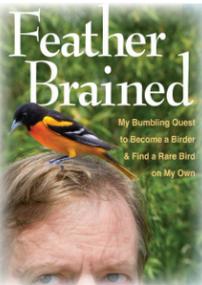


local author



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50 CENTS



Lowell Township residents upset with proposed Kissing Rock housing development

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Over a hundred people attended a two hour long Lowell Township planning commission meet-ing on Monday, Jan. 9. The citizens were there for a public hearing about new homes that a developer plans to construct in the Kissing Rock Estates area of Lowell Township.

“There is a property of over 60 acres where some guys want to put in a housing development,” said Lowell Township supervisor Jerry Hale. “It’s got quite a bit of road frontage, so they have taken five statutory splits across the front of it, all four acres, 200 feet of frontage or more. State law

allows them to do that. For the balance of the property they want to develop and put in a private road and have 11 more home sites, all of four acres or more. Like everybody else in that area, they’re all on four acre sites with 200 feet of frontage on either a private road or a public road. It’s nothing new for that area. It’s called a ‘site condo,’ it’s a way of developing vacant land, and that was a lot of the problem. When people heard ‘site condo,’ they thought of condominium units, big parking lots and a lot of lights and all that, which wouldn’t be allowed there anyway.”

Some members of the public are upset about the development. There is a “Save Kissing Rock From Development” Facebook page with 118 members and petition called “Stop the Development of Kissing Rock Estates” on change.org with 77 signatures as of printing time.

“The people on Kissing Rock are against it,” Hale said. “They don’t want to see this property developed even though about half of them live on private roads that are exactly like the one these guys want to do. Another part of the problem is that some of the people

in that area have used this property to play on and ride horses and stuff for many years. Now it’s going away and they don’t want to see that. They’re upset because they don’t like to see change. They just don’t want to see it happen. I can see their point, I don’t blame them. It’ll blow over eventually.”

Despite all the public outcry, there does not seem to be much anybody can do to stop the new development.

“It meets our zoning ordinance and as long as they come up with a plan that meets our ordinance we can’t turn them down,”

Hale said. “If the planning commission turned it down the developer could come back and sue us and we would lose for sure. Then we would end up paying his court costs, damages and everything. The key is it’s got to meet our zoning ordinance, and it looks like it does. It is America, that is this guy’s property and we can’t tell him he can’t do something with it if it meets all the rules.”

The next meeting of the Lowell Township planning commission will be on Feb. 13 at 7 pm at Lowell Township hall, 2910 Alden Nash SE.

Funds still short for rebuilding Whites Bridge

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

There has been some movement toward rebuilding historic Whites Bridge, which was destroyed by an arsonist in 2013. However, the group behind the project needs a lot more money to finish.

“We’ve raised approximately \$465,500 from the Meijer Foundation, our Michigan Department of Transportation grant and various other foundations and private donations,” said Nancy Stroosnyder, treasurer of the Whites

Bridge Historical Society. “The revised estimate for the bridge is \$815,000. Future expenses include engineering, inspections, abutment restoration, electrical service, lighting and security, totaling \$80,000. This leaves a

shortfall of \$429,500. We are working diligently seeking numerous grants from several foundations who show interest in historical preservation and (rural) community development. We will also be able to

apply for additional MDOT funding in June of this year.”

The WBHS is also eager to receive donations from companies, groups and private individuals.

Whites Bridge, continued, page 2

Youth theater to present Anne of Green Gables this Friday

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

This weekend LowellArts Youth Theater will present “Anne of Green Gables,” L.M. Montgomery’s 1908 novel about young orphan Anne Shirley’s adventures on Prince Edward Island with her friends, her acquaintances and her adopted family.

“The LowellArts Players chose Anne of Green Gables for its annual youth theater production because it is such a classic, well-loved novel and it was an enticing challenge to be able to recreate the book on stage,” said Janet Teunis, LowellArts project director. “This particular dramatization by Joseph Robinette presents the memorable events and characters very faithfully. If you are a previous fan of the Anne of Green Gables

stories or if you will be meeting Anne for the first time at the play, what a treat to see the spirited characters come alive on stage.”

Although it’s a production of the youth theater, the cast is comprised of actors of varying ages. It will be directed by Brent Alles.

“There are 14 youth, ages seven to 18 and ten adults in the cast,” Teunis said. “LowellArts annually puts on a production that appeals to kids and families and that incorporates both youth and adult actors. Sierra Hieshetter is playing the role of Anne Shirley. She is 14 years old and is in the eighth grade at Lowell Middle School. This is her third LowellArts production. She was in ‘The Surprising Story of the Three Little Pigs’ and ‘The Bremen Town Musicians.’”

Public performances will take place at the Lowell Performing Arts Center inside of Lowell High

School, 11700 Vergennes, at 7 pm on Friday, Jan. 20 and at 2:30 pm on Saturday, Jan. 21. Hundreds of Lowell

youngsters will also see the play for free during the school day.

Youth theater, continued, page 2



Ken Parrish as Matthew Cuthbert, Sierra Hieshetter as Anne Shirley and Laura Leasure as Marilla Cuthbert in the LowellArts Youth Theater production of Anne of Green Gables.



along main street

Youth theater, continued

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.

FOODMOBILE

Foodmobile provides food (mostly produce) to individuals in need and is available Jan. 21 at the fairgrounds (at the Foreman building, 225 S. Hudson St. SE) at 10 am and runs until the food is gone.

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.

TAX ASSISTANCE

FROM is providing free tax preparation and e-filing services (by appointment only) to qualifying families with an annual household income of less than \$62,000. Please call United Way at 2-1-1 to register and verify availability.

“Two school day performances of act one of the play will be presented to over 800 Lowell Elementary third- through fifth-grade students on Thursday, Jan. 19,” Teunis said. “The full length play, acts one and two, running approximately one hour and 45 minutes with a 15-minute intermission, will be presented at the public performances on Friday, Jan. 20 at 7 pm and Saturday, Jan. 21 at 2:30 pm. The Lowell Performing Arts Center is the ideal

location for this production because it has a large seating capacity to accommodate the elementary school students on Thursday and the many theater supporters that will come and see the show on Friday or Saturday.”

Tickets are \$5; you can buy them or get more information by heading to the LowellArts website, lowellartsmi.org, emailing LowellArts at info@lowellartsmi.org or calling 897-8545.

Whites Bridge, continued

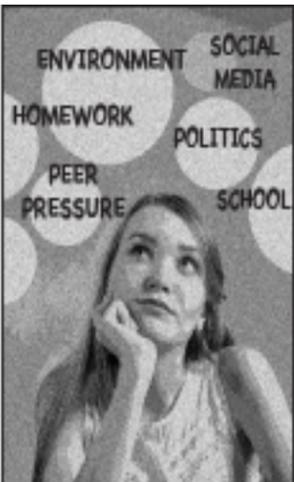
“Donors can contribute via PayPal through our website [whitesbridgehistoricalsociety.org] or they can send a check directly to PO Box 55, Lowell, MI 49331,” Stroosnyder said.

In July 2016 the Ledger reported that the Michigan Department of Transportation would begin advertising for bids to rebuild the bridge on August 5, 2016. This fell through, however, when it was found that the plans would have constructed the bridge out of a different type of wood than originally called for.

“We had written our specifications around Douglas fir and western larch,” Stroosnyder said.

“The suppliers wanted to supply southern yellow pine so the timbers needed to be checked to see if the southern yellow pine would meet our load requirements. The two species have different strength properties. As it turned out southern yellow pine met the load requirements but we couldn’t verify that in the week before the bidding.”

Whites Bridge was built across the Flat River in 1869. It was a popular local landmark for 144 years until an arsonist burned it down on July 7, 2013. The perpetrator of this crime has never been caught. If you have any information about the fire, call the Lowell Police Department.



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LHS announces January Students of the Month

Nichole Mitchell, 11th grade; and Kendra Wroten, 12th grade; are the Lowell High School January Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for

nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Mitchell and Wroten. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Mitchell was nominated by Sara Ellis and she writes, "Nichole is in my Spanish 4 class. She is a model student, receives high marks on everything, pays close attention, works well with others and goes above and beyond what's required of her. Spanish 4 is a challenging class; they only hear Spanish and are

required to speak only in Spanish. Nichole takes this challenge to another level. She not only does everything required of her, but she has been watching a Spanish TV series every night to improve her Spanish on her own."

Heather DeJonge and Tammy Coleman nominated Wroten. DeJonge writes, "Kendra is an amazing young lady that demonstrates self-direction and integrity in research class daily. She has shown great perseverance in



Nichole Mitchell



Kendra Wroten

culturing and maintaining her research model organism Daphnia. She always completes assignments on time and with detail and accuracy. She is well deserving of this honor." Coleman writes, "Kendra is a mature, kind, quiet leader. She has no need to be in the limelight but rather works hard, does the right things and is extremely helpful to others. Great attitude always!"

