

### art auction



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### heart of gold



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### l's sports



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### game day schedule

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50 CENTS



## Citizens voice concerns on biodigester at packed Lowell City Council meeting

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

It was standing room only in council chambers during the Lowell city council meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 6 as Greg Northrup from the Lowell Energy Anerobic Digester listened to an hour of citizen complaints about his company's stinky biodigester. The council also approved a resolution that will put Lowell a little closer to some Showboat improvements and it was the first city council meeting for new Lowell city manager Mike Burns.

The biodigester discussion started about three minutes into the meeting when LEAD principal Northrup made a lengthy statement to the council and to the audience.

"I can't underscore enough the concern we have about the brunt that you've all had to deal with in terms of the malfunction of our system," Northrup said. "It's unacceptable and I apologize for what



LEAD principal Greg Northrup heard citizen complaints about his company's biodigester for an hour at the Lowell City Council meeting on Sept. 6.

we've done over the last 45 days to make your life uncomfortable. Secondly, you may or may not know, the digester technology

that we're trying to employ is pretty common. If they're built properly, if they're operated properly, it shouldn't produce odor.

Obviously ours has not been functioning as it should and we have been committed to fix it and we remain committed to fix it in the

way that it should run. It's just simply not operating properly. That's obvious

City council meeting continued, page 7

## Main Street BBQ competition raises funds for Pink Arrow Pride despite stormy weather

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Wind, rain, thunder and lightning did not stop the first Main Street BBQ Pink Arrow BBQ competition,

held on Saturday, Sept. 10. Proceeds from the competition totaling over \$2,500 will be donated to Pink Arrow Pride. Attendees

at the event, which also celebrated the restaurant's first anniversary, enjoyed various smoked meats, beer

and music, but they had to endure some very nasty weather for the privilege.

"It's been fun, the

weather just went crazy," said Main Street BBQ owner

BBQ competition, continued, page 8



KayLee Westerhuis won in three categories: beef brisket, pork shoulder and chicken.

## LAHM announces new website

The Lowell Area Historical Museum is announcing a new website to share its collection online with the public. "The Past Online" provides access to our collection and makes connections between historical topics.

The museum collects artifacts, documents, photographs and information on the history of the Lowell area. Only a small percentage of the museum's collection is on display to the public at any one time. In the

past, some of the ways included interpretive boards installed along historic Main street and traveling exhibits. This new initiative recognizes that increasingly the public turns to the Internet to search for information.

In order to make the collection available online, grants were written to fund part of the development of a new software program. The project was supported by the Lowell Area Community Fund, the Look Memorial Fund and

the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

"The Past Online" is a new tool that allows the museum to manage its collection internally and share that information with the public. It creates a relational database that allows connections to be made between artifacts, topics and places, giving the ability to create online mini-exhibits. It also allows the

Museum website, continued, page 3



# along main street



## lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

### volunteers needed for FLPC race

Runners across Western Michigan are lacing up their shoes and making it a habit to run with the nuns. This habit not only helps runners physically, mentally and spiritually, but also has added benefits for others making it a success for all. However, without volunteers it can not be successful.

The Franciscan Life Process Center is hosting their second annual Franciscan Rhythms 5K Trail Run/Walk on Saturday, October 1st at their Lowell campus at 11650 Downes Street NE. All proceeds from the race go directly to the music therapy scholarship fund. Last year, music therapists helped many individuals in all stages of life, from autistic children to those in hospice care.

The Franciscan Rhythms 5K had a tremendous response last year with over 200 runners participating. This unique race will feature seven live

music stations along the trail and at the finish line, plus beautiful autumn views of the 231 acre property. After the race, runners, walkers and volunteers will celebrate by enjoying a hearty meal of homemade Franciscan stew and fresh baked bread.

They are seeking volunteers like you and your organization to help execute this race to support the music therapy scholarship fund. Many volunteers are needed in a variety of roles, from the registration desk to the water stations to the start and finish lines -- all ages are welcome. Please consider partnering with the Franciscan Sisters by volunteering your time on the morning of October 1st by signing up within the volunteer category of the website at [www.eventbrite.com/e/franciscan-rhythms-2nd-annual-5k-trail-runwalk-tickets-24961594802](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/franciscan-rhythms-2nd-annual-5k-trail-runwalk-tickets-24961594802) or by calling Gerrie Murray at the center at 616-897-7842 extension 307.

**FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION**  
Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries will be Thurs., Sept. 15 at 1 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

**GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE**  
**Pink Arrow Game Day** – Fri., Sept. 16, 7 pm. Join the Lowell Community as we celebrate Pink Arrow Game Day on Friday, September 16 at 7 pm. The fun happens at Lowell High School football stadium. Your support will help raise money for those living with cancer in the Lowell community.

**Chitchat Readers Book Club** – Tues., Sept. 20, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join other members of Gilda's Club in discussing a great book. Feel free to stop by the Clubhouse to borrow a book.

Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit [www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow](http://www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow)

**BLUEGRASS MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
Bluegrass Music Festival on Sept. 16 and 17 at the Lowell fairgrounds. Bluegrass music Friday and Saturday. Campground jamming, open mic/stage, instrument workshops, slow jams, and food vendors. Admission is donation only. Camping available. For details call 891-8825 or see [www.wmbma.org](http://www.wmbma.org)

**FLU SHOTS**  
Low/no cost flu clinic will be held Fri., Sept. 23 from 10 am to noon at Lowell Senior Neighbors, given at Schneider Manor. This is for Kent County residents age 60 to 64. For questions, call AngelCare at 616-245-8899.

**CLASS OF 1961**  
The Lowell High School class of 1961 is having a 55th reunion, Sat., Sept. 24, from 1-6 pm at Schneider Manor community room.

**LARKIN'S CHILI COOKOFF**  
Enter your winning chili Oct. 8. Call 897-5977 or visit Lowell chamber website for info.

**OPEN TABLE**  
Lowell's Open Table is now serving free weekly meals to residents of the greater Lowell community. Join them on Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for a hearty, homemade meal. Located in the First Congregational Church of Lowell, UCC, 865 Lincoln Lake SE.

*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.*

**tutors needed**  
The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Friday, Sept. 23 2016, for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 2 pm and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors the opportunity to find out more about the Literacy Center and its programs. At the end of the session, there will be a chance 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. 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](mailto:info@literacycenterwm.org)

...  
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~ André Gide

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Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday  
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:  
The Lowell Ledger  
PO Box 128 - Lowell, MI 49331  
[www.thelowellledger.com](http://www.thelowellledger.com)

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# Administrative assistant celebrates half a century on the job

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

For decades students at Alto Elementary have been greeted by the same face at the front desk of the main office. Bonnie Gokey

has been with the school so long in fact, that many former students now bring their own children to the school to be welcomed by

the dedicated administrative assistant.

Dedicated may not be a strong enough word. Gokey celebrates her 50th year at the school this year. She began her career at Lowell Area Schools in 1967. A constant at the school with a wealth of knowledge and experience, Gokey is appreciated by administrators, parents and her coworkers and all agree her presence at Alto is invaluable.

Former co-worker Vicky Pratt began her career at LAS sharing the office with Gokey for several years before making the move to the high school this year. She said that the lessons learned alongside Gokey has helped her and others before her excel at their jobs. "Easily stated, she's a walking historical reference of Alto School and much of the town," said Pratt. "She has soothed students pain

and fears throughout her years and she's helped fine-tune office assistants in the office before they launched to other positions in and out of district."

Cindy Johnston is an involved parent at the school who heads up the PTO and has had two sons influenced by the presence of Gokey in the building. "Bonnie is the constant at Alto. She is the person who can consistently answer questions, greets us at the door, helps our kids when they are scared or hurt or sick. She has been that person for countless families at Alto," said

Johnston adding, "We are a better school because of her influence."

Superintendent of LAS Greg Pratt wholeheartedly agreed when asked about the effect such long-term devotion can have on both the school and the district. "It is difficult to put into words the impact that Bonnie Gokey has had on Alto Elementary. Bonnie has been a foundation to the building. When you consider the changes that have occurred in our world since the mid 1960s, it is easy to see the stability that she has provided the district

and students in the Alto Elementary office."

That stability will continue as Gokey continues to welcome students daily, many of whose parents remember that same daily consistency with fondness, according to superintendent Pratt. "As I speak to adults that had attended Alto as young students, the vast majority of people remember Bonnie and her support as a fond memory of their elementary school days."

Something that will surely be true for years to come.



Bonnie Gokey marked her 50th year on the staff at Alto Elementary at the start of the 2016-2017 school year.

## Fatal accident at Parnell and Bailey

On Tuesday Sept. 13, at approximately 6:43 am, the Kent County Sheriff Department investigated a three-car fatal accident at the intersection of Parnell Avenue NE and Bailey Drive NE in Vergennes Township.

The intersection of Parnell Avenue and Bailey Drive is a two-way stop sign intersection. Traffic along Parnell Avenue is required to stop by posted stop signs. Traffic along Bailey Avenue is not required to stop.

According to the sheriff's department, preliminary investigation revealed that an Oldsmobile Intrigue, driven by a 62-year-old Ada Township man, was traveling northbound on Parnell Avenue. Witnesses reported that the driver of

the Oldsmobile did stop at the stop sign on Parnell Avenue at Bailey Drive before proceeding into the intersection failing to yield for east and west bound traffic along Bailey Drive. The Oldsmobile was struck in the driver's side door by a 2011 Ford E250 van, driven by a 39-year-old male from Grand Rapids. Both vehicles continued into the westbound travel

lanes of Bailey Drive where the Oldsmobile was struck head-on by a 2012 Jeep Laredo, driven by a 24-year-old from Lowell.

The driver of the Oldsmobile Intrigue was pronounced deceased at the scene.

