



FOIA reveals dollars generated by Lowell's biodigester have a way to go before costs balance

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

A couple weeks ago the Ledger made a Freedom of Information Act request for documents that would illustrate how much money has been spent on the LEAD biodigester project. According to a document called

“There has been revenue from or because of the project that has helped to offset some of the expenses.”

~ Steve Donkersloot

register,” Lowell Light & Power spent \$728,602.54 on “facility upgrades” to the Chatham St. building on Feb. 1, 2016.

“This amount reflects the total dollar amount

that Lowell Light & Power spent on matters related to the LEAD biodigester until the project was moved to our fixed asset register,” said Light & Power general manager Steve Donkersloot. “This dollar amount is made up of many things, leasehold improvements,

Lowell Light & Power staff payroll time, etc., including legal costs of \$41,060.20.”

The city of Lowell also had some legal expenses. The documents indicated a

total of \$10,517.50 in bills from the Grand Rapids law firm Dickinson Wright PLLC. Between May 28, 2015 and Nov. 30, 2016, the law firm charged for items such as sending emails and telephone conference calls, but mostly for unlisted “professional services.”

The biodigester has not only been expensive. It did generate some funds during the months it was open.

“There has been revenue from or because of the project that has helped to offset some of the expenses,” Donkersloot said. “[For example] Lowell Light & Power has received capacity credit from the biodigester valued in the



Technicians shown working on biodigester tank. Ledger photo - August 2016

tens of thousands of dollars and thousands of MIRECs [Michigan Renewable Energy Credits] which also have value.”

Between March 5, 2015

and Dec. 6, 2016, Light & Power billed LEAD for varying amounts of money

Biodigester cost, continued, page 3

LHS sports



start on page 9

LHS students perform Christmas play along with elementary school actors

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell High School welcomed the community to the performing arts center last week for their annual holiday production. This year they presented the comedic mystery Christmas Scene Investigators or Who Stole Santa Claus?

A cast of 27 high school students along with dozens of elementary age extras graced the stage for the show. Directed by LHS drama instructor Laurie Summerfield and student assistant Jacquelyn Pytlik, the show centered around a group of high school musical performers puzzled by the disappearance of their show-ending Santa Claus statue.

Fine arts' director Julia Crawford said the staff looks for Christmas-themed scripts that are appropriate for all audiences for the yearly show and chose this script because of its specific cast of characters.

“We really liked this one because our drama students would get the chance to play high school students that were interesting and at times quirky, characters but still very similar to themselves.”

Hilarity ensued as the cast of caroling classmates turn to suspects and principal Crunge, played by Jenna Perry, threatens to cancel their concert without the discovery of the missing Santa. Enter the

Clue Club, a ragtag group of nerdy geniuses on the hunt for the culprit. After breaking down the data, the calculating crew discovered the guilty party and helped all involved remember the true meaning of Christmas.

About midway through the 45-minute show, the cast was joined onstage by local elementary students who took part in a sword wielding dance from The Nutcracker, choreographed by students

Alyssa Melnik, Josealyn Pontius and Mitchell Tower. Then the full cast joined in for a chorus of We Wish You

Christmas play, continued, page 8



Lowell elementary students brandish their swords onstage during the dance performance.

50 CENTS



Speaker to discuss increasing money from state government

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Anthony Minghine, chief operating officer of the Michigan Municipal League, will give a free speech in Lowell on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017. Minghine's speech, entitled, "What Could Lowell Do with \$1.4 Million," is part of the MML's "saveMlCity" project. The project's goal is to increase the amount of money the state government allocates to Lowell and cities and towns like it.



Anthony Minghine

Michigan was the only state in the nation where state funding for communities decreased in the last decade," said an MML press

release. "In Lowell, that meant nearly \$1.4 million in funds from state government was diverted from the city."

"[The source for that \$1.4 million figure is] information compiled by the MML using data from the Michigan Department of Treasury," said Matt Bach, director of media relations for the MML. "The figure represents statutory revenue sharing diverted from the city of Lowell by the state of Michigan from 2002 [through] 2015. You can also verify the data

yourself using our online data base at saveMlCity.org. [...] The state's broken municipal finance system is an issue that impacts every community in the state. Mr. Minghine will discuss the broken system, but he will also have information specific to Lowell and surrounding communities largely pulled from the online database."

The speech will be interactive. Attendees are also encouraged to ask questions and share their

thoughts on the issues at hand.

"We launched this saveMlCity initiative in March," Bach said. "Some communities do have local officials involvement and some do not. [...] All area municipalities will be invited to attend the event and will be encouraged to give input and ask questions during the event."

The speech will take

place at the Lowell Area Schools Performing Arts Center inside of Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes, from 6 pm until 8 pm on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017. More information about the event can be found on the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce website, lowellchamber.org. To learn more about the saveMlCity project, visit the website, savemlcity.org



along main street

LOWELLARTS! HOLIDAY MARKET

The annual LowellArts! Holiday Artists Market, featuring artwork by over 50 area artists, will be through Dec. 24. Artwork and other handmade items by Michigan artists will be available for purchase during the gift-giving season. This will be the first showing held in the new LowellArts! gallery at 223 West Main St. Gallery hours are Tues.-Sat., 10 am – 6 pm.

YOUTH THEATER PRESENTS ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

LowellArts! Youth Theater presents a winter production of the classic Anne of Green Gables, adapted by Joseph Robinette, directed by Brent Alles. General admission \$5. www.lowellartsmi.org At Lowell Performing Arts Center, Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes. If you would like more information contact Janet Teunis at 616-897-8545 or janet@lowellartsmi.org

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. subject to space limitations. The Ledger makes no assurances they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will appear in this column.

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2016 Holiday Hours for Lowell Charter Township:

Thursday, December 22 – Closed

Monday, December 26 – Closed


Tuesday, December 27
Open 9:00AM – 5:00 PM

Thursday, December 29
Open 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Monday, January 2, 2017 – Closed

CITY OF LOWELL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works, Police office and Light & Power office will be closed on Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th for the Christmas holidays and Monday, January 2, 2017 for New Year's Day



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Keep your home heating system humming with an annual check up; preventive furnace maintenance offers energy efficiency and safety

As the weather has turned colder, now is the best time for an inspection and tune up of your home heating system by a properly licensed mechanical contractor to make sure your system is operating safely and efficiently to keep you and your family warm all season.

“Preventive, routine

maintenance extends the life of your furnace so it doesn’t use more energy to keep you warm,” said Bureau of Construction Codes Director Keith Lambert. “Take care of minor problems before they develop into major repair or replacement issues.”

Lambert explained how regular and thorough

furnace maintenance can yield several important benefits.

Improved performance of the furnace means better comfort and it is also more cost effective. Replacing defective parts avoids placing stress on other components which can drive up repair costs and eventually take a toll on the entire heating system.

A good maintenance check should include inspection, testing and calibration of safety controls; lubrication of motors; measurement of carbon monoxide levels; inspection of gas lines and flue pipe for leakage; testing and calibration of thermostats; and cleaning or replacing air filters. A thorough annual inspection of chimney flues and vents is also recommended to ensure proper ventilation when the heating system is operating.

Additional tips include:

- Clean cold air returns with a household vacuum cleaner.

- Check the filter once a month and replace it if necessary to maintain efficiency and prolong the life of the furnace.

- Have the furnace professionally cleaned by a reputable, licensed, mechanical contractor at least every two years.

- Check the warranty on your system to see whether any repairs or replacements are covered. Remember that many heating systems come with long-term warranties.

Hire a mechanical contractor who:

- Is insured for liability and property damage

- Offers warranties that cover equipment, materials and labor

- Offers maintenance and service after installation and after warranties have expired

- Provides local customer references

Ask to see the Michigan mechanical contractor’s license and write down the contractor’s name and license number listed on it. Confirm the contractor is insured.

Verify that the license is valid and issued for the proper classifications for the type of work being performed. To check on a license, visit the bureau’s website at <https://aca3.accela.com/lara/> or contact the Bureau of Construction Code’s Licensing Division at lara-bcc-licensing@michigan.gov or 517-241-9316.

Get at least three written estimates for the work especially if a furnace replacement is recommended. Make sure all bids give a full description of the services and materials to be used. If you do sign a contract for work, you may want to consider negotiating that final payment is made after the mandatory inspection is approved by the mechanical code enforcing agency.

