsma as well. "Bre is the ultimate team player. She just wants our team to win and always comes to practice with an attitude of getting better and helping her teammates. A wonderful girl to be around and we're really happy she's been a big part of our program for the last four years. She will be attending Hope College next year," said Strotheide.

He called Reitsma a hard worker who is always looking to improve. "She has challenged herself this year to be a leader and take some on some of the scoring we lost from last year. Bailey has been very

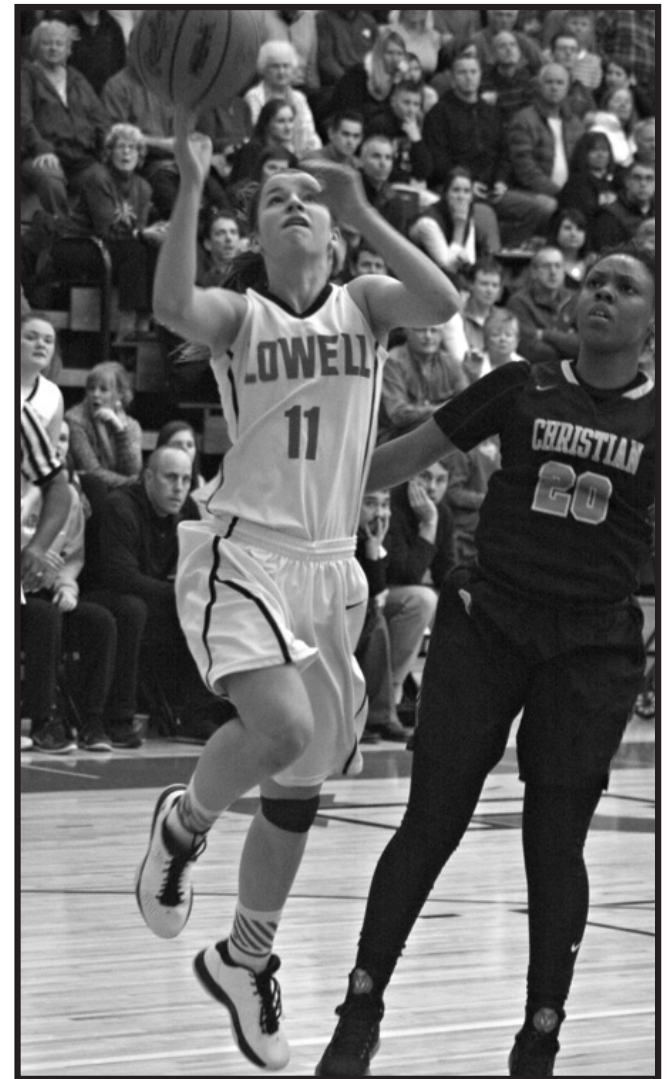
consistent this year and has really stepped up in big games for us. She will be attending GVSU next year," Strotheide continued.

Strotheide said that despite the lopsided finish in Friday's game against GRC, the team put in their best effort and are looking forward to upcoming district play. "We talked about winning individual battles and for the most part we were able to do that. We wanted to leave that game knowing that we

could compete with one of the best teams in the area. I thought for the most part we were able to do that, minus the three to four minute stretch that really put the game out of reach. I know our girls are excited to play this week and compete for a district championship. It's going to be a nice challenge for us and our girls are practicing hard and excited for the opportunity to play in a Lowell uniform for one more day," stated Strotheide.



Seniors Ally Frederickson and Bailey Reitsma await a rebound during their last home game.



Freshman Regan Coxon surprises an Eagle defender rounding her for a layup.

The girls will enjoy a bye in the first round of districts and then enter the fray on Wednesday at Greenville High School where they will play either Northview or Cedar Springs. Tip off is scheduled for 5:30 pm.

Sport Summaries

ICE HOCKEY

In their last regular game of the season the Lowell/Caledonia/South Christian (LCSC) ice hockey team dominated Grand Ledge/Fowlerville with a 5-1 win Saturday afternoon. Charlie Hayes found the back of the net twice for the team while Austin Whaley, Brian Hoekzema and Logan Propst each slapped in one. Currently 15-7-2 on the season, the team looks to best the school's 39 year-old best season record 16-7-1 with wins in the post-season. The first round of pre-regional playoff competition began Tuesday evening at Kentwood Ice Area against Kalamazoo United.

