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Scouts help annual Memorial Day parade carry on an important tradition

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Memorial Day is thought of as a fun three-day weekend and the unofficial start of summer, but it's also a solemn occasion where we pay tribute to members of the United States military who have died. Once again, Lowell will have their Memorial Day parade down Main Street, culminating in a special ceremony at Oakwood Cemetery.

The first Memorial Day was celebrated in 1868, a couple years after the end of the Civil War. Southern women decorated the graves of fallen soldiers, some beginning as early as 1862. The holiday was called "Decoration Day" in some areas of the country until the name was officially changed by the Federal government in 1968. In 1871 Michigan was the first northern state to make

it an official state holiday. Historically, Memorial Day has been celebrated by having parades, decorating veterans' graves with U.S. flags, putting on concerts of patriotic music and wearing a silk poppy to symbolize the flowers that grew on soldiers' graves in Belgium during WWI. Another interesting Memorial Day tradition is lowering the flag to half-staff, but only until noon. This is supposed to symbolize that the living will go on and continue to fight.

The parade in Lowell will start at the fairgrounds at 10 am on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30. The parade will travel along Main St, then it will turn onto Monroe and end with a special ceremony at Oakwood Cemetery, 325 Fremont.

Memorial Day,
continued, page 3



The old guard officially passes the flag to the new as the Lowell Boy Scouts prepare to accept the responsibilities for the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Oakwood Cemetery. They will be on deck on Monday morning following the parade, leading the ceremony for the first time, taking over for the American Legion who have handled the program for more than five decades. Boy Scouts pictured, from left to right: Gunnar Nelson, Julian Shafer, Keith McDermaid, American Legion Post Commander Jerry Parker, Reid Elder, Drew Ferrill and Shay Goodwin.

The Food Fight - more than just food



submitted by Kimberly Gleason

What comes to mind with the words "Food Fight?" For some, it harkens memories of throwing food in the school cafeteria. For others, it makes them think of North and South Lowell competing to see who can donate the most food to the Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) community food pantry.

Both would be wrong, actually.

The eighth annual Food Fight competition is about more than just food.

Food Fight raises both food and dollars, which are used to support a variety of programs that benefit families in need. FROM uses those donations to empower people to make positive, sustainable changes in their lives. They offer several food programs, as well as financial management classes, employment assistance, home repair, utility assistance, and children's programs. These include Lunch Buddies (providing lunches during school breaks), backpack

distribution and Christmas toy distribution.

And with many matching sponsors on board, FROM is seeking to make a big win again this year. Dawn Broene, executive director, says, "We broke a record last year because of the matches. We hope to do it again by raising 75,000 items and/or dollars starting June 1 and ending July 9 at the FROM the Heart parade at the Riverwalk festival." So far, 2016 matching sponsors include Amway, Litehouse, Enwork, King

Milling, River Valley Credit Union, Magna, Alto Lions Club, and Lyonnaise. They will match those who are first time givers to the Food Fight cause. They will also match the amount given above what a donor gave last year.

Pat Murray, program director at FROM, says, "Every day I have the privilege of working with people who are desperate, who are discouraged, who simply need someone to listen to them. We do all that, yes. But we go above

and beyond. We walk alongside, helping them to plan and strategize, so they can see a light at the end of the tunnel. But when it comes down to it, the work we do in the community only happens because of the Lowell community. Their generosity astounds me."

Food Fight is about more than just food. It's about fighting for people's dignity. It's about fighting for tools to help people thrive. It's about fighting for a healthier community. Let's all join the fight.

For more information, contact Dawn Broene at 616-897-8260 ext. 21.

Flat River Outreach Ministries brings together individuals, families, churches and businesses to respond to the needs of those in the Lowell community. We provide a variety of services and programs including a food pantry, utility assistance, financial management classes, thrift store, tax assistance, medical loan closet, home repair, and backpack and Christmas distributions. You can find out more at www.fromlowell.org



along main street

Local businessman objects to comments made at last city council meeting

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Wed., June 1 at 6 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

GILDA'S CLUBHOUSE ACTIVITIES
Terrarium Workshop – Tues., June 7, 4-5:30 pm. Come on over and join Gwen Hughes as she teaches how to make table top jam jar terrariums. You will have a chance to make your very own. All supplies provided, no prior experience required.

Adult Workshop: Caring for the Caregiver – Tues., June 7, 6-7:30 pm. More than one in ten family caregivers report that caregiving has caused their physical health to deteriorate. Join Lesa Hardiman and Sarah Anderson, leaders of Home Care Assistance, to explore the top

practices in caregiving today to keep the provider of care and the recipient as happy and healthy as possible.

Breast Cancer Support Group – Tues., June 7, 6-7:30 pm. A monthly support group for those diagnosed with breast cancer to learn and share together. We will meet the first Tuesday of every month.

Family Workshop: Healing Improv – Tues., June 7, 6-7:30 pm. We invite member youth and their families to join in a Healing Improve workshop led by Bart Sumner to learn healthy ways to work together, communicate and play.

Garden with Gilda's – Tues., June 14, 1-3 pm. Come on over and join us in the gardens, the 2nd Tuesday of each month. There are a variety of ways to help maintain and enjoy the beautiful gardens here at Gilda's Club Lowell. We welcome your help.

Laughter Circle – Tues., June 14, 4:30-5:30 pm. Join Lindsay Jousma, LMSW as she teaches us about the impact laughter can have on our emotional health and walks us through a fun time of laughter and learning.

Chitchat Readers Book Club – Tues., June 21, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join other members of Gilda's Club in discussing a great book. Stop by the Clubhouse to borrow a book.

Summer Social: A Day at the Beach – Tues., June 21, 5:30-7:30 pm. All Lowell members are invited to join us for our annual Summer Social. This year we will be celebrating A Day At The Beach. All attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite beach apparel. (All ages). Location: King Building at the Kent County Youth Fairgrounds, 225 S. Broadway St., Lowell.

Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

BLUEGRASS MUSIC

Free Bluegrass music jam session to be held Saturday June 11 from 2:30 to 5:00 pm in the King Building at the Lowell fairgrounds. Come to jam or listen. Everyone welcome.

KIDS FISHING DERBY

June 11, July 23 and August 13 from 9 am to noon at Pebble Beach. For ages 3 to 15. Everything provided. Free. Food and drinks provided.

SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERTS

The Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts are presented by LowellArts! and Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. This free, outdoor summer concert series runs June 16 – August 25. Thursday evening concerts begin at 7 pm in front of the Lowell Showboat on Riverwalk Plaza. Food and spirits are available, admission to the concerts and parking is free. The concert venue is wheelchair accessible. Bleacher seating is available or attendees can also bring their own folding chairs.

ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIPS

The Student Services office at Lowell High School is accepting applications for the Dr. Donald Gerard Medical School Scholarship program. Graduates of Lowell High School are eligible if they are accepted by a medical school which grants either an M.D. or D.O. degree. Please call Lisa Nauta at 987-2913.

After our coverage on the Lowell City Council proceedings last week [pg. 3 *Council listens to citizens and discusses 2016-17 budgets, Lowell Ledger, May 18, 2016*], Greg Canfield felt it important that he was allowed to rebut the remarks made by Shawn Bowne during the "citizen discussion" portion of the meeting. Canfield presented The Ledger with some emails and a report from the Kent County Sheriff that states that to date the case is closed. To that end, Canfield emailed the Ledger the following response. (response is printed exactly as sent to The Ledger)

*"CANFIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.
411 E Main St
Lowell, Michigan*

I would like to respond to Shawn Bowne's inaccurate statements made inappropriately at the last City Council Meeting, which is normally reserved for city business, not personal vendetta's because you don't like my political activities against your friends on the City Council.

Since January, Shawn has been complaining about my business to anyone who would listen. The Kent County Sheriff investigated his fraud complaint, Case #16-108387 and turned it over to the Prosecutor. "Disposition: Charges denied on 5-8-16 by Assistant Prosecutor Becker. All parties advised. Case Status: Closed"

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Beckers response to Bowne's statement quoted in last weeks Ledger:

"Short answer is no I did not say that. I do not, and nobody in a prosecutors office would, review work done by a heating and cooling contractor. If someone has a problem with work done by a company it would be a civil matter, not criminal, and therefore we would have nothing to do with it."

Supporting documentation to above statements provided to Lowell Ledger

I have retained legal council to deal with Mr. Bowne and will respond to whatever accusations he dreams up. Over 20 years in business, on various community boards and renovation projects, my record speaks for itself.

I wish we could keep the City Council meetings positive. The past is past. We can only influence the present and the future, hopefully in a way that makes Lowell "the next place to be" not the laughing stock of West Michigan. I will continue to attend Council meetings but hope not to hear my name anymore during citizen comments. If you have a problem, come see me.

Greg Canfield"

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Memorial Day, continued

“It’s pretty traditional,” said Lowell American Legion commander Dave Thompson. “It’s not a parade of fun and games, it’s a memorial parade for veterans that have passed on. It has a little bit more of a serious nature. The parade this year will include a group of veterans who will march, the high school and middle school bands and some Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. After leaving the fairgrounds, there’s a stop at the bridge and at the veterans’ memorial, then the parade continues north of city hall to the cemetery. At

about 10:45 there is about a 30 minute memorial service. During that service, among other things, we have a list of veterans who have died since last Memorial Day and those names are always read. We usually do that with a drum roll and a bell rings after each name. There is a 21-gun salute followed by ‘Taps.’ Jack Meisner, who is a former Lowell High School band teacher, does ‘Taps’ for us every year. He does a superb job for us.”