A passenger in the Ford van was transported to Butterworth Hospital by Rockford Ambulance for non-life threatening injuries.

## Museum website, continued

museum to connect people with places. For example, records from Oakwood Cemetery can be matched to artifacts or information the museum holds on the people buried there. Visitors to the cemetery can use their mobile devices to explore the known histories of the people associated with the gravestones.

"The Past Online" allows each visitor to

interact with the site. Once signed in, visitors can share memories, photographs and information with the museum. They can share items to Facebook or create their own folders to share with others, perhaps for family or class reunions. Students and teachers have a new tool to easily access Lowell's history.

Small museums have a wealth of history but

often limited open hours and resources. This new website provides a way to share the interesting history of the Lowell area in a comprehensive way.

Take a look online at [www.thepastonline.org/LAHM](http://www.thepastonline.org/LAHM). For more information contact the museum at 616-897-7688 or [history@lowellmuseum.org](mailto:history@lowellmuseum.org) or [www.lowellmuseum.org](http://www.lowellmuseum.org)

**BLUEGRASS MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**SEPTEMBER 16-17 AT LOWELL FAIRGROUNDS**  
Bluegrass music Friday and Saturday  
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**DEPUTY CITY CLERK**

The City of Lowell (Kent County, Michigan) is accepting applications for the position of Deputy City Clerk. The following provides a summary of the required experience and skills. A complete job description and information about the City can be found on our website: [www.ci.lowell.mi.us](http://www.ci.lowell.mi.us)

- The Deputy City Clerk is responsible for assisting the City Clerk in the day to day operations for the City of Lowell which includes both statutory and non-statutory duties, including record retention, preparing agendas, minutes and other materials for meetings, planning and zoning administration, conducting elections, social media and website administration. The work is performed under the supervision of the City Clerk. The employee is expected to demonstrate considerable independent judgment and knowledge in performance of assigned duties.
- Possession of an associate's degree in public or business administration or three years of relevant experience is required.

This is a full-time position (33 hours) with a salary range of \$16.60 - \$21.58 per hour. Please send cover letter and resume by email to [lgerard@ci.lowell.mi.us](mailto:lgerard@ci.lowell.mi.us) or submit documentation by mail or in person to City of Lowell, Attn: Lori Gerard, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331. Selected candidates must undergo a criminal background check and testing prior to start date.

**DEADLINE to apply is 4:30 p.m., September 21, 2016. The City of Lowell is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**



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## Bluegrass FallFest starts this Thursday, Sept. 15

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

The West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association's FallFest Camp & Jam returns to the Kent County fairgrounds this weekend. The event will bring local bluegrass fans together with local bluegrass musicians. There will also be camping, instrument workshops, a band scramble, a raffle and other activities. Local bluegrass bands who will play on Friday and Saturday include Narrow Road, Basement Bluegrass, Jimmy & Friends and the Easy Idle String Band. The FallFest Camp & Jam event officially starts with a potluck at 6 pm on Thursday, Sept. 15, but campers start showing up much earlier in the week.

"Admission to the music is free, the only thing they charge for is the camping," said Lee Strassberger, president of the WMBMA. "Early campers are welcome. People start showing up as early as Monday or Tuesday. If you bring a camper, it's \$15 a night to camp. That will give you an electrical hook-up and there are some water hook-ups. There will be food vendors there too."

One of the highlights of these WMBMA bluegrass events are all the instrument workshops. If you play guitar, mandolin, banjo or fiddle and you're looking for some tips, this is the place for you.



West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association's FallFest Camp & Jam starts tomorrow. Stock photo

"The majority of the workshops that we do are for people who at least know how to play their instrument, or are fairly proficient," Strassberger said. "These will help improve the way you play. Some of the participants have been playing their instruments for over 50 years and there are a few beginners as well. Some guitar players might want to learn the fiddle or the mandolin or whatever."

The event is free unless you want to camp, then you have to pay regular Fairground camping rates. For more information, including a complete schedule of events, check out the event website at wmbma.org

"It's a really laid back, free good time," Strassberger said. "It's just a fun weekend."

## kidsView



by Sierra Hieshetter

My dog Frisco is amazing. He is always there to cheer me up when I'm sad and to join me in happiness. I don't know what I would do without him. That is why it makes me so sad to see puppy mills that mistreat animals that are still in

operation. A puppy mill is a large scale dog breeding site where making money is placed above the well-being of the dogs. With breeding conditions so awful, many puppies are born with genetic defects and diseases. A puppy mill can have as

little as 10 dogs to as many as 1,500. While puppy mills are required by law to be licensed and inspected, many dodge this rule so it is impossible to know how many dogs are out there in these conditions. The ASPCA is working hard to eradicate puppy mills and to find the dogs healthy, happy homes. To learn more about puppy mills and anything you can do to help, visit:

<http://www.aspc.org/animal-cruelty/puppy-mills>

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### likes groups article

To The Editor -

I first of all would like to publicly thank the Forward Lowell group for writing an exceptional article that was in the Lowell Ledger on August 3rd about the Alpha Family Center of Lowell. The writers of the article took time out of their busy schedules to visit us at the Alpha Family Center and see firsthand what we are all about. They interviewed a client, a volunteer staff member and they spent a lot of time with me, the director. I love that they gave me the opportunity to share my passion about what I do on a daily basis in our community. I count it a privilege to serve the community of Lowell in this role, assisting many who are often struggling financially, and in many other ways.

It was a bit discouraging to open the paper the following weeks to see a few articles with words such as "it does not tell the whole story" - implying that there was deception in any way in what we do here at

the Alpha Family Center of Lowell. I will respond to a few of the items referenced in these articles to clear up any confusion that could be stirred up. At the Alpha Family Center we want to be completely transparent with the community we serve. In the 8.10.16 letter it was stated "is part of a national chain of religious based agencies created to dictate Biblical doctrines defining the family..." We are not a part of a national chain, we are a locally run and private organization and this center is designed to meet the needs of the Lowell community. I will say wholeheartedly that yes, we love God and love life - and we choose to serve Him in this way. We never force Christianity, our opinions or God down the throats of anyone and especially the clients we serve. I make it a point to say very clearly we come from a religious foundation and that is why we are here to help, but [we] are always careful to never

embark on a subject with a client if they are not wanting to. I also want to make it clear that we never, as an organization, bash Planned Parenthood.

In the 8.31.2016 letter it was written "there should be a place where others can get the counseling, support and needed medical care they seek, based on their set of beliefs and values." We do have trained medical staff and are fully licensed to perform ultrasounds and medical confirmation of pregnancy and would be glad to professionally and compassionately share the options each pregnant mother has regardless of her beliefs and leanings and we will never push them into a decision. We make it very clear to our clients when counseling through options that we will be here to support them in whatever way we can, regardless of their decision.

Our hours are Monday/Wednesday 8-5 pm and Tuesday/Thursday 10-8 pm; feel free to come for a tour and clear up any confusion about our organization.

Sincerely,  
Christa Wentzel  
Lowell

### hold council to their word

To The Editor,

We as a people look at Washington D.C.; and in Michigan, to Lansing to a lesser degree and ask ourselves how it is that so many unelected people can make so many decisions that affect our lives? We did not vote for them and they do not have a check and balance as our elected officials do.

We question these folks in Washington D.C. and every state capital yet we never seem to question those closest to us, our city officials. In Lowell we elect five (5) city council members. These are the individuals that we choose to represent us. They appoint a treasurer, a city manager, a city attorney and a city clerk. These are mandated by the City Charter and [are] uniformly considered to be what is a necessity to run a city.

These necessary positions are prescribed to have an indefinite length of time to their appointment, meaning that these individuals are NOT guaranteed a job for any reason and the council can

terminate them "at will." This is what we should expect from the individuals that WE elect, such that when the appointed individual does not seem to have the best interest of our community in mind, or action, that they should no longer receive the support of this community.

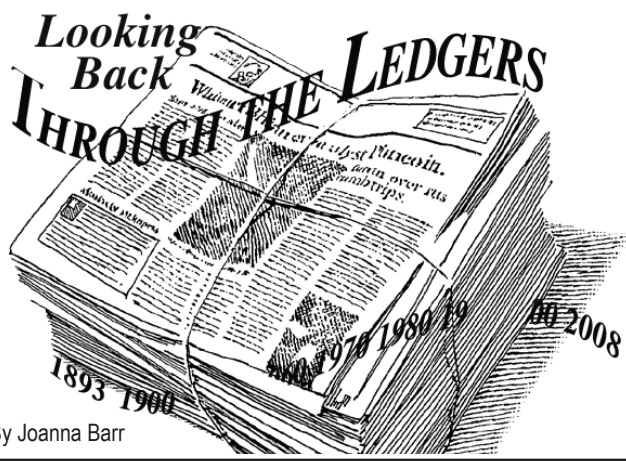
Now our Charter calls for US to vote for the city council and for them to appoint the four (4) positions listed, but did you know that we have 14 boards that the council appoints and that when they are appointed they cannot be removed without legal action? The board members are limited by length of time that they serve but not in their actions. If they do not agree with the officials that we elect, those five (5) individuals that represent US, there is nothing that can be done to remove them from their position short of a tribunal. "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men."

This city has been dealing with the improperly built/designed/operated/conceived "biodigester" since the beginning of its startup. The smell has placed Lowell in unfavorable light across the state of Michigan and in some media, across

the nation. Contrary to chairman Canfield's belief that it is an individual or two that is causing the bad press for this city, it IS the biodigester (city council meeting Sept 6, 2016)! What is the Lowell Light & Power board's answer? It is not to shut the biodigester down but rather form a PAC (Political Action Committee) and challenge the loudest voice on the city council, Mayor Altoft. They then file a complaint against the mayor for violating the open meetings act (which has been investigated and not substantiated), start a recall campaign against him and decide to run the chairman of the LL&P board for city council against him. That way they can strong arm the remaining city councilmembers and have all of the power in the city of Lowell.

