

**ll&p
regular meeting**



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l's sports



start on page 9

LowellArts throws party to thank donors

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

LowellArts had a party to thank over 100 donors to their Moving to Main campaign last Thursday.

"We had a private party where we specifically invited donors to our 'Moving to Main' campaign and thanked them for getting us as far as we are," said Lorain Smalligan, LowellArts executive director. "We really wanted to thank everybody. We are here because these people made a gift to the campaign. It was really nice."

The party was sponsored by Huntington Bank and guests enjoyed food and beverages from Larkin's and Flat River Grill. At the party LowellArts

announced a new source of funds.

"We have a challenge grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund," Smalligan said. "For every gift of one dollar they will give us two dollars, up to \$50,000."

Despite all the donations and grants, they still have a deficit in their coffers. If you want to help out, contact LowellArts at 616-897-8545 or visit their website, lowellartsmi.org

"Right now we are close to the finish line," Smalligan said. "With the challenge grant, if you give \$10 it turns into \$30. Right now we still have over \$100,000 that we need to raise."



The new art building was on display during the soiree to thank LowellArts patrons for their generosity.

Laughing it up in Lowell last weekend with comedians Alberstadt and McCallister

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

LaughFest returned to Lowell last weekend when stand up comics Keith Alberstadt and Stu McCallister appeared at the Grand Volute Ballroom on Friday, March 10.

McCallister was the opening act. He is a local

comedian and has appeared in Lowell in the past. His jokes were clever and random and the audience enjoyed his antics.

"How is it that chickens only have fingers after they're dead," was one of McCallister's lines.

The headliner was Keith Alberstadt. A native of Tennessee and now a New Yorker, Alberstadt has either appeared on or written jokes for TV shows such as "Late Show with David Letterman," "Last

Comic Standing," "Late Night with Seth Myers" and "Saturday Night Live." His wry, sarcastic observations were a big hit with the audience.

"Last year there were 34 fatal dog attacks in America and there were six fatal shark attacks in the whole world," Alberstadt said. "You know why? Dogs are on land. That's where all the people are."

You could hear more

from Alberstadt in a couple years, he said he would like to get into acting more and is also writing some scripts based on incidents from his personal life.

"I've got a couple ideas that I might want to make shows out of," Alberstadt said during an interview after the show. "They're autobiographical and based on some jokes I have in my set. I plan to flesh those out and still do stand up."



A packed LaughFest crowd enjoyed a couple hours of jokes from stand up comics Keith Alberstadt, at left, and local comedian, Stu McCallister at the Grand Volute last Friday.

50
CENTS



Governor releases 2018 state budget proposal

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Governor Snyder recently released his proposal for the State of Michigan's 2018 budget. His proposal includes a per-pupil increase of between \$50 and \$100 depending on what grade they are in, because in the budget high schoolers would get more money

and at risk students. In Lowell, funding for each student would increase from \$7,511 in 2017 to \$7,611 in Snyder's proposed budget. Cyber schools, however, would have their funding decreased by \$1,422. Snyder's office released a statement saying, "cyber schools do not have the

same facilities, operations and transportation costs associated with educating students in traditional brick-and-mortar settings," the reason for the dramatic decrease in funding.

Lowell Area Schools superintendent Greg Pratt said the increase to the education budget could

change or be eliminated as the budget is finalized.

"This is the first step in the negotiations that take place in Lansing as they develop a budget," Pratt said. "Both the House and the Senate will propose budgets of their own. We will then see a conference committee and a final budget

will be developed to review in June. The numbers may change as each branch of government has their own ideas on funding."

Pratt said the \$100 increase is pretty insignificant anyway.

"A \$100 per pupil increase represents slightly

more than a one percent increase in revenue," Pratt said. "This increase will more than likely not keep up with the cost of living. We will work to maintain our programs as this increase will not afford the district to add programs [because of] no extra money."



along main street

Third annual Gallery Hop skips through town last week

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Art took center stage in downtown Lowell last Thursday when LowellArts presented their third annual Gallery Hop highlighting galleries and art focused specialty stores with special late hours and discounts for shoppers.