As part of the American Legion, Thompson has been in charge of the Memorial Day parade for a decade.

This year the Legion is passing management of the parade on to the Boy Scouts.

“I’ve done this for ten years and at 83 I thought it was time to pass the torch to someone else,” Thompson said. “This year the Boy Scouts and their adult leaders will be taking it over from us. This is kind of a special thing for us at the American Legion. This is something we’ve talked about for a couple years. Our guys are getting older and older; at 83 I’m one of the younger guys! We made the offer to the Scouts and they were very interested in participating.

They’ll be handling the program in the cemetery. I told them that when I took over ten years ago I made some changes and they can do the same thing. We’ve done some different things over the years. I’m not sure what they’ve got planned. There will probably be some things that are a little different, but other things will be traditional. I talked to them Monday night and they said they’re working on some things that will be ready to go on Memorial Day.”

Thompson said he is very happy that young people can be directly involved in something historic in their community.

“It’s kind of exciting,” Thompson said. “I like to see young men and women getting involved in the old traditions. So often times these old traditions kind of fade away and then they’re gone. This is one that I think is important. Our armed forces have kept us a free country for almost 250 years. Memorial Day is one of those days where we honor our troops. I’m excited to see how things go. My hat goes off to the leaders of the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts. It’s always interesting to see what ideas somebody else comes up with. It’ll be fun to see the parade and ceremony, although it’s a serious time. We take it pretty seriously

and it’s been a real honor for me to be a part of it.”

Part of the ceremony at Oakwood Cemetery is the reading of the names of veterans who have passed away since the previous Memorial Day. The American Legion is looking for the names of dead veterans whose funerals weren’t handled by Roth-Gerst Funeral Home to add to the list of honored.

“We ask that anybody that has a veteran relative who has passed on in the last year that was not buried through Roth-Gerst to let us know so we can include those names also,” Thompson said. “You should call the American Legion [616-897-8303] or call me at 616-897-2533. We would certainly like to honor those veterans, we just need their name and the branch of the service that he or she was involved in.”

Guidelines for transgender students and public schools

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

On May 13 the U.S. Education and Justice departments issued guidelines for public schools that said they must allow transgender students to use the bathrooms and locker rooms of their self-identified gender rather than the gender of their birth. The directive coincided with a recent controversial “bathroom bill” in North Carolina, where the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act eliminated anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ citizens and legislated that, in all government buildings, people must use the bathrooms and locker rooms that correspond to the sex on their birth certificate. The Michigan Department of Education had a public debate about the issue on May 11 and they plan to release guidelines for Michigan schools in the future.

“We are going to fully review the federal guidance released today to schools and will measure how it aligns with the state board’s draft guidance,” State of Michigan superintendent

Brian Whiston said in a press release on May 13. “We are going to be respectful of the nearly 13,000 public comments offered online, in writing, by phone and in person. [...] We are committed to listening and being considerate of that input and shaping ultimate guidance that encourages schools to appropriately engage parents and flexibly determine bathroom and locker room policies that increase safety and improve school engagement while respecting the dignity and rights of all students, including LGBTQ children. The state board continues to go through its process for developing guidance to local school districts and won’t be taking any action on this issue until at least August at the earliest.”

The issue doesn’t seem to have come up yet locally, but leadership in area schools said they will keep any transgender students safe and their issues private.

“If our district is approached by a student who identifies with another gender, we will work with the student, parents and staff

to ensure the student’s safety and privacy,” Lowell Area Schools superintendent Greg Pratt said.

Even after federal and state guidelines are finalized, it will be up to local schools to either accept and follow them or deviate from them and create their own policy.

“Both the federal and state government have issued guidelines associated with this issue and it appears

that the details of this will be worked out in the courts,” Pratt said. “The state board is expected to further refine their guidance after collecting and examining all public input. The state board has yet to adopt guidance on this issue and, when it does, it will not be policy imposed on local districts but instead a set of options for districts to consider.”

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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

You are hereby notified that a Special Recall Election will be held in the City of Lowell, Michigan, on November 8, 2016, for the purpose of recalling Jeff Allott from the office of Lowell City Councilman and Mayor.

Pursuant to Section 963 of the Michigan Election Law, Act 116 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1954, as amended, MCL 168.963, the recall petitions were found to be sufficient by the Lowell City Clerk.

Candidates who wish to appear on the ballot for the Special Recall Election will file the affidavit of identity, and either 290 signatures of registered qualified voters in the City of Lowell or a \$100 non-refundable filing fee no later than 4 PM on June 2, 2016 to the City Clerk, Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331.



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Summer circus art

LowellArts announces the upcoming opening of the CIRCUS! exhibition, a collection of artwork

the joy of being entertained. The LowellArts gallery committee put out a call to artists at least 14 years of

Betsy Ratzsch, Loretta K. Rolison, Tiffany Sikora, Chad Stanton, Monica Stegeman, Mary Stek, Emily Stephen, Shelley Stevens, Katherine Thelen, Kristi Lynn Visser, Sydney Wiswell and Irene Wordhouse.

To coincide with a summer celebrating the circus a series of six youth art classes – Celebrate the Circus with Art! – for students age 8 to 12 are being offered Wednesdays, 3-5 pm on June 15, June 22, June 29, July 13, July 20, and July 27. Guest artists will work with students to create visual art based on the artistry, showmanship, and spirit of the circus. Projects will include: drawing, printmaking, watercolor, torn-paper collage, crayon resist, and circus poster design.

Registration is required, and there is a \$5 fee per class. Scholarships to cover the cost of the class are available by contacting LowellArts. This class series is sponsored by the Lowell Rotary Club. Sign-up for these classes at www.lowellartsmi.org or call 616-897-8545.

LowellArts! is located at 149 S. Hudson St, Lowell, MI 49331. Gallery Hours are: Tuesday-Friday, 10 am-6 pm and Saturday 1-4 pm.



"No. 11, Surely You Jest" by Kristi Lynn Visser.

by Michigan artists with the theme of the circus. The CIRCUS! exhibition will be on display in the LowellArts King Gallery through the summer months, May 31 to August 13. The public is invited to a Circus Celebration on Sunday, June 5 from 2-4 pm. This is a free event with light refreshments and an opportunity to meet the artists whose work is on display.

The CIRCUS! exhibition aims to highlight the artistry, showmanship, and spirit of the circus and

age to submit artwork in any medium, both 2D and 3D, that celebrates the tradition of the circus and would fill the gallery with curiosity and wonder. This was a juried exhibition to ensure that artwork fits the theme and is appropriate for all viewing audiences. Artists include Molly Alicki Corriveau, Charlotte Ambrose, Diann Bartnick Borton, Emilie Beadle, Barbara Bjelland, Cheryl Blodgett, Patricia Constantine, Hannah DenHartigh, Sara Dhyne, Liduina Fedewa, Jan Y. Johnson, Samuel Lanning,

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kidsView



by Sierra Hieshetter

We are reaching the end of the school year and you may think that means we students get to relax. However, it actually means the exact opposite. It is standardized testing season and for middle school students that means one thing, the M-STEP. The Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress is the

yearly torture taken in the form of a computerized test. A very long, very tedious computerized test, that I don't think any student in the building takes seriously. It is difficult when all you get to do is sit in a room for an hour and stare at a computer screen. I realize that no test is fun, but up until last year we took the

MEAP test, which was pretty bad, but not as bad as the M-STEP. I like being able to work a problem out on paper. But, the main part of a computerized test is that there is no scratch paper available; that, on top of the terrible headache you get staring at a computer, with glasses and trying to write two to three paragraphs about how the US liking of hamburgers has grown. Considering all of this, taking the M-STEP is not my favorite part of the school year.

Kristin Johnson and Mark Johnson
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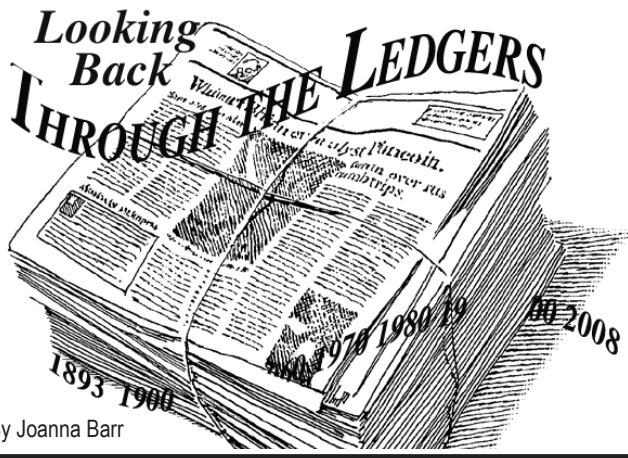
Letter to the Editor,
One of the great things about living in Lowell is that we have a number of outstanding businesses that not only provide exceptional service, but also provide assistance to those in need – often in a quiet and unassuming way. I have used Canfield Plumbing and Heating on a number of occasions over the past 30 years and have recommended them to family and friends looking for a reputable and fair company with impeccable service. Greg and Deb have built an outstanding

business with wonderful employees who share their compassion for excellence. While there are disappointing events happening in our community that bring negativity to bear, one of the bright spots are those businesses that truly care for their customers. Canfield Plumbing and Heating is at the top of the list in my book. Thank you Greg and Deb for everything you do in our community! You truly model our Rotary motto of Service Above Self!

