

city council meeting



poker run



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lhs sports



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Iconic Lowell Showboat closed to the public

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Last week the city of Lowell announced that it will close the iconic Lowell Showboat effective immediately.

"Keeping the health, safety and welfare of citizens in mind at all times, we have determined that the current Lowell Showboat will be closed to the public starting Jan. 4, 2017," city

"It's a sad day for the residents of Lowell,"

~ Mike Burns

manager Mike Burns and chamber of commerce executive director Liz Baker said in a joint press release. "It is our shared belief that the current structure built in 1979 has served us well. It has outlived its expected lifespan. As age takes its



toll on the fifth version of the Lowell Showboat, we have to reflect on its ability to continue to serve. [...] The Robert E. Lee's long

history and tradition in the community has made this a very difficult decision."

"It's a sad day for the residents of Lowell," Burns

said in an interview with the Ledger. "However, the effort being made to restore the boat is positive and will have good impact for the

community. Before moving here I was familiar with the Showboat but didn't know

Showboat, continued, page 8

Superintendent gives special award to board members at school board meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell Area Schools Board of Education had their latest regular meeting in the board room in the Runciman building, 300 High St., on Monday, Jan. 9. The meeting lasted just under an hour and was attended by about six members of the public.

Lowell Middle School principal Dan VanderMeulen and assistant principal Craig Veldman updated the board about classes that middle school students take for high school credit, including algebra, English, French and Spanish.

"We're always kind of brainstorming about different exploratory options," VanderMeulen said. "I'm always thinking about things that would be more hands-on in nature for kids in the middle school, either STEM-based classes

or practical kinds of things like a life skills class, some kind of home repair class, an industrial arts-based class... I'd love to be able to offer that type of thing for kids."

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math. STEM-based learning includes classes designed to train students for rewarding, high-paying careers in various technological fields.

"That would probably mirror some of the work that is happening at each of the elementaries," superintendent Greg Pratt said. "[We are] making sure that we have opportunities for students who are excelling and need greater challenge, there are opportunities for students to expand their work in the middle group of kids who are doing well but need to be challenged a little more and then obviously we're providing support for those kids that need extra support.

I'm very proud of the work that has happened at the middle school."

Pratt gave a special recognition award to each member of the school board. (Maureen Fleet was absent).

"It is a job that is to some degree thankless, so we set aside this special time to say thank you and to recognize board members for the work they put in," Pratt said.

The board heard a budget update from Lowell Area Schools' chief financial officer John Zielinski.

"[The budget was] pretty much right on target as to what would be expected, so no surprises there," Zielinski said.

The next regular board meeting will be in the Runciman building, 300 High St., at 7 pm on Monday, Feb. 13. The board will also have a work session in the Runciman building at 6 pm on Monday, Jan. 23.



Superintendent Greg Pratt giving a special award to school board president Jim Turner.

50 CENTS



Several local restaurants are all-in for this year's Pub Poker Run slated for January 24

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Pub Poker Run, a traveling poker game, will be on Tuesday, Jan. 24. Participants will race between several local restaurants collecting a

card at each stop and try to collect the winning hand. The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce event was the brainchild of local residents Cutter Phillips and Betsy Davidson.

"The Pub Poker Run registration is 5:30 to 6 pm at the chamber [113 Riverwalk Plaza]," said Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. "The cost is \$10

per hand. From there people are free to go to all six stops at their own leisure. You will notice that New Union Brewery is part of it as well. They will receive an

envelope from each stop. The participants must end at Larkin's no later than 8 pm. At Larkin's there is an opportunity to get one extra card for \$5."

Sneakers, Flat River Grill, Main Street BBQ and Century Post.

"This was about the community and the businesses within it," Phillips said. "Tuesday nights are typically slower for restaurant traffic. We were doing this to bring people out, let them have some fun, raise some money and have a good time."

It's a charity event, but you can also benefit by winning at poker. Last year's first-place winner, Brian Decker, won \$110.

"All the money raised from this opportunity will benefit LowellArts," Baker said. "Cash awards are given for first, second and third place. The amount awarded is based on the number of people playing."

"The event is focused on eating, enjoying a beverage and socializing," Baker said.

There will be food and drink specials at participating restaurants, which include Larkin's,

For more information visit the chamber of commerce website, lowellchamber.org, or call 616-897-9161.



along main street

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries will be Thurs., Jan. 19, 1 to 2 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

BLUEGRASS MUSIC EVENT

Free Bluegrass music jam session on Sat., Jan. 21 from 2:30 to 5 pm at the King building at the fairgrounds. Come to jam or listen. Everyone welcome.

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. At Lowell Performing Arts Center, Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes on Fri., Jan. 20 at 7 pm and Sat., Jan 21 at 2:30 pm. If you would like more information visit www.lowellartsmi.org or contact LowellArts at 897-8545 or info@lowellartsmi.org

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.

Are you superstitious?

by Bonnie Mattson
Staff Writer

For those who are superstitious, Friday the 13th is a day they may perceive with fear. Throughout most of recorded history, the number 13 has been seen as an unlucky number.

Historically, Friday has been viewed as an unlucky day of the week, although many today view it as "TGIF," or "Thank God it's Friday." For the wary however, when the unlucky day of Friday lands on the unlucky 13, bad things may happen.

Those who live in fear of the number 13 suffer from Triskaidekaphobia.

In biblical references, it is believed that Cain killed Abel on Friday the 13th, though it is not certain how this was determined, since calendars were not thought to have been in existence at the time.

The ancient Babylonian Code of Hammurah omitted the number 13 in its list of laws. Written in 1700 B.C., it suggests ancient Babylonians considered the number 13 to be unlucky.

Other Friday the 13th trivia includes:

- Many buildings and skyscrapers do not have a 13th floor.

- Many people will not allow 13 people at the table. If exactly 13 people are present, a second table is set up.

- Skippers would not go out to sea with a crew of 12. Including the captain, that made 13 people.

- Ancient Mayans of Central America were the most advanced culture in all of the Americas. They considered the number 13 sacred.

- The combination of a Friday on the 13th day of the month happens one to three times a year. That will occur twice in the next

few years: January and October 2017; April and July of 2018; September and December 2019; and in March and November of 2020.

Interestingly, a sizable number of optimists embrace Friday the 13th and the number 13. They shrug off the superstition and go buy lottery tickets bearing the number 13.

For the superstitious, however, this Friday, Jan. 13, is a day to avoid walking under a ladder and to turn the other way when seeing a black cat cross one's path.

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City council discusses food trucks and appoints new mayor and mayor pro tem at this week's meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council officially appointed the new mayor and mayor pro tem, discussed the future of food trucks in the city and slightly tightened the rules for public discussion at their latest regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 3. The meeting lasted a little over an hour and was attended by about 20 people.

At the very beginning of the meeting councilor Mike DeVore was appointed Lowell's new mayor. DeVore was nominated by councilor Jim Hodges and seconded by councilor Alan Teelander. DeVore replaced former mayor Jeff Altoft who was recalled in the Nov. 2016 election.

Once the mayor position was sorted out, councilor Greg Canfield nominated Hodges to be Lowell's mayor pro tem, but Hodges declined to accept the nomination. The mayor pro tem acts as mayor if the mayor is unavailable.

"I would respectfully decline," Hodges said. "I really appreciate that, but it's time for someone else."

Councilor Jeff Phillips nominated Teelander instead, seconded by



City councilors Greg Canfield, Alan Teelander and Michael DeVore, city manager Michael Burns and city councilor Jim Hodges listening to a citizen's opinion on whether or not to allow food trucks in Lowell.

DeVore and after a quick, unanimous vote, Teelander was appointed mayor pro tem.

The council then briefly reviewed their "Rules of Procedure" and changed the length of time people can speak, if they are representing a group, from ten minutes to five minutes.

The council's Rules of Procedure document is available in the "city

council" section of the city of Lowell website. Section E, item two of the document states, "Members of the public shall be limited to speaking for a maximum of five minutes during any public hearing or public comment. A person representing a group and speaking on behalf of same shall be allowed ten minutes to address the council." The council voted unanimously

to remove that second sentence.

"Under item two, that citizens be given a minimum of five minutes to speak during the discussion times, public hearings and public comment," Hodges said. "We [should] strike the issue of a person representing a group and speaking on behalf of a group be allowed ten minutes to address the council. Just eliminate that

sentence and I think that will clear things up."