GIRLS BOWLING

Lowell varsity Lady Arrow bowlers placed eighth in the District II Region 7 tournament last Friday, ending a hard fought and promising season for the young team. In individual regional competition senior Marilla Marks placed 24th, exchange student and first-year bowler Pei-wen "Annie" Fu of Taiwan placed sixteenth; Ally Stockreef placed sixth overall advancing herself to the state finals which will take place in Canton on March 5 beginning at 8:30 am.

Go Red Arrows!

Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell **ledger**

Red Arrow

- GYMNASTICS

SPORTS

Annual Dawn Fisher meet honors avid supporter

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity gymnastics hosted the unique and personal Dawn Fisher Meet, last Friday, honoring the former Lowell Area Schools bus driver and avid supporter of the gymnastics program who passed away from cancer.

The meet, dubbed the Division III meet, is an opportunity for gymnasts who did not qualify for regional level competition to have the chance to compete for medals, a theme that reflects what Fisher meant to the program.

“It is very fitting for us to honor Dawn at this meet because when her daughter Skye was on the team we never qualified for regionals,” explained Lowell head coach Michele

DeHaan. “We barely would score 100 for a team score but Dawn was always there cheering all the girls on. I wish she was still around, she would be so happy with the progress we have made with the program.”

Fisher’s granddaughter Aili was on hand for the event to hand out the winning medals created in honor of her grandma’s unconditional support of the Red Arrow gymnasts.

This year, three other teams participated in the individual only competition, including East Kentwood, Potters House and the combined Kenowa Hills/Grandville/West Catholic team. Lowell competed well at the event placing many gymnasts who typically do not get the chance to show

off their stuff outside of practice.

According to DeHaan, “Besides honoring Dawn,

my favorite thing about this meet is that the girls that compete all the time have to sit the bench and cheer for

their teammates that don’t get to compete that much. Everyone on the team is important and this is the

meet that gets to showcase different girls that do not get a lot of recognition.”



This year’s participants with Dawn Fisher’s granddaughter, Aili Fisher.

The team, which includes 17 individual qualified regional gymnasts, will next compete in the team regional tournament on March 5 at Kenowa Hills with action scheduled to kick off at 10 am.

VAULT		FLOOR	
Elisabeth Tricquet	1st	Tori Miller	1st
		Olyvia Johnson	2nd
BARS		Brooklyn Fryers	3rd
Emily Lothian	1st	Marissa Grover	6th
Paige DeHaan	3rd	Elisabeth Tricquet	8th
Marissa Grover	4th		
BEAM			
Hadyn Nash	1st		
Corah Miller	2nd		
Tori Miller	4th		
Emily Lothian	5th		



Varsity bowlers advance to state finals



Pictured, left to right, back row: Tim Buechler, Adam Korzen, Carson Clark, coach Chris Clark, DJ Simpson and Xavier Taylor; front row: Ben Stewart, Landon Smith and Logan Smith.

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity boys bowling overcame a 38 point deficit on Friday, to top runner-up Forest Hills Eastern and fourteen other local teams, for the Division II Region 7 championship advancing them to the team state finals.

Top performances in the team win included Logan Smith (243), Ben Stewart (200), Carson Clark (187), Tim Buechler (185) and Landon Smith (182).

The team surprisingly credits some of the victory to professional bowler Jason Belmonte whom Red Arrow Ben Stewart reached out to just one day before

the comeback win. Stewart took this advice from the Australian born three-time Professional Bowlers Association Bowler of the Year during their brief phone conversation: “Stay patient and I wish you all the best. Make your spares. Stay patient and make good shots, one at a time.”

Stewart, who recorded the talk, shared the encounter with his team hoping his words would help spur them on to victory. And they did, by a slim five point margin. Stewart and other bowlers, including junior Logan Smith, said hearing his words of advice may

have made the difference. “It helped immensely,” said Smith, “I’m pretty sure we all thought about it.”

Three Arrows also placed in individual regional competition on Saturday. Buechler placed 31st, Logan Smith sixteenth and anchor Carson Clark placed second, bowling 1,170 in six games moving him on to individual state competition.

Team state finals will take place in Canton at Super Bowl this Friday starting at 8:30 am. Clark will compete individually Saturday morning at the same time and location.