Growing herds offset by strong demand

Consumers should see ample supplies of their favorite meats in 2017. Brisk demand will keep prices from falling too much further though producers of cattle and hogs have seen supply driven prices.

Those were major points made by Dr. Karl Skold, head of agricultural economics at JBS, at a workshop at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 2017 Annual Meeting, which wrapped up this week in Phoenix, Ariz. Skold said a historically unusual situation of expanding herds, growing supply and significant demand is driving an overall positive outlook for producers of beef and pork.

"Start with lower feed costs," Skold said, "And the economy continues to improve. We are nearing full employment and wages are picking up." Skold said these trends are showing up in how consumers are making meat choices.

"We are seeing a big jump in eating meat but we are also seeing a shift to steaks," Skold said. "We haven't seen this big a jump in demand in a long time."

This is encouraging news for cattle producers

who have seen steep declines in cattle prices from record-highs only a year ago.

The situation with pork is similar, Skold said, and pork has been profitable until a fourth quarter drop last year. Per capita pork consumption has been stuck in the neighborhood of 50 pounds per person for some time. Pork is more dependent on the export market.

Skold also said that per capita consumption over all meats, including chicken, is going up, tracking lower prices, but beef is gaining favor again with the ample supplies. The economist said that surveying retailers revealed that they had not priced steak as low in the last quarter of 2016 in six years.

"You go to the meat case and you see \$5.99 steaks, you're going to buy them," he said. "You see \$9.99, we're going to feed the Johnson's coming over chicken." But Skold said, the prices are spurring significant increases in demand.

Skold said exports would be a huge factor in continuing health for the livestock sector. There are what he called "headwinds,"

starting with a strong U.S. dollar against most other currencies.

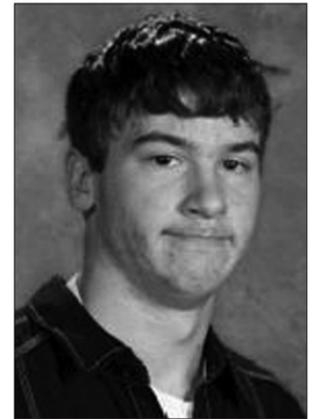
Other nations cannot buy as much U.S. meat with their own currencies. He said that many of the gains in U.S per capita consumption have already been realized. The industry may have to seek additional gains in the export market. "You have the population increasing

at six-tenths or eight-tenths per year and you get supply increasing four, five or six percent you're going to have to export it."

Skold says consumers should see many opportunities to stock up on beef and pork as huge supplies will encourage demand. "Consumers have really returned and are eating more meat," he said.

December Student of the Month at KTC

Lowell High School has announced that a Lowell High School student has been named Student of the Month at Kent Career Technical Center. Austin Casalina, 11th grade, is enrolled in the automotive program.



Austin Casalina

November Students of the Month at KTC

Lowell High School has announced that two Lowell High School students have been named Student of the Month at Kent Career Technical Center. Jared

Lezan, 12th grade, is enrolled in the advanced IT program and Kelsey Jurmo, 12th grade, is enrolled in the graphic design program.



Jared Lezan



Kelsey Jurmo

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business matters



The Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA) elected a new member to its board of directors and named new officers during their annual meeting this week, held during the association's 84th

Annual Winter Conference and Trade Show in Lansing. Brian Brink of Brink Farms in Hamilton was elected board chairperson and replaces Scott DeVuyst with Crop Production Services.

Scott Dumaw with Crop Production Services in Auburn was elected first vice chair of the board and Jim Doyle with King Milling in Lowell was elected second vice chair of the board.

Patrick Bolling with Caledonia Farmers Elevator Co. in Caledonia was newly elected to the board.

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

When do you need a financial advisor?

Are you a "do-it-yourselfer"? If you can take care of home repairs, lawn work and other types of maintenance by yourself, you'll save money and probably gain satisfaction. But you will almost certainly need some help in other areas of your life – one of which may be *investing*.

In fact, you could benefit from the services of a professional financial advisor at several points in your life:

- *When you're starting out in your career* – When you land your first "career-type" job, you will have some financial decisions to make: Should I participate in my employer's 401(k) or other retirement plan? (Hint: Yes!) If so, how much should I contribute? How can I juggle saving for retirement with paying off student loans? These are the

types of questions you can answer with the help of a financial advisor.

- *When you're saving for important goals* – Whether you're saving for a down payment on your first home, or for your children's college education, or for your own comfortable retirement, you'll face many choices. A financial advisor – someone with experience in helping people work toward these goals – can assist you in making the choices most appropriate for your individual situation.

- *When you're experiencing a personal "milestone"* – Like everyone, you'll go through many major life events. Some will be joyful, such as marriage and the arrival of children, while others may be unpleasant or sad, such as divorce or the death of a loved one. But virtually

all these events carry with them some type of financial component – establishing new investment accounts, purchasing sufficient insurance, naming and changing of beneficiaries, and so on. A financial advisor who truly understands you and your needs can help you make appropriate moves for all your milestones.

- *When you're close to retirement* – As you near retirement, you'll have several issues to consider: About how much income will you need each year? When should you start taking Social Security? How much can you afford to withdraw annually from your IRA and 401(k)? A financial advisor has the tools, training and experience to explore alternatives and suggest suitable moves for you.

- *When you're retired* – Even after you retire, you've got plenty to think about, in terms of financial moves. For one thing, you need to ensure that your investment portfolio provides you with both sufficient *income* for your desired lifestyle and adequate *growth* potential to help you stay ahead of inflation. What's the correct balance of investments for your needs? Are there investments that can provide you with rising income without exposing you to undue risk? Once you're retired, you just won't get a lot of "do-overs," so getting the right help is important.

...
The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

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viewpoint

EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: I've heard that one of the big hurdles to growth in renewables is energy storage. What's new in the world of battery technologies? And will better forms of storage really accelerate the development of solar, wind and other alternative forms of energy?

—Maxwell Jay, Erie, PA

It's true that energy storage has been an Achilles heel in the emerging renewable energy sector, given the large environmental footprint required to produce and distribute our current crop of lithium ion and other types of batteries—

and the fact that they do not hold nearly the capacity needed to make intermittent renewable sources (like solar and wind) viable as secure year-round sources of power. Whether or not renewables can replace fossil fuels in the future may well depend on our ability to drastically improve the way we store electricity.

But given the importance of solving this problem, a lot of great minds are working on it. Electric carmaker Tesla is close to finishing construction on a "Gigafactory" in the desert outside of Sparks, Nevada to produce lithium ion batteries for its signature electric cars and its new line of utility-grade and household energy storage appliances. By 2018, the new renewable energy-powered facility will reach full capacity with an annual battery production capacity of 35 gigawatt-hours—and will produce more lithium ion batteries annually than were produced worldwide in 2013. Tesla expects its Gigafactory to shave upwards of 30 percent off battery production costs, and serve as a model for how to mass produce green technology with a triple (social, environmental and financial) bottom line in mind.

But critics point out that merely lowering the production costs for existing technologies by a third won't provide the quantum leap in storage capacity needed to make intermittent renewables as reliable as traditional "baseload" (e.g., consistent generation) sources such as coal, natural gas or hydropower.



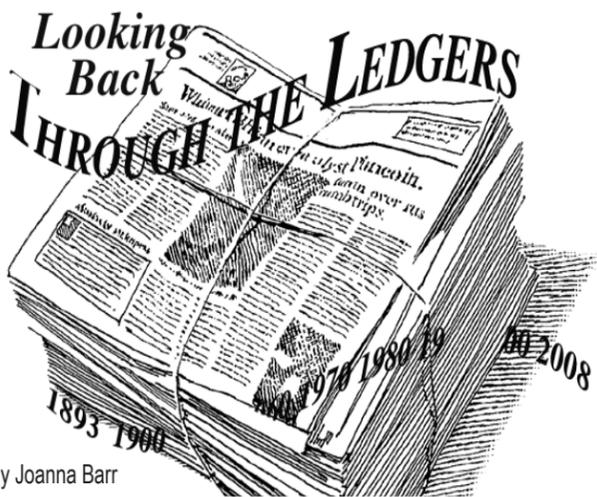
For now, Tesla is poised to dominate the world's battery market with its Gigafactory coming online later this year. But analysts think we'll have some new alternatives to the lithium ion battery standard within a decade or so, especially if venture capitalists and other investors begin to grasp how important better energy storage options may be to our future.

"Many researchers believe energy storage will have to take an entirely new chemistry and new physical form, beyond the lithium-ion batteries that over the last decade have shoved aside competing technologies in consumer electronics, electric vehicles and grid-scale storage systems," reports Richard Martin, senior editor for energy at MIT Technology Review.