Forward Lowell was founded by the Lowell Light & Power board and their "friends" (22+ percent are either past or present LL&P board members or family of board members) to protect their fiefdom, their little power kingdom, with the chance to add another cable company to their services and a natural gas plant on the south side of the river.

To The Editor,  
continued, page 12



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal Sept. 16, 1891

The big threshing records are beginning to come in. This week Wm. Rexford threshed for Chas. Higgins, of Keene, 412 bushels of oats in 55 minutes.

Wm. Farrell's 2-year-old child wandered into the swamp back of his house, near Ada, one day last week, and was lost. After an all night search it was found next day, nearly two miles from where it entered the swamp.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger Sept. 14, 1916

Nearly 500 pupils enrolled in Lowell schools. More equipment being added. The total enrollment of the

public school has increased to 483, nine more than last week. To accommodate these extra students a number of new desks have been ordered. They were shipped by the American Seating company September 12, and will be placed in the rooms where they are needed at once. It was found necessary to provide also a dozen new tables for Mechanical Drawing. This work will be strongly emphasized this year. A comparatively large number have enrolled in the course and eventually work will be done along the line of Geometrical Drawing, Machine Drawing, Architectural Drawing, Structural Drawing, and Machine Design. It is believed that these branches will fully meet the natural demand for manual- training which exists in every school. Classes of this type will probably be offered in night school this winter.

Readers:- Owing to our preparations for a strike, our service for the past two weeks has not been up to the usual standard. Our regular news service will be resumed next week and the promised new story of the Mexican border will begin.

Harold Anderson is an expert bike rider and occasionally does a double stunt riding and eating ice cream. Wouldn't be surprised to see him enjoying a plate of soup awheel one of these days.

Mrs. J. N. Hubbel received a set of post card views of Atlantic City and ocean, and a box of chocolates from her son Ward, who has been at that resort and had a swim in the ocean.

Dr. Bert E. Quick left Tuesday for Winfield, Kansas, where he has accepted the professorship in Biology in Southwestern College.

Looking Back, continued, page 14

## We love to hear from you!

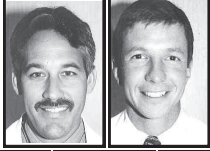
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Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher, duplicate comments/authors within a short period may 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](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com) ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.

# health



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

## death rates in the U.S.

A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association last year looked at death rates and causes of death in the United States between 1969 and 2013.

The overall death rate has declined by more than 40 percent since 1969. These rates are standardized by age and adjusted because the U.S. population is getting older. Another way to look at the data is to view the trends in premature deaths. Between 1969 and 2013 the years of potential

life lost decreased by more than 50 percent. The death rate for men is higher than women. The leading causes for men were heart disease, cancer and unintentional injuries. The leading causes for women were cancer, heart disease and COPD.

The leading causes of death in 2013 overall, in order, are heart disease, cancer, COPD, unintentional injuries, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, influenza or pneumonia, kidney disease, and suicide.

We've made significant progress over the past several years in improving overall health and reducing overall death rates. Preventative deaths have been significantly reduced by controlling risk factors, such as high blood pressure, smoking and high cholesterol. Unfortunately, obesity related death rates have declined more slowly in recent years indicating that the obesity epidemic is a serious problem in the United States.

In the U.S., we are becoming healthier and living longer because of the decrease in years lost to preventable disease. As our population ages we need to continue our efforts to control obesity, smoking, high blood pressure and elevated cholesterol.

# Social Security for children battling cancer

Social Security provides benefits for children who suffer from many disabling diseases, including some forms of cancer. These benefits could help with the additional costs of caring for an ill child. Although children haven't paid Social Security taxes and, thus, cannot be covered for Social Security disability benefits, they may receive disability benefits through the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. SSI pays benefits to disabled children who have limited income and resources.

If you wish to apply for benefits for your child, you'll need to complete an application for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and a Child Disability Report. The report collects information about your child's disabling condition, and about how it affects his or her ability to function.

The SSI program has strict limits on the amount of income and assets you can

have. It is a "needs-based" program for people who have low family income and resources. Contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 between 7am and 7pm business days to find out if the income and resources of the parents and the child are within the allowed limits. If yes, you will make an appointment to file the SSI application.

Before the scheduled appointment, go to [www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/apply-child](http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/apply-child) and fill out the online Child Disability Report. At the end of the report,

we'll ask you to sign a form that gives the child's doctor(s) permission to give us information about the child's disability. We need this information to make a decision on your child's application.

Social Security is here to provide benefits for the most vulnerable members of our society — including children with severe disabilities. If you or anyone in your family needs assistance, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability).

# happy birthday

**SEPTEMBER 14**  
Christian Barnes, Dan VanDyke, Michael Timmers, Missy Ossewaarde, Megan Gee.

**SEPTEMBER 17**  
Nicholas Blough, Yvonne Swift, Dennis Denton, Dewey Francisco, Noelle Rottier.

**SEPTEMBER 15**  
Brandi Phillips, Mark Trierweiler, Nick Baker, Bryan Bitterman.

**SEPTEMBER 18**  
Jon Ossewaarde.

**SEPTEMBER 16**  
Jason Fetterhoff.

**SEPTEMBER 19**  
Abbey Goff, Megan Claypool, Brian Ryder, Renae Heinicke, Griff Brenk, Julie Kline.

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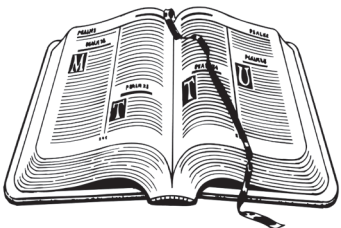
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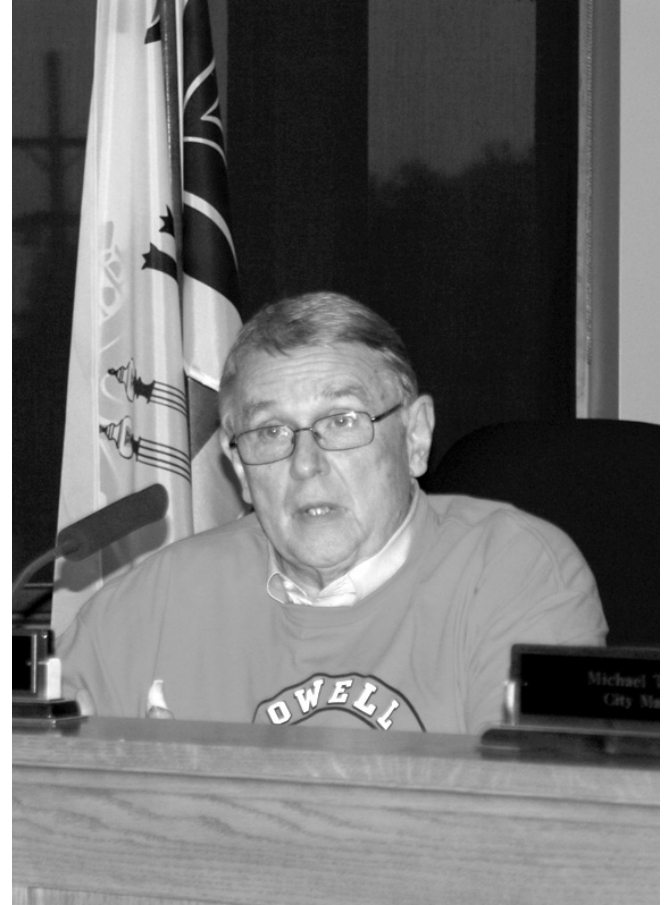
# City council meeting continued

to all of us. We're hearing from the residents who want the system shut down and fixed. I can understand that. I accept it. If I could pull the switch tonight, I'd do that. I'd shut it down, but the best course of action for us to take is to fix the digester. Last week we ended up hiring the top odor expert in the country. They were here on site for two days identifying the sources of odor and taking air samples. [...] I want you to know the buck stops with me. I'm the point person for this project. I accept the responsibility, but we need to make this thing work and we need to make it work without odor. We are committed to doing that. [...] We're no longer taking or accepting any waste streams at the site. We're no longer taking deliveries of the materials that we would feed into the digester. That's intended to give us some space in the sense we can fix the biological process that's been not working the way it should be. More importantly, Western Environmental came to the site. They came back with a recommendation for us to do two things. One is, we believe the two primary sources of the remaining odor, one is coming from a vent pipe in the top of the building and it's emitting whatever odors are inside the building and secondly, as you may or may not know, we're going to cover the top of the pre-treatment wastewater system. The thing that they've done, though, in terms of the recommendation is we're going to bring to the site

what's called a carbon absorption vessel. [...] We hope to do this as quickly as possible and I like the fact that they recommended something to us that we can do straight away. As quickly as I can get the vessel on site, as quickly as I can get people in place to do the work, we will have it connected and hopefully it starts functioning the way it should and hopefully it deals with this problem in a way that's responsive to the complaints on the odor issues that the citizens have had to deal with over the last 45 days. I'm trying to do what I think is the best course of action in the fastest way and it's coming from the recommendation of our advisers. These people have done over 500 different projects dealing with odors issues and so I have confidence in the work that they're going to do. I can't promise you that the fix will be overnight, though. I wish I could, but I have to believe that I'm going to do whatever I can to fix this issue. It's unacceptable to us. [...] I remain committed to our goal and that is to produce clean energy without odor and we won't rest until it's done odor free." When Northrup was finished it was the audience's turn to air their complaints and grievances. Citizens compared the biodigester's stench to a rotting corpse or burning feces and complained of ruined summers, sleepless nights and decreasing property values. Some called for the facility to be