The council led a discussion on whether or not to allow food trucks in the city of Lowell.

"Recently there was an incident where a food truck was at a business in the downtown district," city manager Michael Burns said. "There was some concern by other restaurateurs pertaining to

the food truck being able to serve in the district. The biggest concern was that these businesses are coming into the downtown, not paying any city taxes and making a profit while in the city. I am in agreement with them on this issue and when I began researching this I learned that our ordinance does not allow

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LPD stats for November and enforcement updates

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell isn't the most crime-ridden, dangerous location one could choose to live, but the police department manages to stay pretty busy anyway. According to the most recently released statistics, Lowell police department made 19 arrests during the month of November. These arrests included one for

drunk driving, one drug law violation, two for driving with a suspended license, seven for outstanding warrants and five that are described in the police department's information as "other arrests." There have been 281 arrests in Lowell so far during 2016.

Lowell police also responded to plenty of misdemeanors during

November. There were six larceny calls, two breaking and entering complaints, three calls for malicious destruction, five disorderly conduct calls, two dog complaints and nine assaults. Lowell police issued 18 citations and notified 29 residents about ordinance violations. They were called to "assist" 71 times and were dispatched to 19 accidents. Out of 62 traffic stops they let 59 drivers go with just a warning.

"Domestic assaults have dropped, along with assault and battery, but our civil complaints and neighbor disputes have more than doubled," Bukala said. "We had three times as many breaking and enterings. We had ten or 11 more car accidents, including four more injury accidents than we had in 2015."

LPD was one of the first area departments to obtain body cameras. LPD

chief Steve Bukala said the recordings have proved useful many times.

"They have been working out excellently,"

LPD stats,
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sharing the vision

LAS Superintendent Greg Pratt

school boards lead

January is School Board Recognition Month and Lowell Area Schools is joining 540 local and 56 intermediate school districts across the state to thank our community volunteers for their untiring dedication to public education.

Serving on a school board has been described as the 'toughest volunteer job in America.' Yet Michigan's public school board members dedicate countless personal hours to attending meetings, school functions, and hours of preparation for the decisions they make. On top of that, many pursue their own professional development to stay on top of the ever-changing education

landscape. Collectively, school board members in Michigan have spent about 7,000 hours attending training and professional development. They're dedicated individuals who are committed to the continuing success of our schools and students."

It's an exciting and challenging time in public education. School board members in our district develop policies and make tough decisions that help shape the future of our education system. They bear responsibility and oversight for an annual budget of \$36.8 million, nearly 4,000 students, almost 500 employees and 8 buildings.

Lowell Area School Board members are dedicated to the continuing success of our schools and students. We proudly join educators and community members in saluting these education advocates as they provide vision and leadership for student achievement, academic programs, district funding and school facilities. The men and women serving Lowell Area Schools are:

- President - Jim Turner
- Vice-President - Brian Krajewski
- Secretary - Pat Nugent
- Treasurer - Maureen Fleet
- Trustee - Gary Blough
- Trustee - Tom Kaywood
- Trustee - Laurie Kuna

Thank you Lowell Board of Education members for your selfless work!

...
Infuse your life with action. Don't wait for it to happen. Make it happen. Make your own future. Make your own hope. Make your own love. And whatever your beliefs, honor your creator, not by passively waiting for grace to come down from upon high, but by doing what you can to make grace happen... yourself, right now, right down here on Earth.

~ Bradley Whitford

City Council, continued

this currently. However, I think it's necessary to have a discussion with the city council on future direction on this matter. Food trucks are becoming much more popular and mainstream in downtowns across the United States. They are becoming a very important part of vibrant downtowns. Many cities nationally have been able to manage these issues along with addressing the concerns about fairness with the current food service providers in the downtown district. I think it's necessary to have a discussion on this. We have new business in downtown that has been doing this. I can tell you for a fact that food trucks are very popular. Personally, I like food trucks. [...] I'm concerned that with the ordinance that is currently written, there is going to be a fight."

Several citizens joined in the discussion. Most who spoke seemed to be in favor of allowing food trucks as long as they pay a license fee and follow all other local ordinances.

"I know that we always

have a lot of fear that comes first," said local resident Roger LaWarre. "That's the first thing we do, fear that something new is going to interrupt or destroy something that we have."

"If you bring somebody in with a truck and they sell food, every person in that town that built their building, pays their taxes and does all that stuff, didn't sell something that night," said Keiser's Kitchen owner Blair Cahoon. "It just plain screws the people that have businesses in this town. They're not going to go have food at the truck and then go over to the barbecue place and have barbecue. Maybe they'll go to Larkin's and have a drink."

"Sir, there are a number of vibrant downtowns nationwide that have food trucks," Burns said.

"We're not 'vibrant,' we're a little town that you're trying to change into a 'vibrant downtown,'" Cahoon said. "We don't sell crab legs in this town. We're a little, home, farm town. You guys are not going

to change it, it's been that way forever. I've been here 70 years. We sell meat and potatoes. It's just insane. It isn't even worth talking about you guys' logic."

"I'm not trying to compete with all these local restaurants," said New Union Brewery owner Tyler Velting. "I've been working with a lot of local restaurants to figure out a way to do deliveries and that kind of thing. It's not like we're looking to have a food truck every single night. It's an option. It's something fun. It's something unique to do just to try something out to see if it works. It's been one of our top requests."

"It's a free enterprise type of deal, in my opinion, that I don't think you can completely restrict," Burns said.

The council did not make a decision about food trucks, but will discuss the issue further at a later date. Lowell city council's next regular meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

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viewpoint

to the editor

mencken would've understood

Dear Ledger,

The nation enters a bold new age, but locally it is more of the same: The American people and those of the 86th House District are getting the government they deserve. It is not the manipulation of the Americans in Cuba, nor the Soviets in Poland. *Los gringos alegres* voted it in, mostly.

Nationally: By processes which astonish or even sicken foreigners – American Exceptionalism writ large – a third-party candidate captured the nomination of a once great political institution, eventually to be “elected” by the College. The framers of the 1787 Constitution might

have been less than pleased. In a 2001 essay in the *Wall Street Journal*, Charles “Bell Curve” Murray referred to the “coarsening” and “proletarianization” of American culture. The presidential campaign was further evidence of this country’s decline. Murray did not say so. I did.

Locally: A candidate whose credentials I would be ashamed to run on is going to Lansing. His opponent thought getting out to press the flesh actually meant something to contemporary voters, wonderful fool that she was. H. L. Mencken would have understood

her defeat: a woman well above her constituency. For my own self, I pray for France to annex the 86th as an overseas territory (read: colony) because we once were part of New France. More important, they could revive their “civilizing mission” in primitive cultures to teach the art of self-government.

In the words of Mort Sahl, “Is there anyone here I haven’t offended?”

Sincerely,
G. M. Ross
Lowell Township

outdoors

reality

Dave Stegehuis

Sometimes it seems like we live in a virtual world. Young folks typically have a device in their hand no matter where they are and spend a lot of time staring at it. Vehicles have video screens that pop out of the ceiling. Video games are still a popular pastime. Toss in a vast number of T.V. programs and streaming movies and we have the opportunity to be plugged into abstract information all of our waking hours. This flood of information diverts our attention from much of the real world around us.

Most of our world is not plugged in. Large areas of our country remain in a natural state. The relationship between the land and the creatures that live there does not change. Becoming part of this relationship ourselves can alter ones perspective on life.

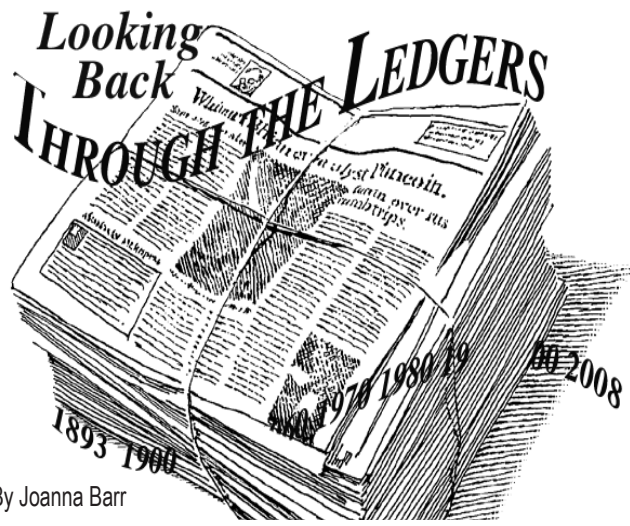
As we begin a new year, it is a good time to look for opportunities to find some quiet time in the outdoors. While out there, pay close attention and take it all in. Listen carefully for the sounds of the forest. Be aware of the smells from the ground and on the wind. Observe the interaction between resident wildlife and how they go about making a living.