Some of the most promising designs employ cheap and abundant natural materials (such as air, water, carbon, sodium, quinine, and even sand) as catalytic substrates. But Martin points out that there are so many competing technologies "from foam batteries to flow batteries to exotic chemistries, that no one clear winner is attracting most of the funding and research activity."

He adds that these small start-ups lack the capitalization to get their products ready for the mass market. Setting up a small manufacturing line and testing various combinations of materials to optimize a new battery technology's potential storage capacity and charge/discharge rates could cost as much as \$500 million, but most start-ups in the space can expect investments averaging only about \$5 million a year. "That huge investment gap is hard to overcome," concludes Martin.

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By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal Jan. 20, 1892

It was not P. W. McPherson's house that was burned, but his mother's, Mrs E. McPherson, the old homestead. Most of the goods below were saved, but nothing from the chambers. Many old family relics were burned. P. W. has moved into his own house, he was living in part of his mother's house.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger Jan. 18, 1917

The Lowell Cutter company is advertising extensively for men. It is desired to operate both factories if sufficient help can be obtained; but owing to the condition of the labor market and the lure of the cities with their high wages and correspondingly high expenses, the proposition is a hard one.

Railroads are cutting their service on account of scarcity of fuel and the Pere Marquette shops at Ionia are closed for the same reason. Next season perhaps they will not wait until fall to begin getting their winter's supply for themselves and the public.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger Jan. 22, 1942

The chain letter writers are on the loose again—this time using defense savings stamps as the medium of

exchange. That practice is just as unlawful as when dimes are solicited. Attention is called to a ruling of the postmaster general branding chain letters illegal when defense savings stamps are solicited and declaring that persons mailing such letters are liable to prosecution.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Jan. 19, 1967

Speed reduction signs will be installed next week on M-21 coming into Lowell from the west, Police Chief Avery Block revealed this week. The speed limit will be cut to 45 miles per hour beginning three-tenths of a mile west of Alden Nash Avenue, to Valley Vista Drive; from this point to Amity Street, the limit is 35 miles per hour. Chief Block says that the city's radar unit will be used to enforce strict adherence to the newly posted speed limits. Cooperation from the Kent County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police is also expected.

Fluger's Lowell Bakery will reopen in their new location at 216 East Main Street Thursday, January 19. The new bakery features a new modern retail store and coffee shop, along with a fresh new bake shop in the rear. Stop in on Thursday and see Main Street's newest improvement.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger Jan. 20, 1992

A January winter, 30 degrees below zero, 33 rabbit hunters from the Lowell area blazed their way through the snowdrifts, brush piles and briar patches to seek out those cute little cottontails known as the elusive "Briar Rabbit." The contest was a freezing, four hour one. The hunters were in teams of three. With a deadline of high noon to register the most bunnies, the team of Dave Potter, Jon Vezino and John Krebill came sliding in with 11 cottontails to hop away with first place honors from Saturday's hunt. A total of 54 rabbits were taken in all by 33 hunters. So a good hunt it was, but a cold one. Don't miss the next "Big Guns Bunny Blast" scheduled for February 22. Three man teams, 22 cal. rifles only and no dogs.

Apprehended by store employees of the Crystal Flash service station, Dec. 31, was a six year old juvenile female from Lowell for shoplifting.

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.

weddings

~ Foster/Dudley



Krista and Jay Dudley

Krista Breanne Foster and Jay Patrick Dudley were married at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Ada, on a beautiful but very hot 95 degree day, on July 23, 2016. Father Mark Peacock was officiant for the ceremony and he added his special touch of love and humor to make the day even more memorable.

The maid of honor was Kara Rasch and best men were Ben Dudley and Mark Dudley. Krista's parents and grandparents are Kim and Cheryl Foster

of Belding and Dolly Bailey of Ionia. Jay P's parents are Shari and Dan Ebidon of Frankenmuth, Jay and Patti Dudley of Holt, and his grandparents are Irene Ebidon of Kingsford and Ken and Carol Dudley of Grand Ledge.

After a July honeymoon in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, the couple now reside in White Pigeon, MI, where Krista is employed by Constantine Public Schools and Jay P. is employed by Consumers Energy.

college news

Jordan Thomas Babler, of Lowell, was listed along with approximately 8,775 Iowa State University students that have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2016 dean's list.

Students named to the dean's list must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Ryan Hesche received Sales Associate of the Month in December.

This award recognizes Hesche for his outstanding success and achievements.





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health



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

diverticulosis and diverticulitis

Diverticulosis is common in older adults, occurring in about half of people between 60 and 80 years of age. Scientists do not know what causes diverticulosis. It is a condition in which small pouches (called diverticula) form at weak spots in the wall of the colon. A low fiber diet may play a role in developing the disease.

Most people who have diverticulosis have no symptoms. It is called diverticular disease. Diverticular disease also includes diverticulitis.

Diverticulitis occurs when diverticulosis becomes inflamed and infected. Symptoms include

abdominal pain (usually on the left side), fever, nausea and cramps. Diverticulitis is usually diagnosed with a CT scan of the abdomen. Most cases of diverticulitis are treated at home with antibiotics and a few days of liquid diet. If your symptoms are severe or you have a complication, you may need to be treated in the hospital with bowel rest and IV antibiotics. Surgery is rarely required.

By the way, eating certain foods such as nuts, popcorn and seeds does not contribute to the development of diverticulitis. A study in 2008 concluded that.

happy birthday



JANUARY 18
Shelby Weston.

JANUARY 19
Tim Stencel, Susan Cook, Tim Schuitema, Trevor Mooney, Mark Ries, Scott Crandall.

JANUARY 20
Shelby Baird, Josh Rinard.

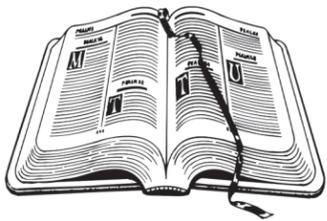
JANUARY 21
James Vezino, Mark MacNaughton, Krysta Jankowski, Brooklyn Rinard.

JANUARY 22
Cheryl DeYoung, Bob Pfaller, Dale Latva, Jenni Magner, Frances Walling, Glenn Vanbuskirk, Shane Gildner, Reece VanderWarf, Frances DeVries, Elijah Barr.

JANUARY 23
Amanda Wingeier, Zach Stauffer.

JANUARY 24
David Szymczak, Haleigh Timmers, Mackenzie Stiles.

area churches



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Sunday School..... 9:15 AM

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Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM
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Pastor Phil Severn • Youth Pastor
Christi Swain, Director of Children's Ministries
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SUNDAY School..... 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**
Middle & High School - Mon-school year*Wed,summer, 7 PM

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Kid's Crew 11:15 AM
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Red Arrow

- GYMNASTICS

SPORTS

Gymnasts salute military at third annual event

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell's varsity gymnasts competed twice last week meeting the Kenowa Hills/Grandville/West Catholic co-op team on Monday and welcoming area teams to their third annual military salute at Lowell High School on Saturday.

The opposition put up a strong fight on Monday where the Arrows came out on top by a slim margin 136.875-132 win. Junior Maura Fitzpatrick led the Lowell charge winning top honors on the vault, beam and floor exercise earning her all-around status at the event. Senior captain Corah Kaufman also scored well for the team on the bars. The win positions the team at 1-0 in conference dual meets this season.

Saturday the team donned patriotic leotards for their third annual Military Salute. Head coach Michele DeHaan said the special event was conceived to accomplish two purposes. Honoring the deserving men and women of the United States military and giving her athletes something more than just their top gymnastics skills. "I want to have a positive influence on my athletes and have them graduate from my program getting more out of it than just gymnastics," said DeHaan, "Amazing memories are more important than places and medals. Our nation's military needs to be respected and honored; I want my girls to love their country and respect and honor those that serve."

Sixteen veteran and current soldiers were honored at the event with a ceremony before competition. The honorees were spread across nearly every branch of the military with some sharing the gymnasts' Lowell High School roots, including a trio of 2015 Lowell graduates currently serving in the Army National Guard. Current Red Arrow Tori Miller honored Private First Class Ryan Tarchala, Marissa Grover honored Private Tyler Ritchie and Hadyn Nash honored Private Cody Curtis.

The ceremony included future Lowell graduate Private First Class Marcus Schussler who was honored by Amber Brown. Schussler recently finished basic



Red Arrow varsity gymnastics at their third annual Military Salute meet.

training and will graduate this spring with the class of 2017. Lisa Price honored 2001 Lowell graduate Captain Michael Wierenga who was represented by brother James as he is currently serving active duty in the Air Force stationed in Utah. Maura Fitzpatrick honored current Lowell Area Schools' bus driver Quartermaster First Class Bill Wierenga who served 20 years in the Navy.