closed immediately. "It seems to me that what you're doing is you're running an experiment in our children's bedrooms," said a local resident. "You're doing it in our living rooms. [...] There is something in that smell. Do we know the long term effects of that? Our children are breathing it in closed classrooms, it's coming in through the ventilation. We don't know that. Unless you want to assume the long term medical costs and risks involved in [releasing] an unknown, toxic, noxious odor, then I am saying to close it down immediately. [...] I don't think my husband, battling cancer, should be exposed to this on a daily basis. I think we should be put up in hotels until this smell is gone. This is unconscionable." "I'm tired of being lied to," said a local resident. "You say it's going to be fixed, it's better than it was. It isn't." "I would suggest that school be suspended until the smell is gone because our children could be subjected to unknown... whatever it is," said one local resident. "Until you can define what's in it, school should be suspended." "Who are your investors," another local resident asked Northrup. "The company that owns [the biodigester] is called Lowell Energy AD," Northrup said. "Is there any principal owner of Amway funding this project somehow through a back door," the same man asked. "I can't answer that question," Northrup said. The unruly crowd responded with derisive hooting and hollering. After several citizens demanded that the biodigester be shut down "now" or "tonight," mayor Jeff Altoft asked Lowell city attorney Dick Wendt to explain the legal reasons why that is impossible. "There are really two agreements that apply with respect to the operation of this biodigester," Wendt said. "First is a lease agreement between the city and LEAD in which the city leases a portion of the facilities and the properties where this facility is located. LEAD pays rent and there is a lease agreement that applies. The second agreement is called a power purchase agreement. That is an agreement between LEAD, the owner of the company and Lowell Light & Power. LEAD agrees to produce a certain amount of energy and Lowell Light & Power agrees to purchase

energy from LEAD. Those are the two controlling agreements. [...] The lease requires that if, in fact, there is a breach of the lease or a violation of the lease, then the city is required to give written notice." Wendt then read aloud the following passage from the lease agreement between LEAD and the city: "Without the consent of the city, LEAD, the operator of the facility, cannot use the premises where they have their operation [for] any article or substance having an offensive odor." "It is the city's position that, in fact, as we all know, there is a very offensive odor there," Wendt said. "If that occurs, then under the lease agreement the city is required to give written notice. [...] Notice was delivered on [Aug. 18]. It was mailed. That notice provides that the operator of the facility, LEAD, has 30 business days after that notice in which it is to use reasonable diligence to resolve the problem. If it's determined they can't resolve that problem within 30 [business] days but they continue to work on it with due diligence, then they have a reasonable period of time after that in an attempt to correct the problem. [...] During that period of time LEAD, the operator of the facility, is required to correct the problem. If they can't correct the problem during that period, they are required to submit a plan for correcting the problem, which has to be acceptable to Lowell Light & Power." "Fixing it is the fastest course of action to resolve the odor issues," Northrup said. "The reality is there's over 750,000 gallons of materials in those tanks. When we remove it at 6,000 gallons per truck, the logistics of trying to do that are..." "If I had my way it would be shut down right



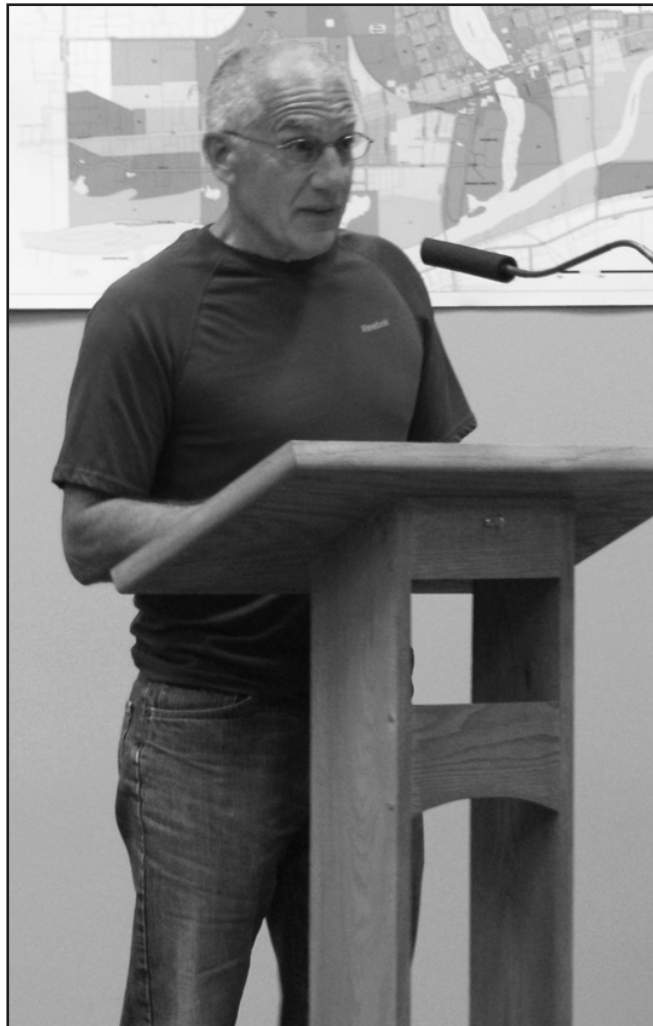
**Lowell city attorney Dick Wendt explained the legal reasons the biodigester cannot be immediately shut down.**

now," Altoft said. "It's not fair to the citizens. Someone made the comment earlier that this was just a political thing. It's not a political thing because our town does stink. It stinks terrible. I hope they can clean it up, I really do, but if they can't, it's got to go. It probably will get nasty, but I hope it doesn't. We have to work through the lawyers just like with everything else." In some better-smelling business, the council approved a special event permit for Main St. BBQ's Sept 10 barbecue contest, discussed parking ordinances but made no changes to them and heard an update about the Lowell Showboat from Lou D'Agostino, chairperson of the "Re-Build the Lowell Showboat" committee at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

"What we'd like to do is build something on pillars, a permanent structure

with the same footprint as the Showboat now," D'Agostino said. "Nothing has been designed. Nothing has been set in stone." The city council then voted unanimously to "approve an application to the [Michigan Department of Environmental Quality] requesting the construction of a dock and structure on top along the Riverwalk." New city manager Michael Burns was sworn in at the beginning of the meeting. "I just want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to come here," Burns said. "It's been a really good experience so far. I'm looking forward to working with the community and working with the people in the community to make things better."

**The council's next regular meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, Sept. 19.**



**Lou D'Agostino updated the council about plans to replace the Lowell Showboat.**

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**ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL**

# Art auction set to raise money for gallery move

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

LowellArts! is auctioning off over 50 pieces of artwork by West Michigan artists to raise money for their move to Main St. The Moving to Main Art Auction ends Oct. 1. LowellArts! needs to raise \$1.2 million in order to complete their move.

"This art auction allows regional artists a very significant way to participate in raising funds for the new LowellArts space," said LowellArts! executive director Lorain Smalligan. "It is a very exciting time for LowellArts and the artist's community. We have been amazed by the overwhelming response we have gotten from area artists in the amount and the quality of the art that they have donated. We hope that many people take this opportunity to show their support for the artists, the project, and the auction by bidding generously on this artwork in the coming weeks."

With over 50 different pieces in the auction, there is something to suit every taste and every bank account.

"We've got a really good mix of photography, mixed media, 2D, some nice medium sized ceramic sculpture, a couple sculptural things that hang on the wall and paintings including watercolors, pastels, acrylics and oils," said Janet Teunis, LowellArts! project director. "There are a couple pieces that came as a pair, so we might auction those together and there are some smaller pieces we might auction as a group."

All bidding will be done online at [biddingforgood.com/Moving2MainArtAuction](http://biddingforgood.com/Moving2MainArtAuction). The LowellArts! Gallery at 149 S. Hudson will have all of the artwork on display until the auction ends or you can view the pieces in the auction at that website. Feel free to share that link with any out-of-state art collectors, LowellArts! can ship the artwork to wherever the winning bidder lives.

"Everything that we have in the gallery will be on the Bidding for Good website and all the bidding will happen online," Teunis said. "We'll have the artwork up here from

Sept. 13 through Oct. 1, so people can come and see it in person rather than online, because that makes a big difference."

For more information about the auction, the move or their other programs and events, call 616-897-8545 or visit the LowellArts!

website, [lowellartsmi.org](http://lowellartsmi.org).

"It's been a really great way for artists to participate in our campaign," Teunis said. "Maybe they don't

have a lot of money to give, but this way they can contribute in a really significant way."



Janet Teunis, LowellArts! project director, with some of the artwork up for auction.

## BBQ competition, continued

Erin VanEpps. "I think, being our first one, this will actually make it memorable. It could have been a lot worse, but nobody will ever forget this."

"This is [a] great event, but the weather could have been better," said attendee Bucky Curtis. "It's going to

be an annual event, they're going to do it every year and next year's will be better."

"The storm came in very, very quickly," said attendee Tina Dickerman. "Umbrellas were going backwards and everybody ran inside. Some of us were holding the tents, but to no

avail. Some of them are in the dumpster now. It's okay, everybody tried valiantly. It's been a great event otherwise. They've had a really great turnout. The food is very good."

Four of the seven contestants dropped out because of the weather, but the three remaining spent hours and hours smoking their meats, a welcome antidote to biodigester odors.

"We got here and set up yesterday afternoon at about six," said Dean DeGrote, captain of the "Black Ace 998" team who won first prize for their pork ribs. "We started the fire pit at about one in the morning and they've been going ever since. Your briskets usually cook about 12 or 13 hours."

KayLee Westerhuis was the winner in three categories: beef brisket, pork shoulder and chicken. She said her father Jim Westerhuis has been teaching her how and she only started barbecuing five days earlier.

"It feels really good, it was fun," Westerhuis said. "I can't believe I won! I started my own fire for the first time five days ago. I used a lot of lavender and honey, a lot [of] fresh herbs like rosemary and thyme from our garden and I used good wood."