Get involved with fishing, hunting, or gathering if you want to be part of the life cycle happening around you. Boating, hiking, camping, paddling lakes and rivers, biking, and other non-consumptive activities provide a source of adventure and excitement as an alternative to virtual reality.

Just remember that nature is real life, and there are real consequences for decisions and actions out there. Mother Nature makes the rules. There are no regulations governing lightning, swift deep water, or thin ice. Re-sets and do overs aren’t always possible, so pay attention and use commonsense.

Personal involvement with nature doesn’t have to be risky or complicated. Sit under a tree in the backyard for a while, or take a walk in a park. Every experience no matter how casual or intense makes us more aware of our relationship with the natural world.

Research suggests that a proper diet, exercise, and connecting with nature will affect ones long term mental and physical health. Incorporating the above recommendation into one’s lifestyle will make our future brighter as we begin a New Year.



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal Jan. 13, 1892

Our genial Dentist, F. D. White, received a very flattering offer this week from a large dental firm in Mexico, offering him \$150 per month salary if he would go there and contract with them for five years. “Doc.” has the matter under consideration, but thinks he will decline the offer, as he is doing remarkably well here.— Springport Signal.

Who said oil? Read this. It explains itself. Lowell, Mich. Jan, 13th, '93. The test of the Oils sold in Lowell, ordered by the Lowell Dist. Council P. of H., proved that the Oil sold by the Lowell Grocery Co., marked “Wells & Clear. Old Test Oil. Lansing Mich.,” gave the flashing point to be 155 degrees, the highest of any sample found thus far. J. C. English.

For Sale—modern brick residence with all modern conveniences, circular well, city water, cistern, barn, ice house, chicken house, stables and yard, peach, apple and ornamental shrubbery. Consisting of about one-half acre of land on high ground in the east part of the village. Jas. R. Buchanan.

The fine sleighing is enjoyed by those who are lucky enough to have friends who have rigs.

The Frank Tucker Metropolitan Theatre Co. commence a weeks engagement at Music Hall, on Monday evening Jan. 25th. The company is all new this season and present a list of the latest comedy successes.

C. E. Selover has resigned his position with the Singer Mfg. Co., to take effect Saturday the 16th and has bought the Stanton Bazaar and will take possession, Monday Jan. 18th.

S. P. Hicks was confined to the house the latter part of last week, by the gripe of the grip.

Jack Moore is confined to the house having a wrestle with that insatiable malady, the grip.

P. W. McPherson lost his house by fire last Mon. morning, early, together with most of its contents.

Look out for “The Noble Outcast,” a comedy of more than usual merit, Mon. Jan. 25th, at Music Hall.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger Jan. 11, 1917

McArthur not worrying about recount action. It makes no difference to Rial V. McArthur, county road commissioner, what the recount on the senatorial and representative districts show with reference to his own office. So far the recount indicates that Dexter G. Look, defeated Republican, received more votes than McArthur. Mr. McArthur, when this was called to his attention, said: “I don’t care what the recount shows. I’m in the office and that’s where I’ll stay. Anyway this recount does not include the entire county so why should I get out just because a partial count gives Look a few more votes? Nothing doing.”—Press

The Grand Rapids Tigers, which team plays the Lowell High school basket ball five Thursday night in the school gymnasium, is one of the fastest aggregations in the western part of the state. It has defeated Fremont High, the Zeeland Independents and the fast Grand Haven city team already this season. The local school quintet bids fair to make an excellent showing and some of the most optimistic and predicting a victory for Lowell in the coming contest. This past week the boys have been learning the signals for their new plays. The preliminary game starts at 7:30 o’clock sharp.

Frank Jones, who has a fishing house on the ice, reports seeing large schools of fish of all kinds passing down stream since the accident at the Lowell electric plant. We expect to hear many stories this summer of the “biggest one getting away.”

The eclipse of the moon Sunday night and Monday morning was witnessed here with interest by many, if lights in the several homes were evidence, it repaid those heard from who lost their sleep.

The wheat market is lively in Lowell these days. High prices are bringing large numbers of farmers to the King Milling company’s doors daily, with grain to be made into Pure Gold flour.

Wanted—Healthy young women for Women’s wards at Ionia State hospital. Apply with full description of self,

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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.

Small plane crashes into Murray Lake

An airplane crashed into Murray Lake in Grattan Township at 12:37 pm on Saturday, Jan. 7.

Kent County Dispatch received multiple calls stating that a plane had crashed onto Murray Lake and was sinking through

the ice. Kent County Sheriff Deputies discovered a 2008 American Legend AL3C aircraft had broken through the thin ice just prior to take off and became submerged under the ice. The pilot of the plane was James Bakeman, a 59-year-old resident of

Grand Rapids. Bakeman was uninjured and therefore able to exit the plane on his own. A witness used a kayak to reach Bakeman and get him to the shore of the lake.

The Kent County Sheriff Department was

assisted by the Lowell Township Fire Department, Grattan Township Fire Department and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The crash is still under investigation by the FAA.

Here to help you realize your dream

January 16 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — a national holiday and a day of remembrance. Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated his life to creating and fostering equal rights for African Americans, and he died during his efforts to make his dream a reality.

Many people commemorate this holiday by

servicing their community and giving to others who may be less fortunate. In many ways, this is what Social Security does every day, all year long.

A great way to be of service to others is to help someone you know who may need assistance applying for Social Security,



Medicare, or Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs. This is easy to do at www.socialsecurity.gov.

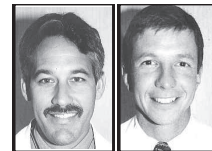
Some people who need these benefits may not be comfortable with computers or may not even know applying online is an option. But now, it's easier than ever to apply for such benefits from the convenience of a home computer at www.socialsecurity.gov.

For example, it's easy to apply for retirement benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline. It can take as little as 15 minutes from start to finish. Once the application is electronically submitted, in most cases, there is nothing more to do.

People who already have Medicare coverage, but who need help meeting prescription drug costs, can apply for Extra Help online at www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp.

You can make your Martin Luther King Day a day of service to someone who can use your help. Lead them to www.socialsecurity.gov. It may be easy for you, but it may help someone you love realize their own dreams.

health



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

childhood obesity

In most cases, obesity is the result of an energy imbalance. Energy is measured by calories. Food provides the calories the body uses during normal functioning, everyday activities and exercise. When a person consumes more calories than that person's body uses, those extra calories are stored as fat.

Some health conditions causes weight gain. These problems are uncommon and account for less than one percent of childhood obesity.

Health problems associated with childhood obesity include high cholesterol, high blood pressure, insulin resistance, diabetes, asthma, arthritis, and sleep apnea.

Children who are obese are also more likely to be obese as adults. So

childhood obesity places kids at risk of serious long-term health issues.

Parents and caregivers can help children have a healthy diet and be physically active. Good eating habits should be encouraged. Fresh fruits and vegetables should be offered as snacks. Limit foods like potato chips, cookies and ice cream. Encouraging physical activity. Playing outside is a good way for your child to be active. Look for opportunities for your child to participate in sports.

Reduce screen time. Children spend an average of seven hours a day watching TV and movies, playing video games and surfing the Internet. Parents should monitor and limit their children's screen time if it takes the place of physical activity.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Lowell Cable TV (LCTV) Endowment Fund Board is now accepting grant applications for 2017. Application forms and instructions are available at Lowell City Hall, Lowell Charter Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, Englehardt Public Library, Lowell Area Schools Administration Building and online on the City and Township websites. The LCTV Endowment Fund is a nonprofit fund established in late 2007 from the sale of the assets of Lowell Cable Television and is invested and administered by the Grand Rapids Community Fund. The LCTV Endowment Fund supports and promotes projects that benefit a broad segment of the Lowell area community, enhances the quality of life in the area, encourages cooperation among the communities and qualifies as a one-time capital improvement.
2017 grant applications should be submitted to the Lowell City Clerk's office, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331. The deadline for submitting 2017 applications is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 10, 2017. Questions should be directed to Susan Ullery, City Clerk.