Flat River Cottage & Night Forest Jewelry, Chimera Design, Ability Weavers, and Flat River Gallery and Framing joined LowellArts for the event, keeping their doors open until 8:30 to join in the celebration of creativity. Each venue highlighted a current show or artist, including the Flat River

Cottage who featured local artist Kathleen Mooney. Flat River Gallery and Framing hosted the musical stylings of local favorite Roger MacNaughton and LowellArts showcased their annual West Michigan Art Competition with a meet the artists reception.

The first show held in their newly renovated location at 223 West Main, the WMAC celebrated its 31st year with 182 pieces of local artwork submitted by 143 artists. The show features all mediums of artwork and was judged for awards by Nichole Maury from Western Michigan University. A total of \$2,000 in prize money was awarded. Lowell artist Mooney was among the award winners earning an honorable mention in the show. The exhibition will be on display free of charge during the gallery's regular hours: Tuesday through Friday, 10-6 and Saturday, 10-5, now through April 15.

FOODMOBILE

Foodmobile provides food (mostly produce) to individuals in need and is available March 18 at 10 am and runs until the food is gone. Foodmobile is one Saturday a month (except December) at the fairgrounds (at the Foreman building, 225 S Hudson St SE).

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.

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.

...

An idealist is one who, on noticing that a rose smells better than a cabbage, concludes that it will also make better soup.

~ H. L. Mencken
(1880 - 1956)

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is accepting grant applications from local non-profit organizations seeking financial assistance with projects. Grant eligibility requirements and the grant application can be found at our website www.lowellrotary.org if you have any questions email us at info@lowellrotary.org

The deadline for applying is March 22nd.

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The Grafton Township Treasurer is seeking a qualified person to assume the position of Deputy Treasurer part time for 28 hours per week, Monday through Thursday.

Office Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. An applicant must obtain an application at the Township Office or on the website at www.graftontownship.org to include with their resume, and send to:

Grafton Township (attn: Sabrina Freeman)
12050 Old Belding Road NE,
Belding, MI 48809 or stop in and fill out an application with your resume at the Township Office

The deadline for applications is 4:00 p.m. Thursday, March 30, 2017.

Lowell Light & Power discusses “strategic plan”

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell Light & Power board’s latest regular meeting on Thursday, March 9 lasted over four hours. The board went over the utility’s “strategic plan” and their 2018 budget in detail. The strategic plan will still be on their next meeting’s agenda because they made a few changes to the document,

which is available for the public to read on the Lowell Light & Power website, lowell-light.org.

“The strategic plan will be on the agenda again next month for approval when [board member] Tina [Cadwallader] is there and after I make the agreed upon changes [and] modifications

that were discussed,” said Lowell Light & Power general manager Steve Donkersloot.

The board approved a three-year contract with North Carolina-based company Access Point Inc., who will provide phone, fax and back up internet for all Lowell government

buildings as part of the VOIP project passed last month. The monthly bill will be \$772.57, plus a one time fee of \$307.45 and an additional \$.0199 per minute charge for long distance calls. This same spending was approved by the Lowell city council at their last meeting.

The board voted to spend \$10,700 to repair the “side bins” on a Lowell Light & Power service truck. The truck itself will have to be replaced within the next two to three years, but the “side bins” were rusted beyond repair. The work will be done by B&B Truck Equipment from Byron Center. The board

will spend \$603,000 over five years to build a natural gas compressor that will be used to run the combustion turbine engines that create electricity.

The Lowell Light & Power board’s next regular meeting will be at their 127 N. Broadway office at 6 pm on Thursday, April 13.



The Lowell Light & Power board met for over four hours last week.

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~ Oliver Goldsmith

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Moving to Main campaign
We Are Nearly There

With our community's help the LowellArts Moving to Main Campaign has raised over 85% of our goal. Now the Lowell Area Community Fund has offered to match each remaining donation two to one up to **\$50,000**. This means for every dollar that you donate, they will add two!

Our Goal **\$1,250,000**

So Remember
\$1 = \$3

lowellArts

Go online, call or visit us at **223 W Main Street** to make a donation or a pledge today!

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another View

The Ledger's op-ed space provided to accommodate a variety of viewpoints, interests and articles submitted by our readers

Our view:

Meekhof needs to allow FOIA expansion

by Sarah Leach

"You guys are the only people who care about this."