To ensure safety while your heating system is “on” make sure your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are in good working condition; check batteries and test each unit. Carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas, can come from inadequately burned and vented fuel sources, including water heaters, furnaces, ranges and stoves, clothes dryers, fireplaces and portable generators. Also, keep the area around your furnace, boiler and water heater clear of any flammable liquids or other combustibles.

If using portable or space heaters as an additional heating source, do so with caution. Portable heaters can be dangerous if not properly used according to the manufacturer’s recommended safety instructions. Keep any type of combustibles away from the heating element of portable heaters.

For information visit www.michigan.gov/lara



Biodigester cost, continued

in exchange for natural gas, Internet, electricity, propane, water, sewer and transportation of manure. These invoices range from as low of \$10,783.67 on the first invoice to a maximum of \$89,232.31 on the June 3, 2016 invoice. The total for these invoices is \$1,305,419.64 and LEAD has an unpaid balance of \$63,050.21 on the final invoice.

Lowell police wrote LEAD 51 odor citations between July 22, 2016 and Dec. 5, 2016. There were three citations in July, 17 in August, 11 in September, eight in October, ten in November and three through Dec. 5, the final date listed. These fines total \$13,800. There were also 40 incidents when the police showed up

and investigated but did not write a citation.

The final revelation in the documents is that Lowell Light & Power got a \$56,250 grant to get the biodigester project started.

“That grant was through the American Public Power Association’s DEED grant program,” Donkersloot said.

According to the APPA

website publicpower.org, DEED grants are a “research and demonstration program funded by and for public power utilities.” Grant recipients must prove that they are “dedicated to improving the operations and services of public power utilities by supporting and demonstrating innovative activities.”

MLE Staff Member of the Month

Nancy Russell was nominated Staff Member of the Month for November at Muray Lake Elementary. Kristin Durfee nominated Russell because she is so patient and kind with our students.

“She has a special and gentle way of dealing with issues that arise. She is a great team player and is easy to work with,” said Durfee. “She is also our social director and helps coordinate special activities for our staff.”

“I grew up here in Lowell, raised my own children here and I’ve worked for Lowell Schools since 1985. I love being an

early elementary classroom teacher because I get to share my love of reading

with young people. I feel so fortunate to be a part of such a great school district and

especially to be a Murray Lake Mustang,” commented Russell.



Nancy Russell pictured with her second-grade class.



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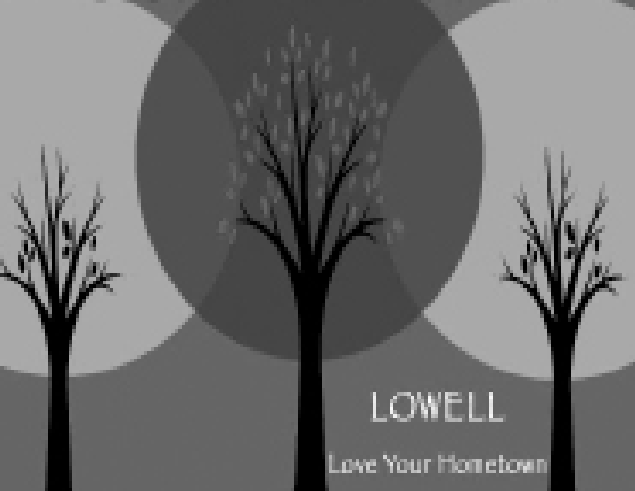
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Ledger publisher receives CPM award

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell Ledger publisher Jon Jacobs received a special award from the Community Papers of Michigan on Tuesday, Dec. 6. The award was given to Jacobs "in honor and with deep appreciation of your visionary guidance and undaunted leadership." Jacobs served as president of the CPM since 2010.

"Your dedication and devotion to preserving the principles and ideals that CPM was founded on, along with fostering new ideas which has taken our association to the next level for the good of all CPM members, will forever positively impact this association," the award says.

Jacobs has been involved with the newspaper business his entire life. His grandparents started the Lowell Ledger's parent company, J-Ad Graphics in Hastings, in 1957 which has grown to nine newspapers with over 100 employees. Jacobs has been working for the company since he was a small child and has been publisher of the Lowell Ledger since 2007.

"I served two three-year terms as president of CPM," Jacobs said. "It's really a full-time job. When I was elected there was a lot to do. We passed the buck for years and years on projects and things that we needed to do to promote newspapers, as well as internal stuff. We didn't finish things in a timely manner and before you know it years passed. My thought was, let's make a list of all the things we have put off and let's just do them one at a time. My approach was let's highlight the strengths and make them better and let's not run away from our weaknesses,

let's try to fix them. My goal was to fix as much as humanly possible so the next president can work on the grandiose ideas, the big picture stuff."

Members of CPM meet six times a year and try to figure out ways to keep the newspaper industry profitable and successful. With constant changes in technology and the way people consume information, Jacobs' tenure as president offered unusual challenges.

"We started up a database where people would send in big events in their community that would be highlighted and promoted by CPM members," Jacobs said. "If you had a great idea or you did something in your paper that the community loved, or a feature section, I uploaded all the files, how it was arranged, some comments about why it was successful, so anybody who is a publisher in the state of Michigan can see that, take that idea and run with it. It's a database of ideas, an idea exchange. We're all in the same industry, but we're not competitors. I gave a lot of ideas, but I also got a lot of ideas from different publishers. It has worked very, very well. It was a slow process, but we got more comfortable sharing ideas with each other."

Jacobs worked to streamline the organization's rules, which were often redundant or contradictory.

"The bylaws were 120 pages, we got them down to 35," Jacobs said. "They were so archaic that if something happened, they contradicted themselves so many ways that you would have no recourse."

He encouraged newspapers around the state

to have audits done, so that they could use the resulting data to improve sales.

"We fund our audits 100 percent, meaning that if you are a member of CPM you get an audit paid for by CPM," Jacobs said. "They are very, very expensive, but I made it work. Audits are critical, you have to have them. They tell you about your strengths and weaknesses, your readership, their buying habits, your delivery system, the educational and income level of your marketplace. It tells you a lot, it's very in-depth. We do it every two years. It's a two year process, the research alone takes a whole year."

Jacobs said that the notion of print newspapers being "dead" is a misnomer.

"Warren Buffet has been buying up newspapers left and right because he believes in print," Jacobs said. "There is a reason why Warren Buffet is the richest man in the world. He knows the value of print and he knows that the future is still print. Newspapers will always have a major role. Of course you're going to hear on the internet, radio and TV that print is dead. They have a vested interest in saying that. They need to have that message out there because they want that market share. The biggest problem with media is that peoples' attention span is so short and it's gotten worse because of social media and how we communicate with each other. There are a lot of positives with social media but you shouldn't get caught in the weeds of social media. What we do here is look at the bad things, analyze them and see if we can improve on them a little."

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viewpoint

off the cuff

happy holidays!

Jeanne Boss

Wow! What a year huh? We truly have seen some of the best of times and some amazing and puzzling events play out.

With all of the assaults on common decency, everyday manners, honesty, real news and human rights, I was slightly taken aback the other day by a post on Facebook.

A relative (and quoting a coworker of mine, "You can pick your nose but, you can't pick your relatives!") shared one of those pictures with a big caption that read, "IT'S NOT HAPPY HOLIDAYS! IT'S MERRY CHRISTMAS! SHARE IF YOU AGREE!"

Well! My first thought was - with an attitude like that, it definitely isn't happy holidays for them. My response on the site however, was that there was nothing wrong with any positive salutation of the season.

Be it Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa or Merry Christmas, what is the difference? I expressed my view that

'Happy Holidays' was merely a way to be nice and include all and what could be wrong with that?

To that came the reply, "Obama is gone. Merry Christmas!"

That comment had me wishing I hadn't gotten involved at all. I decided to let the whole thing ride realizing we once again had stepped off the reality wagon smack dab into the muddy waters of spite. It didn't stop me from pondering the whole issue however.

Why? Why the sensitivity or rather insensitivity? If someone says to me, "Have a lovely day!" My first reaction isn't, "Listen bucko I'm having a horrible day and you can just wrap yourself in knots to figure out what I'd like you to say to me personally from now on!"

Saying 'Happy Holidays' does not translate to "Your Merry Christmas stinks!"

Conversely, saying, "Merry Christmas" does not translate to, "You must be a Christian too, that's the only religion you know."