Jim White
Lowell Rotarian

the lowell ledger

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By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal May 27, 1891

Somebody's dog got into John Wingier's flock of sheep and killed one and bit some others, last Wednesday night. People who will keep dogs should know where they are at night.

Last Tuesday evening, as J. Cummings, from Grattan, was on his way to P. W. Byrnes', to attend the dance, his horse dropped dead in the road in front of H. D. Weeks'.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 25, 1916

Prospects good – Favorable report on Wright Corset Factory. At a special meeting of the Board of Directors and New Industries committee, Lowell Board of Trade, held at council rooms Wednesday evening endorsement was given to the proposition of the removal of the Wright Corset Co., located at Grand Rapids, to Lowell. Previous to this action the New Industries committee made a thorough investigation of the present management and assets of this concern, making a very favorable report concerning

working together

To the Editor,
Now that ForwardLowell has their recall in place, wouldn't it be great if they'd use their power and influence for something positive for Lowell? I've asked several of their members if they'd consider organizing a fundraising campaign for street repairs. This could include the entire community of Lowell. I would certainly be happy to contribute. Even though I am not a city resident (as has been pointed out numerous times) I care deeply for this community and do drive on the city streets as do many Vergennes and Lowell Township residents. I'm sure many of us would be willing to contribute as we do to all community projects.

With ForwardLowell's membership consisting of

people who are so involved in Pink Arrow and FROM, as well as many other causes throughout the community, they certainly have the expertise to do a great fundraising campaign. There might even be local contractors who would be willing to contribute materials or labor. This could be a wonderful collaboration for the entire Lowell area community and I'm sure would be most appreciated by all Lowell city residents.

Wouldn't it be great to see ForwardLowell working with this city council rather than against them? And what a great gift this would be for the city of Lowell. Let's all start working together for an even better community of Lowell.

Thanks,
Peggy Covert
Lowell

same. It is proposed to form a new corset company at Lowell incorporate for \$8,000, taking over the machinery, trademarks, patterns, business, etc., of the Wright Corset Co. at \$4,000 and raising a like amount by local subscription. In case this company is formed, Mr. Wright, present owner and manager of the Wright Corset Co., would locate in Lowell, taking the active management of the new concern working in connection with a board of directors elected by the local stockholders. It is proposed to start manufacturing the Crosby Corset line and the "Flexibone" corsets which have been widely advertised and have an established trade. In the course of six months this factory would give employment to 25 or more girls and women. This proposition will be actively taken up at the next monthly Board of Trade luncheon Wednesday, June 7th. This concern asks for no bonus and it is up to our enterprising citizens to subscribe the necessary

Looking Back, continued,
Page 14

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.



off the cuff

Jeanne Boss

A line from a Paul Simon song has been running around in my brain lately, "All lies and jest, still a man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest..."

Actually, as I start this particular entry, yet another quote comes to me. Albert Einstein once said, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thing we used when we created them." A few readers have mentioned growing tired of the seemingly endless bickering over the last election and the ugly turn much of it has taken. I must admit, I too have grown a bit weary. But fortunately or unfortunately we, at the Ledger, are tasked with bringing to light the good, bad, ugly, funny and proud moments of Lowell to our readers.

We don't have the luxury of blogging our every thought carelessly and unfairly. When my typing skills fail me or in the rush to get to press we misspell a name or inadvertently drop the end of a column, we hear about it. That's okay. Because we also will own up to the mistake, print a correction and move on.

Quite frequently, our readers feel the need to walk through our doors and attempt to recruit our support for whatever particular cause they are trying to convey. Every once in a while, rarely, thank goodness, a person flies through our doors filled with passion for an issue, or what they feel is righteous indignation and screams at us, will not discuss anything, calls us names, slams the door and leaves. With the advent of Facebook and blogs that person can then create an alternative reality and reinvent their actions. They can report that we cowered and pleaded for forgiveness and no one will hold their feet to the fire of truth.

Also on quite a few occasions we have been blessed with smiling faces, that are a bit wiser and realize that there is a yin and yang to life and to reporting the news. Whether they agree with it or not, they're grateful to still have a town newspaper in this day and age.

People hear or see "what they want to hear" and overreact giving their opponent great insight as to their weaknesses.

If a guy stands on the corner in Lowell proclaiming to every passerby that he has strong evidence we're all going to hell or, if a guy announces at a public meeting that he's being probed by aliens, people would wonder and complain why we didn't report it. Conversely, the orators remarks, for most readers, are seen for what they are. A grab for attention. (Oh no! I think I hear the phone ringing already. The aliens are mad at me now.)

Many of you might remember a column our former publisher started, called "Sound Off." It was intended to be light-hearted, slightly edgy but mostly entertaining. It was before Facebook and blogs and it was a nightmare to edit. Our readers would be shocked to see the vitriol and contempt that people wanted us to print. It was a challenge. The current publisher did not care for it, did not like that comments could be unsigned and the column is no more. Now the Internet has taken its place with sites governed only by self-righteous, self-appointed editors to oversee and delete what might prove them wrong or what does not promote their cause. They suffer no (immediate) consequences for their actions.

At this point I must thank my readers for pointing out some newer sites to me. Glad you did but, if it's all the same to you, I'm ignoring them as much as possible. Do tell me if they say anything that threatens us however, and most certainly (if pigs begin to fly) the comments are complimentary.

I have it on good authority, my own in this case, that there are many decent people in this town. In addition, there are many of those decent people involved on both sides of this latest squabble. They want to be proud of the town where they live. They

Off The Cuff,
continued, Page 6

Off The Cuff, continued

want things to go their way. They all want to enjoy what they've worked for and to enjoy the many events and places that Lowell has to offer. To be sure Lowellites are a philanthropic bunch.

The one thing they all have in common is that they want their side of an issue to be in the paper. Most understand that the other guy gets his say also. That's just how it works.

Now back to that

"righteous indignation" that has made a peach of a town start to show signs of getting a tad wormy. I prefer to call it passion.

Yes, it is passion when someone feels so strongly about an issue that they jump in wholeheartedly and, not fearing retribution, say their piece and try to persuade the others to come toward their way of thinking. The trouble comes when they start to take things personally.

When every comment keeps them up at night pacing. That passion turns into revenge. The other side "did it first" and "I'm only fighting back" they'll say. Pretty much the whole thing becomes a middle school argument with the exception that sometimes more is at stake than your lunch money. All focus is lost and all parties are not even promoting the cause they were so passionate about in

the first place. It has become more important to point out just what is wrong with the other guy.

A helpful thought to keep in mind would be to remember that just because you can do something, doesn't mean you should. That goes for newspapers too. Please believe me when I tell you that we are always cognizant of those boundaries when we make

a decision of what goes in the paper. To that end - don't shoot the messenger. Sometimes it is important to let people have 'enough rope' as the old idiom says. A person's own accusatory words - or defense - will become clear in time.

There is a difference between a letter to the editor, an article and simply reporting an event. Yes, yes, yes. Articles can be written

with a bias. I can only tell you we try not to do that. But I can also report that as far as our position on this matter, we have none. All sides have approached us and all sides have praised us, thanked us, damned us, said we take sides and told us we were fair.

We must be doing our job correctly.

Annual Drive Your Tractor to School Day held last Friday

by Kathryn Atwood contributing reporter

Lowell High School's annual Drive Your Tractor to School event took place last Friday coordinated by Agriculture Science teacher Kevin Nugent and assisted by fellow staff members Amanita Fahrni and Curt Cummings.

Three students participated in the long standing tradition this year, a lower turn out than typical. According to Nugent, "I think we would have had a few more students participate but there was a lot going on this week between field trips for other classes and sports." He explained following up with a more, well, agricultural reason,

"Also, with the weather this week, most of the families that have tractors are out in the field using them - don't have the time to have them sit at school all day."

Dalton Fuss, Ethan Kelley and Connor Nugent were this year's trio of tractor navigators who brought a part of their home life to their school life for the day and then enjoyed a freshly prepared breakfast together upon arrival. "The students that we had participate this year are students from local farm families. They are proud of their farming background and this is a way that they can show off their pride," said Nugent.



A few of the tractors parked at the school last week.

college news

Mallory Simon, of Ada, received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree during the 2016 commencement ceremony for Alma College.

Thomas Blackport and Matthew Reitsma, both of Lowell, were named to the dean's list for the spring semester of the 2015-16 school year. To be named to the dean's list a student must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Rotary club selects students to attend leadership conference

submitted by Jim White

Seven students from Lowell High School were selected by the Lowell Rotary Club to attend District 6290 68th annual Life Leadership Conference, to be held June 15-18 at the Kettunen Center in Tustin, Michigan.

Designed to help

students expand their roles in service to their schools and communities, this conference attracts 150 student leaders from over 50 communities in Michigan and Canada. Conferees include youth exchange students from other countries and leaders from Rotary high school

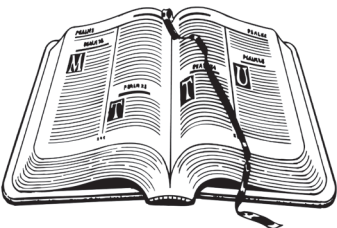
interact clubs. Scholarship recipients attending include Jillian Riney, Victoria Fezzey, Josealyn Pontius, Addison Grohman, Molly Hoseth, Blake McVey and Sela Bauman.