Those were the unapologetic words of Republican state Sen. Arlan Meekhof to a roomful of journalists last month during the Michigan Press Association's annual meeting in Grand Rapids.

He was addressing inquiries as to why he is opposed to legislation that would subject the state Legislature and governor's office to the Freedom of Information Act — making the official e-mail correspondence of most of Michigan's elected officials available to the public — from moving through the Senate.

It matters what Meekhof says on the issue because, as Senate majority leader, he controls what bills the chamber can vote on. He also just so happens to represent us — the 30th state Senate district matches the borders of Ottawa County.

Every year, journalism groups and other public watchdogs celebrate Sunshine Week (March 12- 18 this year) because every once in a while we all need a reminder of whose government it really is.

Government doesn't belong to the politicians who prefer making agreements outside the public eye and would rather not have to deal with the hassle of those pesky citizens looking over their shoulders. Neither does it belong to the bureaucrats who have worked in their jobs so long that they forget where their budgets come from. It is, of course, our government and our tax money and hence everything government agencies do — whether it's a state department, a city, a township, a school district or special authority — is

our business. That should be obvious, but there are many people working in government, like Meekhof, who are uncomfortable with the idea of public scrutiny. That's why Michigan has FOIA and the Open Meetings Act — two powerful tools that open up government records to journalists, watchdog groups and everyday citizens and ensure that the public's business is conducted in public.

Last year, a 10-bill package passed the House overwhelmingly, but was stopped in the Senate, where Meekhof never took them up in the Senate Government Operations Committee, which Meekhof chairs.

At the time, he pointed to privacy issues for constituents, even though the bills clearly would have exempted lawmakers from having to disclose communications with constituents, other than lobbyists. If its party secrets the speaker wanted to protect, the bills would have exempted records held exclusively by the Republican and Democratic legislative caucuses. If it's past indiscretions that were the sticky wicket for him or his colleagues, the new laws would have applied only to records created or possessed the Jan. 1 after the measures were enacted.

Now his defense is citizen apathy.

Then how does he explain the fact that more than half of the 110 members of the Michigan House of Representatives publicly voiced their support of FOIA expansion — including our local Reps. Mary Whiteford, R-Casco Township and Jim Lilly, R-Park Township — when the legislation was reintroduced as an 11-bill

package in early February? (For her part, Rep. Daniella Garcia, R-Holland, said she supports FOIA expansion, but was non-committal to The Sentinel when asked if she would support the reintroduced bills.)

The excuses to not move this through are wearing a bit thin, Sen. Meekhof.

The Freedom of Information Act has been under attack in Michigan almost from the moment it was adopted 40 years ago. Amendments over the years have chipped away at its scope and a 2015 national study by the Center for Public Integrity and Global Integrity ranked Michigan last among the 50 states for its transparency and ethics laws, partly as a result of the significant FOIA exemptions. We're one of only two states that exempt the governor's and legislative offices (Massachusetts being the other).

And we only have to look at the disastrous Flint water crisis to understand how critical transparency can be. Michigan's exemption allowed the Snyder administration to conceal e-mail correspondence whose timely disclosure might have cut short one of the worst man-made catastrophes in the state's history.

These aren't special interest bills for the news media. The Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act apply to all citizens and the bills have support from activist groups at both ends of the political spectrum. In an era of smaller news reporting staffs, empowering citizens as government watchdogs is more important than ever.

"My fellow representatives and I have been entrusted with a great responsibility and I think this shows we have been listening to what our constituents want," Lilly said last month.

Sounds like more of us care than you realize, Sen. Meekhof.

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viewpoint

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

time for some financial spring cleaning

Spring is in the air, even if it's not quite there on the calendar. This year, as you shake off the cobwebs from winter and start tidying up around your home and yard, why not also do some financial spring cleaning?