LEDGER SUBSCRIPTIONS


We can take care of it right over the phone - place it on your credit card & receive your first issue the following Wednesday in the mail!

The Lowell Ledger

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obituaries

CRONINGER



Charles Harry Croninger, Sr. passed away on February 18, 2016, at the age of 80. Charles was born in Alto to the late Herbert S. and Cecile Bancroft Croninger on March 22, 1935. Charles retired after 20 years of proud service as a pilot in the United States Air Force, serving during the Vietnam War. Charles was active for many years in Cursillo, Music Ministry, Sons of the Revolution, Master Gardeners and Knights of Columbus. Charles was preceded in passing by his parents and four siblings: brothers, Francis, Edward, and Elward Campau; and sister, Charlyn McMahon. Charles is survived by his wife of 53 years, Marjorie Higgins Croninger of Wichita, Kansas; son, Charles H. Croninger Jr and wife, Sheila, their daughters, Kyra and Josie of Haysville, Kansas; and daughter, Carina Heather and husband, Jose Teixeira, their daughter Kaitlin of Seattle, Washington. A later addition to the Croninger family is Joseph Salas, and wife, Deborah of Santa Rosa, New Mexico and their children, Joseph, Christopher, Anthony, Theresa, Gabriel and Daniel. Charles has two surviving sisters, Janet Johnson, and Cara Lee Croninger. The Croninger family would like to thank Charles for so valiantly serving as patriarch and he will be greatly missed until we all meet again. The Rosary Service was held Thursday, February 25th, with the funeral mass following at St Cecilia Catholic Church, 1912 W Grand Ave, Haysville, Kansas. Internment will take place at a later date in Central Texas State Veterans' Cemetery, in Killeen, Texas. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to R.I.S.E., a Gary Sinise Foundation program helping wounded heroes, at PO Box 50008, Studio City, CA, 91614-5001. You can donate online and share your condolences with the family at www.affinityallfaithsmortuary.com

JAWOROWICZ

Nancy A. Jaworowicz, age 59, of Lowell, passed away peacefully at home with her family by her side on Saturday, February 27, 2016, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born in Albany, Indiana, on September 17, 1956, to Richard and Marilyn Milhollin. She and her family moved to Grand Rapids shortly after her birth. She graduated from Grandville High School in 1974. Over the past 25 years, she built up a home cleaning business, developing close, lasting relationships with several of her customers and their families. On July 26, 1997, she married Jim Jaworowicz. Nancy enjoyed decorating and loved the outdoors, working in her flower garden and going for walks. She loved spending time with her family, making them laugh and feel loved. Everyone who met Nancy was blessed to have known her. Survivors include her husband, Jim; her daughter, Stacey Webb; her son, Corey Mumper (wife, Emily); her sister, Diane Henry (husband Roger); sister, Debra Ludwig (husband Greg); brother, Mike Milhollin (wife Deborah); stepchildren, Tracy Yonker (husband Steve), Holly Melton (husband, D.J.), Mike Jaworowicz (wife Lisa); grandchildren, Brittany Rodgers, Dane Bretzlaff, Lavea Mumper, Scarlett Mumper; step-grandchildren, Tyler Jaworowicz, Jenna Jaworowicz, Kendra Black, Caleb Yonker, Noah Yonker, Seth Yonker, Sam Bannen, Scott Bannen; one great-granddaughter; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son, John Hazlett; her mother, Marilyn Milhollin; and her father, Richard Milhollin. We will always remember the happiness, joy, and many sacrifices she made for those she left behind. She was always there for those who needed her comfort and support. She will be greatly missed in this world, but we await rejoicing with her again with her Lord and Savior. Memorial services will be conducted at Vergennes United Methodist Church in Lowell, Michigan, on Saturday, March 5 at 1 pm, limited to family and close friends. Visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. Condolences and other expressions of sympathy may be sent to Vergennes United Methodist Church, 10411 Bailey Dr. NE, Lowell, MI 49331.