Seriously, I truly think most just want to fit in and not be left out. That is both the solution and the problem. We say

things that we are in the habit of saying, without prejudice and no real thought other than passing on good feelings. If someone happens to say or do something not in line with our comfortable status, we jump to the conclusion that they are trying to change us, not realizing that our words may also be perceived that way.

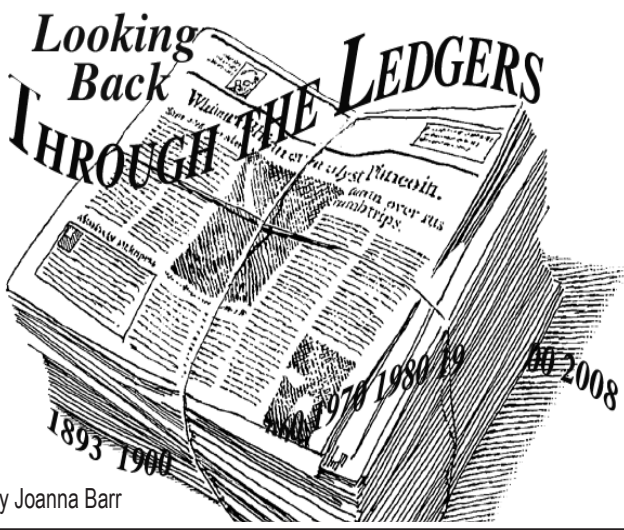
My wish for a happy holiday season is that we all can enjoy the intended spirit of the greetings. The clearly hair-triggered response of some should just flatly be ignored.

We have bigger fish to fry these days, heavier loads to carry, wider streams to cross. (I've run out of metaphors but you get the idea).

What we all - yes maybe not all - would like, and I've often heard this expressed, is to enjoy the time we have together. That idea could come about a little less painfully if we simply spoke the truth and took people at their word.

So... Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! Happy Kwanzaa! Super Happy Snow Days! Whatever ...

Happy Holidays!



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal Dec. 23, 1891

Clyde Collar built the fire this morning and for kindling he used kerosene oil. The result was an explosion, which knocked Clyde over, burning his face and singeing off his eyebrows and hair. He is quite seriously burned, and will use pine for kindlings in the future.

A great many people in this vicinity remember the Misses Nellie, Anna and Mary McCarty, who lived, some years ago with their aunt, Mrs Wm. Lott, in Keene. They are married and now live in Ashland, Wis. Last week each of the sisters became a mother, at nearly the same hour. It is a singular co-incidence.

Dell Condon expects to begin getting out timber for his new home. Mr Sinclair has taken the job to complete it from hewing the timber to the turn of the latch.

It will do your eyes good to see the fine Crayons you get with 1 dozen best cabinets at lowest prices, at the Hiler Gallery.

Christmas Eve. will be celebrated, by the Congregational Sunday school. They will have a - but it is a secret, so you will have to go in order to know.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger Dec. 21, 1916

John Parker, aged 77, who lived one mile east and one-half mile north of Freeport, died Tuesday night at 10 o'clock from injuries inflicted by his bull. Dan Brown, Parker's hired man, has both arms broken, also broken ribs and other injuries but may recover. The bull, a large dehorned Jersey, was loose in the barnyard. At two o'clock Brown tried to drive the

animal into the barn, when he was attacked, knocked down and rolled over the ground. Through the help of a neighbor Dale Freeland and his dog, Brown was rescued and Dr. Rigterink called to attend him. At four o'clock, Mr. Parker against the protests of his wife, went to the barn to resume the task undertaken by Brown, with results as stated above. Mr. Parker was crushed against the barn and rendered helpless. Again Mr. Freeland and his dog played a brave part. With the dog distracting the bull's attention, Freeland managed to get the old man into the barn. A butcher was sent for and the animal was shot and dressed. It is said that the bull was ready to charge on the butcher when the bullet reached a vital spot and put him out of the fight. Mr. Parker was a brother of Elias, Sheldon, George W. and William Parker, deceased. Another brother, Wilson of Vermontville, survives. Funeral services will be held at the house Friday at 1 p. m.; burial at Clarksville.

Montie Sayles is working for the Fallas Canning company and thereby hangs a tale: Before election, when his Hughes enthusiasm was running high, Sayles said that if Wilson was elected and the war is over he would work a year for Fallas at 50c per day, "he thought he'd be glad to." He was told to get to work; and he's on the job. Never mind, Montie; your house rent is paid and fifty cents will buy your tobacco and matches, if you're careful.

North Bell school closed Friday night for three weeks on account of whooping cough.

A foot of snow now and good sleighing. Good time to get busy with the logs, wood and other hauling. Sleighing and Christmas should make things lively. Jim Wetz who is holding 70,000,000 eggs for a further rise in price which has already doubled his investment, styles himself "The Egg King." You're wrong, Jim. A fat swine lying full length in the feed trough is your kind. "The Egg Hog!!" That's your title.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger Dec. 25, 1941

Jolly Santa Claus pays annual visit. About 500 happy, noisy, laughing boys and girls from the surrounding community were at the City Hall last Saturday evening to greet merry old Santa Claus when he arrived. A half hour was spent singing Christmas carols after which Santa's helpers passed out boxes of candy to every child present. The Lowell Board of Trade sponsored the annual event and members in charge wish to thank the ladies of the Child Study Club for boxing the candy.

Postmaster Hosley has received official word that no mail of any kind can be sent from the United States to Germany, Italy and Japan or any countries controlled by the Axis powers.

Saturday, Dec. 27th, is the date set for the annual

Belding Charity Ball and, as usual, not only Beldingites, but their many friends from the neighboring cities are planning to attend the highlight event of the holiday social season. Music this year will be furnished by Dick Snook and his new eleven-piece band.

Dave Garfield of Lowell R. F. D. 3 has been a continuous reader of the Ledger for 41 years and last Friday renewed his subscription for the 42nd year. No wonder Dave keeps alert and happy.

The Christmas spirit should continue throughout the year, by constant acts of kindness. We can also keep making gifts to our home town, by continuing the policy of buying goods at home.

A clipping from Coronet Magazine says that between 70,000 and 200,000 gyps and criminals are ringing doorbells of American homes each year and are doing a hundred million dollars worth of business

Looking Back, continued, page 7

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor.

Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher; 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.



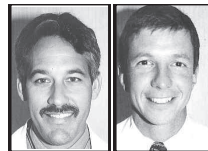
Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.

Pets for Vets drive raises over \$600



The results are in from the first annual Pets for Vets can/bottle drive and \$657 was raised and subsequently donated to the West Michigan Chapter of Pets for Vets. This money will be used to rescue dogs scheduled for euthanasia and provide training so they can be given to vets suffering from PTSD.

health



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

adult Tdap booster

Most adults are aware of the need to get a tetanus booster immunization once every ten years. Some may also be aware that along with the tetanus booster, you receive a diphtheria booster. Most adults, however, may not be aware that pertussis is a third booster immunization that has been recently recommended in adulthood. All three are currently administered in a single immunization called Tdap. Most children are currently immunized against all three, but it is now known that immunity will weaken unless boosters are received against them in adulthood.

infected person. Diphtheria infections typically start out as an intensely sore throat. This bacterium also produces a toxin which can travel through the bloodstream and lead to damage to the heart and brain.

Tetanus is a bacterium that lives in soil and the intestinal tract of certain animals. When this bacterium enters a wound, either through a bite, cut or puncture, it multiplies and produces toxins. These toxins affect the nerves that control muscles, leading to intense muscle contractions. "Lock-jaw" is a common term used to describe one of the early effects of a tetanus infection.

Pertussis is a bacterium which causes an upper respiratory tract infection, commonly called whooping cough. This infection spreads easily from person to person, via respiratory droplets, much like Diphtheria. It causes intense coughing fits that can persist for months. It can cause more severe illness and even death in the very young, old and debilitated.

Diphtheria is a bacterial infection that is transmitted via droplets coughed or sneezed into the air by an

All three of these diseases can cause serious illness and even death. Fortunately, all three diseases are rare these days in developed countries like ours. This is due to the immunizations that have been developed against them and that the majority of us receive. If it has been ten years or more since your last tetanus and diphtheria booster or if you've never received the pertussis booster as an adult, see your health care provider.