Actually, you can apply several traditional spring cleaning techniques to your financial situation. Here are a few ideas:

- **Look for damage.** Damage to your home's siding, shingles and foundation can eventually degrade the structure of

your home. Your investment portfolio is also a structure of a sort, and it, too, can be damaged. Specifically, you may have deliberately constructed your portfolio with an investment mix — stocks, fixed-income vehicles, cash instruments, etc. — that's appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance. But over time, your portfolio can evolve in unexpected ways. For example, your stocks may have grown so much in value that they now take up a larger percentage of your holdings

than you had intended, possibly subjecting you to a higher degree of risk. If this happens, you may need to rebalance your portfolio.

- **Get rid of "clutter."** As you look around your home, do you see three mops or four nonfunctional televisions or a stack of magazines from the 1990s? If these items no longer have value, you could get rid of them and clear up some living space. As an investor, you also might have "clutter" — in the form of investments that no longer meet your needs. If you sold these investments, you could use the proceeds to fill gaps in your portfolio.

- **Consolidate.** Do you keep your lawnmower in a shed, a rake in your garage, and your gardening tools in the basement? When working on your outdoor tasks, you might find it

more efficient to have all these items in one location. You could also have your investments scattered about — an IRA here, a new 401(k) there, and an older 401(k) someplace else. But if you consolidated all your investments in one place, you might cut down on paperwork and fees, and you wouldn't risk losing track of an asset (which actually happens more than you might think). Even more importantly, when you have all your investments with one provider, you'll be better positioned to follow a single, centralized investment strategy.

- **Prepare for a rainy day.** As part of your outdoor spring cleaning, you may want to look at your gutters and downspouts to make sure they are clear and in good repair, so that they can move rainwater away from

your home. Your financial goals need protection, too, so you'll want to ensure you have adequate life and disability insurance.

- **Seal leaks.** In your home inspection this spring, you may want to investigate doors and windows for leaks and drafts. Your investment portfolio might have some "leaks" also. Are investment-related taxes

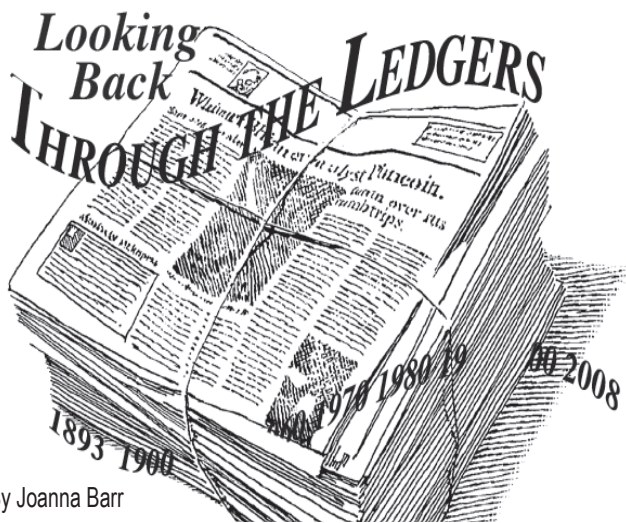
siphoning off more of your earnings than you realize? A financial professional can offer you recommendations for appropriate tax-advantaged investments.

This spring, when you're cleaning your physical surroundings, take some time to also tidy up your financial environment. You may be pleased with the results.

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.



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal March 16, 1892

The present thawing and freezing weather is bad for wheat and clover, although the roots of wheat are not injured much yet, but if continued long will be bad, for young clover especially.

Mrs. Morris Trumbell received from her aunt, Mrs Judge Wells, an Indian canteen of red clay, with peculiar ornamentation.

One of our young men went to Sparta last week to visit a young lady. 'Tis strange how far some young men will go to see a second best girl.

Charles Easterday returned from Illinois recently, where he has been nearly two years past. He intends to make Michigan his home for the summer, but prefers to spend the winter in Illinois.

Will "Maud" please tell us how many pounds of butter W. S. Fuller sold in 50 days and how many there were in the family?

Miss Gertie Godfrey spent a part of last week with her friend, Miss Laura Goulds, near Fallasburg and enjoyed a sugaring off at Mr. Covert's, in Keene.

Act on a new principle—regulating the liver, stomach and bowels through the nerves. A new discovery. Dr. Miles Pills, speedily cure biliousness, bad taste, torpid liver, piles, constipation, unequaled for men, women, children. Smallest, mildest, surest! 50 doses, 25 cts. Samples free, at Yeiter & Look.