Blair Diamond and Dean DeGrote from the "Black Ace 998" team took first place with their pork ribs.



Main Street BBQ owner Erin VanEpps with three category winner KayLee Westerhuis.



A stormy Saturday afternoon didn't keep barbecue fans away from the Main Street BBQ Pink Arrow BBQ competition.



# LHS student coordinates Hearts of Gold Play-Doh Drive fundraiser for hospital and Pink Arrow Pride

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Jillian Riney, a senior at Lowell High School, has started the Hearts of Gold Play-Doh Drive, a program that will provide fun for kids in the hospital and raise money for Pink Arrow Pride. When you spend \$1 on a can of Play-Doh, the can is donated to Helen DeVos Children's Hospital and \$.45 will be donated to Pink Arrow Pride.

"\$1 buys one can," Riney said. "From that, \$.55 pays for the Play-Doh's wholesale price and the rest is donated to Pink Arrow Pride. My goal is to collect 5,000 cans. I have donation boxes at Springrove Variety, Bernard's Ace Hardware and Keiser's Kitchen. I'll be at Fallasburg festival and at as many events as possible. If anyone wants to donate cash or write a check, they can make the check out to Lake Michigan Credit Union. They have set up a special 'deposit only' account."



LHS senior Jillian Riney has donation boxes like this set up at Springrove Variety, Bernard's Ace Hardware and Keiser's Kitchen.

After some early setbacks, Riney made connections with local and international businesses that got the drive on track. A viral video also helped put her fundraiser in the public eye.

"The first thing I did was contact Helen DeVos Children's Hospital," Riney said. "They loved the idea and wanted to be a part of it. My next step was to get in contact with Hasbro, the manufacturer of Play-Doh. When they got back to me their answer was, 'No.' I thought it was completely dead. Then I got in contact with Mike Sprenger, who owns Springrove Variety, where they sell Play-Doh. He was super helpful and jumped right on top of it. He's been super supportive, letting me set up a donation box in his store and everything. When Hasbro found out that I was really going to do it, they said they'd donate 1,000 cans of Play-Doh to get me started. Then I filmed the promotional video [youtube.com/

watch?v=bp\_d1lTRhwY]. When I released that on Facebook, the support from the community was overwhelming. Lowell Red Arrows and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce shared it immediately and everyone in the Lowell community has been very supportive."

"She has worked very hard," said Pink Arrow Pride co-founder Teresa Beachum. "I wish her well in her campaign for the children at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. She's thought of a really great project for this community to support."

Although only a high school student, Riney has a long history of volunteer work in the Lowell community.

"I usually volunteer a lot during the summer," Riney said. "This summer I volunteered at FROM a lot because I belong to the Lowell Women's Club. I really like volunteering. I've been involved with student council, Interact, National

Honors Society, and Lowell Women's Club.

Riney got the idea when she was looking for summer volunteer opportunities.

"This summer I was looking for something cool to do and I was looking at the list of things they need on the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital website," Riney said. "One of the items was Play-Doh and that really stuck out to me. It kind of reminds you that real little kids are in there."

To donate or get more information, call 571-232-5844 or send an email to heartsofgold@gmail.com. You can also mail donations to the Hearts of Gold Play-Doh Drive at 4185 Bedaki Ave. NE. Make checks payable to Lake Michigan Credit Union.

"I don't think people realize how special an institution a children's hospital is and how much they do," Riney said. "They truly do try their best to make sure the kids are happy and the families are okay."

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Red Arrow

- FOOTBALL

# SPORTS

## Arrows dominate longtime rival Pioneers in 34-7 win

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

It started with a big play and ended in a big win when the Red Arrows varsity football team headed to East Grand Rapids last Friday for non-conference play against longtime foe in a Great American Rivalry Series (GARS) game that ended with Lowell on top 34-7.

The explosive start came from the feet of Arrow Brady Douma who zoomed down the field for a 90-yard kickoff return, through a sea of EGR defenders, making it over the goal line in the first play of the game. Ahead 7-0 after a successful kick from George Gonzales, with only 12 seconds off the clock, the stage was set for the night. Arrows' defense dominated allowing the Pioneers only a single score from Christopher Steers on a one-yard run in the third and Lowell offense kept striking all game long with David Kruse leading the way.

Kruse was selected by GAR officials as the player of the game and rightfully so. After teammate Douma's huge opening score Kruse found the end zone three times in the second quarter including a 99-yard run that put Lowell up 26-0 at the half. Overall the junior quarterback rushed for 163 yards and passed for 158.

Addison Buckius scored the Arrows' final touchdown on a five-yard run in the third quarter in his only carry of the night following a 12 play 89-yard drive down the field. Buckius also received the ball twice for 90 yards while Austin Branagan gained 38 yards in three catches and Hayden Barry caught the pigskin twice for 30 yards.

Nate Stephens, who was selected pre-game by the GARS as the Scholar Athlete of the Game, had a good night rushing,

picking up 52 yards in nine carries. The Ivy League bound senior maintains a GPA of 4.230 qualifying him for the recognition. Sage Solomonson, Barry, Gonzales and Ethan Kaminski also moved the ball forward for the Arrows on the ground.

The team is now 3-0, picking up wins in extremely competitive non-conference play. Heading into their first OK White showdown this Friday night, the Arrows will welcome new conference member Ottawa Hills to Red Arrow Stadium for the ninth annual Pink Arrow Pride event that raises money for Gilda's Club of Lowell.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 pm and shirts, which serve as an entry ticket, will be available for purchase onsite.

The day also features both varsity volleyball and soccer at 3:30 pm, honoree ceremonies prior to each sporting event and fun and food on the grounds. Gates open at 2:30 pm. Parking will be limited so fans are encouraged to use the shuttle service provided at both Lowell Middle School and Cherry Creek Elementary located on Foreman Street starting at 4:30. Return trips will begin at the start of the fourth quarter.

### Lowell v East Grand Rapids

Score	34	7
First Downs	16	15
Rushing Attempts	42	36
Yards Rushing	233	161
Yards Passing	158	165
Net Yards	391	326
Passes Attempted	12	18
Passes Completed	8	10
Interceptions	0	0
Offensive Plays	54	54
Average Gain	7.2	6.0
Fumbles: Number/Lost	0/0	3/3
Penalties: Number/Yards	8/61	10/75
Number of Punts/Yards	1/28	2/65
Average Per Punt	28	32.5
Punt Returns: Number/Yards	1/7	0/0
Number of Kickoffs/Yard	6/281	2/75
Average Per Kickoff	46.8	37.5
Kickoff Returns: Number/Yards		
Int. Returns: Number/Yards	2/101	3/99
Possession Time	28:11	19:49
Third-Down Conversions	5/12	4/11
Fourth-Down Conversions	1/2	2/4



## Sports Summaries

### BOYS SOCCER

Despite fierce defense on behalf of opponent Cedar Springs, the Lowell Red Arrows boys soccer team brought home a 5-0 win last week Tuesday after a rain delay stopped action in the second half of play. Lowell was in control most of the game with five Arrows finding the back of the net during the OK White showdown. Elijah Dixon, Robbie

Dubisky, Austin Pollock, Logan Landman and Jonah Epema scored for the team while Jay Stadt, Tristan Stephens, Johnny Draigh and Landman were credited with assists.

### GIRLS GOLF

Indian Trails Golf Course was the site of last Wednesday's girls varsity golf OK White conference jamboree where Lowell earned a third-place finish with a combined card total of 197. The Red Arrows fell below winner Forest Hills Northern (170) and Forest Hills Central (179) and topped Northview (217), Cedar Springs (225), Belding (226) and host Ottawa Hills (306). Paige Fosburg, Kenzie Uhen and Taylor Furtaw led the effort tallying scores of 45, 46 and 47 respectively.

### TENNIS

Lowell boys varsity tennis hit the road for the lake shore last week to take on non-conference competitor Muskegon Reeths-Puffer on Thursday. Red Arrows' Andrew deVoest and Collier Kaufman put up wins for the team at first and fourth singles in a 5-2 loss. The teams' Tuesday game against Ottawa Hills was postponed due to weather and has been rescheduled for September 27. The team is currently 1-3-1 with their lone tie coming in their only conference game thus far this season.

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

1	7	6	2	8	5	9	3	4
9	3	2	7	4	6	1	8	5
5	4	8	3	1	9	2	7	6
8	9	1	4	7	3	5	6	2
2	6	3	9	5	8	4	1	7
7	5	4	1	6	2	3	9	8
4	8	9	6	2	1	7	5	3
6	1	7	5	3	4	8	2	9
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M	I	N	S	K		F	A	B		M	I	C	A			
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**FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE**

**BOYS VARSITY TENNIS**  
 \* Denotes a game at the high school tennis courts  
 9/17 at 8:30 am Sailor Invite at South Christian  
 9/19 at 4:15 pm Forest Hills Northern  
 9/21 at 4:15 pm Forest Hills Central\*  
 9/22 at 4:15 pm Kenowa Hills\*

**VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY**  
 \* Denotes a meet at the Lowell High School Campus  
 9/17 at 8 am Sparta Invite  
 9/21 at 4:30 pm Jamboree #2 at Greenville

**GIRLS VARSITY GOLF**  
 \* Denotes a home meet at Arrowhead Golf Course  
 9/19 at 3:30 pm Greenville at Bowen Lake  
 9/21 at 3:30 pm Forest Hills Northern at Egypt Valley

**BOYS VARSITY SOCCER**  
 \* Denotes a game at the Red Arrow Memorial Stadium  
 9/18 at 3:30 pm Ottawa Hills\* (Pink Arrow Game)  
 9/20 at 6:45 pm Forest Hills Northern\*

**BOYS VARSITY FOOTBALL**  
 \*Denotes a game at the Red Arrow Memorial Stadium  
 9/18 at 7 pm Ottawa Hills\* (Pink Arrow Game)

**GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL**  
 \*Denotes a game at Lowell High School Main Gym  
 9/18 at 3:30 pm Ottawa Hills\*  
 9/22 at 6:30 pm at Northview

**GIRLS VARSITY SWIM & DIVE**  
 9/22 at 8 pm at Mona Shores

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Red Arrow

- X-COUNTRY

# SPORTS

## Lowell harriers finish well in first jamboree

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell boys and girls varsity cross country teams welcomed the OK White conference to Red Arrow nation last Wednesday for the first jamboree of

the season and competed over the weekend at the Bredeweg Invite in a busy week on the course.