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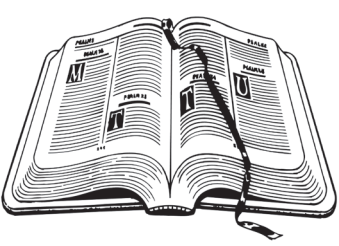
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DECEMBER 23
Marie Doyle.

DECEMBER 22
Jason Seeley, Cody Soyka.

DECEMBER 24
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DECEMBER 26
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DECEMBER 27
Mark Nyp, Jay Clark, Foster Skoog.

Warm up the winter watching some football

It's bowl season. The following is a list of bowl games and times for all of the snowed-in football fans.



- Quick Lane Bowl: Boston College (6-6) vs. Maryland (6-6), Detroit, Dec. 26, 2:30 pm ET, ESPN2.
- Heart of Dallas Bowl: Army (7-5) vs. North Texas (5-7), Dec. 27, noon ET, ESPN.
- St. Petersburg Bowl: Miami (Ohio) (6-6) vs. Mississippi State (5-7), Dec. 26, 11 am ET, ESPN.
- Independence Bowl: North Carolina State (6-6) vs. Vanderbilt (6-6), Shreveport, La., Dec. 26, 5 pm ET, ESPN2.

- Hawaii Bowl: Middle Tennessee State (8-4) vs. Hawaii (6-7) Honolulu, Dec. 24, 8 pm ET, ESPN.
- Arizona Bowl: Air Force (9-3) vs. South Alabama (6-6) Tucson, Dec. 30, 5:30 pm ET, ASN.
- Foster Farms Bowl: No. 23 Utah (8-4) vs. Indiana (6-6), Santa Clara, Calif., Dec. 28, 8:30 pm ET, Fox.

Bowl games, continued, page 10

Looking Back, continued

with their worthless merchandise. Contributions right now are badly needed in legitimate channels, and we should be careful that our money goes into those channels.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Dec. 22, 1966

Santa Claus has scheduled two more visits to Lowell, between now and Christmas, to greet all the boys and girls of the community. The jovial red-suited gentleman will come to town Thursday and Friday evenings, to offer his assistance and inspiration to every gift giver in the community.

Giving the police a hard time is expensive! Tuesday evening Arthur J. Blough, 22, was stopped for holding up traffic by going 15 miles per hour in a 35 mile zone. The Lowell officer said he was insulting and abusive. After being handed his ticket, he tore it up and drove off at a high rate of speed. A warrant was obtained for his arrest and he appeared Tuesday night in Justice Rittenger's court and paid \$14.00 on the driving offense and an additional \$29.00 on a careless driving charge. He also gave his point total an unhealthy increase.

The attractive Christmas tree in the post office lobby is the work of the employees; erected and decorated at no cost to the Post Office Department. The brilliant yellow streamers decorating the tree are the gift of Mrs. Sherry Davis who received them from her husband in Viet Nam last year. They were given to the post office before Mrs. Davis left the community to be with her husband.

New superintendent at King Mill. Steve Smith, veteran superintendent at King Milling's Feed Department, now a young 72 years of age, has announced his retirement as superintendent. He will continue to serve the mill as advisor on feed formulas and procedures. The new superintendent of the Feed Department is Vernon Strouse, who has worked with Steve for the past 21 years.

Bold thieves took a box of Christmas presents hung on the rural mail box of Paul Rickert, last Tuesday while the family was at home. The rural mail carrier hung the box, too large to go into the mail box on the outside. Before the Rickert's could get down to pick up their mail, it was stolen. Anyone with any knowledge of the theft is asked to contact the Lowell Postmaster or the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

Postmaster Charles Doyle stated that the Lowell Post Office is breaking all records as to the volume of mail being sent. Mail through the cancelling machine is running 9 percent higher than a year ago. As of Monday night, 87,656 pieces have been cancelled as against 81,593 pieces for the same period last year. Metered mail and parcel post is also ahead of last year's volume. Nationwide it is expected that more than eight billion pieces of mail will be delivered just before Christmas—a new record.

Christmas time vandals are again on the loose. Roman Maloney lost 20 Christmas tree lights last Wednesday evening. If citizens see anyone lurking around Christmas displays, call the police and get the license number if they are in a car.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger Dec. 24, 1991

Off the Council – Doyle to keep a watchful City eye. Charlie Doyle, what are you going to do after 40 years of public service in the City of Lowell? "I'm going to Florida," the outspoken Doyle chuckles. In reality, Doyle's golf game could use some warming up. While the Lowell man may have stepped away from a seat at the City Council table, he still intends to continue to speak loudly on key issues facing the City. "Just because I'm no longer a council member, doesn't mean the Council won't hear from me," Doyle said. "I've stepped away in order to open it up for some other people. It's hard to run against incumbents. Serving on the Council wasn't stressful." He added that the fact nothing was currently getting done perturbed him. Doyle continues to push for the sale of the Lowell Cable Company. "Lowell Cable will never make the money needed for capital outlay to improve the system to the standards coming down the pike in a couple of years. I was told just recently fiber optics is coming. Soon our system will be outdated and its value won't be the same." Doyle contends the City could make millions of dollars by selling the cable company to a major cable outfit. "A trust fund then could be set up where only the interest made from the capital could be spent. The possibilities this would offer the City of Lowell is endless."

Stormzand prepares to adjust to life after middle school. If I was to tell you as a young girl she worked for her parents at Gamble's Hardware Store in Lowell, many people may not know who I'm talking about. But if I was to tell you she's been the secretary to the Middle School principal for the past 14 years, and an employee of Lowell Schools for the past 22 years, well then just about everybody knows I'm talking about Joyce Stormzand. The Ionia native, who graduated from Lowell High School in 1948, first started

working at Lowell schools baking bread at Runciman Elementary. From there, she was elevated to high school study hall supervisor for one year; secretary to the high school assistant principal from 1971-77; and then, secretary to the middle school principal from 1977-91. "I've enjoyed my work at the Middle School. It's a likeable age group," Stormzand said. "The kids are also a challenge. They are busy all the time. I'm proud to have been just a small part of their education. I've enjoyed them immensely and will miss not being around them. I'm sure it will be a difficult adjustment." The adjustment period will be eased by the fact that Joyce and her husband, Ed, will spend three months in Venice, FL after the holidays. "Ed's been retired for three years now and I thought it was time we start to do some things, such as traveling," Joyce said. "Retirement will also give me time to catch up on what I haven't been doing." Stormzand may be the last of a dying breed, the days of loyal and dedicated service to one company, business and/or institution are fading. "I'm not sure that's so good. Where's the stability in moving around. Today people move around - come and go," she says. "It's been nice working at Lowell Schools for 22 years. So nice, in fact, I feel guilty in leaving." Stormzand adds that the people at Lowell Schools are tremendous. "They are wonderful, giving and caring people," she says. "I also believe Lowell has a wonderful school system. I think most people in this area believe that."

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

~ Santa & Mrs. Glavin

Thank You

The Alto Lions Club would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their donations to the 2016 Children's Christmas Party.

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	Lowell Area Schools	
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A special thank you to Lowell Meijer!

Christmas play, continued

a Merry Christmas to close the show.

Crawford said having the younger kids in the show is always a delight. "I love having the young kids involved. I work in theatre so the more kids we can get involved in theatre the better. I guess I am a little biased. I usually try to go down front and give all of them high-fives and pump them up before the show starts and you can tell that some of them absolutely love it up there; they are total hams up on stage."

While audiences seemed particularly drawn to clue seekers Melnik as Kat and Isiah Perysian as Chet plus choir students Punch and June, played hilariously by Salem Grody and Kohl Goldsmith, Crawford said that each performer is a standout.

"They are all standouts because they are putting themselves out there, trying something new and different and sometimes that can be a frightening prospect," she explained.



Members of the Clue Club work to solve the mystery of the missing Santa Claus during the production.

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Crawford added, "What's really nice about these extra shows is that it gives more students more opportunities to perform on stage. Some of the kids that have been the leads in our plays and musicals didn't even audition for this show so it gives us a chance to see and work with a whole new group of talent. It's a delight to be surprised by someone who's never tried acting but turns out to be really quite good."

Next on tap for the LHS theatre program is a spring musical this coming March. Director Heidi Kolp will lead the cast in this year's selection, Legally Blonde, based on the movie of the same name.



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
LOWELL CHARTER
TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following request from Kissing Rock LLC:

A request for a Site Condominium plan review for 16 lots on 65.9 acres zoned AG-2, Rural Agricultural.