RAMIREZ-ACEVEDO

Maria Ramirez-Acevedo, 76, of Belding, passed away Tuesday evening, February 23, 2016, at home under the loving care of her family and Hospice. Maria was born on May 24, 1939, in Karnes, TX, the daughter of Marcus and Guadalupe (Saragos) Ramirez. Maria enjoyed cooking, loved being a wife, mother and grandmother and great-grandmother and enjoyed spending time with her family. She and her family attended St. Joseph Catholic Church, Belding. Maria will be greatly missed. Maria was married on September 25, 1956, to Francisco Acevedo in Texas and he survives along with their children: Frank (Ofelia) Acevedo of Brownfield, TX, Lupe (Mario) Tapia of Lowell, Robert (Adeliada) Acevedo of Belding, Ramiro (Mary) Acevedo of Houston, TX, Arturo (Rosa) Acevedo of Brownfield, TX, Carlos (Mary) Acevedo of Tomball, TX, Rudy Acevedo, David Acevedo, Daniel (Gracie) Acevedo all of Belding, Norma (Genaro) Munoz of Lowell; 29 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and her twin sister, Martha Ramirez of Orlando, FL. Maria was preceded in death by her parents, and siblings, Daniel Ramirez and Pedro Ramirez, Ruodolfo Ramirez, Antonia Castanedo, Erlinda Reyes; and two great-grandchildren, Caden Dominique and Kaley Sofia Acevedo. Visitation was held Friday evening at Johnson-Feuerstein Funeral Home, Belding, with a Rosary prayed at 7:30 pm. Mass of Christian Burial was Saturday, February 27, 2016, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Belding, with Fr. Mike Cilibraise as celebrant. Committal Prayers will follow in Alton Cemetery, Lowell. Memorials may be given to the American Cancer Society. Messages of condolence may also be given at www.jffh.com

SMITH

Kevin Robert Smith, age 62 of Grand Rapids, formerly of Lowell, passed away Friday, February 26, 2016. He was preceded in death by his parents Betty J and Francis E. Smith. He is survived by his wife Helen; children Jennifer (Al) Kozlowski, Jonathan (Carolyn), Jodi and Dustin (Melissa) Johnson; brothers Bruce (Elvia), Kit and Kent (Tina); sisters Kathleen (John) Schoen, Karen (Terry Prah) Smith, Kim (Joe) Procter, Kasy (Tim) Fackler, Keely (Michael Norman) Smith, Kelly (Michael) Scheufelt and Kerry Smith; grandchildren Dallas, Casey, Devon, Victor, Oliver, Harper and Lillian; numerous nieces and nephews; and one of his oldest friends and business partner, Bucky (Kathy) Curtis; the mother of his children, Jane Curtis; and his dogs Rescue and Kyle. He was highly respected for his expertise in the dry cleaning industry having been past President of the Michigan Institute of Dry Cleaning and Laundry. Kevin and his 'partner in crime' Bucky, were in business together for 40 years. His hobbies included a passion for Corvettes and NASCAR racing. He was an active member of the Grand Valley Corvette Club since 1977. The world lost a wonderful husband, father, brother, grandfather, business partner and friend. Kevin's love for his family knew no bounds. When things seemed the worst Kevin had a way of making it better. Not only was he there for his family he was able to keep the workplace and wherever he was lighthearted with his humor and easy going style. He had a smile for everyone. Funeral service will be held Saturday 1:00 p.m. at O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Chapel, 3980 Cascade Rd. SE, Grand Rapids. The family will meet with friends and relatives Friday 2-4:00 p.m. and 6-8:00 p.m. and one hour prior to the service at the funeral home chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society of West Michigan, 3077 Wilson Dr. NW, Grand Rapids MI 49534.

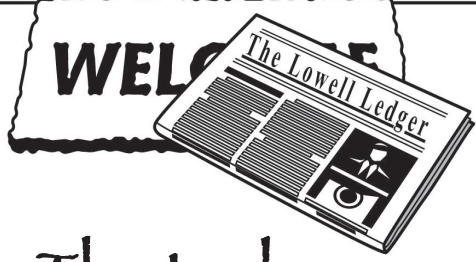
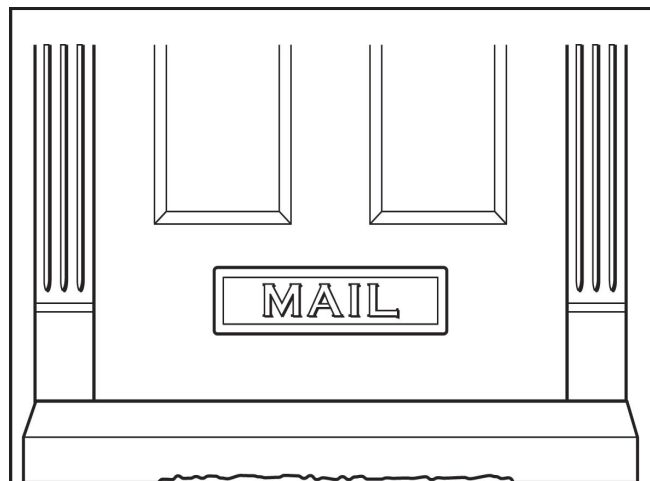