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- JANUARY 14**
Angie Nowak, Ryan Burns, Tim Yonker.
- JANUARY 15**
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Kevin Rasch, Joe Potter.

area churches



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LPD stats, continued

Bukala said. “Our officer complaints have gone down to almost nothing. The investigation time of an officer complaint is reduced drastically. It is usually worked out by a review of the video with the parties. Defense attorneys request it routinely; a lot of our cases are plead out before they even see the inside of a courtroom because of the

evidence that is collected by the bodycam video.”

The electronic speed signs on Main St. that tell you exactly how fast your car is going have helped reduce speeders downtown.

“The electronic speed signs are doing exactly what I hoped they would have done and that is reducing the speed in the downtown business district,” Bukala

said. “85 percent of cars traveling on Main St. are at or below the speed limit. They are doing exactly what I wanted them to do, which was slow the traffic down in the downtown business district. I would like to get a couple more of these on Hudson St. and on Foreman St. in the school zones to keep traffic at a safe, reasonable speed.”

Bukala said the department could use at least one more officer.

“Back when we had seven full-time officers we were just under 600 arrests a year,” Bukala said. “A lot of our proactive type of enforcement has gone down, such as drunk drivers, driving on a suspended license, traffic related arrests... All of those have

gone down because our traffic stops and our citizen contacts are lower because we had less personnel available to go around. Now that the economy is turning around, we would like to fill a position.”

Bukala is working to allow food trucks to set up within city limits.

“One thing I’m going

to do more this year is digging into our city ordinances and getting those updated,” Bukala said. “A lot of them are in severe need of updating. The one I’m working on now is the ‘transient merchant’ one, which includes food trucks. We’re trying to figure out what is a fair and balanced approach.”

EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: What are environmentalists doing to prepare for a Trump presidency?

- Robert Eckholm, Washington, DC

Many different interest groups are worried about what Donald Trump’s ascendancy to the White House will mean for their causes, but perhaps none are as concerned as environmental and climate activists. The new administration has vowed to gut the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), cancel the carbon-busting Clean Power Plan, and pull out of the landmark Paris climate accord. And environmentalists are bracing for attempts by the new White House to lift off-shore oil and gas drilling moratoria and re-start the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipeline projects across the nation’s heartland.

In the face of these likely assaults, what are plans to counteract Trump’s anti-green moves? The Sierra Club kicked things off in December by projecting a huge image of rising seas and the words “Don’t Trump the planet” onto the side of the Trump Building on Wall Street in New York City. The group has attracted more donors in the weeks since Trump’s election than in the previous four years, and is focusing in the short term

on derailing Scott Pruitt as Trump’s pick to head the EPA.

The Sierra Club has also kicked its Beyond Dirty Fuels campaign into high gear, given Trump’s hints that he would try to green light more oil and gas development projects. Sierra Club activists have helped organize and staff protest camps along the proposed route of the Sabal Trail Transmission, an oil and gas pipeline slated to cross through sensitive natural habitats in Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

Meanwhile, 350.org, an advocacy group committed to building a global grassroots climate movement, has pledged to spend January fighting to derail Trump’s anti-environment cabinet picks. The group organized a “national day of action” on January 9, targeting key Senators who say they recognize the threat of climate change, but haven’t yet come out against Trump’s EPA nominee Scott Pruitt and other climate change deniers in the cabinet. 350.org is also delivering petitions to the Trump transition team signed by tens of thousands of Americans opposing Pruitt as well as Exxon’s Rex Tillerson, Trump’s Secretary of State nominee. Come spring, 350.org hopes to turn out 500,000 or more sympathizers at the People’s Climate Mobilization, a march on Washington, DC scheduled for April 29, 2017.

Another way activists are rallying support for the environment is by ramping up efforts to get universities

across the country to divest from fossil fuel investments. The Fossil Fuel Divestment Student Network is organizing student walkouts at college campuses across the country on January 23 “to resist and reject the climate denial” of the incoming Trump administration.

Indeed, Trump’s very antipathy towards environmental regulations might be just the kind of spur needed to get people excited about environmental and climate activism. Let’s not forget that memberships, funding and influence swelled for green groups when another conservative Republican, George W. Bush, moved into the White House in 2000; groups like the Sierra Club leveraged this backlash to successfully lead the charge against the development of dozens of new emissions-spewing coal-fired power plants at the time, sparing the nation a huge carbon burden down the line. Activists hope to build on this type strategy in leveraging the support of the vast majority of Americans for increased environmental protections and greenhouse gas emissions cuts to convince the Trump administration to do the right thing.

CONTACTS: Sierra Club, www.sierraclub.org; 350.org, www.350.org; Fossil Fuel Divestment Student Network, www.studentsdivest.org
EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of the nonprofit Earth Action Network. To donate, visit www.earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org



NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP 2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are held at the Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Dr., at 7:00 pm. For further information, phone 897-5671, or visit the township web site at www.vergennesnj.org

THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2017 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

January 16	July 17
February 20	August 21
March 20	September 18
April 17	October 16
May 15	November 20
June 19	December 18

THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2017 ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

February 6	August 7
March 6	November 6
May 1	

The Annual Meeting of the Electors will be held at 6:30 pm on March 20, prior to the Regular Board Meeting

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets as required or requested.

Heather Hoffman,
Vergennes Township Clerk

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Showboat, continued

the history. The committee looking to restore the Showboat are looking at all available options going forward.”

“The closing of the fifth Lowell Showboat saddens me greatly,” Baker said in an interview with the Ledger. “After all, my career here at the chamber has been focused on this specific boat for 20 plus years. I spent many hours with the late Ivan Blough working on or planning events around the boat. In 2004 the Lowell Leadership Class chose the Lowell Showboat as their project under the direction of Ivan Blough. At that time they restored the boat to its original grandeur in preparation for its 25th Birthday Celebration. Since that time we (volunteers) have scrapped, repaired and painted our beloved icon.”

This is not really the end of an era, though. Plans are underway for a new structure and city leaders will hold a public meeting so local residents can help figure out what to do next.

“The tradition of Lowell and the Lowell Showboat will continue with your support. Volunteers are working to redevelop Lowell’s Showboat concept into a new and exciting structure,” Burns and Baker said. “The ‘Rebuild the Lowell Showboat’ committee will be hosting an informal meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19 at 7 pm at city hall to seek community input on the replacement structure.”

“The time has come to build a new structure,” Baker said. “One that [the] community will be proud



A 1940s era picture of the Lowell Showboat.

of, one that our younger generation will cherish for years to come. We won’t know the exact cost of this project until we finalize what can be built. We are looking at 2018 for construction and completion.”

There have actually been five Lowell Showboats over the years. The first boat was a sternwheeler called the “George Washington.” It was built in 1932 by Walter Kauffman and Dave Clark, Sr. It was 60 feet long and was capable of holding

75 people. Its very first passenger was the governor of Michigan at that time, Wilber M. Brucker. Boat number two was the first to use the name “Robert E. Lee” and it was the first sidewheeler. It was built in 1938 and lasted ten years. It was 60 feet long, held 150 people and was built by C.J. Place. The third boat was built by Ed Laux. It was an 80 foot long sidewheeler. It cost \$8,000 and was kept afloat with 200 oil drums. It could handle 200 people and

it was in use from 1948 until 1967. The fourth craft was in use from 1967 until 1978. It cost \$11,000, was kept afloat with 180 oil drums, was 89 feet long and it was built by Walter Graham. On August 19, 1978, a tornado blew through town and smashed it to pieces. A “Re-Float the Lowell Showboat” campaign raised enough money to build a new boat in 1979. This is the current Lowell Showboat and it is, by far, the vessel that has been in use the longest. It is a sternwheeler like the original 1932 boat. Based on the showboat at Disneyland, it was designed by Jim Hall and built by Ivan Blough. It’s 89 feet long and is kept afloat by six barges supplied by the Army Corps of Engineers. It cost \$66,000 to build. It has had minor cosmetic repairs over the years, but no major renovations.