LOCATION & ADDRESS: The property is located at 2898 Kissing Rock Ave SE, Lowell, Michigan -Permanent Parcel No. 41-20-17-100-037.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

Information on the proposed request is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Arrows win one, lose one in non-conference games

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The Red Arrows boys varsity basketball team went 1-1 in non-conference competition last week. They picked up a controlling 62-35 win over Forest Hills Eastern on the road and battled perennial Class B powerhouse Godwin Heights on Friday falling 84-50.

Senior sharp shooter Matt Beachler, who recently signed to play for Division 1 Central Michigan University, led on the road netting 21 points in the 62-35 victory over FHE. His big effort is something that has become commonplace and depended upon.

"I never worry about Matt's ability to score the ball. He is a gifted athlete who can make plays when his team needs him to. He has a reputation as one of the state's best scorers but he has more to offer that just putting the ball in the basket," explains first-year head coach Travis Slanger.

Despite earning one third of the team's total score in the game, Slanger said Beachler's generosity on the court is another key component of his game. "I think the part of Matt's offensive game that is most over looked, is his ability

to pass. For a player who averages 20 pts a game, he is very unselfish. He puts his teammates in great opportunities to be successful by delivering a ball that is on time and on target."

The senior's top performance was paired with a double-digit finish for teammate Austin Branagan. Branagan put 11 points on the scoreboard and added to a tough defensive game that also saw sophomore Robby Schneider make big moves. Branagan will also be playing at the collegiate level next winter after signing with Goshen College. The Arrows held FHE to just six points in both the first and second periods.

"We played great team defense leading to easy scoring opportunities. We also out rebounded FHE by more than 20 rebounds. I felt we did a nice job forcing them to take the shots we wanted and limiting their possessions," boasted Slanger.

Friday night Lowell hosted Godwin Heights facing a steep uphill battle to the tune of an 84-50 loss. Slanger said the game will be used as a gauge as they

prepare for the challenges that lie ahead. "Godwin presents a formidable challenge. But it is a game that should be taken at face value. They don't hand out hardware for victories in December. This is simply a measuring stick for us to see where we stack up in our area, as we prepare for conference play."

Lowell's Beachler was sidelined just before the half after being pushed in the small of the back mid dunk by a Godwin defender. The action was ruled a flagrant foul by officials. Beachler is expected to compete this week despite what is now being reported as a minor shoulder injury.

Branagan was the Red Arrows' game leader scoring 22 points for the team and grabbing eight rebounds. In a post game interview he said that he agreed with his coach that the tough game is a tool to use moving forward toward their season goals. "I feel the game showed us what it takes to play at a high level and succeed. With having a young team we were timid through the game and moving forward we know what to expect."



Senior Zach Petroelje at the free throw line in varsity hoops action.

The team hit the road just once this week before Christmas break and traveled to Wyoming High School on Tuesday in non-conference action.



Junior Mitchell O'Gorman takes a shot in the Arrows' non-conference home opener.



Senior Austin Branagan on the court against Godwin Heights.

Four more LHS athletes sign to play for colleges

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Four more top Lowell High School athletes pledged to play at the collegiate level last week.

Hosted by athletic director Dee Crowley and attended by friends, family and coaches, the event celebrated these athletes: Austin Branagan, Sela Bauman, Laurel Frederickson and Brennan Battle.

Last season the future Trine University Storm teammate was part of a top-notch team that reached new heights of success for the program. They turned in a 12-3 record with all of their losses coming from the Eagles of Forest Hills Eastern and earned a second-place finish in the difficult OK White conference, one of Battle's favorite moments on the field as a Red Arrow. "For me personally, my proudest moment was winning face offs at an 85 percent win [percentage] during our conference championship game against FHE. I felt that I did what I could to give us the best chance at winning that game and was proud of the outcome."

Battle will study design engineering technology at the Indiana school intending on working in an automotive design position. He said that the fit with Trine was evident both in athletics and in the classroom. "The people on campus really appealed to my personality style and their facilities and dorms were insanely nice. They offer a very specific engineering program that I wanted to go into as well and that was a large factor in my choice. Trine offered me a incredible scholarship that confirmed my decision and proved I can add value not only academically but on the lacrosse field as well."

Though Battle credited his parents for

his success sighting their endless support of his goals, his parents Chad and Kerry say they know the accomplishment is all his. "We are extremely proud of Brennan. He has worked hard on and off the field to achieve this goal. Brennan visited many schools but Trine was always his number one. So, to see this dream become a reality, makes us so elated for Brennan," said Kerry.

On the field his parents said that they are proudest of the heart he gives all his challenges. "Brennan gives it his all on the field; he will do anything the team or coach asks of him to help the team do their best." Off the field they said they are proudest of his inspiring never give up attitude.

Ladies lacrosse players, Sela Bauman and Laurel Frederickson, are fresh off of a momentous year for the young program fighting hard to earn an even 9-9 season and securing the schools' first regional title in the sport with a 13-7 win over Grand Ledge. The athletes have both chosen to continue their educations and sports careers in college with Bauman committing to Marian University in Indianapolis and Frederickson headed to Pennsylvania to play for Gannon University.

Bauman started playing lacrosse in the sixth grade in the premier season for the Lowell girls program, after watching her older brother play for the school, saying she "was hooked" on the sport. She has since been a part of the program's growth saying that one of her favorite moments thus far came last season. "Making it to the second round of playoffs was a huge accomplishment for our team and I was proud to be a part of it." In her last season on the field Bauman said she hopes to continue

the path tread last season. "I want to continue to help build our program and help all the girls improve. It would be great to make the playoffs again," she said.

Bauman, who is also an outstanding gymnast at LHS, said the choice to attend Marian was an easy one for her, "When I went to visit Marian I bonded well with the team and the coach. Another reason why I chose Marian is because it has many programs that I am interested in. I am looking to pursue a nursing or pre-med degree."

She said her biggest fans have been her parents who have been alongside her for all of her competitions for Lowell as well as her travel team and other ventures.

Frederickson serves as the Red Arrows' lead goalkeeper racking up conference and state honors her sophomore and junior years on the field. The equally talented student said she enjoys the intensity of her position, thriving on the inherent stress. "Believe it or not I like the pressure of being in goal, it makes it exciting. I love that it is a team sport and I am not only playing for me but for my teammates as well."

Frederickson said she began protecting the net as a hockey goalie making the shift to lacrosse to stay fit during the off season. She will now take her lacrosse skills to Gannon where she will compete as a Knight.

"Gannon felt like the right fit for me, not only as a school but as a lacrosse team as well. I felt like it could become my home away from home," she said adding, "I also wanted to play in a more competitive environment and play NCAA Division 2 and narrowed it down to Gannon which had already felt like the right fit for me."

Though Frederickson has not decided on a specific career path she said she will surely use lessons learned as a Red Arrow in all of her future endeavors. "I learned that hard work on and off the field will always pay off."

Branagan is a top student and a three sport athlete who participated in football, track and basketball during his time at LHS. The standout especially thrives on the hardwood offering consistently solid performances on both sides

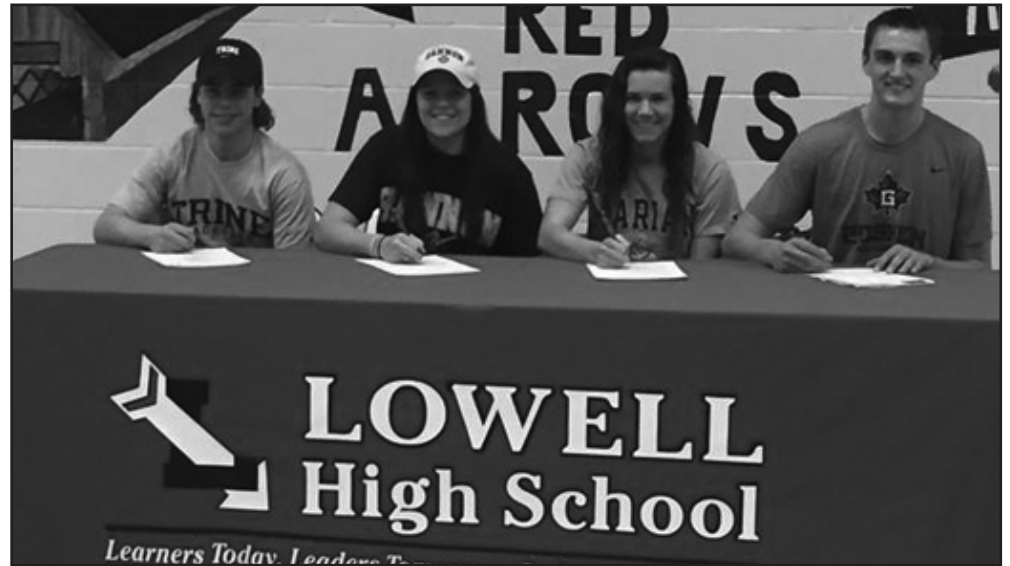
of the ball for the team. He was a member of last year's record-breaking Arrows who nabbed the district title for the first time in 32 years. Coach Travis Slinger said that Branagan is a driving force working tirelessly to improve his own game and bring more success to the team in his final season as a Red Arrow. "Undoubtedly his stand-out qualities are his work ethic and leadership. He is a quiet leader who has the respect of his coaches and teammates as a result of his effort. He works relentlessly in practice, in the weight room and in competition."