The Mrs O'Donnell farm, in Grattan, opposite the Duga place, has been sold to John Edwards. Consideration, \$2,200.

Walter E. White, of Grand Rapids, visited at home over Friday and Saturday. He has been sick for a couple of weeks, but begins work again in the Electric Railway power house this (Monday) morning.

While Sid Bradfield and W. S. Barnes were looking timber on R. Vanderbrock's farm, their team broke loose and ran away, breaking the evener and tongue to the buggy. No other damages.

Monte Sayles sold six fat cows and is buying others to replace them.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 15, 1917

Prosecuting Attorney Hoftius says that most of the Kent county township caucuses are illegal, in that they were not held twenty days before election, or did not have five days notice, as provided in the new law. Neither of the Lowell caucuses meet the requirements; but no contest is expected.

Mrs. Peter McPherson entertained with a miscellaneous shower for Miss Lena Able, whose marriage to Peter Deries takes place March 21. Fifteen were present and the afternoon was spent in hemming towels and making holders for the bride to be. Supper was served, after which Esther Tuttle gave a recitation and all sang America; then wishing Miss Able a long and happy life they returned to their homes, having spent an enjoyable time. Miss Able received some very pretty and useful presents.—One of the Guests.

The Sugar Bowl has been neatly redecorated by Denick & Son and furnished with an ornamental mirror panel on three sides, with a brilliant electric illumination, a fine improvement.

The Greenville Fruit Co. stand, recently purchased by S. Guidi of Ionia, has been so renovated, refitted and restocked that its old patrons wouldn't know it.

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I wish to thank the people of Lowell for the cordial treatment accorded the Family theatre during the past six months and the generous patronage accorded us during the past hard winter, which assures us we made no mistake in coming to Lowell, and confirms our determination to serve you faithfully and well in the future. Earl Wright, Owner and Manager Family Theatre.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 19, 1942

"River, stay 'way from my door!" No doubt many Lowell people and many others living in the valleys of Flat and Grand rivers have been repeating over and over the foregoing words of an old popular song for the past two or three days. The rapid rising of waters in the Grand, Flat and Thornapple rivers began to be very noticeable last Sunday and each day since that time waters have grown higher and higher covering the river flats for many miles east and west of Lowell. In many places rising waters have reached nearly to the south side of Main St., drainage sewers have backed up, flooding basement floors in a number of homes and in a few cases rowboats were brought into use so that men could get to their work. A number of store basements are covered with water ranging in depth from one to two feet. A large number of merchants found it necessary to remove all merchandise from basement floors to higher levels of safety.

Deputy Frank Stephens and Marshall Fred Gramer attended a five day school last week in Grand Rapids put on by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The purpose of the school was to instruct police officers in organizing civilian defense in their respective

engagements

Wingeier / Appiagyei



Michelle Wingeier and Benjamin Appiagyei

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Tammi Wingeier of Alto, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Michelle Lynn to Benjamin Appiagyei son of Mr. and Mrs. Raphael and Cecilia Ampomah of Pordenone, Italy.

Ms. Wingeier and Mr. Appiagyei plan to marry on the June 10, 2017. Ms. Wingeier has a diploma in

Medical Assistance from Stanford Brown College and is currently pursuing Nursing at Grand Rapids Community College.

Mr. Appiagyei was an MPhil candidate of the University of Ghana who moved to Michigan State University and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Chemistry.

...

There is no remedy for love but to love more.

~ Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)

Did you know?

The planet is comprised of a remarkable set of organisms that, when working correctly, produce some awe-inspiring results. However, the Earth is constantly under attack from a growing population and the mechanisms of man that can have very real environmental impacts. Education is the key to inciting real change.

One in four mammals is at risk of extinction, while 78 percent of marine mammals are threatened by an early and preventable death due to getting caught in fishing nets intended for other species. Furthermore, at least 50 million acres of rainforest are lost every year, totaling an area the size of Great Britain, says the organization Solar Energy World.

By making real changes, including recycling, cutting down on emissions and protecting wildlife habitats, individuals can help to preserve the world's resources for many years to come.



happy birthday



MARCH 15

Daniel Vegter, Ward Boulard Jr., Brett Hobrla, Margot Miller.