"My once in a lifetime love, I will always have you with me. Everywhere I am there you will be. Until we meet again my love". - Helen

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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New immersion program at LAHM has Lowell elementary students diving into their hometown history

Students from Diane Titcher's third-grade class from Murray Lake Elementary dove into Lowell history last week. They spent two days inside the Lowell Area Historical Museum (LAHM) experiencing the new Museum Immersion Program.

Lisa Plank, director of LAHM, said the brand new program is scheduled to launch fully with the opening of the 2016-2017 school year and describes it as an opportunity to go in depth at the museum. "I think the students liked the ability to dig into the parts of the museum that interested them as individuals. They had space within each activity to pursue things that interested them and learn more about it. I think they also liked learning how museums work and getting to be a part of that for a time," said Plank.

Educator Titcher worked alongside the museum's director to customize the student's experience to fit her specific lesson plan which is the aim of the program according to Plank. "While some activities may be the same, each teacher crafts their own experience at the museum after receiving training on the program. It is a teacher led, student driven learning opportunity."

This particular class of eager learners spent time their first day learning about the development of Lowell, including mapping events, settlements and businesses key to the city's early growth. They discovered the process by which museums label their artifacts and also enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of the historical building.

On day two, they researched an artifact of their choice, wrote their own artifact labels and created



Students used historical editions of *The Lowell Ledger* to build a timeline of the Lowell community.

timelines of Lowell history utilizing copies of *The Lowell Ledger* published from 1870-1960.

Plank, who led the program along with Titcher and volunteers Dorann Truax and Diane Smith, said

the students enjoyed the fledgling program.

"The students loved it! They were curious, engaged and focused. This came at the end of their Michigan history unit so they were able to take what they were learning in the classroom and then make local connections. Their time at the Lowell Area Historical

Museum built on that and helped to link their learning back to their town," said Plank.

Educators are encouraged to visit the museum's website, www.lowellmuseum.org, to learn more about the opportunities available for their students.



Diane Titcher's third-grade class from Murray Lake Elementary were the first to experience the pilot program.

...
History is a gallery of pictures in which there are few originals and many copies.

~ Alexis de Tocqueville



Museum director Lisa Plank leads students through the process of researching and admitting an artifact into a museum collection.

college news

More than 1,000 Grand Valley State University students participated in commencement ceremonies on December 12th at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids. Local students who graduated at the conclusion of the fall 2015 semester in December include; of Ada: Haley L. Andrus, Bachelor of Science; William H. Baer, Bachelor of Science; Alissa M. Brouwer, Bachelor of Science; Kegan E. Buth, Bachelor of Business Administration; Taylor L. Flanagan, Bachelor of Business Administration; John W. Foresman, Bachelor of Arts; Daniel E. Killeen, Bachelor of Business Administration; Claire E. LeBlanc, Bachelor of Science Nursing; Heather R. Loser, Bachelor of Arts; Brendan G. O'Donnell, Bachelor of Science; Brittany B. Poppen, Bachelor of Science; Melissa C. Prusinski, Bachelor of Business Administration; Jeffrey V. Skinner, Master of Health Administration; and Yu Tu, Master of Science in Accounting; of Alto: Reece M. Cooper, Bachelor of Science; Eric R. Holmgren, Bachelor of Arts; Paige E. Redner, Bachelor of Arts; and

Trevor C. Vrona, Bachelor of Science; of Lowell: Lindsey A. Crawford, Bachelor of Science; Deborah L. Fields-Watson, Bachelor of Science; Kallie S. Holzhuetter, Bachelor of Arts; Claire E. Hopkins, Bachelor of Science; Benjamin D. Kraft, Bachelor of Science Nursing; Rhonda L. Svoboda, Master of Public Administration; and Spring D. Wirth, Bachelor of Arts.