At home the two teams finished well among the newly aligned conference

with the ladies placing fourth with 125 points and the gentleman fifth with a total of 120. The girls team was led by the efforts of junior Jillian Fidler who placed sixteenth among the field with a time of 23:28 and sophomores Lauren Aud (24:29) and Amber Clouse (24:59) who placed 24th and 26th respectively. Other top finishers included juniors Dawn Kondor (25:19) and Katrina Droski (25:53), senior Kyla Dixon ((25:55), sophomore Marlie Fowler (27:11) and freshman Alexis Haines (28:39).

Girls head coach Paul Judd said that the new conference may look easier but still presents its challenges, "Whenever you lose four of the top teams in the state it makes life a little easier. That being said, it will be a big change not getting to compete against East Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Christian, Caledonia and Jenison as they presented a picture

of where we want to go with the program. But we will still face Forest Hills Northern, Cedar Springs and Forest Hills Central who are frequent visitors to the state finals."

Judd went on to say that the new lineup will not change the team's ultimate focus and goals. "I would not say that the realignment changes what we are shooting for, as our goal is to run hard and let the other teams know they are in the race. That is just as important as fast times as the art of competing truly measures you."

In the boys contest expected front runner Eric Judd led the Arrows in their fifth-place 120-point finish with a time of 18:56. The run earned him a personal fifth-place finish overall as he continues to lead the varsity team in more than just good times. "Eric is our number one runner this year," said boys head coach Clay VanderWarf. "He is a

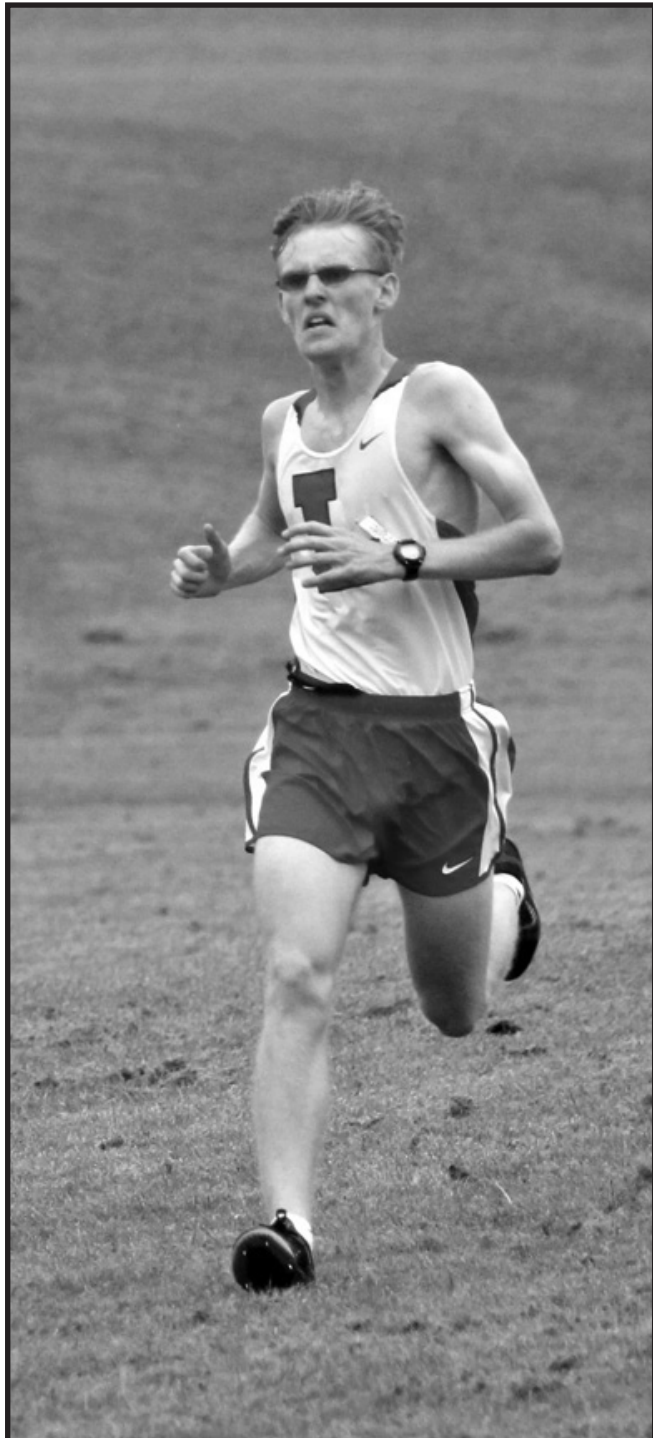
hard worker and has put in a lot of miles this summer that I think will pay off for him this season. I think what drives him is his own personal satisfaction. He pushes himself because he wants to run well. The others see this and want to work hard as well."

Judd was followed to the finish line by teammates Caleb Swart (19:36), Parker Grant (20:40), Seth Palmer (20:48) and Kyle Cater (20:56) which closely aligns with VanderWarf's prediction for the season moving forward. "Kyle Cater won't be too far behind him [Judd]. Caleb and Zach Swart are a couple of freshmen who look very promising." Also mentioning runners Alex Brandt, Parker Grant, Seth Palmer, and Thomas Hubert as possible threats on the course.

Saturday at the Bredeweg Invite at West Ottawa High School the

two Arrow troupes earned matching eleventh-place finishes. The ladies finished with a total of 283 points and were once again led by Fidler (21:39) and Aud (22:10). Freshman Audrey Conrad also had a standout performance placing 15th with a time of 22:59. "The surprise of the group would be Audrey Conrad as you never know what you will get from a freshman. Audrey is a new student to LHS and has set high goals for herself," said Judd.

Caleb Swart led the boys team in their 258-point finish coming in 24th place, six places and seconds in front of Judd. Arrows' Grant (18:49), Palmer (19:53) and Kenny Stump (20:09) rounded out the day's top five scorers.



Senior runner Eric Judd placed fifth overall to lead the Arrows as they hosted the first OK White jamboree of the season.

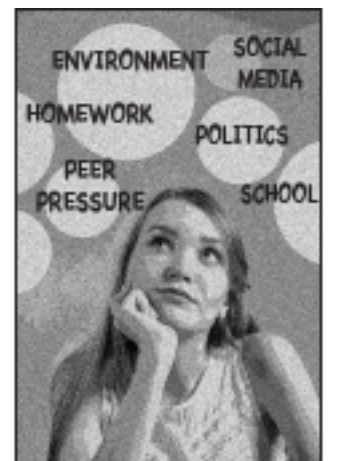
**This week the runners will head north to the Sparta Invitational on Saturday morning with races scheduled to begin at 8 am.**

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# obituaries

## ITEEN

Lee Roy Iteen Sr., age 71 of Thomas Lake, Gowen, passed away Wednesday August 31, 2016, at his home under the care of his family and Spectrum Health Hospice. He was born in Flint, September 6, 1944, the son of Clifford W. and Eula E. (Fox) Iteen. In 1952 he became ill with poliomyelitis and began his lifetime goal of success and inspiration for his family and many others. He was a patient of Mary Free Bed for recovery and rehabilitation. He was employed at Goodwill Industries. On April 13, 1968, in Lakeview, he married Catherine F. Hilty. Lee then worked for Steelcase Corporation and retired in 1991. He continued to be a positive influence in many lives with his love for Cathy and their family. He



considered himself the # 1 U of M fan. He was coach for his family in all sports and himself played wheelchair basketball (player #44 on the Grand Rapids Pacers) and baseball. He is survived by his wife, Cathy; their children, Scott (Cathy) Iteen, Anne (Jim) Byard, Mark (Mara) Iteen, Leann (William) Paiz, Lee (Jennifer) Iteen Jr.; grandchildren, Bryan (Bethany) Byard, Justin Byard, Zackary (Joy) Byard, Carissa Paiz, Austin Iteen, Mallory Paiz, Madalynne Iteen, Alisha Iteen, Joshua Byard; great-grandchildren, Andrew, Aaron, Austin and Timmy Byard, Riley Paiz and Nathan Byard; brother, Guy (Marj) Iteen; sister, Sharon Sutherland; brothers- and sisters-in-law, Randy Dick, Luann McBride, Cheryl (Dale) Preston, Gary (Deb) Dick; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial services were held Saturday, September 3, 2016, at Greenville Community Church with Pastor Bryan Savage officiating. Memorial contributions are suggested to Spectrum Health Hospice or Mary Free Bed Hospital. Memories and condolences may be shared via [hurstfh.com](http://hurstfh.com). Hurst Funeral Home Greenville served the Iteen Family.

# Tips from Social Security when applying for disability

Becoming disabled and unable to work is a very stressful time in one's life. There are so many questions and unknowns when you have to transition out of the workforce due to medical issues. While an employer may offer short or long-term disability, most people faced with a disability will file for benefits with Social Security.

After reading about Social Security disability, if you're ready to file, you can do that online as well.