Others recognized in the ceremony included Marine Sergeant Cody Kasper honored by senior Allison Fuller, Army Specialist Donald Ensing honored by his great-granddaughter Taeghan Ronchetti, Army E4 Specialist Ron Zimmerman honored by Olyvia Johnson, Marine Corporal Thomas Luehrs honored by Emily Lothian, Army National Guard E4 Specialist Rich Mutschler honored by Corah Miller and Army Private First

Class Michael Shalander honored by senior team captain Corah Kaufman.

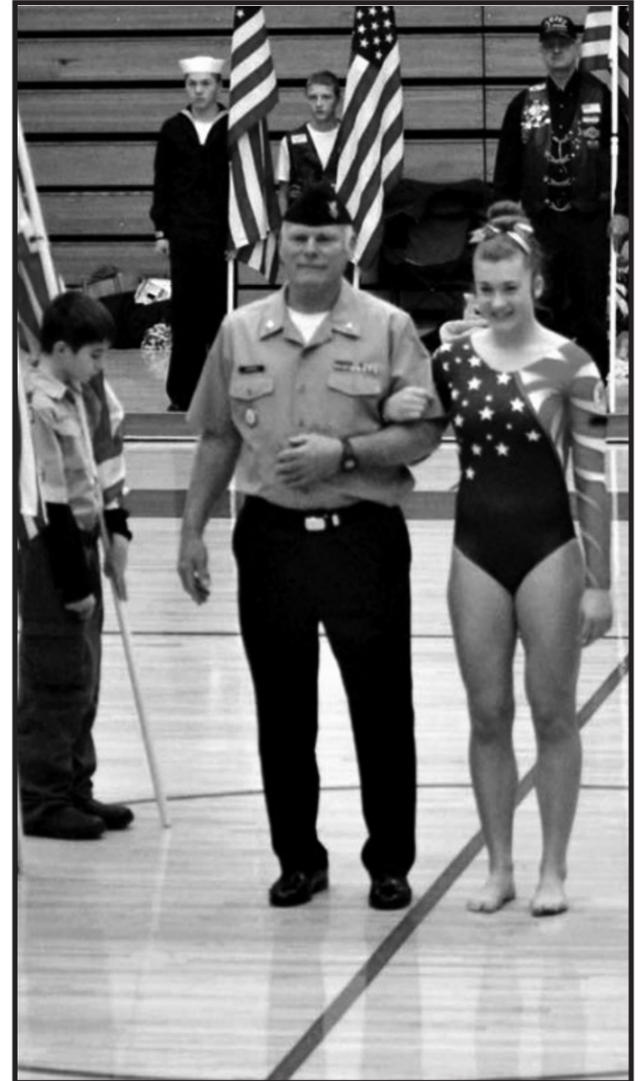
Kaufman was joined by fellow captain and senior Paige DeHaan in escorting special honoree Staff Sergeant Joseph Benak. A World War II veteran who served in the 77th Infantry Division from 1943-1947, Benak is known as G.I. Joe and was part of the liberating forces of Guam. The 91-year-old veteran was recently honored by outgoing president Barack Obama with the scarcely awarded Congressional Gold Medal for his service with the Civil Air Patrol.

Following the ceremony the gymnasts hit the mat with ferocity logging a third-place 138.2 finish behind Livonia (139.525) and meet winner Rockford/Sparta (144.975). DeHaan said she was very pleased with the competition results. "This was a great meet for us! So many personal best

scores and some girls doing events for the first time."

Fitzpatrick was the Red Arrows' top performer earning second place on the vault with a 9.2, ninth on the bars with a 8.325, fourth on the beam with a 9.025 and second in the floor exercise with a 9.375. Her performance earned her a second place all-around title with a combined score of 35.925.

Karmen Anderson also earned all-around honors finishing third with a 35.725 after placing fifth on the vault, third on the bars, fifth on the beam and seventh on the floor. Forward rounded out all-around placers in the tenth position with a 33.2 total score and a fourth-place finish on the vault and a fifth place on the bars. Lisa Price earned the day's only first place on the floor exercise earning a 9.4. Also placing were Kaufman who placed second on the bars



Junior Maura Fitzpatrick with military honoree and Lowell bus driver Bill Wierenga at the third annual event.

and Amber Brown who finished tenth on both the vault and the bars.

This week the team competed against Forest Hills on Monday night and welcomed Rockford on Wednesday.

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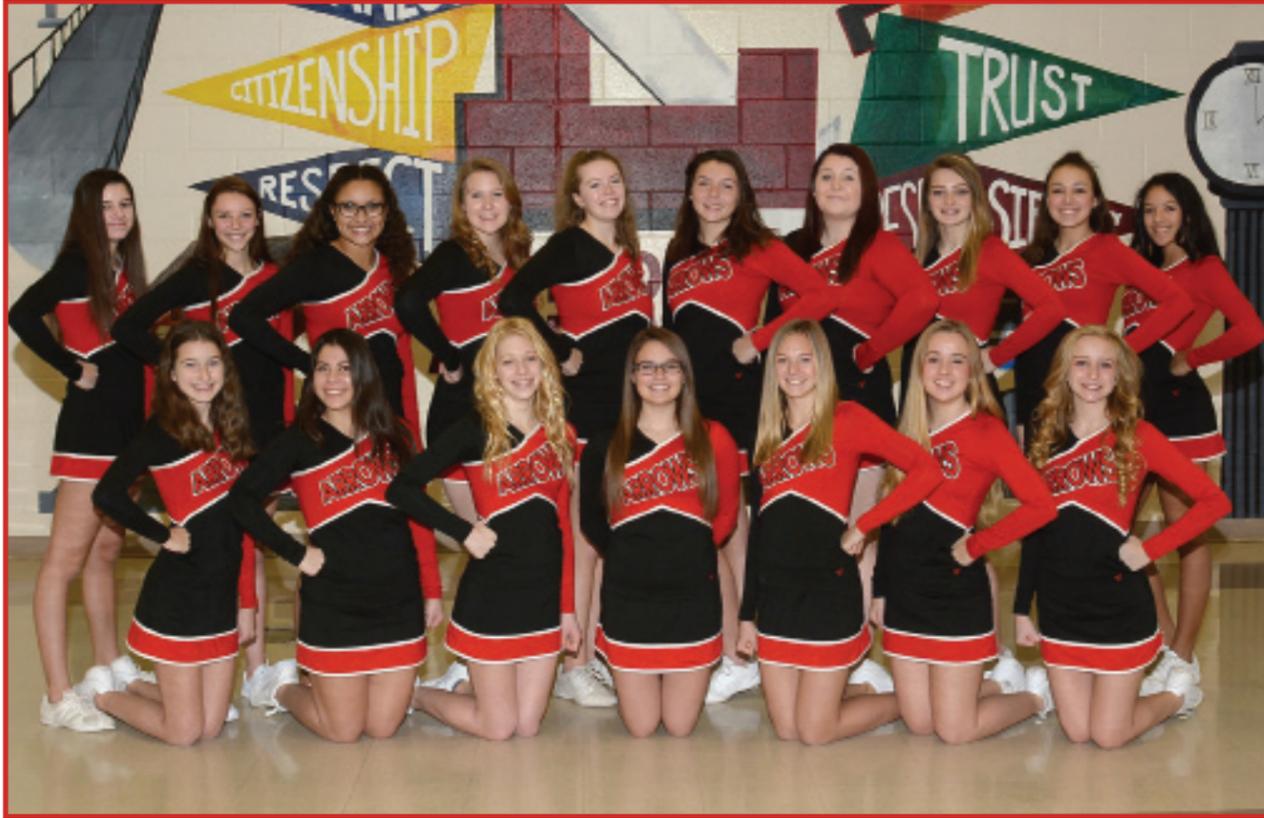


Honoree Joseph Benak escorted by team captains Paige DeHaan and Corah Kaufman at the military salute.

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes January 9, 2017
Motions Approved:
1. Land purchase of \$49,900.00 on 5 Mile Rd
2. Resolution 2017-001 for mileage rate
3. Resolution 2017/002 Roberts Rules of Order
4. Resolution 2017-003 Designating Banking Facility
Our next Township Meeting will be January 23, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at www.grattantownship.org

Red Arrow Winter

SPORTS TEAMS



COMPETITIVE CHEER

First row, left to right: Kara Koreck, Sofia Espinosa, Riley Frazer, Harlie Gerth-McMullin, Morgan Cremer, Paula Sanmarli, and Sophia Katsul; second row, left to right: Alyssa Miles, Alyssa Lynn, Deijah Gissendanner, Blaze Anes, Rena Vandenberg, Ember Fox, Kimmie Cloutre, Shileigh Shepard, Neely Bardwell, and Kyra Snyder.