Western Michigan University's local graduates for the 2015 fall session are, of Ada: Peter James Carpenter, Bachelor of Music; Gina Marie Galan, Bachelor of Science; Amy Marie Goebel, Master of Arts; Joshua S. Grow, Master of Business Administration; Alex Andrew Hubbard, Bachelor of Arts; Bharat J. Mishra, Master of Business Administration; and Shinya Nishizawa, Bachelor of Science in Engineering; of Alto: Tyler James Higley, Master of Arts; and Maria Renee Phillips, Master of Science; of Lowell: William Paul Athmann, Bachelor of Business Administration; and Cheyenne Autumn Brown, Master of Science.

**STATEPOINT
CROSSWORD**

**THEME:
POP ICONS**

ACROSS

- 1. Peyton Manning signal
- 6. *Lindsey Vonn's tool
- 9. Pressed on the gas
- 13. Synthetic fabric
- 14. Manhole cover, e.g.
- 15. "Peanut Butter ___ Time"
- 16. Emergency pedal
- 17. Beehive State native
- 18. Use blunt end of pencil?
- 19. *Raunchy Amy
- 21. Conjoined
- 23. *Sir ___-a-Lot
- 24. Distinctive flair
- 25. Symbol of strength
- 28. Top of Kilimanjaro, e.g.
- 30. *Oscar Madison's employer, "New York ___"

- 35. Major-leaguers
- 37. Part of McDonald's logo
- 39. 2 halves of a diameter
- 40. "___ what you sow"
- 41. Scrabble pieces
- 43. The Destroyer in Hinduism
- 44. *Ayn Rand novel, "___ Shrugged"
- 46. "___ of Eden"
- 47. Rubber bulb on an old bike
- 48. Card game
- 50. Osiris' wife
- 52. Shining one in "America the Beautiful"

CROSSWORD														
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FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 1

- Astronaut Scott Kelly is returning to Earth on Tuesday evening, March 1. He will have spent 340 days aboard the ISS. Not quite a year,



but a record for an American astronaut, and one of the longest-lasting spaceflights ever.

- Calling the ceremony "a rare opportunity" for Americans to get

a glimpse of the country's special operators, President Obama presented the Medal of Honor to Edward Byers at the White House on Monday. Byers is a member of the elite SEAL Team Six and was honored for his part in an operation that rescued an American civilian who was being held hostage in Afghanistan.

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- 53. Attention-getting interjection
- 55. Fleur-de-___
- 57. *Playboy octogenarian

- 60. *Homemaker extraordinaire
- 64. Like ricin
- 65. Legal org.
- 67. *Annie Oakley starred in it
- 68. *"Independence Day" star
- 69. High craggy hill
- 70. Alex Haley's "saga of an American family"
- 71. *Lassie and Rin Tin Tin
- 72. Kimono tie
- 73. Church recesses

- 24. "...I heard him ___, ere he drove out of sight..."
- 25. *Media mogul, actress and trend-setter
- 26. Mountain ridge
- 27. Aussie "bear"
- 29. Famous canal
- 31. Poison ivy symptom
- 32. "Bye" to Banderas
- 33. Book in Paris
- 34. *Honoree of "Candle in the Wind 1997"
- 36. Practice in the ring
- 38. Deputy F,hrer Rudolf ___
- 42. Circus prop
- 45. Stop the flow
- 49. Female pronoun
- 51. *Bogart, star of "The Treasure of the ___ Madre"
- 54. Muse of love poetry
- 56. One clean one?
- 57. Main Web page
- 58. Off-ramp
- 59. If the shoe does this?
- 60. Delhi wrap
- 61. Commotions
- 62. Network of nerves
- 63. Coin throw
- 64. Medicinal amt.
- 66. *Jamaican Ras Tafari follower

DOWN

- 1. Globes and balls, e.g.
- 2. Painter ___ Chagall
- 3. Indian nursemaid
- 4. Nonsense
- 5. Low hemoglobin
- 6. Talk like a drunk
- 7. American Girl ___ Kittredge
- 8. Utopian
- 9. Evening in Italy
- 10. Surveyor's map
- 11. "Do it, or ___!"
- 12. Food coloring, e.g.
- 15. *Caitlyn nÈe Bruce
- 20. An American in Paris, e.g.
- 22. Morse Code dash

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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

**LAST WEEK'S
ONLINE
POLL
RESULTS**

Should Apple help the FBI to hack into the iPhone to aid in the investigation of gunman who killed 14 people in California?