When applying, be prepared to answer a number of questions including:

- When your conditions became disabling;
- Dates you last worked;

If you're facing life with a disability and don't know where to start, we encourage you to visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/)

Social Security tips, continued, page 14

United States Postal Service  
**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

1. Publication Title: **THE LOWELL LEDGER**

2. Issue Date: **9/8/16**

3. Issue Frequency: **ONCE A WEEK**

4. Number of Issues Published Annually: **52**

5. Annual Subscription Price: **\$25.00 & \$36.00**

6. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer):  
**105 N. BROADWAY, PO BOX 128, LOWELL, MI 48331**

7. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer):  
**105 N. BROADWAY, PO BOX 128, LOWELL, MI 48331**

8. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):  
**Publisher: JONATHAN JACOBS, 105 N. BROADWAY, PO BOX 128, LOWELL, MI 48331**  
**Editor: JONATHAN JACOBS, 105 N. BROADWAY, PO BOX 128, LOWELL, MI 48331**  
**Managing Editor: JONATHAN JACOBS, 105 N. BROADWAY, PO BOX 128, LOWELL, MI 48331**

9. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

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 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months  
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

12. Publication Title: **THE LOWELL LEDGER**

13. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: **9/8/16**

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		2200	2200
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation	(1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)	277	212
	(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)	1143	1112
	(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution	281	283
	(4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	0	0
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		1701	1607
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary, and other free)	(1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541	0	0
	(2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541	0	0
	(3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	0	0
e. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), and (3))		0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		1701	1607
g. Copies not Distributed		499	593
h. Total (Sum of 15g and 15f)		2200	2200
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15g times 100)		100%	100%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership:  Publication required. Will be printed in the **9/14/16** issue of this publication.  Publication not required.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **PUBLISHER** *J. Jacobs* Date: **9/8/16**

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

# To The Editor, continued

It was reported on December 9, 2013 (LL&P board meeting minutes, page five) that Greg Canfield thanked Spart (LEAD) for 'their patience and expertise in bringing the biodigester project to the Lowell Community.' During the Sept. 6, 2016 city council meeting you can see exactly what an expert Mr. Northrup is, or is not. I am starting to believe that after the August 17, 2016 LL&P board meeting, the past 18 months and after the Sept 6, 2016 city council meeting that LEAD and the LL&P board members know as much about experts and expertise as the Obama administration knows about transparency. Here is a list, by the numbers and statements, that should concern all of the citizens of the city of Lowell and those in the surrounding area:

- Original proposed cost \$2,100,000 (MLIVE July, 22, 2011).
- Cost at the time of startup \$6,000,000 (February 13, 2015 Grand Rapids Business Journal).
- Projected energy production at the time of proposal 800kwh, equivalent to 800 homes (Feb. 2015 GRBJ, LEAD press release Feb. 20, 2014).
- Described energy production at the LL&P board meeting on Aug 17, 2016 600kwh range.
- Actual energy production since startup as noted on Sept. 6, 2016 2,000,000kwh over 546 days (Greg Northrup, Lowell City Council meeting Sept. 6, 2016).
- This translates to 129.1989kwh (equivalent to 129 homes) of energy produced, on average, by the anaerobic biodigester.
- Running a properly designed, properly built and properly operated power generating facility at 100 percent capacity is not practical for both safety and operational standpoints,

most are operated at 80 percent (industry standard practice).

- Operating the LEAD biodigester at 80 percent of designed output would produce 640kwh, not 129.1989kwh.
- 800kwh is equal, per Greg Northrup, Greg Pierce and the entire LL&P board to 20 percent of the state mandate renewable energy requirements (Feb. 13, 2015 Grand Rapids Business Journal).
- Jim Hodges said that it will bring more than energy to our city - a bad odor and a bad reputation (MLIVE January 9, 2014).
- August 17, 2016, Greg Northrup stated that the methane leaking from the plant was between the 600ppm and 700ppm rate; 500ppm is the allowable limit (20 percent to 40 percent above Federal allowable limits) (LL&P board meeting August 17, 2016).
- Sept 6, 2016, Greg Northrup stated that the readings were 600ppm to 800ppm over the allowable Federal limits, that is a 200 percent increase over what he had told the citizens three weeks prior (Lowell City Council meeting Sept. 6, 2016).
- Testing by Weston Solutions of Michigan showed that they were out of the parameter objectives (safe levels as dictated by OSHA) with hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide and methane. When asked about testing the air quality or carbon monoxide alarm systems, Mr. Northrup could not/did not answer the question directly and stated that there were no alarms for carbon monoxide in the plant or surrounding areas. (Any concerned citizen can request this report from City Hall via a FOIA request) (W.O. No.: 15471.001.001 dated Sept. 6, 2016)
- LL&P must still purchase renewable energy

from outside sources because they have not/cannot reach the levels mandated by the State of Michigan (10 percent in the mandated percentage required by the Michigan Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act signed into law in 2008).

Under this board they have invested heavily in coal, just after President Obama stated that he was going to bankrupt the coal industry.

Under this board they have heavily invested in wind power (approx four-five months ago) after lawsuits in Michigan have been filed in too many counties to list and across the country in state after state. Duke Energy paid \$1 million dollars to settle killing 12 bald eagles. (Can LL&P afford to spend our money on these types of lawsuits?)

Is this the expertise that we need overseeing a power generating operation? Is this the expertise you want choosing whether to buy the biodigester or, better yet, choosing the industry leading company to run it for the city of Lowell? Have we not seen more than enough lies, deceit, broken promises and, yes, bovine feces to last more than one (1) election cycle, let alone a lifetime?

Keep Forward Lowell at bay. Give the city council the power to recall ANY appointed board member from any board or commission with a dismissal vote by a plurality of the city council members, the elected officials in Lowell. Hold your council members to their word and for God's sake keep those seeking power and control away from your lives, hearts, minds and pocketbooks because they are coming.

Shawn Bowne  
Lowell

# Looking Back, continued

We are glad to state: Herman E. Jones returned home by auto from the hospital in Grand Rapids Sunday, accompanied by his son Frank, where he has been the past five weeks. He has a wooden leg and crutches and gets around fairly well. It will be remembered his limb was badly broken in a runaway and he suffered much for five weeks at his home here unable to be moved, then had to undergo the operation after all at Grand Rapids.

## 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger Sept. 18, 1941

Quoting Keats Vining: "Sure, there's a way to get rid of boxelder bugs — All you have to do is chop down the tree." Frank McMahon and Wes Roth will please apply this remedy, in person of course.

A. R. Smith, who is developing quite a nursery on his vacant ground in town and on his farm northwest of Lowell, has secured the contract for landscaping the grounds around the new home of Dr. and Mrs. Shepard.

We are again reminded of Michigan's vast spaces when we stop to think that the new Congregational minister will cover 500 miles on his trip from Calumet in the U. P. to Lowell. Then add another 500 miles or more to realize the length of the state from north to south.

Without doubt the most interesting news paragraph of the week concerns the story of a Keene Twp. lady, Mrs. Sam Detmers, who lost her purse containing \$1,000 on E. Main St., a few hours after drawing the money from the bank. Before Mrs. Detmers had discovered her loss the purse was found by two Lowell boys, Robert Flynn and Ivan Shear, who took the purse to City Hall to examine its contents. Imagine their surprise when they discovered that they had found hundreds of dollars, mostly in bills of small denomination. The boys immediately notified Officer Frank Stephens of their find and in no time at all the money was returned to its owner and Mrs. Detmers saw to it that the boys were liberally rewarded for their honesty.

The 1941 golf championship between Lowell's rival teams was decided last Thursday afternoon when the Cascadites defeated the Ioniaites, two in a row. The Cascaders enjoyed a hearty steak dinner. Incidentally, the Ioniaites enjoyed the dinner too, but not to quite the extent as the Cascaders. "As a matter of fact," quoting Ed. Quick, "if Captain Doc MacDonell was not sinking in every ball that was within 50 feet of the cup (probably with his eyes closed) the results might have been different."

Michigan shows California. Floyd Foster, who resides on a farm near Morse Lake, thought we were having a second spring the forepart of the week when he went out into his orchard and picked blossoms from an Early Richmond cherry tree and a sweet apple tree. Mr. Foster believes the blossoms are due to the warm, moist weather we have been having.

## 50 years ago Lowell Ledger Sept. 15, 1966

Capture car thieves on Main Street. Two Grand Rapids youths, Paul McCuskey and Ron Ireland, both 17, and their 16-year-old accomplice were caught in Lowell early Friday morning, after an all-night chase. Patrons of Riverview Inn, called the local police at 11:06 p. m. on Thursday and reported young men going through cars parked around the tavern. The two older boys had run off toward the river, before the police arrived. In the parking lot was a late model car with a flat tire; it had been stolen from Grand Rapids. The boys had taken the car to Flint where they sold a new tire to get money, and then had a flat tire on the way back and were evidently looking for another car with keys to steal, to get back to Grand Rapids. The 16-year-old boy was held by the police and State Police with dogs were brought in to attempt to track down the other two youths. They were trailed to the Lowell Methodist Church where there were muddy tracks inside. Further search failed to turn up the boys and the dogs lost the scent in the city. Just as the chase was about to be called off the police found the two boys walking through Main Street at 2:20 a. m. They were turned over to the Grand Rapids police on a stolen car charge.

Fire destroyed a tractor at the Ed. Roth farm on Alden Nash Ave. Tuesday evening at 6 p. m. Roth told Fire Chief Baker he had just refueled the tractor and was starting it with jumper cables.

Lowell Bakery, East Main Street, which is remodeling the adjoining building for its use, removed the old store front last week and now have a new split granite front under construction. This is another nice improvement on Main Street.

The Ledger has had its attention called to the slow-down maintenance program at Richard's Park and at the cemetery. Like many householders, when fall arrives, it takes a lot of steady work to keep lawns looking good.