From 1932 to 1997 Showboat performances included a “minstrel show” consisting of a chorus, an interlocutor and endmen. Until 1967, when Louis Armstrong performed, these shows included white people wearing blackface. Those facts along with the boat’s name, “Robert E. Lee,” have resulted in accusations of institutional racism over the years. There was also a talent contest every year and many amateur entertainers from the Lowell area were able to perform on the Showboat. Of course the Lowell Showboat has also

showcased top names in entertainment throughout its existence. Big stars who have performed on the Showboat include Bob Newhart, Dinah Shore, Milton Berle, Steve Allen, Jayne Meadows, Ray Stevens, The Everly Brothers, Jerry Reed, Pearl

take the stage, however. At that point, the approximately 5,000 concert attendees began to throw rocks, bottles and chairs and threatened to burn the Showboat down. Police from all over West Michigan were called to the scene. By morning there were 12 arrests for

“The ‘Rebuild the Lowell Showboat’ committee will be hosting an informal meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19 at 7 pm at city hall to seek community input on the replacement structure.”

Bailey, Tammy Wynette, Lawrence Welk, Emmylou Harris, the Smothers Brothers, Ricky Skaggs, the Oak Ridge Boys and Loretta Lynn. The Showboat was also a favorite of President Gerald R. Ford, who attended every Showboat performance from 1948 until 1973, one year before he became president. Besides the tornado in 1978, the most wild scene that ever took place on the Showboat was the Blue Oyster Cult riot on August 2, 1975. After long rain delays the concert finally began at 6:30 pm with the Detroit band Salem Witchcraft. After more long rain delays, REO Speedwagon played a short set. The concert’s headliner, Blue Oyster Cult, refused to

disorderly conduct and one person was arrested for attempting to break into a pharmacy. The driver of REO Speedwagon’s equipment truck was also arrested for leaving the scene of a personal injury accident.

“Over the past 20 years I have many favorites with this boat,” Baker said. “My all-time favorite is visits with Santa. To see the look on the children’s faces, talking with parents and grandparents and seeing the boat decorated warms my heart. It brings happiness to all that is involved. On a cold winter night the boat shines and sparkles in the heart of downtown historic Lowell.”

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Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS

Arrow wrestlers play tournaments over weekend

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity wrestling split their talent last weekend for a pair of tournaments on the road. Team A participated in the New Lothrop Hall of Fame Tournament and team B competed in the Dave Dunneback Memorial Tournament at West Catholic High School.

Eight Arrow wrestlers advanced to the finals at the Hall of Fame tournament hosted by New Lothrop, a small village northeast of Lansing. The team dominated tournament play nabbing the team championship title and

ultimately six individual championships. James Fotis led the effort tearing through three state-level competitors on his way to a first-place finish with a 4-2 decision and most outstanding wrestler honors at the event.

Five other wrestlers also grappled their way to the top including heavyweight Max Bishop who earned a fall in the quarterfinals to take the top spot; Keigan Yuhus who pinned twice at the event; Eli Boulton who won by fall and then decision in the finals; Avry Mutschler who earned his win by a margin of 7-3 and Austin Boone

who claimed his by major decision. David Kruse settled for second place after losing 6-4 in the finals, as well as Austin Engle who fell 5-6.

Other wrestlers placing within the top six included Bryce Dempsey, Channing Perry, Hunter Browning and Dawson Jankowski.

Closer to home at West Catholic, team B placed five finishers in the top six. Nick Korhorn led the Arrow endeavor earning first place at 103 pounds. Jeff Leach and George Gonzales both settled for a second-place finish after squaring off in the finals round; Connor Nugent placed fourth and rounding out the top contenders was Tyler Delooff who took sixth.

This week the Arrows will play for their second OK White conference victory when they travel to Northview High School on Wednesday night for dual action at 7 pm and then participate in the Fruitport Invitational on Saturday morning beginning at 9 am.



Lowell wrestling team A won top honors at the Dave Dunneback Memorial Tournament.



James Fotis was named Most Outstanding Wrestler at the Hall of Fame tournament.

Lowell Rotary

Service Above Self

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



NATE STEPHENS

Nate is a senior at Lowell High School. Besides being an exceptional student with a 4.2 GPA and a two-sport athlete, he exemplifies Rotary's motto of Service Above Self. Nate serves as the Lowell High School Rotary Interact president and regularly volunteers his time toward community service projects.

Rotary is composed of people from a variety of experiences and perspectives. We strive to change our communities and our world through service. The Lowell Rotary Club invites you to connect with others and learn more about what we are doing locally in Lowell and globally in places like La Gonave, Haiti. We invite you to join us for lunch during one of our weekly meetings at 12:00 noon on Wednesdays in City Hall.



The Service Above Self Student Spotlight is sponsored by Lowell Rotary Club and Rotary District 6290

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Red Arrow

- GYMNASTICS

SPORTS

Good showing for Lowell gymnasts at season debut

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity gymnasts began their season last Saturday at the Rockford Flip Flop Invite where they placed fifth with a points total of 133.975.

The meet, ultimately won by North Farmington who scored 143.75, was long anticipated for the team. Coach Michele DeHaan reported that the team has been getting ready despite obstacles for more than two months.

"We have had girls out with surgery, sickness and injury already so I wasn't sure what to expect. The first two months of our season had so many unexpected twists and turns. I just want things to get back to normal and for everyone to stay healthy and able to compete."

Despite preseason challenges, the team had a "great start" according to DeHaan, with five gymnasts

giving medal worthy performances. Junior Maura Fitzpatrick led the pack placing individually in two events and claiming all-around honors. The veteran gymnast placed sixth overall after earning third place on the floor exercise with a 9.175 and third on the vault with a 9.2.

"Maura is such an asset to the team," said DeHaan following the meet. "We can always count on her to be consistent and confident. The vault that Maura does - a handspring full - is only worth a 9.4 and Maura scored a 9.2. Quite an accomplishment."

The team's two Corahs also placed in the all-around portion of the competition. Senior captain Corah Kaufman finished eighth while sophomore Corah Miller came in ninth. Miller did not place on any individual events but her combined points total was

strong and according to DeHaan, there is much more to come from the young gymnast. "She put in a tremendous amount of work in the off season and is such a hard worker; I expect great

things from her this season." Senior Karmen Anderson, who DeHaan expects to be a strong competitor this year, placed in two events scoring a 9.0 on the vault good for eighth

place and an 8.525 on the bars. Hadyn Nash rounded out Lowell medalists earning an 8.9 on the vault for her first top ten finish as a varsity gymnast. "Hadyn is a sophomore and this was

her first time placing in a meet. I think she surprised herself with how well she vaulted today," said DeHaan of the up-and-comer.



Five Red Arrow gymnasts earned medals in their season opener last weekend.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF BARRY

PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 17-200536-DE

In the matter of HUE VANUS BROWN, aka HUE V. BROWN, deceased.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: Michelle Brown, Gerrade Brown, Hue V. Brown, Jr., Alicia Brown, and any unknown heirs

whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 1/27/2017 at 9:00 am at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski for the following purpose: Appointment of Personal Representative.

Notice to creditors: The decedent, Hue Vanus Brown, died 06/4/2015. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Patricia Brown, proposed personal representative, or to both the Probate Court at 180 Ottawa Ave., NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, and Patricia Brown, the proposed

personal representative within four months after the date of publication of this notice.

1/6/2017

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

Patricia Brown
1011 Cooper Ave., SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
616-930-5847

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 17-200535-DE

Estate of DOROTHY MAE FULLER, deceased. Date of birth: 08/20/1948.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Dorothy Mae Fuller, died 12/12/2016.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against

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

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Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Lowell beats Cedar Springs 66-51 in conference play

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Three Red Arrow players scored in double digits last Friday as the boys varsity basketball team faced their first OK White challenge of the season beating Cedar Springs 66-51 at home.