The agenda includes motivational and thought provoking speakers, learning simulations, group projects, physical activities, and discussions focused on elements of leadership and understanding leadership styles. Guest speakers focus on the Rotary motto

of "Service Above Self" and how students can make a positive difference wherever they lead. Discussion groups explore the intellectual, ethical and emotional aspects of leadership. International students who attend lend global perspective on issues.

Upon return, students report back to their sponsoring Rotary Club and are mentored by sponsoring Rotary clubs through their school and community leadership efforts.

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- MAY 26**
Janet McIntyre, Guy Watrous, Joshua Bryant.
- MAY 27**
Dakota McClure, Bertha Brown, David Christiansen, Tim Rittersdorf, Cindy Sherman.
- MAY 28**
Casey Parker Gordon.
- MAY 29**
Sue Lindhout, Mike Lindhout, Justin Doyle.
- MAY 30**
Kara Rasch, Allen McClure, Caroline Jane Blough, Ryan Barnes, Kevin Homrich, Heather Witherell, Jacquelyn Landman, Tabora Karp.
- MAY 31**
Mark MacDonald, Arleen (Bryant) Irving, Tiffany Condon, Hannah Burt, Lauren Wiley.

Roanoke Ranch hosts "Blessing of the Horses" event

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Roanoke Ranch for Kids hosted their annual Blessing of the Horses event last weekend inviting supporters of the nonprofit to celebrate on the ranch with overnight camping, food, horses, games and camaraderie.

The ranch, located at 11221 Grand River Drive in Lowell, opened the gates to their beautiful and plentiful property starting Saturday night welcoming guests for overnight camping, bonfire and a movie night featuring the Hallmark production Rodeo Girl taped recently at the ranch. Sunday the event offered a trail ride, cookout style food fare, games, a bouncy slide, demonstrations and horse rides for attendees.

Sophie Bolen, star of Rodeo Girl, kicked off the official blessing ceremony with an acoustic rendition of the National Anthem before Pastor Brady Nemmers of Keystone Community Church in Ada took to the stage. Nemmers commented on the beautiful weather before sharing his thoughts on the mission of the ranch.

"I had the chance to come out here about a year ago for the first time and just walk around and I was just struck by the power and potential of what happens here. To create a place that really meets people in

darkness and helps brings them over to light, to take children who don't really have a lot of hope and bring them here and show them the beauty of creation and the potential of their own lives is such an amazing thing. It is an honor to be here today with my family to bless the horses, the volunteers and the program here at Roanoke Ranch."

Conceived in 2003, the ranch and its owner Aaron Decker and wife Ginger, have been on a mission ever since to inspire and instill hope in kids through working in nature and with horses. At-risk youth are invited to the ranch each summer and leave with the building blocks of self esteem and confidence. This mission is at the heart of Decker's life. "If we can change even just one life each year then it is completely worth everything we do here," said Decker of the ranch's mission.

Decker took to the microphone as well thanking those in attendance and struggling with his own gratitude. "All I can say is God is good," he said, breaking with emotion and lowering his head briefly. "We are blessed with some amazing volunteers, this place is entirely operated on a volunteer basis. It is a lot of work but we have a lot of people who put their heart

and soul into this. So as you go back to your lives after today remember the ranch in your prayers and just spread the word because it is all about the kids and we do it all by His good graces and your help."

Roanoke Ranch is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment for tours. Those interested in supporting or volunteering at the ranch should visit the website www.roanokeranch.com for opportunities.



Photos and notes from past ranchers were on display at the annual fundraising event.




Horses and riders head in from a trail ride just in time for the official Blessing of the Horses.

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The offices of Lowell City Hall, Lowell Police, Light and Power and the Department of Public Works will be closed on Monday, May 30, 2016 in observance of Memorial Day.

The City of Lowell refuse and yard waste will be delayed one day. Thursday pickup will be on Friday due to the holiday.

 Susan Ulery
City Clerk

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CITY OF LOWELL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Lowell City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 6, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lowell City Hall Council Chambers on the second floor of the City Hall, 301 E. Main Street in the City of Lowell to receive public comment, verbally or in writing, on the proposed 2016-17 City Budget and the proposed 2016-17 Millage Rates. The proposed budget provides for general fund expenditures of \$2,953,829. The proposed millage rates are 15.70 mills for City operations and .2424 extra voted millage for museum operations.

THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING.

A copy of the proposed 2016-17 Budget is available for review and inspection during normal business hours at the Lowell City Hall and at the Englehardt Public Library at 200 North Monroe Street in the City. A copy is also available on the City's web site at www.ci.lowell.mi.us.

Interested persons may submit written comments to the City Clerk prior to the hearing or may appear and speak in person at the hearing. Persons with special needs, as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the City Clerk at (616) 897-8457 or the Michigan Relay Center TDD 1-800-649-3777 for accommodations.

 Susan Ulery
City Clerk

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LHS hosts first "College Signing Day"

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell High School hosted their first college signing day last Friday honoring 13 senior students who have committed to further their educations and athletic careers at the collegiate level. The casual ceremony was held at the Lowell Performing Arts Center.

Athletic director Dee Crowley opened the premier ceremony saying it served as an opportunity to give credit to dedicated Arrow athletes that have demonstrated success both on and off the field, "We want to acknowledge the hard work of our student athletes, celebrate that success together and share it with others."

Ryan Stevens, bound for Alma College, was the first to be honored. The Arrow point guard, who also quarterbacked the varsity football team for two seasons, will hit the court for Alma next fall. Tough defensive player Ally Frederickson will also be continuing her basketball career at Findlay University.

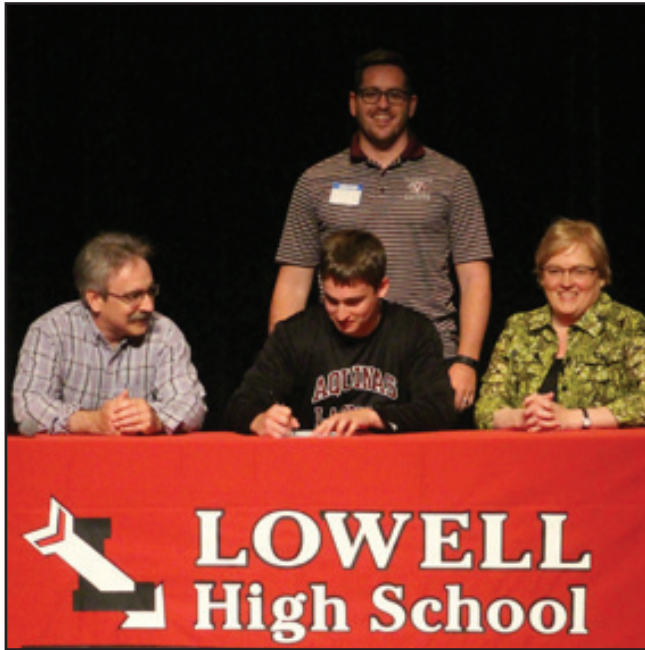
Four Lowell wrestlers, all individual and team state title winners, will be grappling at the collegiate

level next winter. Both Lucas Hall and Dan Kruse will become part of the Spartan lineup at Michigan State University. Max Dean will follow brother Gabe to Cornell University and Zeth Dean will head to Harvard to wrestle alongside brother Kanon.

Avery Buckius and Evan Mierendorf both signed on to continue battling on the lacrosse field in college. Buckius, who also played basketball and football, will represent Davenport University while Meirendorf, successful Arrow goalkeeper, will attend Aquinas College.

Another pair of athletes were recognized for the choice to pursue football along with their education. Karson Murley will hit the field for Ferris State University while Gabe Steed will head to Concordia in St. Paul.

Track athletes Reece Karns and Breanna VanLaan, both absent due to the team's regional competition, were also recognized for their future endeavors. Karns will attend Aquinas while VanLaan will run for Hope College.



Senior Evan Mierendorf, with his parents and future coach, signs on with Aquinas College during the school's first College Signing Day.

Rounding out the recognized athletes were tennis player Elena Bishop who will be welcomed by Adrian College, Ethan Campbell who will represent Aquinas on the ice in hockey and state qualifier Ally Stockreef who will bowl for Davenport.

Students, who were joined by their family and coaches, were also treated to an ice cream social post ceremony in celebration of their achievements.



Zeth Dean, with father Noel Dean and coach RJ Boudro, will continue his wrestling career at Harvard University.



Ally Stockreef, flanked by family and coaches, will bowl at Davenport University.

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The Lowell Ledger

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Former Lowell principal featured in treasure magazine

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Louis Dudeck, a retired Lowell elementary school principal and Vietnam-era Marine veteran, went to great lengths to recover a \$1,500 gold ring for another Marine he had never met before. Dudeck's story was recently featured in the special annual "Silver & Gold" issue of Western & Eastern Treasures Magazine.

Dudeck has been a metal detector hobbyist for over 30 years. He spends a lot of time digging for treasure on the beaches of Florida and Michigan. In April 2015 Dudeck arrived at Brohard Beach in Venice, Fla. He was approached by Jim Reasoner, another veteran of the Vietnam War, who said he was throwing a ball to his dog when his 10 karat gold Marine Corps ring flew off and landed in the ocean. Reasoner observed Dudeck's wetsuit and metal detecting gear and asked him for help finding the ring.