Two new officers were added to the Lowell police department this week. Mike Harrington of Cascade and Donald Buchner of Belding are undergoing a training program to bring the force to its full quota of 5 members. "Pop" Kline, a member of the force for many years, announced that he will take his retirement early in October.

Wittenbach Sales and Service Company reported to police last Thursday that a transistor radio was stolen from a new 1966 car in their used car lot on West Main Street. The theft is under investigation.

Police have recovered books and papers from a creek, about 5 miles north of Greenville that were in the safe stolen from Azzarello Chevrolet & Buick, West Main St., two weeks ago. A fisherman found a metal box holding notes and the corporate seal. Further search by Kent and Montcalm police uncovered the books. The police are still looking for the safe.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger Sept. 18, 1991

City says it's ready to proceed with acquisition of Lampkin property, by eminent domain if necessary. Looking to remove the fly from the ointment, Lowell's City Council approved a resolution at Monday night's meeting that will help accelerate the acquisition of a small piece of property that intrudes into the Lowell City Airport. The property is owned by former Lowell resident, now residing in Atlanta, GA, Richard Lampkin. The resolution authorizes the staff to proceed with acquisition including eminent domain if necessary. The approval of the resolution did not go without opposition amongst a couple City Council members. Councilmen Jack Fonger and Charlie Doyle both voted against the resolution, stating the council should handle the negotiations. "This has been going on a long time, without any contact being made," Fonger said. "I think the Council should be personally involved." Doyle agreed. "No deal should be cut without the matter being brought to the Council first," he said. "He (Lampkin) had close to 40 acres and sold all but that quarter acre. Now why do you think he did that?" Lowell City Manager, Dave Pasquale said he felt at this time it was best that the City proceed with the acquisition process. "If something fair cannot be worked out, then the City would have to initiate the condemnation process," he said. "The first step will be getting an appraisal of the property." Lampkin is asking for \$20,000 plus \$2,200 to cover rent retroactive to 1972. Lampkin based his price on assessed valuations. "I don't think the appraisal figure will match what Lampkin is asking," Councilman Bill Thompson said. The City extended 12/30 runway across Lampkin's quarter acre of property in 1972. Lampkin has said nothing up until now. "The City has done me wrong. They violated my constitutional rights," Lampkin said. The Atlanta man said he kept quiet up until now because he was afraid complaining would ruin his friendly arrangement with the airport. Pasquale said the City has been waiting for Lampkin to propose a price for the property. Lampkin said it was up to the City to make the next move. He did say that unless the City makes a move that he might put up a fence to mark off his property. Lowell's City Manager said the City could not allow that because of the lives endangered by such a move. The runway handles about 65 percent of the airport's 4,000 to 4,500 takeoffs and landings each year. State officials have told the City it can not get state funding for planned improvements at the airport until the matter is resolved.

Councilman Charlie Doyle had a message for area radio and television stations, pronounce Fallsburg Park correctly. They all pronounce it 'Fallsburg Park.' That is wrong. Its correct pronunciation is F-al-las-burg Park," Doyle stressed. Doyle was set off by City Manager Dave Pasquale's incorrect pronunciation.

# Social Security tips, continued

- The names, addresses, phone numbers, and dates of visits to your doctors;
  - The names of medications that you take and medical tests you've had; and
  - Marital information.
- In addition, if you plan on applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability payments, for people with low income who haven't paid enough in Social Security taxes to be covered, you will answer questions about:
- Your current living arrangement, including who lives there and household expenses;
  - All sources of income for you and your spouse, if applicable; and
  - The amount of your resources, including bank account balances, vehicles, and other investments.
- You can view our disability starter kit at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/disability\\_starter\\_kits.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits.htm).
- Remember, we are there when you might be faced with one of the hardest obstacles of your life. Social Security helps secure today and tomorrow with critical benefits for people with severe disabilities, not just during retirement. Learn more at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

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- 6. The \_\_\_\_ Four
- 9. Muscovite or biotite
- 13. Savory taste
- 14. \*Logo of a TV network airing first Super Bowl
- 15. Bigger from side to side
- 16. Merlin's craft
- 17. Tiger's prop
- 18. Incompetent
- 19. Finnish currency, pre-euro
- 21. \*Non-contact football league
- 23. \*Hall of Fame quarterback Stabler
- 24. Twosome
- 25. Club alternative
- 28. \*Shoved to floor on TV by NFL's Jim Everett
- 30. "\_\_\_\_ Time Machine"
- 35. Secular
- 37. What a willow did?
- 39. Helicopter sound
- 40. \*Legendary Graham
- 41. Waterwheel
- 43. One algae representative
- 44. Bracelet add-on
- 46. \*Defensive Texan
- 47. As opposed to want
- 48. Sort of
- 50. Entry document
- 52. Like some martinis
- 53. Make fun of
- 55. "... \_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight"
- 57. \*Where you find some linebackers
- 61. \*2015 Rookie of the Year

CROSSWORD														
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**SEPTEMBER 7 - SEPTEMBER 13**

- Hillary Clinton left the Sept. 11 commemoration ceremony early Sunday after falling ill. She was diagnosed with pneumonia and cancelled her west coast trip.
- Bruce Springsteen again breaks the record for longest show. The E Street band played for four hours and three minutes.



- Miss Arkansas Savvy Shields has claimed the title of 2017 Miss America.
- North Korea ready for another nuclear test, South Korea says.
- Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday called for U.S. special forces out of southern Philippines.
- John Hinckley Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, has been released from Washington mental hospital for good, more than 35 years after the shooting.
- Oliver Stone, director of the movie 'Snowden,' urges President Obama to issue a pardon to Edward Snowden.

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- 64. Distinguishing feature
  - 65. "\_\_\_\_ we there yet?"
  - 67. Woven wall hanging
  - 69. Inuit shelter
  - 70. Dark loaf
  - 71. \*Philip Rivers, San \_\_\_\_ Charger
  - 72. "As \_\_\_\_ on TV"
  - 73. Swimmer's distance
  - 74. Famous fabulist
- DOWN**
- 1. "\_\_\_\_'s the word"
  - 2. Allah's cleric
  - 3. North American Grappling Association
  - 4. Brat's look
  - 5. \*Not to be roughed up
  - 6. Greek cheese
  - 7. Sailor's affirmative
  - 8. Burly
  - 9. Breath freshener
  - 10. Cartoon lightbulb
  - 11. Porcini mushrooms
  - 12. Creative
  - 15. Surrounded by a sash
  - 20. "Little \_\_\_\_ fact"
  - 22. Ooh and \_\_\_\_
  - 24. Make immoral
  - 25. \*Can't be done from behind in NFL
  - 26. Delhi policeman's club
  - 27. \*Previously an Oiler
  - 29. Garfield's cry
  - 31. Conjunction in comparatives
  - 32. Like a bathroom floor?
  - 33. One who does #58 Down
  - 34. \*Super Bowl-frequenting quarterback
  - 36. Umbilical connection
  - 38. Lake \_\_\_\_caca, South America
  - 42. Filled with bewilderment
  - 45. Popular Cuban cocktail
  - 49. Temporary craze
  - 51. Spanish loser, 1588
  - 54. Jack Sparrow's Black \_\_\_\_
  - 56. Bone-chilling
  - 57. \*1970s NFL Pro Bowlers Taylor or Armstrong
  - 58. Egg on
  - 59. Story "of Two Cities"
  - 60. State of Israel
  - 61. Safari ride
  - 62. Wraths
  - 63. Kind of palm
  - 66. Swedish shag rug
  - 68. Dip into liquid

*Puzzle solutions on page 10*

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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.

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# PINK ARROW PRIDE

PROUD PINK SPONSORS

## SCHEDULE FOR EVENT DAY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

- 2:30 pm ... **GATES OPEN**
- 3:00 pm ... **Boomers Conversation and Rebound Row Open**
- 3:30 pm ... **National Anthem presented**  
by *Dr. Donald Grant*
- 3:30 pm ... **Soccer Introduction and match - Lowell vs. Okemos Hills Bengals**
- 3:30 pm ... **Volleyball I Introduction and match - Lowell vs. Okemos Hills Bengals** - sponsored by **Enwork**

- 6:00 pm ... **Survivor and Honor Walk -**  
by *Dr. Donald Grant*
- 6:35 pm ... **Football Player and Honoree Introduction** - *Dr. Donald Grant*
- 7:00 pm ... **National Anthem presented**  
by *Dr. Donald Grant*
- 7:00 pm ... **PINK ARROW GAME - Lowell Pink Arrows vs. Okemos Hills Bengals**

**BETWEEN 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER -**  
Presentation to T-Shirt Sponsors & presentation to Lowell Girls Club from Michigan Blood

**BETWEEN 3<sup>RD</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER -**  
Present Kelly Talus Scholarship and Dr. Donald Grant Medical Scholarships

**CONCLUSION - EVERYONE invited DOWN TO the FIELD to view FIREWORKS!**  
**FOR HONOREES - Pink Arrow Jersey presentations on SOUTH END of playing field**

**PINK ARROW SHIRTS AVAILABLE AT PEP TALK & SPRINGROVE VARIETY**

# PARKING

**ALL HIGH SCHOOL EVENT PARKING MUST ENTER AT VERGENNES ENTRANCE.**



**Lower stadium lot is for Handicap and parking pass only. (must enter off of Alden Mack entrance)**

## SHUTTLE PARKING

**is available starting at 4:30 p.m. from Cherry Creek Elementary (Foreman St.) AND Lowell Middle School (Foreman St.) pick-up and drop-off area from entrance, parking in rear off Detroit St. entrance.**

**Buses will start return trips at the start of the 3rd quarter**

**SPRINGROVE VARIETY SHIRTS AVAILABLE UNTIL 4 PM FRIDAY**

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**SEPTEMBER 16:**  
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T-Shirt sales only for football season at noon

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