Matt Beachler led the win offensively netting 23 points for the Arrows followed by teammates

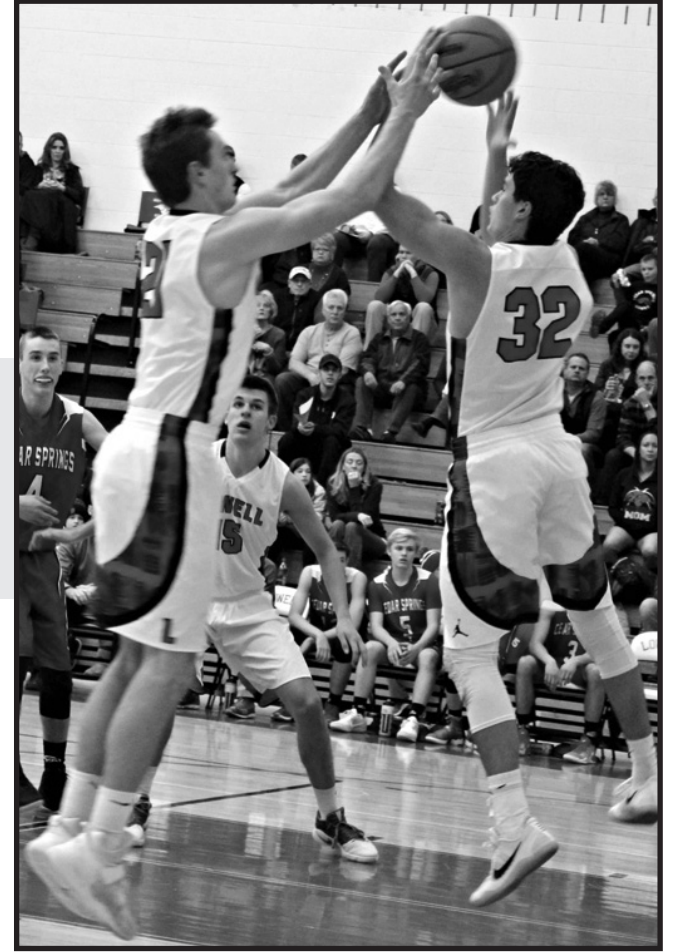
and fellow seniors Zach Petroelje who scored 16 and Andrew Poulton who added 13. The team started off slow repeating their recent pattern of poor first period performances that have plagued their current 2-5 season, falling behind 15-8. “We have been a little passive starting games and there is no excuse,” said Beachler of the debilitating trend on the court. “We need to come out from the tip

more aggressively and be ready to play.”

The Arrows shot back in the second to wipeout the deficit by driving their way to the hoop and tying up the scoreboard before grabbing the 29-22 lead at half time. The Arrows pushed their lead to the double digits in the third, where it remained the duration of the game, but lost senior Austin Branagan to an injury. Branagan came down hard on a knee after dribbling full court for a layup and returned to the sidelines iced on the leg and

out of the game. Despite the missing teammate, the aggressive defense continued and another offensive run on behalf of the Arrows in the fourth put the team up by 15 points for the 66-51 win.

Seniors Matt Beachler and Austin Branagan meet mid-air for a rebound in Friday’s 66-51 win.



On the court this week the Arrows squared off against Ottawa Hills on the road Tuesday night and will welcome Jenison on Friday night for exhibition play tipping off at 6 pm.



CATCH UP ON LHS SPORTS!

the lowell **ledger**

Lady Arrows claim 54-31 win in front of home crowd

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Bridget Garter and Cassie Dean led the Red Arrow girls varsity basketball team to victory last Friday night when they welcomed the Red Hawks of Cedar Springs. In front of a home crowd the team claimed a well-deserved 54-31 win.

In the double header action, Cedar Springs got off to a quick start almost doubling the Arrows’ points total in the first period 14-8. Just past the mid-point of the second though, the Arrows came back within two, then put together a furious 34-6 scoring run that landed them

with a 21-18 lead at the half and a 19-point third that ended 40-24.

The Lady Arrows closed the final period with 14 additional points, doubling the Red Hawks’ effort, to earn the 54-31 win. Garter led Lowell scoring with a total of 16 points,

followed by Dean who netted eleven. The victory adds to a nearly flawless season for the team who is now 1-0 in conference and 5-1 overall in the season with their only loss coming from Covenant Christian High School by a mere point in their season opener.

This week the team traveled to Ottawa Hills for conference action on Tuesday night and look to top former OK White foe Jenison in non-conference action at home Friday night starting at 7:30 pm.



Points leader and team captain Bridget Garter under the net.

Sports Summaries

BOYS BOWLING

Lowell varsity rollers hit the lanes last week for a trifecta of competitions and tallied two wins and a third-place tournament finish. Wednesday at Ottawa Hills High School the gentlemen Arrows topped their OK White opponents with a 25-5 win led by Ben Stewart who rolled a 247. D.J. Simpson followed with a 220. Thursday on their home lanes they snuffed Northpointe Christian earning a 30-0 victory. Stewart topped Lowell bowlers again with a 235 followed by Logan Smith who came in at 229. Finally, at the Jenison Invitational on Saturday Carson Clark took second-place all-tournament honors while the Arrows earned a third-place team finish.

ICE HOCKEY

Lowell Caledonia hockey had a tough week of losses against Forest Hills Eastern/Northern Co-op and Tier 1 competitor Reeths-Puffer. Friday night on home ice the team fell 4-1 with the lone score coming from Nolan Lockhart. Saturday at the LC Walker Arena, Reeths-Puffer bested them 6-3 despite a furious fight to the finish. LC trailed 3-1 at the close of the first period with Nate Regan logging the goal and Ethan Pinto and Alex Osborn sharing the assist. Osborn and Daniel Huver added two goals in the third in a late rally that fell short. This week LC ultimately will host a pair of matches, Friday versus Kenowa Hills at 8:30 pm and Saturday versus Anchor Bay at 3:30 inside the Kentwood Ice Arena.

GIRLS BOWLING

Red Arrow varsity girls bowling added two wins to their season total last week and competed in the Jenison

Invitational over the weekend in a busy week on the lanes. OK White competitor Ottawa Hills was no match for the Lowell ladies Wednesday on the road. Emma Blakie led the ladies with a 176 as the team skunked their opponent 30-0. Thursday against Northpointe Christian at home Morgan Allison led with a 198 as the team topped the non-conference competitor 26-4. The ladies then landed in the eighth position at the Jenison Invitational on Saturday led by a 180 rolled by Laura Lachowski.

BOYS SWIMMING/DIVING

The Lowell/Caledonia/South Christian co-op boys swim and dive team competed in the Pioneer Classic Invite last Saturday at East Grand Rapids High School resulting in a sixth-place 164-point finish. Top five individual finishers included Ryan Parsons, who placed second in the 200 individual medley and fifth in the 100 breaststroke; and Parker Lee placed third in the 100 butterfly. Relay teams scoring in the top five were Michael Johnson, Parsons, Lee and Ren Bykerk in the 200 medley; and Lee, Johnson, Bykerk and Parsons in the 200 freestyle.

COMPETITIVE CHEER

First year Red Arrow competitive cheerleading coach Dayna Crumback and a young and eager varsity cheer team hit the mat last Saturday for their first competition of the season. The team placed seventh at the Comstock Park Invitational in a field of seven. The team will take on their first OK White challenger of the season and look to improve their points totals this week when they travel to Forest Hills Northern.

obituaries

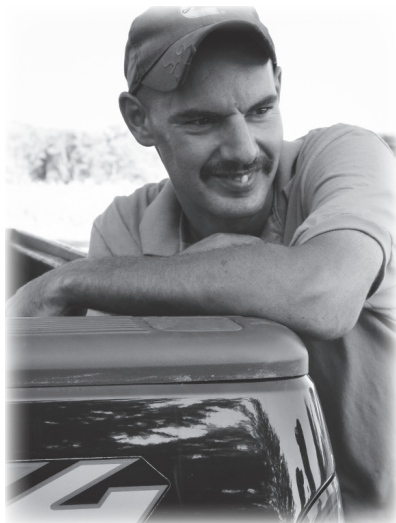
BURNS

Richard James "Rick" Burns, age 59 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly, Saturday, January 7, 2017. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dick and Joyce Burns and brother, Tim Burns. He is survived by his wife, Pam; children, Joshua Burns, Jessica (Josh) Pullen and Misti Sumner; grandchildren, Althea Sorensen, Nathan Kramer and Lulubelle Pullen; brothers, Mike (Sue) Burns, Bob Burns, David (Deb) Burns, Greg (Michelle) Dove; sisters, Lisa Burns, Kim Dove and many nieces and nephews whom he adored. Rick graduated from Lowell High School in 1975 and worked for Fuller Supply for 25 years. Funeral services will be Friday, January 13 at 2:00 PM at the Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell with visitation from 12:00 Noon until 2:00 PM. Memorial contributions may be made to the family for expenses.