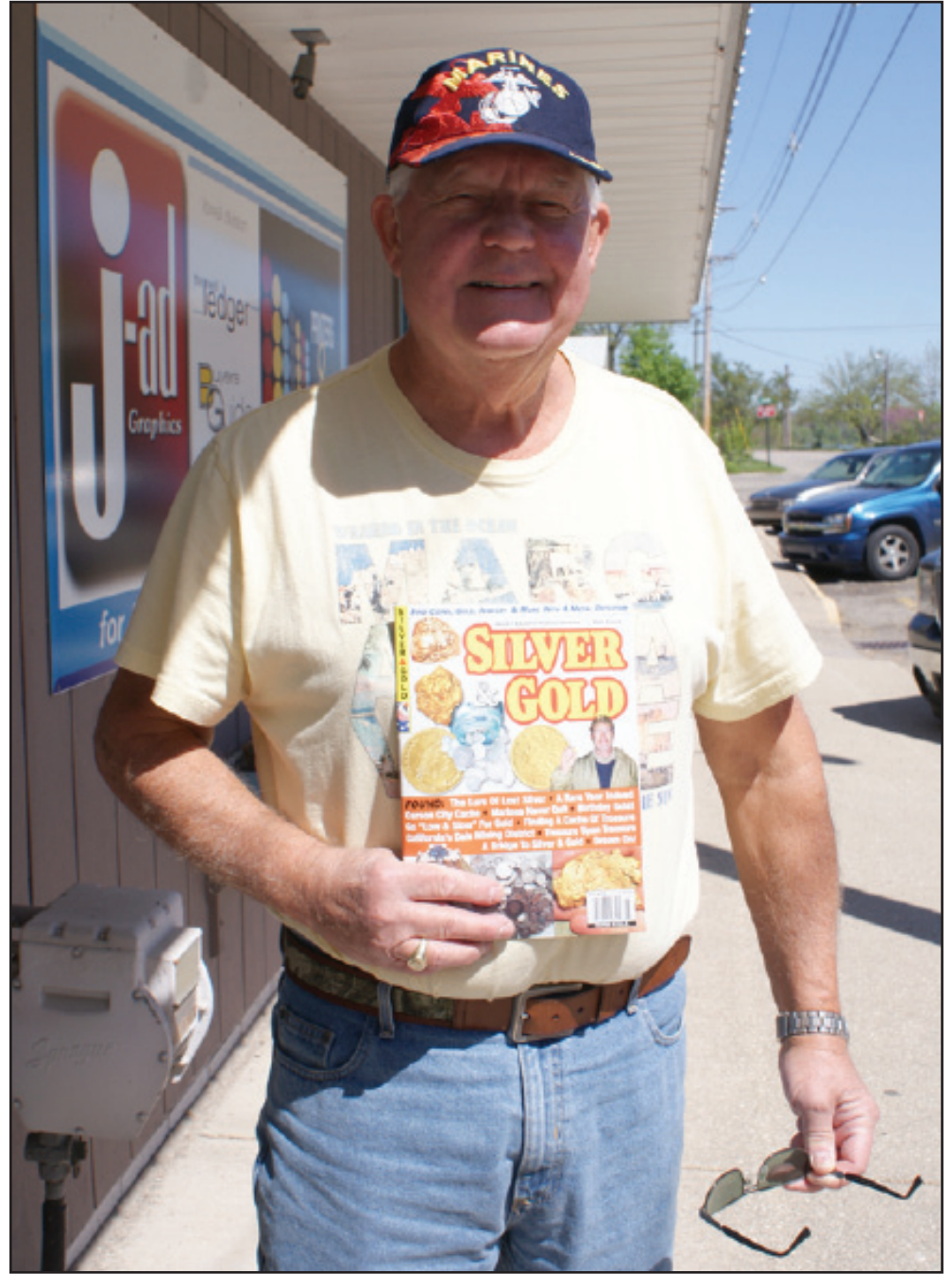
"He showed me where he said he lost it and I went out there," Dudeck said. "I worked that area up to my

neck in the Gulf of Mexico with the tide coming in for over an hour and nothing, not a peep out of that detector. Some guy was sitting on the beach watching me and he said, 'Are you looking for that ring?' Apparently he had seen Jim lose it. I said 'Yeah.' He said, 'Well, you're not going to find it there.' Jim was right in front of him when the ring was lost. He said, 'You have to move over 25 or 30 feet and it's out there.' By then the tide had come in further, so I was literally on my tiptoes. When I was at the point where I could barely keep my nose out of the water, I got a little 'beep.' I thought, 'Hmm, that's interesting!' I kept moving and then all of a sudden I got a 'bang!' in my headphones, a real solid tone. That's what you look for. I was right over it, but I couldn't get my scoop down to it, then the waves would push me. I did that for a while, then Jim swam out and helped. He was treading water trying to stay there and I could barely keep my toes on the bottom. I said, 'Next time I hear that beep, you've to get up

on my shoulders and push me down under the water.' We did that maybe a dozen times, I really don't know how many times it was and I kept getting the signal, so it was still on the bottom. Finally I made a pass with the scoop and waved the detector over the area and there was nothing there, it was quiet. I said, 'I think I got it!' I pulled the scoop up and it was huge. It looked like a rock in the middle of my scoop."

Dudeck returned Reasoner's ring to him and the two Marines have since become friends. The story was chosen for inclusion in the annual "Silver & Gold" issue of Western & Eastern Treasures Magazine. The special issue of the magazine tells the stories of the most interesting 'finds' each year.

"That ring was one of the top five gold-related items of the year," Dudeck said. "It's not just because of the value, it's the difficulty in the recovery, the location, what you had to go through to recover it and the fact that we're both combat Marines from Vietnam."



Former U.S. Marine Louis Dudeck holding the special "Silver & Gold" issue of Western & Eastern Treasures Magazine that features his story.

Tour through an oak savanna in Lowell Township

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

On Thursday, May 19, MSU ecologist Jesse Lincoln led a group of about 20 local residents on a tour of the rare oak savanna known as "Huckleberry Hills" in Lowell Township. The oak savanna is directly behind the township headquarters at 2910 Alden Nash SE. Oak savannas are now a very rare ecosystem to find in the state, but that is what most of the Lowell area used to be like before European settlement.

"An oak savanna is a fire-adapted ecosystem, characterized by a mix of prairie species and woodland species," Lincoln said. "Dominant vegetation includes several prairie grasses and flowers that grow underneath wide-spread, open-grown oaks. Oak savannas were once a prevalent community but have become rare as the region rapidly develops. Less than 0.01 percent of the historic extent remains. High quality areas have vegetation representative of the historic cover with a high proportion of native species and a low proportion of non-native species."

Initially promoted as a "wildflower tour," the weather hasn't been warm

enough for there to be more than a few wildflowers on May 19. There were, however, lots of rare and interesting plants, including berry bushes, native cactus and some trees that are

hundreds of years old. Lincoln approached Lowell Township about the oak savanna in 2013 and they agreed to allow him to maintain the property.

"This is a great spot," Lincoln said. "It's all Lowell Township property. It's public property and it needs to be open to the public. That's the best of

both worlds, where we're preserving all of these native species and we're also educating the public."

Lincoln is looking for local volunteers to help

clear invasive species, put in a trail and other essential tasks. If you're interested in helping out you should email Lincoln at lincolnj@michigan.gov



MSU ecologist Jesse Lincoln led a group of about 20 nature lovers through one of the last oak savannas that exists in the state of Michigan.

Red Arrow SPORTS

- SOFTBALL

Arrows top off busy week placing first at tournament

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

After going 1-1 on the field against non-conference competitor South Christian early in the week, the Lowell varsity softball team swept OK White nemesis Grand Rapids Christian and placed first at their own tournament in a jam packed schedule last week.

Monday on the road at South Christian the team won 5-2 in game one of the doubleheader and fell 12-7 in the second.

Tuesday the Arrows traveled to Grand Rapids Christian for their final conference dual of the season. Emily Depew only allowed two hits in game one en route to a dominating 8-1 win. Depew recorded 13 strikeouts and also contributed two hits in the game. Kenzie North was the game's offensive leader serving up a pair of doubles while Megan Summerfield earned a double and a single. Game two saw the Arrows stage a sixth inning comeback fueling a 7-5 win. Lowell took advantage of several GRC errors in the inning and scored three runs on base hits from North and Summerfield to overtake the lead. The pair of conference

wins gave Lowell a winning 6-4 finishing record in the OK White placing them third.

At the annual Mandy Tichelaar Tournament on Friday the team blew past first round opponent Grand Rapids Catholic Central 6-1 and faced regular tournament competitor the Dux of Zeeland West High School in the finals. Down 5-1 moving into the bottom of the seventh inning the Arrows had one last chance to get the victory and took full advantage of it plating five runs to grab the 6-5 win. "Miah Ransom, Regan Gravitt and Maddi Jordan all singled. Kenzie Huver hit a ground ball to SS and they missed the force out at 2nd which scored a run," explained head coach Bill McElroy. "Steffen pinch hit for Corah Miller and blasted a double to right center to clear the bases and tie the game up. Tess Richardson then put the ball in play

and caused an error. With runners at first and third, with one out, Richardson stole 2nd. Depew came up and hit a single to win the game and the crowd went wild!"

Jordan was the day's top hitter going 3-3 at the plate

with singles in the third, fifth and seventh inning. The tournament was named in honor of a former Red Arrow who passed giving senior members of the team Huver, Richardson, Gravitt, Steffen and Shelby Mutschler, a nice note to

exit home competition. "This senior class has seen some ups and downs in the program but they have always hung in there and never given up. They have set a foundation for the future and have been crucial to our success this

year. Their leadership on and off the field has helped this young team blossom. We have gone from 8 wins last year to 19 wins this year with several games to go. It has been a pleasure to get to know and coach these seniors," said McElroy.