Branagan will be attending Goshen College where he intends to pursue a career as an architect and to also be part of the framework of the school's budding basketball program. "The coaches and players were

very welcoming and honest from the very beginning. They have a growing success in their program."

He said the brief signing event was the culmination of a lifelong goal, "I have always had the dream of playing at the collegiate level. When I signed that paper it hit me that all this hard work I've put in is paying off and I could not be any happier or thankful. I just can't wait to finally get down there and play."

Branagan attributes much of his success to his supporters, one in particular who has been there since the start. "I have had many great role models and support groups through my life but there is one person in particular that has taught me the skills I've needed to succeed, Mr. Beachler. He has been my coach ever since I started playing."



Brennan Battle, Laurel Frederickson, Sela Bauman and Austin Branagan at the college signing ceremony last week.

Bowl games, continued

- Cactus Bowl: Boise State (10-2) vs. Baylor (6-6), Phoenix, Dec. 27, 10:15 pm ET, ESPN.
- Liberty Bowl: Georgia (7-5) vs. TCU (6-6), Memphis, Dec. 30, noon ET, ESPN.
- Pinstripe Bowl: Pittsburgh (8-4) vs. Northwestern (6-6), New York, Dec. 28, 2 pm ET, ESPN.
- Military Bowl: No. 24 Temple (10-3) vs. Wake Forest (6-6), Annapolis, Md., Dec. 27, 3:30 pm ET, ESPN.
- Armed Forces Bowl: Navy (9-4) vs. Louisiana Tech (8-5), Fort Worth, Dec. 23, 4:30 pm ET, ESPN.
- Birmingham Bowl: No. 22 South Florida (10-2) vs. South Carolina (6-6), Dec. 29, 2 pm ET, ESPN.
- Texas Bowl: Kansas State (8-4) vs. Texas A&M (8-4), Houston, Dec. 28, 9 pm ET, ESPN.
- Holiday Bowl: Minnesota (8-4) vs. Washington State (8-4) San Diego, Dec. 27, 7 pm ET, ESPN.
- Famous Idaho Potato Bowl: Idaho (8-4) vs. Colorado State (7-5), Boise, Dec. 22, 7 pm ET, ESPN.
- Dollar General Bowl: Troy (9-3) vs. Ohio (8-5), Mobile, Ala., Dec. 23, 8 pm ET, ESPN.
- TaxSlayer Bowl: Georgia Tech (8-4) vs. Kentucky (7-5), Dec. 31, Jacksonville, 11 am ET, EPSN.
- Bahamas Bowl: Old Dominion (9-3) vs. Eastern Michigan (7-5), Nassau, Dec. 23, 1 pm ET, ESPN.
- Belk Bowl: No. 19 Virginia Tech (9-4) vs. Arkansas (7-5), Charlotte, Dec. 29, 5:30 pm ET, ESPN.
- Sun Bowl: No. 16 Stanford (9-3) vs. North Carolina (8-4), El Paso, Dec. 30, 2 pm ET, CBS.
- Music City Bowl: No. 21 Nebraska (9-3) vs. Tennessee (8-4), Nashville, Dec. 30, 3:30 pm ET, ESPN.
- Russell Athletic Bowl: No. 12 West Virginia (10-2) vs. Miami (Fla.) (8-4), Orlando, Dec. 28, 5:30 pm ET, ESPN.
- Poinsettia Bowl: BYU (8-4) vs. Wyoming (8-5), San Diego, Dec. 21, 9 pm ET, ESPN.
- Sugar Bowl: No. 7 Oklahoma (10-2) vs. No. 17 Auburn (8-4), New Orleans, Jan. 2, 8:30 pm ET, ESPN.
- Cotton Bowl: No. 8 Wisconsin (10-3) vs. No. 14 Western Michigan (13-0), Arlington, Texas, Jan. 2, 1 pm ET, ESPN.
- Outback Bowl: No. 18 Florida (8-4) vs. No. 25 Iowa (8-4), Tampa, Jan. 2, 1 pm ET, ABC.
- Orange Bowl: No. 6 Michigan (10-2) vs. No. 10 Florida State (9-3), Miami Gardens, Fla., Dec. 30, 8 pm ET, ESPN.
- Alamo Bowl: No. 11 Colorado (10-3) vs. No. 13 Oklahoma State (9-3), San Antonio, Dec. 29, 9 pm ET, ESPN.
- Citrus Bowl: No. 15 Louisville (9-3) vs. No. 20 LSU (7-4), Orlando, Dec. 31, 11 am ET, ABC.
- Rose Bowl: No. 5 Penn State (11-2) vs. No. 9 Southern California (9-3), Pasadena, Calif., Jan. 2, 5 pm ET, ESPN.
- Peach Bowl: No. 1 Alabama (13-0) vs. No. 4 Washington (12-1), Atlanta, Dec. 31, 3 pm ET, ESPN.
- Fiesta Bowl: No. 2 Ohio State (11-1) vs. No. 3 Clemson (12-1), Glendale, Ariz., Dec. 31, 7 pm ET, ESPN.

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LOWELL

Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS

Wrestlers add two more wins to their season

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity wrestling added two more wins to the season last week. They claimed their first OK White dual victory against Cedar Springs on Wednesday 46-18 and top honors at the John Baum Invitational in Belding on Saturday.

On the road at Cedar Springs, the Red Arrows put in an impressive performance picking up ten victories in their 14 matches against the Red Hawks. Picking up wins by fall were Channing Perry over Anthony Brew at 135 pounds and Elijah Boulton over Chris Shaffer at 215. Claiming victory by major decision was James Fotis at 125 pounds who outscored opponent Patrick Flierman 10-1.

Winning by decision were Austin Boone at 140 who topped Red Hawk Jordan Ringler 5-2 and Austin McKechnie over Jordan Andrus 8-2. 152-pound Sam Russell earned a 4-2 decision over Jacob Galinis and David Kruse at 189 just edged out competitor Ryan Ringler 8-7. Bryce Dempsey, Bryce McCune and Nick Korhorn earned their victories via



Red Arrow wrestlers celebrating their first-place finish at the John Baum Invitational.

forfeit contributing to the 46-18 win. This outing was the Arrows first in the newly aligned OK White.

Despite a weather cancellation of the Kent County Classic on Saturday morning, the Arrows B

team wrestlers were still able to compete at the John Baum Varsity Invitational

in Belding. The team went 5-0 in team competition to earn the first-place spot at the tournament. After a dominating 76-6 win in the first round of the contest, Lowell went on to reign over Alma 45-31, Carson City-Crystal 51-24, Central Montcalm 65-18 and host Belding 43-27.

Five individual wrestlers matched their team's undefeated performance on the mat. Hunter Browning, Connor Nugent, Austin Engle, Bryce McCune and Jeff Leach won each of their matches leading the Red Arrows to their trophy winning tournament performance.

This week the team will face their second conference challenge of the season when they host Ottawa Hills High School on Wednesday in the main gym at Lowell High School. Action on the mat is scheduled to begin at 7 pm.



Sports Summaries

GIRLS BOWLING

Weather cancelled two events for the Red Arrows girls varsity bowling team last week. That left them with a single competition against OK White conference rival Northview High School last Wednesday. Hosting the Wildcats at their new home lanes, The Bowling Alley in Ionia, the Lowell team had a tough outing falling by a total of 22-8. The loss places them 1-2 on the season and 0-2 in conference.