- No - Apple should stand firm and protect its iPhone user's privacy 45%
- Yes - There could be important information on that phone 36%
- Apple should ask Siri what to do 19%

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Laughfest in Lowell will feature comedian Michael Palascak

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Comedian Michael Palascak will be appearing at the Grand Volute Ballroom at 8 pm on Friday, March 18, as part of LaughFest. Palascak, a native of Wabash, Ind., is most famous for his appearances on Last Comic Standing, but he has also performed on the Late Show with David Letterman, the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, the Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson and Conan. Palascak has performed in Grand Rapids, but has never been to Lowell before.

"I have been in Grand Rapids before and it's been really beautiful," Palascak said during a telephone interview from Lake Tahoe, Nev., where he was performing at a casino. "I think the crowds are always there to enjoy comedy. I really like it. I was there during ArtPrize once and that was really cool to see. I grew up in a small town in Indiana, so whenever I'm in the Midwest it's kind of cool. I like the rural areas."

He has released a comedy album called "Job Opening." It's available on iTunes, Spotify and

Pandora. Palascak will have CD copies for sale at his show at the Grand Volute.

"I recorded it two years ago, so it's sort of like the first phase of my career all in one album," Palascak said. "It's really relatable."

A veteran of many late night talk shows, Palascak said the best experience he's had on one of those programs was with Jay Leno.

"My first one was the most interesting," Palascak said. "It was Jay Leno's Tonight Show. They have you do a rehearsal an hour or two before, just to show you where to stand and stuff, and Jay came over to me and introduced himself and he gave me some classic 'how to do stand up on TV' advice. I was really blown away that he was so genuine and nice. My parents were there in the audience and they said that he told the audience that it was my first time on TV and to be really nice to me, which was cool."

Palascak currently lives in Los Angeles. When he isn't traveling around the country doing stand up comedy, he takes acting classes, goes to auditions



Michael Palascak

and writes comedy. He's also very active on Instagram and Twitter.

"I wake up about twelve or one if I'm not traveling, then I eat breakfast, write, go to the gym, go for a run, write some more, go do a show, then go home and watch Netflix," Palascak said. "Pretty exciting. There are times on the road where you can feel pretty lonely, but with the Internet and Facetime and stuff, I can still keep in touch with people. This weekend I'm at a resort in Tahoe, so I'm eating at this 19th floor

restaurant, just me having a romantic candlelit dinner by myself with filet mignon."

Palascak is always writing and hopes to have one of his projects picked up by somebody with a camera. "My main goal would be to write a script and get it shot by a TV network or online somewhere," Palascak said. "I love doing stand up, but I think it would be fun to do something with a story. I would like to continue to make a living doing stand up. It's the

best of both worlds. It's something creative that I like doing. It's my own thing and I can support myself on it. That's the most important thing, finding out the thing in life that you'll do regardless of whether it's hard or not."

Palascak's comedy is the storytelling kind; during his shows he relates anecdotes from his personal life, most often about his

parents or girlfriend. He named Mitch Hedberg, Jerry Seinfeld and Louis CK as some of his comedic influences. "I put a lot of time and work into it, so it's funny and relatable," Palascak said. "It's clean. If a kid was there he might not understand the stuff about getting a job, but it won't be awkward to watch with your parents or your grandparents."

Sister Sue cancels appearance at Laughfest

Sister Sue Tracy was scheduled to appear at the First Congregational Church of Lowell as part of LaughFest, but had to cancel her appearance after receiving some unwelcome health news.

"This past week I learned that the lymphoma in my brain has metastasized to another section of the brain," Sister Sue said in a brief email to the Ledger. "Just had a PET scan and



Sister Sue Tracy

tomorrow is a spinal tap before decisions are made regarding recommended treatments. Please keep me in prayer. I feel very vulnerable with this, now, cancer six times."

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MICHAEL PALASCAK

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