Mandy Tichelaar Tournament winners the Red Arrows along with runners-up the Zeeland West Dux.



The Red Arrows varsity softball team celebrates their Friday tournament victory over the Zeeland West Dux.

This week the girls enjoyed a light schedule meeting only Greenville High School on the road Monday.

LAS
Elementary Lunch Menus
week of 5/30/16

- MONDAY:** No School.
- TUESDAY:** Cheeseburger on bun, baked beans, Bunkin: seasoned corn, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, mandarin oranges, apple.
- WEDNESDAY:** French bread slices served w/eggs, warm cinnamon apples, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, Bunkin: cinnamon swirls, baby carrots, applesauce, oranges.
- THURSDAY:** Homemade macaroni & cheese on roll, seasoned broccoli, Bunkin: WG breaded chicken nuggets, roasted potatoes & gravy, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, broccoli bites, peaches, grapes.
- FRIDAY:** Homemade cheese pizza on WG crust, fruit & veggie bar, spinach & romaine side salad, celery sticks, applesauce, juice.

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Sports Summaries

GIRLS SOCCER

Red Arrow varsity soccer picked up two wins and fell short once in action last week. Monday the team topped East Grand Rapids for the second time this season winning 2-1. Wednesday at home the ladies faced Grand Rapids Christian and came up short by a margin of 4-2. Lowell goals were credited to Jackie Hayes and Riley Conlan. Regan Coxon logged an assist. Friday on the road at Northview, Coxon and Darby Dean combined for four goals in a 4-1 victory over the Wildcats. Amber Curtis earned an assist. The team's lone senior Ally Laird made five saves in the box as goalkeeper. The team has one more regular season game before heading into district competition May 31 against host Forest Hills Northern starting at 6 pm.

GIRLS TENNIS

Lowell girls varsity tennis player Laura Michelsen qualified for the MHSAA Girls State Tennis Finals at last Thursday's regional competition after a successful year on the court at first singles. The regional competition was won by Forest Hills Northern securing their 15th consecutive Division II regional title. Michelsen will compete individually on June 3 and 4.

GOOD SPORTS

Seniors Ally Frederickson and Ryan Stevens were nominated and selected to be a part of the 2016 Champions of Character High School All-Star basketball game. Both student athletes have committed to continue their basketball careers at the collegiate level with Frederickson headed to Findlay and Stevens to Alma. The games, which recognize those with positive basketball and interpersonal skills, will be played back to back at Davenport University on June 15 with the girls scheduled for 6 pm and the boys at 7:15.

GIRLS LACROSSE

After honoring the team's five senior players, the Lowell Red Arrow varsity girls lacrosse team lost a hard fought battle with opponent Spring Lake at home last week Monday. Claire Gossman led the Arrows in the 13-12 loss, finding the back of the net an impressive six times for the team. This week the Arrows will welcome West Ottawa to Red Arrow stadium and host the regional tournament versus Grand Ledge on Wednesday at 4 pm.

Red Arrow
BASEBALL
SPORTS

Arrows lead 2-1 against GRC- drop two games to Grand Ledge

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell's varsity baseball team went 2-1 in OK White action against Grand Rapids Christian and dropped two games over the weekend in Grand Ledge during a busy week of action on the diamond.

Tuesday on the road the Arrows blasted by GRC in the sixth inning, plating four runs en route to a 7-1 victory. Cooper Perry led the late inning charge with an RBI single combined with a sacrifice fly from Joey Schaefer, a single from Kyle Liddle and a walk earned by Sage Solomonson. Sterling Anderson was the Arrows' offensive leader totaling two RBIs on a single and a double. Lowell's Jarrod Melle dominated on the hill surrendering only to hits during his six innings while allowing no earned runs.

Back at home on Wednesday, Melle took

charge at the plate offering up a two run double in the first inning. Nate Stephens also connected in the first launching an RBI single to give the Arrows an early three run lead they did not relinquish. Ultimately winning 4-2, the Arrows fought off a late two run rally from GRC to make the series 2-0. Perry pitched well for the Arrows allowing only one run over six innings while striking out three. Anderson recorded the save in relief.

In game three on Thursday the Arrows never held the lead falling 8-3. Anderson went 3-3 at the plate singling in the third, fifth and seventh innings, but his effort was not enough to overcome Lowell's deficit which was largely extended when GRC plated six runs in the fifth. The Arrows did gain some traction in the

sixth picking up three runs after an RBI single from Anthony Pollock and a two run single from Connor Douma. Nolan Yahrmarkt and Garrett Pratt served on the mound in the loss.

In Grand Ledge on Saturday the team struggled against their hosts dropping both contests in the doubleheader. A 12-4 loss in game one was fueled by hot bats from Grand Ledge. Lowell pitcher Jake Wosinski was charged with the pitching loss allowing eight runs over three innings and allowing four walks.

The Arrows relinquished an early 1-0 lead in the game, garnered off a solo home run by Anderson, when their opponent went up 3-1 in the bottom of the first. Anderson reached base three times for the Arrows in total, also scoring two

runs and logging an RBI. Matt Cooper earned a two run double in the fifth and Stephens pushed in a run by earning a walk while the bases were loaded to round out Lowell scoring.

Grand Ledge also topped the Arrows in game

two but by a smaller margin of 10-8. Lowell picked up nine hits in the game led by Liddle who tallied a two run double in the seventh. Again exchanging leads in the first, the Arrows started off 2-0 after singles from Cooper, Anderson and Melle.

Cooper and Anderson came in on a fielders choice. Grand Ledge responded in the bottom plating four and again grabbing the lead for good. Anderson took the loss on the hill allowing two runs in just over two innings.



Red Arrow Nate Stephens heads for base against GRC in OK White action.

This week the team will travel for a series of non-conference contests in preparation for the MHSAA District Tournament at Northview High School Tuesday, May 31 at 2 pm. A win would secure a spot in the district semifinal on June 3 at Forest Hills Northern.

- TRACK

Track teams wrap up the season at MHSAA regional

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell's girls and boys varsity track teams finished off their season last week Friday at Holt High School competing at the MHSAA regional competition.

The boys' four relay teams placed within the top ten. Colton Churches, Sam Misak, Richard Misak and Tristan Stevens placed eighth in the 4x100m. Stevens, S. Misak, Cody McGee and Collin McGee also placed eighth in the 4x200. Landing in ninth were Reece Karns, Cody McGee, Will Reynolds and Keegan Redloske in the 4x400. Eric Judd, Ben Noffke, Kenny Stump and Parker Grant were the leading Lowell relay team placing sixth in the 4x800.

Drew Struckmeyer picked up two medals in the hurdle competition placing sixth in the 110m and ninth in the 300m. Fellow jumper Reynolds placed tenth in the 300m. Grant also earned a tenth-place finish in the 800m sprint to round out the team's top finishers.

The girls left the track clad in medals from three events. Freshman standout Diana Roth claimed eighth in the 200m capping off an impressive debut

season. "Diana has had a great season and a great regional," said head coach Paul Judd. "She saw what is necessary to be successful in the sprints at this level. I am hoping that we can take advantage of an off season lifting program to increase her strength which should provide some more speed. She is a good athlete which will allow her to try different events down the road."

The Lady Arrows also had two relay teams land in the top ten. The team of Kathryn Miller, Megan Khodl, Kyla Dixon and Breanna VanLaan placed eighth in the 4x400 relay and the team of Mekare Elliott, Katrina Droski, Dixon and VanLaan earned sixth in the 4x800 relay. The Arrows four relay teams also finished with their best times of the season.

Several athletes recorded personal bests at the meet including Roth in the 200m, Amber Brown in the 100m hurdles, Dixon in the 400m, Lauren Aud in the 3200m, Callie Ford-Weber in the 100m and Haley Nieuwkoop in the 3200m.

Judd said he is very pleased with the progress and drive of his athletes over the season as a whole.

"The kids worked hard this year and continued to battle in all of the meets. In some ways that was the biggest growth area. The kids really started competing as the season went on and their performances reflected it."

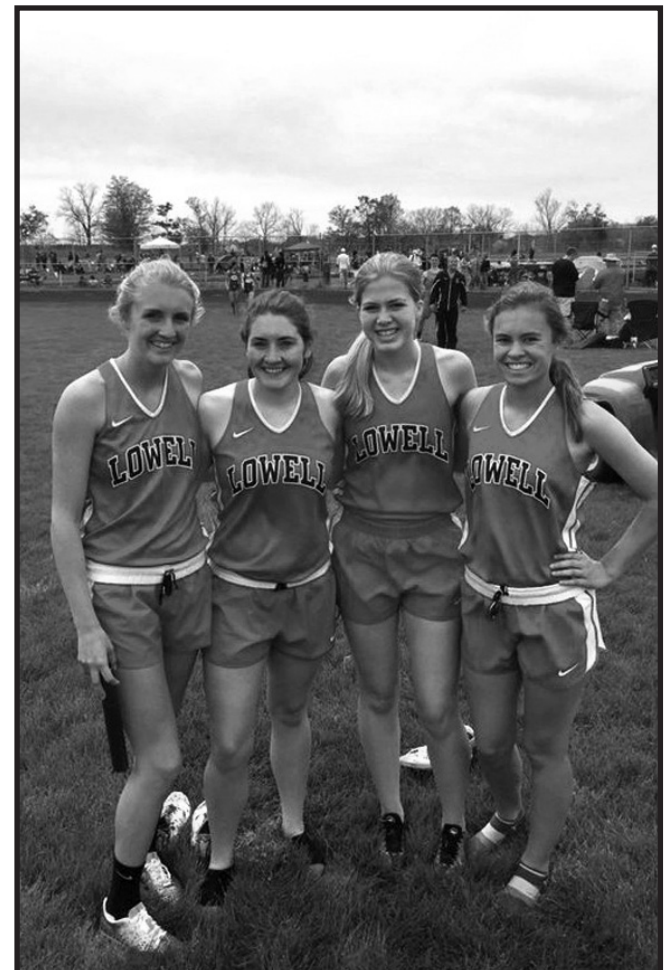
The team also celebrated several senior student's last time on the track as Red Arrows at the event. Judd had some parting words for his outgoing team leaders. "Keep working and enjoy

the journey. Too often we focus on the prize and forget that the real reward is in the path that you took to the prize. If these young women continue to work and believe

than they will do remarkable things. Sometimes you need to take a chance, take a risk, believe. You can't walk on water unless you are willing to get out of the boat."