MARCH 16

Greg Briggs, Louise Weeks.

MARCH 17

Renee Barnes, Logan Landman, Zach Breimayer.

MARCH 18

Bruce Phillips Jr., Chase Treglia, Jim Hacker.

MARCH 19

Jeremy Barber, Elmer Czapek, Terry B. Abel, Kimberly Dixon, Sean Ellison, Alberta Ryder.

MARCH 20

John Roudabush, Cody Moore, Denise Fyan.

MARCH 21

Terry Raymor, Ardis Barber, Gary Yeiter, Molly Clark, Steve Kovacs.



health



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

jaundice in adults

Jaundice is when the skin turns yellow. It is caused by having too much of a chemical called bilirubin in the body. Bilirubin comes from the normal breakdown of red blood cells. It is changed in the liver to a form that can leave the body in your stool. Jaundice happened when too much bilirubin is made in the blood or when the liver is damaged and cannot get rid of bilirubin from the body. Other than yellow skin, people with jaundice may have stomach pain, nausea, fever, weight loss or itching. They may also notice that their stools turn a lighter color or their urine turns a darker color.

People get jaundice when their liver is damaged. Some causes can be a liver infection, such as hepatitis, drinking too much alcohol, gallstone disease, some medications, cirrhosis (scarring of the liver due to liver damage), or cancer of the gallbladder or pancreas.

In some cases, yellow skin can be caused by other medical problems, or by eating foods that have a lot of chemical called beta-carotene (for example, melons, squash and carrots).

If your skin appears yellow, you should see your doctor. Your doctor can order tests to check for a high bilirubin level. They might also order tests such as a CT scan or an ultrasound of the liver. Jaundice can be treated by treating the illness that is causing the jaundice.

If you have an infection, the jaundice should improve after the infection is gone. If you are taking medication that bothers the liver, you will likely get better when the medication is stopped. If you have gallstones, jaundice should improve after the gallbladder is removed. If you have long-standing liver disease (hepatitis B or C or cirrhosis of the liver), the jaundice may not get better.

Planning A Wedding?



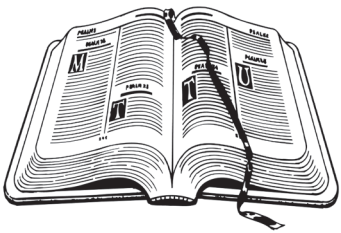
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Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding, designed to protect Great Lakes, is on the chopping block

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

It was revealed last week that the Trump administration plans to request a 97 percent cut in funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in his 2018 budget. The GLRI is an Environmental Protection Agency program that was created by the Obama administration in 2010. According to the GRLI website, the program's goals are "to clean up contaminated areas, prevent and control invasive species, address harmful algae blooms and restore habitat to protect native species." Trump's proposal would reduce the annual budget from \$300 million to \$10 million, essentially crippling their

what political party you belong to, no one lives without fresh water for more than a couple of days. There are a multitude of experts who have been proclaiming water to be the most valuable commodity on the planet, so to do what we are doing on a state and federal level to our Great Lakes is simply moronic on several levels. If the thought of defending the Great Lakes for environmental reasons gets your knickers in a knot, then just approach it from a pure business viewpoint. Why are we putting one of the largest sources of surface freshwater at risk with decreased funding, decreased protection and aging oil pipelines? Why are we giving a Swiss

is 'might,' but money is hollering there as well. Why else would Lansing even consider letting Nestlé get double the amount of free water out of the ground? The EPA was started under Richard Nixon, hardly a tree hugging lefty. He made the move because of common sense. I remember as a kid the Grand River in Ada was so polluted it stunk. Thanks to the EPA that is no longer the case. Why the hell do we want to move backwards? I drink water every day, I love water. I want to do what ever we can to preserve clean water for my grandchildren."