BOYS' JV & VARSITY BASKETBALL



The boys' junior varsity basketball team, first row, left to right: Brenan Conlan, Gabe Smith, Trevor Petroelje, Jovan Natalius Marcos, Will Hook, and manager Jared Sweet; Bryan Bitterman, Nathan VanDeWeert, Jordan Dent, Nathan Bush, Gavin Coxon, and Connor Cater.



The boys' varsity basketball team, first row, left to right: Robby Schneider, Andrew Poulton, Matt Beachler, Austin Branagan, Zach Petroelje, Alex Powell, and Will Reynolds; second row, left to right: Austin Pollock, Addison Buckius, Nolan Cusack, Mitchell O'Bolman, Travis Cornell, and Jonny Draigh.



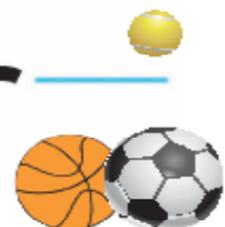
Go Red Arrows!



Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell

ledger



Red Arrow Winter

SPORTS TEAMS



GIRLS' JV & VARSITY BASKETBALL



The girls' junior varsity basketball team, first row, left to right: Jaki Hayes, Emily Stump, Ashleigh Jarrard, Ella Dougherty, and Allyson Lange; second row, left to right: coach Jesse Vasquez, Molly Frederickson, Ava Frederickson, Kenzi Uhen, and Khloe Hayes.



The girls' varsity basketball team, first row, left to right: Kenzie North, Carley Hoekstra, Riley Conlan, Makyla Branagan, Regan Coxon, Cassie Dean, and Darby Dean; second row, left to right: coach Heath Kent, Christina Lyon, Bridget Garter, Hana Steinebach, Emily Depew, Kelly Reitsma, and coach Anne-Marie Shumaker.



WRESTLING



First row, left to right: Jeffrey Leach, Dawson Jankowski, Tyler Lynch, Zach Lardis, Hayden Lenard, Bryce McLune, Dominik Peplinski, Nick Korhorn, Jared Hough, Hunter Browning, and Collier Kaufman; second row, left to right: Regan Zimmerman, Jacob Hough, George Gonzales Jr., Lane Ryan, Clayton Gregory, Austin McKechnic, Channing Perry, Roman Johnson, Joshua Havey, Keigan Yuhas, Shmidt Mahalic, and James Fotis; third row, left to right: Jarod Willson, Alexxis Gonzales, Gabe Hare, John Russell, David Kruse, Sam Russell, Connor Nugent, Tyler Greenop, Grant Pratt, Thomas Hubert, Austin Engle, and Avry Mutschler; fourth row, left to right: Christian Beimers, Lucas VanWynen, Carter Bierling, Bryce Dempsey, Cameron Cheney, Max Bishop, Elijah Boulton, Austin Boone, Zach Weston, Marlon Coe II, Tyler Delooff, and Jacob Cutler.

Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Girls continue their stellar season

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

A stellar 5-1 season got even better last week when the Red Arrow varsity

girls basketball team hit the court twice improving their record to 7-1 with wins over Ottawa Hills and Jenison.

Sophomore and two-year varsity player Regan Coxon led the Red Arrows on Tuesday night when they traveled to Ottawa Hills for their second OK White game of the season. Coxon produced 17 points for the Arrows in the 58-30 win that moves the team to 2-0 so far this season. Her performance was followed by that of senior captain Bridget Garter who netted nine. Dual sport athletes

Kenzie North, Carly Hoekstra and Cassie Dean also added to the scoreboard.

The team added a non-conference win on Friday night when they welcomed former OK White foe Jenison. The Arrows produced another win over the Wildcats 26-15 at the half and 61-33 by games end with Garter taking the lead with 18 points and Coxon putting up 15.



This week the team will strive to maintain their winning season with wins over Northview who they faced on Tuesday night and Forest Hills Northern who they will battle on the road Friday.

Bridget Garter netted 27 points for the Red Arrows in competition this week.

Cassie Dean on the court for the Red Arrows in their 61-33 win.



Boys on the upswing with a pair of wins

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

After a seemingly dismal start to the season that included injuries and a losing 1-4 record; the Red Arrows boys varsity basketball team seems to be on the upswing picking up a pair of wins last week when they traveled to Ottawa Hills and welcomed Jenison.

Tuesday the team competed against new OK White rival Ottawa Hills in their second conference match up of the season picking up a 61-53 win. Seniors Austin Branagan and Matt Beachler were the night's scoring leaders racking up 23 and 16 respectively. Fellow seniors Zach Petroelje chipped in six points and Andrew Poulton two as the elder Arrows began to show their leadership on the floor and opened up opportunities for sophomore standout Robby Schneider to score five and junior Travis Cornell to add three. This is the second win the team has picked up in conference; they also trumped new rival Cedar Springs last week, making the Arrows 2-0 in the young OK White season.

Friday senior power prevailed once again with three scoring in the double digits. Beachler led the scoreboard with 20, Branagan netted 19 and Petroelje produced 11 in a 63-50 win over non-conference competitor Jenison.

Lowell took the lead early moving into the second ahead 13-6 and tied their opponent's point total at 18 before the half to maintain a 31-24 lead. Improving their margin in the third by seven and losing just a little ground in

the fourth, the Arrows came out on top aided by a slew of 11 team three-pointers.

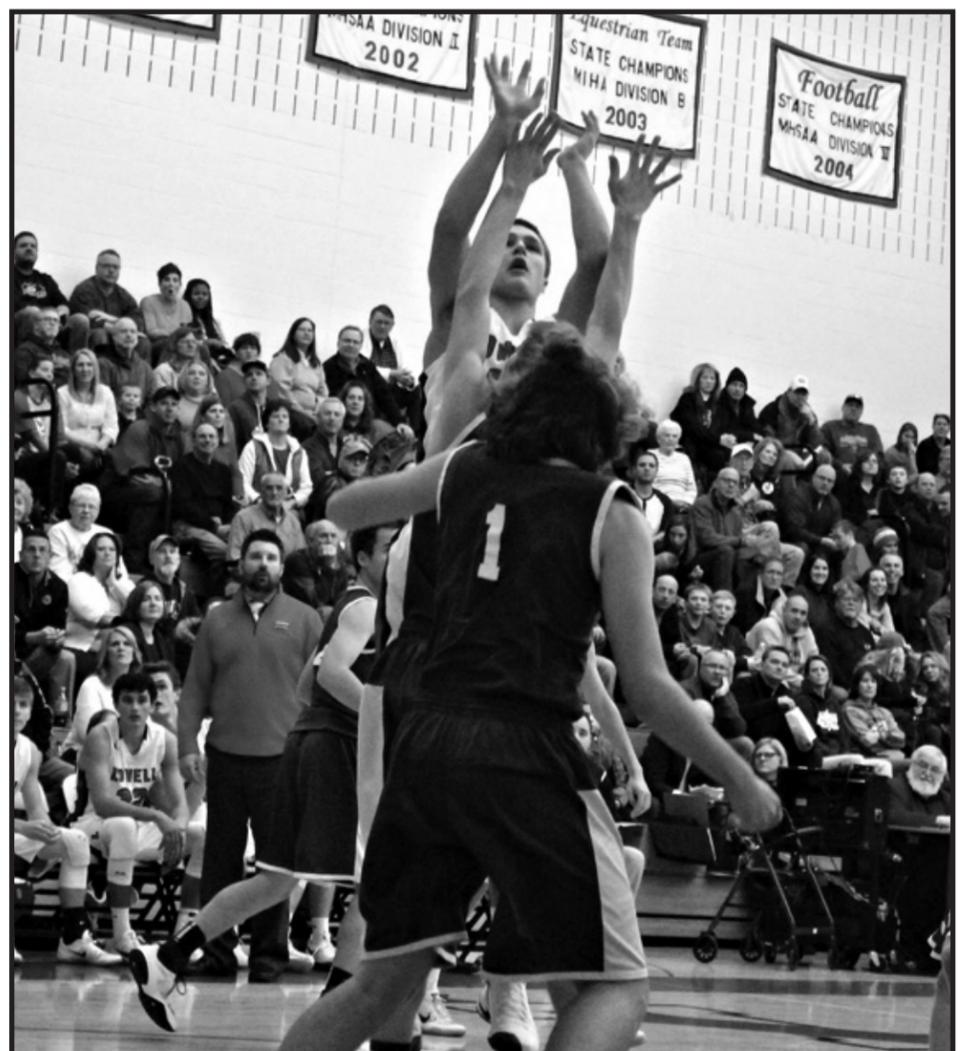
The team finished off the night by joining young Red Arrow fans in the auxiliary

gym to sign autographs and take pictures as part of the program's youth night.



Matt Beachler takes a photo with a fan during the team's autograph session.

This week the Arrows, now an even 4-4 on the season, took on Northview on Tuesday and will face Forest Hills Northern on Friday looking to maintain their undefeated conference status.