Eric Judd, Ben Noffke, Kenny Stump and Parker Grant placed sixth in the 4x800 relay.



Mekare Elliott, Katrina Droski, Kyla Dixon and Breanna VanLaan earned sixth in the 4x800 relay.

obituaries

VAN ALSTINE

Joseph 'Joe' J Van Alstine, loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, 65, left us on April 27, 2016, with his family by his side. Joe was born April 11, 1951, in Ionia, to Elton and Rachel Horricks (Peasley). He graduated from Lowell High School in 1969. He was briefly married to Christine Ann (Staskiewicz) and had a son and daughter, Joseph J Jr. and Angelia May. In 1973, he married Debra Kay (Condon) and had two daughters, Jami Racquel and Jeri Rae. His interests included computers, gaming, fishing, hunting, riding motorcycles, and reading. He was a father-figure to many people. His humor, generosity of spirit, and devotion to family were the hallmarks for his life. Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Elton Horricks, Rachel and Herbert Van Alstine; son, Joseph Jr.; brothers, Mark Van Alstine, Elton Horricks Jr.; and sister, Samantha Swanson. Joe is survived by his wife, Debra; brothers, Roger Rempp, Robert Reyburn, Essa Kenneth Horricks, Rodney (Janet), E.J. (Liz), Daniel (Debbie), Herbert 'Ray' Van Alstine Jr., Roland 'Ron' (Joan), and Patrick; sisters, Rosemary (Richard) Lehner and Denise Chandler; two daughters, Jeri (Tony) Parham and Jami; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



Social Security Q & A

Question: I received a notice from Social Security recently. It said my name and Social Security number do not match Social Security's records. What should I do?

Answer: It's critical that your name and Social Security number, as shown on your Social Security card, match your employer's payroll records and your W-2 form. If they don't, here is what you need to do:

Give your employer the correct information exactly as shown on your Social Security card or your corrected card; or

Contact your local Social Security office (www.socialsecurity.gov/locator) or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) if your Social Security card does not show your correct name or Social Security number.

For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question: How do I report a lost Social Security card?

Answer: You don't have to report a lost Social Security card. In fact, reporting a lost or stolen card to Social Security won't prevent misuse of your Social Security number. You should let us know if someone is using your number to work (call 1-800-772-1213; TTY 1-800-325-0778).

If you think someone is using your number, there are several other actions you should take:

Contact the Federal Trade Commission online at www.ftc.gov/bcdp/edu/microsites/idtheft or call 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338);

File an online complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov;

Contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit by calling 1-800-908-4490, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.; and

Monitor your credit report.

Question: What is the benefit amount a spouse may be entitled to receive?

Answer: If you're eligible for both your own retirement benefit and for benefits as a spouse, we will always pay you benefits based on your record first. If your benefit as a spouse is higher than your retirement benefit, you will receive a combination of benefits equaling the higher spouse's benefits. A spouse generally receives 50 percent of the retired worker's full benefit, unless the spouse begins collecting benefits before full retirement age. If the spouse begins collecting benefits before full retirement age, the amount of the spouse's benefit is reduced by a percentage based on the number of months before he or she reaches full retirement age. For example, based on a full retirement age of 66, if a spouse begins collecting benefits:

At age 65, the benefit amount would be about 46 percent of the retired worker's full benefit;

At age 64, it would be about 42 percent;

At age 63, 37.5 percent; and

At age 62, 35 percent.

However, if a spouse is taking care of a child who is either under age 16 or disabled and receives Social Security benefits on the same record, a spouse will get full benefits, regardless of age. Learn more by reading our *Retirement* publication at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10035.html.

Question: I work in retirement. How much can I earn and still collect full Social Security retirement benefits?

Answer: Social Security uses the formulas below, depending on your age, to determine how much you can earn before we must reduce your benefit:

If you are younger than full retirement age: \$1 in benefits will be deducted for each \$2 you earn above the annual limit. For 2016, that limit is \$15,720.

In the year you reach your full retirement age: \$1 in benefits will be deducted for each \$3 you earn above a different limit, but we count only earnings before the month you reach full retirement age. For 2016, this limit is \$41,880.

Starting with the month you reach full retirement age: you will get your benefits with no limit on your earnings.

Find out your full retirement age at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm.

Question: My brother had an accident at work last year and is now receiving Social Security disability benefits. His wife and son also receive benefits. Before his accident, he helped support another daughter by a woman he never married. Is the second child entitled to benefits?

Answer: The child may qualify for Social Security benefits even though your brother wasn't married to the second child's mother. The child's caretaker should file

an application on her behalf. For more information, read our publication, *Benefits for Children*, available at. www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf

Question: I was wounded while on military service overseas. What are the benefits for wounded warriors, and how can I apply?

Answer: Through the Wounded Warrior program, Social Security expedites processing of disability claims of current military service members or veterans disabled while on active duty on or after October 1, 2001. Also, service members and veterans who have a Veterans Administration compensation rating of 100 percent Permanent and Total (P&T) may receive expedited processing of applications for Social Security disability benefits. Keep in mind, this expedited process applies to only the application process. To be eligible for benefits, you must meet Social Security's strict definition of "disability," which means:

You must be unable to do substantial work because of your medical condition(s); and

Your medical condition(s) must have lasted, or be expected to last, at least one year or to result in death.

You can apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability or call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

You can find more information for veterans at www.socialsecurity.gov/people/veterans.

Question: What are the limits on what I can own to be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

Answer: SSI provides payments for people with limited income and resources. We count real estate, bank accounts, cash, stocks, and bonds toward the limits on what you can own and still receive SSI. You may be able to get SSI if your resources are worth no more than \$2,000. A couple may be able to get SSI if they have resources worth no more than \$3,000. If you own property you are trying to sell, you may be able to get SSI while trying to sell it. Social Security does not count everything you own in deciding whether you have too many resources to qualify for SSI. For example, we generally do not count: the home you live in and the land it is on; life insurance policies with a face value of \$1,500 or less; your car; burial plots for you and your immediate family; and up to \$1,500 in burial funds for you and up to \$1,500 in burial funds for your spouse. Learn more about SSI at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi.

Question: I am a single mother and I get Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Can my daughter receive SSI benefits based on my SSI?

Answer: No. SSI benefits are based on the needs of the individual and are paid only to the qualifying person. There are no spouse's, children's, or survivor's benefits. However, if your daughter is disabled, she might be eligible to receive SSI benefits. To learn more about SSI benefits, read our publication on the subject at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11000.html.

Question: How do I get a copy of the form, *Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs*?

Answer: If you wish to apply for *Extra Help* with Medicare prescription drug plan costs, we recommend you use our online application at www.socialsecurity.gov/i1020/. Meanwhile, you can view a sample at www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp. There, you can also find instruction sheets in many different languages to help you understand the English application. Soon, the online application also will be available in Spanish.

If you prefer not to fill out this application on the Internet, you can call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, to ask for a paper application. Also, you can make an appointment at your local Social Security office to apply for *Extra Help* with Medicare prescription drug plan costs. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call our toll-free TTY number, 1-800-325-0778. Representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Question: If I call 1-800-772-1213, can a Social Security representative take my application for Medicare prescription drug help over the phone?

Answer: If an interviewer is available when you call the 800 number, he or she can take your application over the phone. If an interviewer is not immediately available, we can schedule a telephone appointment for you. For the fastest and most convenient way to apply for Medicare prescription drug help, go online to www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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8	3	1	5	6	2	4	9	7
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1	7	2	6	4	5	9	3	8
9	5	8	4	1	6	3	7	2
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Lowell Middle School track teams enjoy a great season



Lowell Middle School boys and girls seventh- and eighth-grade track teams ran hard when it was hard to run. The entire track team worked together to earn the victories. They scored points, cheered from the infield, pushed teammates to earn personal bests and demonstrated sportsmanship. From the individual "dash" to relay teams, these students ran at arrow force speeds, even breaking the school record at the conference meet. With help from coaches Julie Niemela and Stacy Verburg these athletes gave their best. Their assistant coaches were Jane Matthews, Diane Heikkila and Josiah Roberts.

•••

"There may be people that have more talent than you, but there's no excuse for anyone to work harder than you do."