BOYS BOWLING

Logan Smith picked up a career high 269 on the lanes against Northview High School last week en route to a 26.5-3.5 OK White conference dual Red Arrow victory. Carson Clark picked up the team's second highest game rolling a 217 in the home match hosted at The Bowling Alley in Ionia. The boys are now a perfect 3-0 overall and an undefeated 2-0 in conference play.

HOCKEY

Lowell Caledonia hockey picked up a big win Friday night over Grand Rapids Christian nearly shutting out their opponent by a commanding 6-1. Ethan Pinto started the onslaught with a pair of goals putting the Arrows up 2-0. By the end of the second they led 4-0 with goals from Nolan Winterburn, with assists coming from Auggie Whaley and Chow Hayes; and Nick Vantil assisted by Mitch Brennan. The co-op team capped off the win with additional goals from Daniel Huver and Carter Yon.


Go Red Arrows!



Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

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obituaries

CANFIELD



Thomas William Canfield of Alto, born September 27, 1936, was called home to glory, December 12, 2016. He was preceded in death by his parents, Don and Marguerite (Pym) Canfield; son, Darwin Canfield; brother, Wayne (Betty) Canfield; sisters, Arlene (Charles) Dart, Barbara (Charles) Armstrong, Catherine Canfield, Margaret Canfield. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Paula; children, Debora (Denny) Elkins, Dawn (Scott) Elliott, Martin (Sarah) Canfield; siblings, Shirley (Jerry) Seese, Robert (Shirley) Canfield, Ken (Judy) Canfield; grandchildren, Matthew (Holly) Holderman, Gina (Dustin) Ruff, Cheri (Justin) Gross, Bobby Elkins, Shane Elliott, Gabriel Elliott, Joshua Elliott, LCpl Duncan Elliott, MeKare Elliott, Heather (Dan) Everett, Nathaniel (Amanda) Canfield, Benjamin Canfield, Michael Main, Nicholas (Ashley) Canfield, Ryan Canfield, Holly Canfield, Zachary Canfield; and many nieces and nephews. Tom served in the Army from November 1954 to October 1957. Services were held Friday, December 16, at First Baptist Church of Alto. Rev. Timothy Teall officiating. Interment Bowne Mennonite Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Lincoln Lake Baptist Youth Camp, 15113 Lincoln Lake NE, Gowen MI 49326.



KAUFFMAN

Marlin Eugene Kauffman, age 76 of Alto, went peacefully home to his Lord and Savior, Sunday, December 18, 2016. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rachel (Clemmer) Kauffman; parents, Glen and Edna (Birky) Kauffman; brothers, Donald (Ila) Kauffman, Wayne (Imogene) Kauffman; and brother-in-law, Lee Steiner. He is survived by his wife, Eunice; his children with Rachel, Karl Kauffman, Jeff Kauffman, Karen (Kirt) Stoltzfus; siblings, Ron (Catha) Kauffman, Vera (Chris) Miller, Joan (Palmer) Steiner; grandchildren, Kyle Stoltzfus, Kaleb Stoltzfus, Keegan Stoltzfus, Kole Stoltzfus, Kelsey Stoltzfus; several nieces and nephews; family and friends. Marlin was a self-employed carpenter and enjoyed woodworking. He also loved to hunt and play softball. Visitation will be held Wednesday, December 21, 2016, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Bowne Mennonite Church, 14076 76th St., Clarksville, MI 48815. Funeral will be held immediately following at 11:30 a.m. at Bowne Mennonite Church, Clarksville. Elder Jim Sutter officiating. Interment Bowne Mennonite Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be directed to Bowne Mennonite Church.



Our office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26

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SINKE

When Leonard was a child in Moline, friends speculated on a career as baseball player or (more realistically) as part of the family cement tile business. World War II intervened. This Dutch-American son from a small Michigan town served as a Seabee in the Pacific and then pursued his passion for education on the G.I. Bill. He eventually earned three degrees from Michigan State University, the highest an Ed.S. Beginning as a history teacher, he switched locations around Michigan as he moved up the public school ladder to principal and then to school superintendent, the position he held in Lowell through the 1970s and at retirement from Muskegon Oakridge. In education, he recruited hard for good teachers and worked to introduce best practices in pedagogy including effective learning spaces for students. People who knew him groaned or laughed at his bad puns, for he used humor to lighten the mood whether at the outset of a test or in a long meeting. Early in his career he met and married Evelyn Bennett, who came with two children in tow—children he sought to nurture as his own. Len and Evelyn soon bore a daughter. They raised their family and watched it grow into another generation. During these years Leonard served as a lay leader at his church, particularly the First Congregational Church of Lowell, and as a member of other civic groups such as Rotary. In retirement, Leonard adopted a snowbird existence, migrating between Lowell and Florida and taking in swing jazz festivals along the way. After the death of Evelyn, a chance meeting in the doctor's office led to another lease on love, with Wilma Gerred. His marriage as an octogenarian added another multi-generational step-family into his life. Leonard died 13 December 2016 after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Continuing to fight that disease through the Alzheimer's Association would be a fitting remembrance for those so inclined. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter, 25200 Telegraph Rd., Ste 100, Southfield, MI 48033-7443. A memorial service will take



place 15 January at 2:30 (1:30 visitation) at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Leonard is survived by his spouse, Wilma Sinke; children and stepchildren, Dr. Suzanne Sinke (Dr. Eberhard Roeder), Dr. Jan (Tammy) Bennett, Diana Keenan, and Charlene (Phillip) Johnson; not to mention several grandchildren, Leni Sinke, Franz Roeder, Mark Bennett, Matthew Bennett, Robert Keenan; and a score of Sinke and Johnson relatives in the West Michigan area.



SNYDER

Larry L. Snyder of Lowell, (formerly of Muskegon), age 70, passed away on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. He was born to Richard and Laurene (Ginter) Snyder on July 8, 1946, in Muskegon. Larry is survived by his siblings, Mitch (Sandy) Ruble, Mark (Charlotte) Ruble, and Lori Miller; nieces and nephews, Jody (Chris) Herbst, Jeff (Terri) Smith, Matt (Sheena) Ruble, Monica Ruble, Laura (Mike) Conant, Heather (David) Wolfert, Tim (Jenny) Ruble, and Adam Ruble; and many great nieces and nephews. Larry was preceded in death by his loving wife Gail Snyder and sister Sandra Smith. A memorial service will be held Wednesday, December 21, 2016, from 5 pm to 8 pm at Key Heights Clubhouse, 11335 Fulton St E, Lowell, MI 49331.



WAGER

Robert Leroy Wager, age 62 of Lowell, passed away of accidental injuries on Friday, December 16, 2016. He was preceded in death by his parents Leroy and Loraine Wager; step-father Donald Wager; father-in-law Joseph Vezino. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Sherri (Vezino); brothers Richard (Sue), Ronald (Julie); sister Betsy VanDenBrink; mother-in-law Helen Vezino; brothers-in-law Bob (Bonnie) Vezino; Joe (Barb) Vezino, Kevin (Mary) Vezino, Barry (Pat) Vezino, Jay (Sarah) Vezino, Jon (Chris) Vezino, Cub (Jeanne) Vezino; also many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews who treasure their Uncle Bob. Bob just recently celebrated his 40th year with Discount Tire. He was a Charter member of Messiah Lutheran Church; and was active in 4H, KSRP Therapeutic Riding, YMCA's Camp Manitou-Lin, Hungerford Trail Riders Association, and Michigan Competitive Mounted Orienteering. The family met with friends and relatives Tuesday December 20th for a celebration of Bob's life. Rev. Terry Hoese officiated, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Messiah Lutheran Church, 2727 5 Mile Rd. N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49525 or Kent County Youth Fair Capital Campaign, 225 S. Hudson St. S.E., Lowell, MI 49331.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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House approves CPR instruction legislation

Legislation that will ensure students receive instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) before graduating from high school was approved by the Michigan House of Representatives.

“When someone suffers sudden cardiac arrest, every second counts,” said state Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, R-Lawton. “When an incident happens outside of a hospital or in a remote area where medical care is not immediately available, the chances of survival drop significantly. While if someone who is trained in CPR is able to intervene, the chances of survival can triple.”