New team member senior Joey Schaefer makes good use of his court time Friday night.

Red Arrow

- WRESTLERS

SPORTS

Wrestlers win a trio of competitions last week

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity wrestling won a trio of competitions last week in a fantastic week on the mat.

Wednesday, on the road, the team picked up their third OK White win taking on new competitor Northview. Lowell shut down the Wildcats 70-3 in the dual with wins going to George Gonzales who claimed victory by technical fall in the 189 weight class, Grant Pratt at 160 who won by fall and Jeff Leach who picked up his victory at 125 pounds. The team is now an undefeated 3-0 in conference.

Saturday the Arrows split in two with one hosting the Lowell Duals at Cherry Creek Elementary and one traveling to Fruitport for their high school's annual wrestling invitational. Team A went a perfect 3-0 against powerhouse teams to win the Lowell Duals and Team B wrestled their way to first place at the Fruitport event.

The Red Arrows faced serious competition in their opponents Temperance Bedford and state-ranked Division III



Lowell varsity wrestling Team B was victorious at the Fruitport Invitational taking top honors at the Saturday competition.

competitors Richmond and Whitehall but were dominant in their efforts. They topped Temperance 47-20, Richmond 48-16 and finished the day with

a win over Whitehall. Ten Arrow wrestlers left the event with unbeaten records. On the road the B team was victorious at the Fruitport Invitational further

demonstrating the Arrow's tremendous depth as they cross the half-way point of their season with the chance of a fourth consecutive state title just weeks away.

On the mat this week the team competes in an OK White dual with Forest Hills Northern on Wednesday night and will welcome area schools to the Gary Rivers Memorial Tournament on Saturday beginning at 9 am.

LHS WINTER VARSITY SPORTS SCHEDULE

BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

* Denotes a game at the Kenwood Ice Arena
1/20 at 7:30 pm Byron Center *
1/21 at 2 pm GR Christian*

GIRLS VARSITY GYMNASTICS

* Denotes a meet at LHS aux. gym
1/23 at 7 pm East Kentwood*
1/25 at 7 pm Kenowa Hills*

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game at LHS - main gym
1/20 at 7 pm at FHN
1/24 at 7 pm FHC*

BOYS VARSITY SWIM/DIVE

1/19 at 8 pm at Mona Shores
1/26 at 8 pm at Thornapple Kellogg

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

* Denotes a home game at LHS - main gym
1/20 at 5:30 pm at FHN
1/24 at 7 pm at FHC

GIRLS VARSITY BOWLING

* Denotes a meet at The Bowling Alley - Ionia
1/25 at 3:30 pm at Northview

BOYS VARSITY BOWLING

* Denotes a meet at The Bowling Alley - Ionia
1/25 at 4:30 pm at Northview

BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING

* Denotes a home meet at LHS - main gym
1/21 at 9 am Gary Rivers Memorial Invitational*
1/25 at 7 pm FHC*

Sports Summaries

GIRLS BOWLING

Lowell girls varsity bowling picked up a second-place tournament finish and an OK White conference win last week on the lanes. Monday the team traveled to Forest Hills Northern to face them and Caledonia in a tri-tournament where the Arrows landed in the middle of the pack in second place. Wednesday in conference action the bowlers picked up a 21.5-8.5 win over Forest Hills Central. Morgan Allison led Lowell with a 186 game.

COMPETITIVE CHEER

School spirit was in full force last week for the Red Arrow varsity competitive cheer team as they performed in their first OK White challenge of the season and took part in the Wyoming Invitational. The young Arrows traveled to Forest Hills Northern on Monday for the first conference meet of the season and earned a respectable third-place finish. Saturday the team placed seventh in Wyoming showing progress early in the season, "At each competition we have been improving on our scores, which is what we

want with this being a rebuilding year," said new head coach Dayna Crumback. "The girls have been working hard and giving it all they have which makes me a very proud coach."

BOYS BOWLING

Ben Stewart led the Red Arrow boys varsity bowling team to tournament victory on Monday and the team picked up another OK White dual victory over Forest Hills Central in a busy week of rolling. Stewart bowled nine consecutive strikes on his way to a 278 game at the Forest Hills Northern/Caledonia/Lowell Tri last Monday where they finished in the first position. Wednesday the team picked up a 23-7 win over FHC maintaining their current undefeated conference record.

SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Red Arrow athlete Eric Judd recently signed a letter of intent to continue his educational and athletic career at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois. The runner has been a standout for the Arrows on both the cross country and track teams and will begin putting his experience to work for the St. Bernards next fall.

ICE HOCKEY

Lowell's ice men added a pair of wins to their season total last week welcoming Kenowa Hills and Anchor Bay high schools and coming out victorious. Friday night the team defeated Kenowa Hills by a score of 8-3 with goals coming from seven players in a wide-spread offensive effort. Eddie Heikkila scored twice and Ethan Pinto, Nolan Winterburn, Auggie Whaley, Carter Yon, Alex Osborn, and Hunter Fridley each contributed one. Saturday against Anchor Bay, the team put together a 7-3 win led by a hat trick from Pinto, two goals from Osborn and one each from Nolan Lockhart and Reese Milton.



CATCH UP ON LHS SPORTS!

obituaries

ANDRAKOWICZ

Stacy Lynne Andrakowicz, age 19 of Ionia, Lowell and most recently, Manistique, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, January 10, 2017. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Charles and Marguerite Andrakowicz, Stuart and Sharon McCally, and Alana Sample. She is survived by her daughter, Bailey Lynne Johnson; Bailey's father, Andrew Johnson; mother and stepfather, Susan and Mike Horian; father and stepmother, Christopher and Dana Andrakowicz; sister, Megan Andrakowicz; stepsiblings, Gabrielle Tietz, Tanner and Logan Danz; grandparents, Sue (Jim) Pearson, Wayne Sample; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Stacy was a member of the choir, as well as the bowling, cross country and track teams while in high school. A private service was held by the family. A memorial visitation will be held Thursday, January 19, from 2-4:00 p.m. and 6-8:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

AUD

Max Aud left his earthly body on the morning of January 13, 2017, enveloped in the love of his family. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Brundage; his children, Heather Bollmeier Cutrell, Shane Bollmeier, Jacob Aud, Evan Aud, and Lauren Aud; his mother, Wanda Aud (nee McCray); his siblings, Kenneth Aud, Becky Aud-Jennison, and Randol Aud; as well as grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, outlaws, and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Clarence Robert Aud. Max was born in Randolph County, Illinois in 1954. He lived most of his life in Southern Illinois and spent several years of his childhood in Oklahoma, where his mother was born and raised. He moved to Michigan in September 2015 to take over as the federal mediator for the Grand Rapids region. After only four months in that position, he became ill and was eventually diagnosed with brain cancer (primary CNS lymphoma), which he battled for the past year. Before coming to Michigan, Max was a federal mediator for the St. Louis, Missouri region for 16 years. He was the president and business agent for Teamsters Local 347 in West Frankfort, Illinois, for 14 years before joining the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in St. Louis. His working life began at age 14 selling eggs door-to-door in East St. Louis, Illinois. He stood up for what was right, which got him suspended from high school in the 70s for challenging the suspension of another student who wore his hair "too long" (meaning touching the shirt collar). Max took the school to court and won. He was a community and labor organizer, rabble-rouser, seeker of justice, teacher, writer, mentor, and loving friend. His journeys through this work included sharing a podium with Buckminster Fuller, visiting with Rosa Parks at the Highlander Center in Tennessee, running a state senate campaign for a populist Southern Illinois farmer, and helping organize a penny auction during the farm crisis in the 1980s. Max brought out the best in those whose lives he touched. He was a friend to all who



knew him. He was the loving heart of his family and being a father to his children was the joy of his life. He will be sadly missed, but lovingly remembered, by his family and friends. The world, and we, are so much richer for having him in our lives. Funeral services were held 11:00 am on Monday, January 16, 2017, at the Vergennes United Methodist Church, 10411 Bailey Dr. NE, Lowell. A celebration of Max's life will be held in Marissa, Illinois, in March, with details to be arranged.

HODGE

Mitchell (Mitch) Don Hodge, age 58, of Lowell, passed away quietly in his home on Friday, January 13th, 2016. Mitch was preceded in death by his father, Robert D. Hodge (1973); his mother, Ardith J. Briggs (2009); and his sister, Camela J. Wilson (2014). He will be greatly missed by his siblings: Jan (Bud) Rogers, Curtiss Hodge, Beverly (Dan) Hodge, Steve (Pat) Hodge, and Electa Hodge-McCurdy; along with his many nieces and nephews, all of which meant the world to him. A memorial service celebrating his life will be announced at a future date.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

HUGHES

Gladys (Kalil) Hughes, age 87, a resident of Lowell, passed away on January 9, 2017. Gladys was born in Gloversville, NY, on August 3, 1929. She retired from AT&T. Gladys was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Eugene; and siblings, Florence Gutman, Charles Kalil, and Frances Ann Bulger. She is survived by her sister, Virginia Stockwell of Gloversville, NY; her son, Larry; and grandson, Michael. A viewing will be held from 10 to 11 am, followed by a memorial service on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 10305 Bluewater Highway, Lowell (on M-21 halfway between Lowell and Saranac).