~ Derek Jeter



Looking Back, continued

amount of stock, which should bring good returns, if Lowell is to have one more needed industry.—E. A. A

Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Getty have learned of the wounding of their son Verne in the Canadian army serving in the European war. He is now in an English hospital, doing as well as could be expected. He received his wound in April and for a time thereafter was cared for in France. His parents hear from him quite regularly and are hopeful for his complete recovery. A letter received yesterday states that Verne is now able to get about the hospital grounds. He writes in good spirits and expects to be sent to the convalescents hospital soon.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 29, 1941

Lowell may issue driver licenses. Under a new bill passed by the legislature, cities and villages may authorize their law enforcing officers to issue driver's licenses, extending their zones up to five miles from police headquarters. Up to the time this bill was passed it was necessary to make applications in Kent county only through the sheriff's department. It is hoped that the village of Lowell will see its way clear to take advantage of the new law.

This paragraph is to remind all shoppers that most all business places will be closed on Decoration Day. Business on Saturday as usual.

John Pike, who works for the King Milling Co., is rejoicing over the birth of two sets of twin calves on his farm just north of town. John must be a good caretaker.

Our next-door neighbors, the A. R. Smiths, are having strawberry shortcake today from their own garden.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger May 26, 1966

Lowell Police were surprised to see a 13 year-old local boy driving a school bus through Main Street at 5:30 a. m. on Sunday. The boy told officers he saw the bus with the keys in it, parked back of the school, and decided to take a ride.

Construction started on a new service station, self-serve laundry and dry cleaning plant at the corner of West Street and West Main on Monday morning and

almost abruptly stopped. A stop order was issued by the building inspector, who found the building was being built in violation of the zoning ordinance. A request is being made to the zoning board of appeals for a variation, so the set back from the front and rear lot lines can be less than the ordinance allows.

Planning Commission seeks urban renewal. At a meeting of the Lowell Planning Commission on Monday, approval was given to make a preliminary feasibility study and to apply for federal urban renewal funds for the city. Plans discussed called for clearing the south side of Main Street, between Lafayette Street and Monroe, back to the railroad tracks; an area of about 4 acres. Planning Consultant Walter Bagby, told the Planning Commission that there was at least a four to six year delay in getting the work underway, if funds were sought through urban renewal. The federal government would pay three-quarters of the cost of clearing an area that was found to be qualified under urban renewal. Property in this 4 acre site is owned by R. G. Chrouch, N. E. Borgerson, the Moose Lodge, the Odd Fellows Lodge, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Fluger, Lowell Granite Co., and the King Milling Co. No estimate of the cost of acquiring the land and clearing it has been made at this time. The preliminary study that will be given to the Planning Commission at their June 13 meeting will give them an idea as to what amount of money is involved.

Molly Wepman saved the fire department a trip on Thursday when the awning on her Main Street store caught fire, from a careless smoker. While most of us would call the firemen, Molly just grabbed a pail of water and a step ladder and climbed up and put out the fire.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 29, 1991

Vezero and Newman get Council's approval to remove trees from their property. Joseph Vezero and Robert Newman approached the Lowell City Council at the May meeting with the same resolve, just different motives. Both were looking to gain the approval of the Council to remove trees. In a previous meeting, Vezero provided a written request to have a tree (located on the city easement) in the public right-of-way removed on Riverside Drive near the

City limits. The Council concluded that it would need a drawing of the house layout to determine whether the tree has to go. Vezero did that at the May 20th meeting. The Lowell resident showed that a curb-cut opening would be needed for his new home. Upon reviewing the drawing, Lowell's City Council approved the removal of the tree. Newman also requested the removal of a tree, located near the southeast corner of South Jefferson and Front Streets. Newman said the tree appears to be hollow and infested with ants. The tree is the third from the corner and has caused the uplifting of a sidewalk. Newman, not unlike Vezero, also received the Council's approval.

Accounting moves provide local street fund with much needed funds. In an accounting book move, the Lowell City Council approved a budget amendment to loan money from the general fund instead of the major street fund to cover part of the cost to construct the Valley Vista Drive extension. Last year, authorization was made to have the Major Street fund loan the Local Street fund \$80,500 to help cover the Valley Vista extension project. However, after some further thought, Lowell City Manager, Dave Pasquale and City Treasurer Judy Noonon recommended to the Council that the loan come from the general fund instead. This would allow the Major Street Fund to provide more available monies for road improvements. It was also thought that the General Fund has a greater fund balance to accommodate the loan. "We didn't have enough in our local street fund to finance the Valley Vista extension," Pasquale said. "By borrowing from the general fund, the monies are not tied up in a loan." The monies for local street repairs come from a gas and weight tax. The state returns monies from these taxes to the localities for road upkeep. Additionally, the State Department of Transportation requires half of a new street construction to be locally funded. It was identified that \$7,000 in additional City funds was necessary to meet this requirement for the Valley Vista project (\$75,000 of the \$82,000 commitment was met). Thus, an authorization was made of a \$73,500 loan from the general fund to the local street fund, without interest, to be repaid over 10 years. Further, an outright transfer of \$7,000 was made from the General Fund to the Local Street Fund as requested to meet MDOT requirements. "Basically, this is a means of looking at funds and finding the best way to finance it," Pasquale said.

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GARDENING 101**

ACROSS

1. "Sisterhood of the Traveling ____"
6. Pavlova's step
9. Southeast Asia food staple
13. Fire starter
14. "My ____ Private Idaho," movie
15. Red Cross supply
16. Indian soldier in British Army, historical
17. CSI evidence
18. U in UV
19. *Climber support
21. ____ *Light recommendation for some plants
23. Computer network acronym
24. Green stroke
25. Olympic chant
28. Cry like a baby
30. Depletes
35. X-ray units
37. ____ *Organ of photosynthesis
39. Nary a soul
40. Doing nothing
41. Reduce pressure
43. Tolkien villains
44. Spy's other name
46. Judo gym
47. Same as Celt
48. *Cross between plant varieties
50. They don't mix with water
52. Hi-____ graphics
53. Demeanor
55. Black and white sea bird
57. ____ *Homemade fertilizer
61. *Without synthetic chemicals

CROSSWORD

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MAY 18 - MAY 24

- On Saturday, 31,697 Chinese participants from Beijing, Shanghai and four other cities performed choreographed dance moves together for five minutes to set a new Guinness book of world records for mass plaza dancing in multiple locations.
- Real life Doogie Howser, Tanishq Abraham of Sacramento, started college at seven years old and now, at the ripe old age of 12, has three community college degrees. He has been accepted to UC Davis and UC Santa Cruz, but has not decided which university he will attend. "I think I'll be 18 when I get my M.D.," said Abraham.
- A 20-foot by 120-foot by 40-foot 3D printer, using a special mix of cement, has built the first 3D printed building in the world in Dubai. The arc-shaped building was built in just 17 days and cost approximately \$140,000. Situated in the center of the city and part of a drive by the Gulf's tourism, the building has fully functional offices and will be the temporary headquarters of the Dubai Future Foundation.

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- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 65. Driver's 180 | 71. Zwiebacks | 32. More painful |
| 66. Roswell debris? | 72. Annoyingly slow | 33. Cry of surrender |
| 68. Speedily | 73. Ensign, for short | 34. *Cabbage Worms and Potato Beetles |
| 69. Alley cat | 74. Corset bones | 36. One way to prepare Ahi |
| 70. Game day appetizer | | 38. *Popular apple |

DOWN

1. Attention grabber
2. Copycat
3. Back of neck
4. Chatroom agitator
5. First U.S. space station
6. *Where peas live
7. Barley bristle
8. Big mess
9. Auction off
10. ____ and crafts
11. Buddhist teacher
12. Yemen's neighbor
15. Brunei's ruler, e.g.
20. Altogether
22. Beehive State native
24. Stone's Oscar winner
25. Dickens's ____ Heep
26. Lamentably
27. Impromptu
29. *Garden intruder
31. Pippin's last name, "The Hobbit"

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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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.

LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Do you agree that students should be allowed to use the restroom "consistent with their gender identity?"

- YES 39%
- NO 30%
- We should have gender neutral bathrooms... 27%
- No opinion..... 4%

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FROM Food Fight 2016

Boxscore

Game Begins Wednesday, June 1
First Quarter Ends Friday, June 10
Lowell Food Fight Facebook Page

For more info and up to date Food Fight Specials

	1	2	3	4	T
North					
South					



"A Christian organization helping our neighbors in need by making connections and helping improve their quality of life."

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www.flatriveroutreach.org
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Linda Biggs-Verhage & Richard Verhage - Lowell Granite - Grand Chrysler Dodge Jeep - Erich Bennett
Grand River Orthodontics PC - Bob Richards & Ethel Steer - Ken & Sharon Olson - Wittenbach Sales & Service
Lowell Senior Neighbors - Dick & Nola Bryan - Jim & Bobbi White - Robert & Mary Kuttell - George & Carol Anderson

Hookie Sponsors

Doug & Carol McGregor - Judy Timpson - Iris Clark - Alice & Judy Manks - Ed & Daris Roth - L.A. Trim
Executive Supply - Judy & Bob Eitzen - Anonymous - Shirley Peckham - Dan & Linda DeJardin

Sponsorship Levels Range \$25- Coach \$50- Trainer \$25- Captain \$50- Hookie \$25- Amounts include Matched Dollars

Make your monetary donation online at www.fromlowell.org. Place your non-perishable food item donations in the red or white North Lowell or South Lowell containers throughout the Lowell community!
Each food item donated = one dollar donated.

Visit the Lowell Food Fight Facebook page for updated info and Food Fight Specials offered by Lowell businesses!