MAGEE

Magee, Maynard Jesse, 10/6/1985 - 1/1/2017. Maynard Jesse Magee, 31, of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly at home, on Sunday, New Year's Day. Maynard grew up in Freeport and graduated from Lakewood High School. He met Amy Ewearitt, the love of his life, at University of Northwestern Ohio while studying Diesel Tech. They married in April 2012 and their daughter Audrey was born in August 2013. Maynard was employed for many years at Woods Landscaping, repairing vehicles and equipment, landscaping, mowing and salting. Maynard had a host of landscaping buddies who knew him as an avid wood cutter and metal scrapper who loved to go deer hunting and fishing. His collection of Stihl chain saws was famous! Maynard was preceded in death by his grandfather, Maynard H. Moore and his mother, Tina Moore Magee. Family members who survive are his wife, Amy; daughter, Audrey; grandmother, Elaine Moore; father, Tommy Magee; brothers, Thomas and Andrew; nephew, Ashton; and many aunts, uncles and cousins. Maynard had a close relationship with Amy's family, Bob and Dee Ewearitt, Kris (Chris) and Talise Lowe, Matt (Erika) and Seoul Ewearitt, Dan Ewearitt, Eric Ewearitt and dear friend and fellow cook Dina Clinton. He will be remembered fondly as Uncle May-May by many children and as a mentor to Austin and Blake Snyder and Ethan Smith. Maynard loved spending time with his daughter, Audrey, whether it was squirrel or deer hunting, fishing or her first haircut and manicure. Audrey brought out the gentle side of her daddy. Funeral services were held on Friday, January 6, at Pleasant Valley United Brethren Church. Donations can be made to Magee Family Fund on gofundme.com or the Audrey Renee Magee Benefit fund, Fifth Third Bank, 6485 28th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



THOMPSON

Franklin David Thompson, age 83 of Lowell, was welcomed home by his Lord on October 18, 2016. He lived a simple life, and was dedicated to his family. His great capacity to love will be missed by his family and all those he welcomed into his family. He leaves behind his loving wife of 64 years, Shirley (Larrow) Thompson; children, Frank Thompson Jr., Martin Thompson, Sheila (Kevin) Hoag, Julie Kovich-Echtinaw, Mary Thompson; grandchildren, Justin Hoag, Conall Hoag (Cynthia Tierney), Flynn Hoag, Ryan (Angie) Kovich, Brad (Sadie) Kovich, Ken (Rachael) Echtinaw, Josh (Kristina) Echtinaw; great-grandchildren, Hannah and Gracyn Kovich, Clairra and Anthony Kovich, Eleina Hoag, Lillian Echtinaw; and his buddy, Aerial (Bitty). Frank served in the Korean War. A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, January 15, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. at Ada Christian Reformed Church, 7152 Bradfield SE, Ada. Rev. Bruce Vaandrager and Rev. Scott Van Voorst officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Ada Christian Reformed Church; or the American Cancer Society, 129 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Frank's favorite song was Amazing Grace, *When this flesh and heart should fail, And mortal life shall cease, I shall possess, within the veil, A life of joy and peace.*



Looking Back, continued

including age, height, weight, previous occupation with references to Medical Superintendent, Ionia State Hospital, Ionia, Michigan.

Some large photos taken at the camp of the Thirty Second Michigan on the Mexican border, sent by the Bank brother, are on exhibition at the Lowell postoffice.

L. J. Post will engage in the real estate business and will have an office at the store of C. H. McKay. Mr. Post's life-long acquaintance with the farming and horticultural interests of this section will stand him in good stead in his new undertaking.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger Jan. 14, 1942

The Lowell branch office of the Department of State, of which Mrs. John Fahrni is branch manager has been authorized by Secretary of State Harry F. Kelly to accept all old car and truck plates as they have a very definite value in the making of war materials. The plates will be forwarded to a designated receiving station and all branch offices throughout the state are cooperating.

The vital need for more and more alcohol to make explosives is going to change the formula of lots of things on your drug store shelves. Not things you need when you're ill, but things like toothpaste and perfume, and a great many cosmetic products. The Office of Production Management has ruled that no more alcohol may be used in the manufacture of such products after April 1.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Jan. 11, 1967

Editor's Note - We received a call from a reader stating that in last week's 50 years ago entry the name Bronsema was misspelled Boersma. Well, guess what? It was spelled that way 50 years ago too. Oh well, hope it's right now.

Storage space is at a real premium in Lowell, with several business places renting unoccupied space and some businesses in the town looking for warehouse space. Away Corporation of Ada has rented space for sometime from King Milling Company; Lowell Manufacturing Company has rented the former Lowell Stamping Company plant on Godfrey Street; and the Midwest Jacobson Company and a Hastings Amusement Company are using all the available space in the 4-H buildings at Recreation Park. Despite all the vacant buildings in town, a search for more available space still continues.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger Jan. 13, 1992

Lowell begins transition from conventional to Vista. Schools are asked to replace a bus at seven years of use. Larry Mikulski, Director of Transportation at Lowell Schools will tell you that doesn't happen at very many schools. "Lowell Schools is currently replacing buses after 11 years of use," Mikulski said. "Most schools don't have the money to replace a bus after seven years." Lowell Board of Education member Chris VanAntwerp applauded the school systems concern for safety through the life of a bus. "That cannot be overemphasized. You can't put a price on safety." At Monday night's January Board meeting, Lowell's School Board approved the purchase of three 71 passenger buses and one 48 passenger bus. The 71 passenger buses were purchased from Hoekstra Truck Equipment Inc., and Woodland International Trucks Inc. for a total price of \$129, 828. The 48 passenger lift bus was purchased from Hoekstra Truck Equipment and Woodland International Trucks, Inc. for a total of \$47,323. Lowell Schools received a discount of \$933 on the purchase of the buses because it was one of the first schools to begin to make the transition to the Vista style bus from the conventional bus. Mikulski admits that the cost for the 71 passenger is a little more than the standard 68 passenger, but he adds that the cost per passenger drops by \$40. "By spending a little more were actually saving in the long run," Mikulski said.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Library of Michigan offers MeLCat!

LANSING – The Library of Michigan (LM) continues its commitment to increase access to library collections and services by offering MeLCat – Michigan’s statewide borrowing catalog system, a component of the Michigan eLibrary (MeL).

MeLCat is a shared catalog, interlibrary loan and materials-delivery service offering library users simple and convenient web-based access to the collections of the 448 participating public, academic, and K-12 school libraries in Michigan with delivery of materials to their local library.

For cardholders, MeLCat provides easy 24/7 access to more library materials than LM alone could provide, with convenient pick up at the library in downtown Lansing. Additionally, State of Michigan employees can arrange to have books delivered to their office. Any Michigan resident presenting a valid photo ID with current address can obtain a LM library card by visiting the library and filling out an application.



To find a list of participating MeLCat libraries, go to: <http://mel.org/melcat> and click on Participating Libraries in the middle of the page.

Participation in MeLCat is the most recent addition to the Library of Michigan’s 2016 efforts to expand and enhance services, including:

Saturday hours (excludes weekends with federal holidays); circulation of materials to all LM cardholders; access to the LM’s in-depth and unique collections, including Michigan newspapers on microfilm, by libraries around the state; and now participation in MeLCat.

“We are expanding services to answer an increased demand for access to the library’s unique collections and the knowledge and expertise our staff has to offer,” said State Librarian Randy Riley.

For information about visiting the library and a complete listing of the library’s open hours, visit: <http://www.michigan.gov/reachthelibrary>, email: librarian@michigan.gov or call: 517-373-1300. Staff are available on the 2nd floor during open hours to assist with research questions and locating materials.

The Michigan eLibrary is funded by the State of Michigan through the Library of Michigan, with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants through the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Legislation signed to end non-emergency restraint and seclusion practices in Michigan schools

LANSING, Mich. – The use of non-emergency restraint and seclusion practices will no longer be allowed in Michigan schools under legislation signed today by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley.

“By putting an end to non-emergency restraint and seclusion in our schools, we are showing kids that their safety and their academics matter to us,” Calley said. “This legislation is a great safeguard for our kids that will help them grow and thrive instead of the archaic and barbaric practices of the past that made school an unsafe place for children.”

Calley signed the bills at an inclusion rally in Troy where he was joined by nearly 300 special education advocates.

House Bills 5409-5417 resulted from recommendations of Gov. Rick Snyder’s Special Education Reform Task Force that was chaired by Calley. The nine-bill bipartisan package was sponsored by state Reps. Frank Liberati, Christine Greig, Amanda Price, Hank Vaupel, Jim Tedder and Kurt Heise.