KERRY

Donald Clark Kerry, age 67 of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, January 10, 2017. He was preceded in death by his parents George and Donna Hamilton; sisters Alice Blough and Lisa Rodgers. He is survived by his son Jonathan (Cheyenne) Kerry; granddaughter Stella Lucille Kerry; brothers Michael (Patricia) Kerry and Robert (Helen) Fogg. Don was a proud veteran of the United States Army. A military



graveside service was held in his memory Tuesday, January 17 at Ft. Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, MI. Chaplain Gordon Pippin of Central Christian Church officiated. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of one's choice. The family would like to thank Keiser's Kitchen for their generosity in closing to host a luncheon to celebrate Don's life.

ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

MOSELER

Daniel C. Moseler, age 57, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, January 4, 2017. He was born in Muskegon on January 3, 1960. As a boy, Dan had a quick wit and a talent for selling things. His silver tongue steered him through each aspect of life and his unwavering confidence



and loving nature touched all those who witnessed it. A true charismatic charmer, Dan had an extraordinary knack for shifting the mood of any room he walked into with his persistent sense of humor and infectious silliness. He lived in Colorado and Michigan, raising his daughters with his wife, Shannon (deceased), for a majority of that time in Lowell. Dan was a salesman at heart and had been currently employed with Sleep Doctor. Despite the challenges he faced, his life was governed with honesty, wisdom and taste. Above all, the way he felt about his daughters was abundantly clear. They were the loves of his life. Survivors include his daughters, Kaelyn and Rayne Moseler; mother, Lucille (Ned) Durgan; brothers, Douglas and David Moseler; and sister, Deborah Loyselle. A celebration of Dan's life was held Friday, January 13, 2017. In lieu of flowers, please consider making contributions to Dan's daughters, care of Kaelyn Moseler. You may sign his online guestbook at www.sytsemafh.com

SOBIE

David A. Sobie of Lowell, Michigan, age 61, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, January 16, 2017. He was born in Grand Rapids on August 2, 1955. Dave lived with a passion that was felt by all around him. He loved his wife, his family, his friends and life itself, and we all benefited from his energy and drive. He looked at everything as an opportunity or a challenge; there was nothing that daunted him. He accomplished whatever he set his mind to, including starting his own business and growing it into success. Yet he was never too busy to lend a helping hand. Dave found joy in going fast, but was always willing to slow his pace and spend time with the people he loved. Dave is survived by his adoring wife of forty-three years, Jennifer (Burch) Sobie; their loving children, Heather (Joshua) Duhr, Matt (Liane) Sobie, Melissa (Jeremy) Casarez; grandchildren Quinne, Isabelle, and Brenden Duhr, Caleb, Haley, Kalea and Oliver Sobie, and Antonio, Conner, Zachary and Ella Casarez; siblings Roman Jr.



New way to check the status of Social Security applications

Social Security is always innovating and improving our technology to better serve you. In an effort to meet our goal to deliver innovative, quality services, we are improving how you can check the status of your Social Security benefit application online.

Placing the "Application Status" feature behind our *my Social Security* portal provides a secure service delivery channel that will allow the Agency to provide detailed status information without requiring a confirmation number.

Our first service improvement will include status information for Social Security and SSI benefit applications and appeals,

but future modifications will allow you to check the status of medical and non-medical redeterminations.

With the new Application Status, you will see:

- the Re-entry number for in-progress online applications;
- detailed information about the current status of the application or appeal;
- the location where your claim is being processed; and
- scheduled hearing information for appeals.

Log into *my Social Security* to see what other personalized features are available to you at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.



obituaries

continued

(Lorri) Sobie, Steven (Candy) Sobie, Christine (David) Jones, Michael (Peni) Sobie, Robert (Jill) Sobie, and David Campbell; sisters- and brothers-in-law, Sandra (Phil) Wesorick, and Tom (Carrie) Burch; and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Dave was preceded in death by his mother, Sally Sobie; step-mother, Anna Sobie; sister, Carol Olson; brother, Mark Sobie; brother-in-law, David Burch; and father-in-law, F. Gene Burch. There will be a time of visitation from 2:00 until 4:00 pm and from 6:00 until 8:00 pm on Thursday, January 19, 2017, at Pederson Funeral Home, 127 N. Monroe Street NE, Rockford. The funeral service for Dave will be celebrated by Pastor Kevin Baker at 11:00 am on Friday, January 20, 2017, at the Knapp Street Campus of Ada Bible Church, 3869 Knapp Street NE, Grand Rapids. There will also be a visitation at church, one hour prior to the service. Those wishing to offer expressions of sympathy are encouraged to make a memorial contribution to ALANO Club of Kent County, 1020 College Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503; or online at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/acokc>

Pederson Funeral Home

www.pedersonfuneralhome.com

WATROUS

James Howard Watrous, age 71 of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, January 10, 2017 with his children by his side. He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard Watrous and Norma and Robert Hemingson; sisters, Marion Mayou, Jean Watrous and Juanita Czapek; brother, Dick Watrous. Jim is

survived by his children, Robert (Wendy) Watrous, Mindy (Craig) Clarida, Ryan (Jamie) Watrous and their mother, Joyce (Charlie) Martin; grandchildren, Robby (Jeannie), Brandon (Michelle) Watrous, Casey Clarida, Denver VanBeck, Tyler Morlock, Zach Watrous, Kyle Myers; great-grandchildren, Lexy, Ashton, Madison, Macey, Cash, Natalie and Monroe; brother, Guy (GeorgaAnn) Watrous. Jim worked at Velting Contractors for 25 years. His love for animals was endless. Services were held Saturday, January 14 at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 350 N. Hudson, Lowell, Rev. Nate Gray of Elmdale Church of the Nazarene, officiated. Memorial contributions may be made to Elmdale Church of the Nazarene, 11830 Drew Rd., Alto, MI 49302.



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WITTENBACH

Annabelle Crystal Wittenbach, of Lowell, passed away peacefully Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at Green Acres of Lowell at the age of 100 years. She was born in Grand Rapids on September 9, 1916, the daughter of Francis Clark of Whitneyville. She attended grade school at the little school in Whitneyville and at the Campau Lake School, then moved to Saranac for high school, where she graduated with the class of 1934. Upon graduation she caught a ride to Lowell and went from business to business looking for work which she found with the Theron Richmond family, living with them while looking after their children and working at their restaurant on Main Street. Next she worked as a nanny for the Attwood Brass family in East Grand Rapids. While at the restaurant she became acquainted with the Wittenbach family, farmers from Vergennes Township. She fell in love with Wilbur (Bill) Wittenbach and they were married in 1938. Then they moved to the Detroit area where Bill worked as a machinist during WWII. Two of their children were born there and their third was born later in Grand Rapids. After the war was over, Bill and Annabelle moved back home to the family farm in Vergennes where they farmed; and Bill and two of his brothers started a farm machinery, truck, and auto business in Lowell known as Wittenbach Sales and Service. Bill died in an accident in 1959 and so Annabelle went to work as a teller in the Lowell State Savings Bank to support her family. She worked at the bank for over thirty years, retiring when she was 75 years old. She never remarried and always missed her Bill. Annabelle was a devout Christian and an active member of the Lowell Methodist Church for sixty years, where she taught Sunday school and participated in several ladies groups over the years. Many in the Lowell area will remember her graciousness and her sincere concern for everyone she met, asking after their families, their health, and their general wellbeing. She had close friendship with many of her Vergennes neighbors and her large extended family of relatives. She was a wonderful mother who sacrificed for her children, working hard all of her life without complaint. Annabelle is survived by her children Larry (Pat) of Iron Mountain, Ron (Ann) of Murray Lake, Martha of San Diego; grandchildren Christine (Dan Soulier) Wittenbach, Bill Wittenbach, Kevin (Cher) Goggins, Christopher (Shannon) Goggins, Tom Mattson, John (Skyler) Mattson; great-grandchildren Margo Wittenbach, Caden, Lillie, and Jager Goggins, Ryan and Halle Goggins, Cashel, Beckett, and Ryder Mattson. Annabelle's family wishes to thank all the wonderful care givers at Green Acres who have made the last 4 years of Annabelle's life so wonderful. A funeral service will be held Friday, January 20, 11 a.m. at First United Methodist Church of Lowell, 621 E. Main St., Lowell. Rev. Brad Brillhart officiating. The family will meet friends and relatives one hour prior to service at the church. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331 or the Lowell Historical Museum, 325 W. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1. Chewing noise
6. Unit of work or energy
9. Alternative to knit stitch
13. Flu symptom
14. "We will, we will rock ____"
15. The color of some old photos
16. CrÈme de la ____
17. Pilot's estimate
18. Often-missed humor
19. *Team that's never been in Super Bowl
21. *Team with most appearances but no wins
23. Articulate
24. *Washington's Super Bowl MVP, ____ Rypien
25. Protestant denom.
28. Uncontrollable anger
30. Lung pouch
35. a.k.a. The Islamic State
37. Tibetan monk
39. "Semper Fidelis" to U.S. Marines, e.g.
40. *Pittsburgh's Super Bowl MVP, ____ Swann
41. Jerry Maguire, e.g.
43. "For" in Spanish
44. Reduce pressure
46. Those not in favor
47. Larger-than-life
48. Seabiscuit's house
50. Big top
52. "Fat chance!"
53. "The Sun ____ Rises"
55. Horse poker