Senate Bill 647 would require that prior to graduation, students between grades seven and 12 receive instruction in CPR and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED). Many school districts across the state have already implemented CPR training into their lesson plans using video instruction and volunteer services from local police, firefighters and paramedics.

Students who are physically unable to perform CPR would be exempt from these requirements.

“Each year, around 350,000 Americans suffer from cardiac arrest,” Schuitmaker said. “We can drastically reduce this number by increasing the number of trained individuals in every community. Teaching our students this lifesaving skill can take as little as 30 minutes and can be easily incorporated into the existing health class curriculums.”

The bill has received bipartisan support in both chambers and was praised by the American Heart Association.

“Sen. Schuitmaker has been a longtime heart champion and we thank her for sponsoring this critical legislation to ensure every student in Michigan learns the lifesaving skill of CPR before graduation,” said Sarah Poole, government relations director for the American Heart Association. “The American Heart Association applauds Senator Schuitmaker for her leadership to ensure today’s students have the skills they need to become tomorrow’s lifesavers.”

Schuitmaker believes the bill’s support comes from the fact that training more students can only have a positive effect. Once the instruction is fully implemented, more than 100,000 students will be trained in CPR each year.

“It’s a simple equation. Increasing the amount of trained good samaritans will increase the likelihood that a bystander will be able to intervene until emergency responders arrive,” Schuitmaker said. “When someone goes into cardiac arrest, they typically have around five minutes for their heart to return to normal. After that threshold, the chances of the attack becoming fatal are dangerously increased. Having someone on site can literally be the difference between life and death.”

When the bill is signed by Gov. Snyder, Michigan will join more than half of the country in requiring CPR training prior to high school graduation.

Camp Grayling environmental program recognized for quality

The Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center environmental program was recently awarded second place in the sustainability (non-industrial installation) category of the 2016 National Guard Bureau, Army National Guard environmental awards program. The award packet submitted for consideration contained visual and written documentation of 2016 and on-going environmental efforts at Camp Grayling. The packet now advances to the Department of the Army competition representing the Army National Guard.

The award packet contained technical information about Camp Grayling’s sustainability efforts toward net-zero waste, energy independence, flora and fauna conservation and habitat development, water conservation and protection, and the completion of formalized internal voluntary assessment schedules that meet, and in many cases exceed, industry standards. The camp’s environmental teams proudly partner with like-minded businesses, community groups, universities and other groups to proactively investigate potential problems and embrace innovative options for improving sustainability.

“We take protection of resources seriously here at Camp Grayling,” said environmental manager John Hunt. “Long before sustainability issues were being talked about, we were regularly monitoring soil, air and water quality, consciously seeking the most environmentally responsible ways to train troops.”

“Sustainability efforts at Camp Grayling and across Michigan National Guard installations and armories, significantly exceed quality standards set by the EPA and other conservation-

related groups,” said Brig. Gen. Michael Stone, the Michigan National Guard Assistant Adjutant General for Installations. “Our environmental teams work closely with partner groups to protect our state’s natural resources and to model energy stewardship for future generations.”

Michigan Army National Guard environmental efforts don’t stop at Camp Grayling. Efforts at facilities across the state, including Fort Custer and the Michigan National Guard Headquarters in

Lansing, have earned the agency top NGB awards in eight of the past ten years. In 1997 and 2009, the Michigan National Guard received the NGB Environmental Stewardship award for ‘Best Overall Army National Guard Environmental Program’ - making Michigan the only state in the nation to receive the award twice. The Michigan Guard also scored wins at the Department of the Army level in 2005 and 2008, and at the Department of Defense level in 2008 and 2009.



Photo: Soil near a Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center firing range in Grayling, Michigan, is cleared of contaminants, Nov. 7, 2016. (Michigan National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeremie Mead)

Share the gift of security

We have all received gifts we’ve wanted to return: ugly socks or sweaters that look exactly like the one you got (or gave!) last year. Sometimes, just letting loved ones know that you’re there for them, no matter what, is the best gift of all.

For this holiday season, give your loved ones some peace of mind by introducing them to Social Security’s many programs. While creating new holiday memories, help your family members create a safe and secure my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. It’s the gift that keeps on giving all year long, with features that let you:

- Get your Social Security Statement, to review;
- Estimates of your future retirement, disability, and survivors benefits;
- Your earnings once a year to verify the amounts

that we posted are correct; and

- The estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes you’ve paid.
- Get a benefit verification letter stating that:
 - You never received Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicare; or

• You received benefits in the past, but do not currently receive them. The letter will include the date your benefits stopped and how much you received that year; or

- You applied for benefits but haven’t received an answer yet.

Your loved ones will also appreciate the gift of convenience! Social Security has many online services that can fit their diverse needs at www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices.

Receiving support and friendship often means more than material gifts.

As you’re exchanging presents this holiday season, remember to also exchange some knowledge, and pass on the effectiveness of my Social Security and our online services. Your loved ones will appreciate it.



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- 9. Back talk
- 13. *America's funniest?
- 14. ____ Spermatozoa counterparts
- 15. Salk's conquest
- 16. 1/16 ounce, pl.
- 17. For every
- 18. Donor's bequest
- 19. *Cookie's drama
- 21. *"The ____ Theory"
- 23. "High" drink
- 24. "Back in the ____," The Beatles
- 25. Not square
- 28. * ____ Grimes of "The Walking Dead"
- 30. Web connectors
- 35. Bagnold or Blyton
- 37. Urban myth
- 39. ____ Mara, Kenya
- 40. Stalactite site
- 41. *Celebrity dancers
- 43. River of Hades
- 44. Door openers
- 46. Sad sound
- 47. Owl's cry
- 48. English or Irish canine
- 50. Type of word
- 52. Be nosy
- 53. Bridge site
- 55. Do this with hot drink
- 57. *Gordon Ramsay's turf

CROSSWORD														
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DECEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 20

- Socialite and actress best known for her multiple [9] marriages, Zsa Zsa Gabor, has died at the age of 99. 
- The Russian ambassador to Turkey, Andrey Karlov, 62, was shot to death by an off-duty Turkish policeman. Mevlut Mert Aydintas, 22, shot and killed the ambassador shouting in protest of Russia's involvement in Aleppo. The gunman was also killed.
- The electoral college placed their votes on Monday in the wake of widespread disappointment of Donald Trump's victory. Losing by 3 million popular votes, Trump's win has revitalized talk of changing the popular vote instead of the electoral college system.

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- 61. *Investors on "Shark Tank"
 - 64. Gem State
 - 65. East Coast time
 - 67. Lumps of fuel
 - 69. Andrea Bocelli, e.g.
 - 70. Day before
 - 71. Small island
 - 72. Door fastener
 - 73. Cuba Libre ingredient
 - 74. Down and out
- DOWN**
- 1. Blu-ray precursor
 - 2. De Valera's Ireland
 - 3. *"The Goldbergs" narrator
 - 4. Do like sirens
 - 5. Legwear monger
 - 6. Deal with it
 - 7. Park or Fifth, e.g.
 - 8. Wire prickles
 - 9. Acid gritty-textured fruit
 - 10. One algae representative
 - 11. a.k.a. Xi'an
 - 12. *Frequently belted out in "The Voice"
 - 15. Organized persecution of ethnic group
 - 20. Train tracks
 - 22. Any doctrine
 - 24. Russia's neighbor
 - 25. *Family in "The Middle"
 - 26. Foolish
 - 27. Basketball foot maneuver
 - 29. Army beds
 - 31. 100-meter race
 - 32. Impede
 - 33. Bill de Blasio, e.g.
 - 34. *Leslie Stahl's minutes
 - 36. Collection agency's target
 - 38. "Cogito ____ sum"
 - 42. "Be quiet!"
 - 45. SeOor in Portugal
 - 49. Fish eggs
 - 51. One of B-vitamins
 - 54. Unkind look
 - 56. Nonpoetic writing
 - 57. ____ and kin
 - 58. Creative spark
 - 59. Sunbathing results
 - 60. Karate blow
 - 61. Kind of cell
 - 62. Leafy supergreen
 - 63. Downhill racer
 - 66. *"Law & Order" acronym
 - 68. Pig's digs
- 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

Is the CEO of ExxonMobil, Rex Tillerson, a good choice for the next Secretary of State?

- Absolutely, he understands the Russians 0%
- No way! Not only is there a conflict of interest, but he's too close to the Russians ... 60%
- Why not? 30%
- I don't care 10%

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