Under the legislation, restraint and seclusion



Lt. Gov. Brian Calley signs legislation during inclusion rally with special education advocates.

practices may only be used if a child is a danger to themselves or others. The bills also require any use of restraint and seclusion to be reported both to the parents and the Michigan Department of Education, as well as requiring additional training for school personnel

on how to handle behavioral situations.

The legislation codifies the current State Board of Education policy regarding appropriate usage of restraint and seclusion practices into law.

The bills are now Public Acts 394-402 of 2016.

Article V Section 26 of the Michigan Constitution gives authority to the lieutenant governor to sign legislation when the governor is out of state.

For more information on this and other legislation, visit www.legislature.mi.gov.

Court rejects MDEQ’s avoidance tactics in Flint FOIA lawsuit

MIDLAND — The State of Michigan Court of Claims has denied the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality’s request to dismiss a lawsuit filed by the Mackinac Center Legal Foundation.

Last July, the Foundation filed a lawsuit against the MDEQ for delaying for months the release of emails related to the Flint water crisis. Rather than provide an answer to the Mackinac Center’s complaint, the MDEQ filed to have the case dismissed.

“Our FOIA laws guarantee people of all views have access to timely information to fully participate in the democratic process and the court’s decision recognizes this,” said Patrick Wright, vice president for legal affairs at the Mackinac Center.

On Dec. 28, the Court denied MDEQ’s motion to dismiss. It held that the facts of the case indeed raised questions as to whether the department unreasonably delayed responding to the Mackinac Center’s FOIA request.

On March 30, 2016, the Mackinac Center emailed the MDEQ’s Freedom of Information Act coordinator to request all emails from MDEQ employees Liane Shekter-Smith and Stephen Busch from 2013 through 2015 containing the word “Flint.” The Center also requested the names of “any employees transferred, reassigned, or suspended as a result of the Flint water issues.” Finally, the request sought the current job titles of Shekter-Smith and Busch.

On April 4, the MDEQ sent a letter back, notifying the Center that the department would take the 10-day extension, allowable under current FOIA law. Then on April 21, 16 days later, the MDEQ sent the Center a cost estimate of \$114.35 for two and a half hours of technical staff time and two hours of administrative staff time, saying both would be required to respond to the request. The Center sent a check for the full amount — double the 50 percent required by statute — on

April 26 and the MDEQ cashed the check on May 6.

Despite needing only four and a half hours of staff time to respond to the request and despite the MDEQ’s own guidelines for responding in a timely manner (usually 10 business days) once a “good faith” deposit is received, the department did not fully respond to the request until July 29, 2016, nearly three months after the FOIA request was sent.

“Although [the MDEQ] alleges that it received a number of requests for information related to the Flint water crisis, taking 60 days to produce records

deemed to take 4.5 hours to discover and produce, at first glance, creates a question of fact as to whether (the MDEQ’s) delay was unreasonable or inordinate,” the Court’s ruling reads.

The denial of the MDEQ’s motion for dismissal means the case will continue, something Wright said is good for the state and its residents.

“Accountable government requires transparency, especially during times of crisis,” Wright said. “People and the press have a right to transparency even if it’s inconvenient to the government agency.”



STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS

ACROSS

- 1. Hang around for
- 6. Is no longer
- 9. *"_____ Come Undone" by Wally Lamb
- 13. Food from heaven
- 14. Not square
- 15. Annoy a bedfellow
- 16. Mountaineer's tool
- 17. Anger
- 18. Length of a forearm
- 19. *Author of best-selling book series ever
- 21. *"The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay" Pulitzer-winning author
- 23. Mele Kalikimaka wreath
- 24. _____-friendly
- 25. Stout relative
- 28. Small town or hamlet
- 30. *Many of his novels were made into romantic drama movies
- 35. Long John Silver's walk
- 37. Designer Hugo
- 39. A way to sell tickets
- 40. "Ali _____ and the 40 Thieves"
- 41. Community spirit
- 43. Hip bones
- 44. Euphoric way to walk
- 46. Oscar De La _____
- 47. Bad impression
- 48. Bone filler
- 50. Locker room supply
- 52. "Get the picture?"
- 53. Conclusion starter
- 55. Sigma Alpha Epsilon
- 57. *Speculative fiction Booker Prize winner

CROSSWORD														
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- 60. *"One Hundred Years of Solitude" Nobel Prize-winning author
- 64. One of "12 Angry Men," e.g.
- 65. Placeholder surname
- 67. Prevention measure?

- 68. Black and white cookies
- 69. Opposite of WSW
- 70. Like a gymnast
- 71. Gamecock's spur
- 72. Expose to moisture
- 73. Leopard marks

- DOWN**
- 1. Gulf V.I.P.
 - 2. TV's "Fixer Upper" location
 - 3. All over again
 - 4. Completely
 - 5. What airplane did after landing
 - 6. Patriot, a.k.a. American _____
 - 7. "_____" Jordan
 - 8. Four-eyes' gear
 - 9. Give the cold shoulder
 - 10. Great Depression drifter
 - 11. Sportscaster Andrews
 - 12. Group of something
 - 15. Escarpments, for short
 - 20. She was turned into Weeping Rock, Greek mythology
 - 22. "For _____ a jolly..."
 - 24. Final results
 - 25. *Sports columnist turned inspiration novel writer

- 26. Tarzan's swing
- 27. Bar
- 29. *"American Pastoral" Pulitzer-winning author
- 31. Battery fluid
- 32. Pneumonia symptom, pl.
- 33. *"Orphan Train" by Christina Baker _____
- 34. Great deal
- 36. Lucy and Ricky, e.g.
- 38. Miso bean
- 42. Pico de gallo, e.g.
- 45. Rotating parts
- 49. One of the five W's
- 51. Wassailing compositions
- 54. Bovine milk dispenser
- 56. Outfit
- 57. Mystique
- 58. Not kosher
- 59. Kennel sound
- 60. Swim or track contest
- 61. "Do _____ others as you would do..."
- 62. Genuine
- 63. Last letter, pl.
- 64. Run for exercise
- 66. *Ken Kesey's "_____ Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"

Puzzle solutions on page 12



JANUARY 4 - JANUARY 10

- The Lowell Showboat is officially closed to the public due to safety concerns of the structure that was built in 1979.



- A 7.3 magnitude earthquake hit the Philippines Tuesday, but triggers no tsunami threats due to being located deep inside the earth.

- 25 people are reported dead and about a million affected by the flash floods in southern Thailand. The floods washed out a main bridge backing up traffic for 125 miles.

- The director of the non-partisan Office of Government Ethics is concerned that many of Trump's nominations will be debated without complete financial disclosures or ethics reviews. Republican Senator Mitch McConnell doesn't seem to mind and has been asking for the reviews to be hurried along.

After crossing out and changing the names, Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer sent a letter to McConnell that had been sent to Harry Reid in 2009 saying "Our requests are eminently reasonable, shared by leaders of both parties. I'll return this letter...with the same requests."

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE SENATE

February 12, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
525 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0001

Dear Senator:

The Senate has the Constitutional duty to provide its Advice and Consent on Presidential nominations, a duty which we take seriously. In consultation with our Ranking Members, we reaffirm our commitment to conduct the appropriate review of these nominations, consistent with the long-standing and best practices of committees, regardless of which political party is in the majority. These best practices save the Senate well, and we will insist on their fair and consistent application.

Therefore, prior to considering any time agreements on the floor on any nominee, we expect the following standards will be met:

1. The FBI background check is complete and submitted to the committee in time for review and prior to a hearing being noticed.
2. The Office of Government Ethics letter is complete and submitted to the committee in time for review and prior to a committee hearing.
3. Financial disclosure statements (and tax returns for applicable committees) are complete and submitted to the committee for review prior to a hearing being noticed.
4. All committee questionnaires are complete and have been returned to the committee. A reasonable opportunity for follow-up questions has been afforded committee members, and nominees have answered, with sufficient time for review prior to a committee vote.
5. The nominee is willing to have committee staff interviews, where that has been the practice.
6. The nominee has had a hearing.
7. The nominee agrees to courtesy visits with members when requested.
8. The nominee has committed to cooperate with the Ranking Member on requests for information and transparency.

There will be additional requirements, honoring the traditions of the Senate, for judicial nominees. These common sense standards and long-standing practices will ensure that the Senate has had the opportunity to fairly review a nominee's record and to make an informed decision prior to a vote.

Sincerely,

MICH McConnell
MEMBER
REPUBLICAN LEADER

C.H. Schumer

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