CROSSWORD														
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JANUARY 11 - JANUARY 17

- Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 disappeared on March 8, 2014 with 239 people on board. After searching more than 45,000 square miles of the Indian Ocean in vain the search has been suspended.
- Along with A-list entertainers, many lawmakers are boycotting the 2017 inauguration of Donald Trump in protest of his policies and actions. Cowboy Troy, country band Big & Rich, America's Got Talent singer Jackie Evancho and Lee Greenwood were among the entertainers who were listed as performing at Trump's inaugural celebrations. Trump will be sworn in as the 45th president on Friday, January 20, 2017.
- The "Greatest Show on Earth," the Ringling Bros. Circus is closing down after more than 100 years in the business.



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57. *Companies pay big for it on Super Bowl night
61. *One of 4 teams with no appearances
64. Sad face
65. Girls' night out, in text
67. Shipping box
69. R2-D2, e.g.
70. Container for ashes
71. Remove location from IMap
72. Singles
73. Bird-to-be
74. Boris Godunov and Nicholas Romanov
25. *Suffered 4 consecutive Super Bowl losses
26. Heretofore
27. Santa Maria's companion
29. *She's a Lady
31. Tug-of-War prop
32. Locker room infection?
33. Courtyards
34. *Vince Lombardi, e.g.
36. Give the cold shoulder
38. Casino chip
42. Hint of color
45. Lamentation
49. Freddy Krueger's street
51. Popular political promise
54. Smooth transition
56. Mends a sock
57. '70s hairdo
58. European "curtain"
59. Justice's garb
60. Deuces
61. Chinatown gang
62. Wine country
63. Recipe command
66. *____ Stadium in Houston
68. Lt.'s subordinate

Puzzle solutions on page 14

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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.

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

How do you feel about the Ringling Bros. Circus closing down after 100 years?

TO VOTE GO TO

WWW.

thelowellledger.com

Local author Bob Tarte publishes fourth novel

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Best-selling, award-winning local author Bob Tarte recently had his fourth novel published, "Feather Brained: My Bumbling Quest to Become a Birder and Find a Rare Bird On My Own." Tarte's books are mostly about the hilarious, awkward interactions that take place between himself and various animals, especially birds.

"The subtitle of 'Feather Brained' tells the story: 'My Bumbling Quest to Become a Birder and Find a Rare Bird on My Own,'" Tarte

said. "Like all of my books, it's mainly supposed to be funny. But I also wrote it so that people who read about how I learned to find and identify birds can say, 'Oh, so that's how you do it!' It's full of birding tips. And almost every chapter features a guest appearance by a top Michigan birder and in two cases a New York Times best selling author of a book about birds. There are also a couple of chapters about my wife, Linda, helping to raise and release orphan birds for Wildlife Rehab Center in Grand

Rapids, such as Baltimore orioles and northern flicker woodpeckers."

Tarte lives directly on M-21 in Lowell with property along the Grand River. Tarte said that the Lowell area is an excellent place to look for rare, interesting birds.

"[Much] of the birding in 'Feather Brained' takes place in the woods along the Grand River behind our house," Tarte said. "There are also birding adventures in the cemetery on Washington St., on the river trail behind the dam in downtown Lowell and at Wittenbach Wege Center across the street from Lowell High School. A surprising number of birds lose their way during migration and end up in Michigan thousands of miles away from where they should be. A few years ago a woman in Lowell hosted a rare rufous hummingbird in her yard for several days and we had an unusual warbler at our feeder one winter. My favorite places to bird in the area are Wittenbach Wege Center, Ionia State Recreation Area, Roselle Park in Ada and Coldwater River Preserve near Freepport. Most of these places have been visited recently by rare birds, especially Roselle Park."

His house used to be screaming with dozens of pets. Now Tarte and his wife are down to 14 animals.

"We are way, way down from a high number of 53 some years ago," Tarte said. "We're a little less crazy now. We currently have



Local author Bob Tarte looking for birds at Tawas Point State Park last summer. Tarte's latest book, "Feather Brained: My Bumbling Quest to Become a Birder and Find a Rare Bird On My Own," was recently published by the University of Michigan Press.

two parrots, two doves, a parakeet, and two cats inside the house, plus two geese and five ducks outdoors."

Tarte has written three previous books; "Fowl Weather," "Kitty Cornered" and "Enslaved By Ducks," which was nearly made into a movie.

"Actress Patricia Heaton took out an option on my first book, 'Enslaved by Ducks,' and wanted to make [a film of] it via her

production company, Four Boys Films," Tarte said. "But after the big financial mess of 2008, she couldn't get financing. And Tony Shaloub, who was supposed to play me in the movie, got involved in another project. So it fell through."

Although "Feather Brained" just came out, it has already won one major publishing award.

"I won a Michigan Notable Books Award for 2017," Tarte said. "The award goes to 20 authors of books published in 2016 that are written by a Michigan author or have Michigan as a subject."

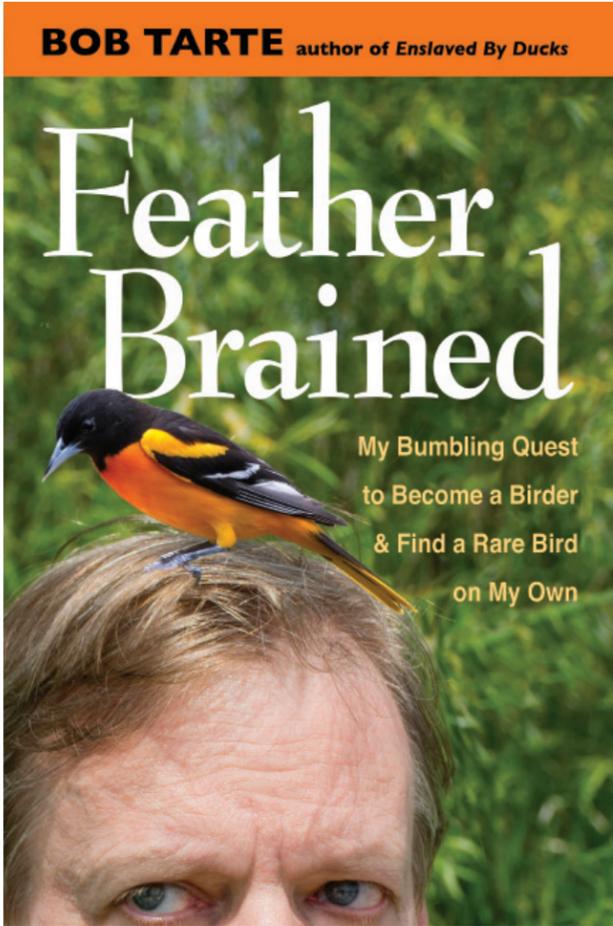
He is working on yet another book and he also co-hosts a podcast on the website PetLifeRadio.com.

"I'm just finishing my first nonfiction book, a novel called 'The Happy Mid-Morning Music Show Meets Alfie, the Psychic Coyote,'" Tarte said. "It takes place

in northern Michigan in 1961 and is about a radio DJ named Skip who has a strange encounter with a coyote that changes his life. It's lots of fun. I need to post three or four birding podcasts that I recorded last year with Bill Holm, who 'co-stars' with me in 'Feather Brained' as a guy who loves birds but doesn't care much for birders. Bill is a real character and he's been in all of my books. You'll find my podcasts at PetLifeRadio.com. The show title is 'What Were You Thinking?'"

Tarte's books are available for purchase at most major retailers and online.

"Schuler Books and Barnes & Noble should have 'Feather Brained' and my other three books, plus scads of places online," Tarte said. "Visit my website BobTarte.com, and also look me up on Facebook."



Tarte's latest book cover "Feather Brained."

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