"It is outrageous that just days after delaying a critical plan to stop Asian carp it appears that

"As a life-long Great Lakes fisherman and outdoorsman I know we must do everything we can to support our Great Lakes and the ecosystem connected to it," said State Senator Dave Hildenbrand. "I will reach out to our congressional delegation to express my concern over any reduction in federal funding and the impact that would have on our ability to ensure that our Great Lakes remain pristine and well-managed

"As a life-long Great Lakes fisherman and outdoorsman I know we must do everything we can to support our Great Lakes and the ecosystem connected to it"

~ State Senator Dave Hildenbrand

that our Great Lakes must be a priority and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative must be fully funded.

...Why are we putting one of the largest sources of surface freshwater at risk with decreased funding, decreased protection and aging oil pipelines?

~ Cliff Yankovich

Congress will have the final say on all budgetary matters and we are only at the first step in the appropriations

manner when President Obama attempted to cut funding for this program and we will do the same if the Trump administration continues to pursue these cuts. The Great Lakes are too important to Michigan and to our nation. At the end of the day, the constitutional authority to determine what gets funded across the federal government resides with Congress. With that power comes the responsibility of informing the new administration why programs like the GLRI are so vital. That is a conversation I plan to have with this administration and I encourage my colleagues, especially our senators, to do the same."

"Most Americans didn't vote to ease up on polluters and leave themselves with dirtier water and air," Senator Chuck Schumer said to the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. "They certainly didn't vote to make all these cuts so that this administration can hand out a tax break to the wealthiest Americans."

"It is outrageous that just days after delaying a critical plan to stop Asian carp it appears that President Trump's budget is calling for a 97 percent cut in funding for the bipartisan Great Lakes Restoration Initiative."

~ Senator Debbie Stabenow

efforts. Trump is requesting a 25 percent total decrease to the EPA's annual budget.

Local and national politicians had plenty to say in reaction to Trump's cuts.

"My reaction to the effort to cut Federal funding for the Great Lakes is pure astonishment," said Lowell businessman and Green Party member Cliff Yankovich. "I do not care

company worth billions the water underneath Michigan for free? Why are we even considering giving Nestlé more water for nothing? Frankly, I have given up on Washington, DC. The power of corporate money is so strong there that common sense has no sway. We might have some success in Lansing, the operative word

initiative has been critical to cleaning up our Great Lakes and waterways, restoring fish and wildlife habitats and fighting invasive species, like Asian carp. Our Great Lakes are part of our DNA and an important driver of our economy in Michigan and I call on President Trump to reverse course on these harmful decisions."

for future generations. It is my understanding that the proposed funding reduction for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative that has been reported is just a proposal and is one of many proposed reductions being considered by the Trump administration. Ultimately an agreement must be reached with the legislative branch (Congress) before any federal budget is implemented. I will push to keep adequate Great Lakes funding a priority for federal government spending."

"These reports are alarming," said US Rep. Fred Upton. "We have previously communicated with the new administration

process which actually funds the program. As we move forward, I will be fighting hard alongside colleagues on both sides of the aisle so we can turn this around and make sure our Great Lakes are properly protected."

"The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has proven to be an important and effective tool in the effort to improve the environmental and economic health of the Great Lakes Region," said US Rep. Bill Huizenga, co-chair of the Great Lakes Task Force. "We have seen positive results from the GLRI right here in West Michigan with the recovery of White Lake. Additionally, the GLRI has a strong

LMS students compete in chess tourney



Seven students from Lowell Middle School competed in the Thornapple/Kellogg Chess Tournament held March 11. Over 200 students from 21 school districts and homeschool programs participated in the all-day event.

Winners pictured are, left to right: Aidan Roustan (runner-up), Avery Miller, Travis Boyd (1st place), Ryan Baker (1st place, undefeated), Tallin Westrate. Not pictured: Alex Rummelt, Travis Boyd and Kyle James.

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

Still time to enjoy Lowell High School's musical "Legally Blonde"

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Curtains opened on the Lowell High School spring musical last Friday for Legally Blonde the Musical.

Director Heidi Kolp said that this is her favorite show to date crediting the cast. "They are the nicest, easiest, most talented cast I have ever had the pleasure of working with." Also crediting all those off stage who are working to make the show a success, she added, "The pit is beyond fabulous this year. Thanks to Tim Haan and the crew, takes my breath away. This is a labor of love and I am beyond blessed to be a part of something so creative and impressive."

The sunny, high energy production based on the pop culture phenomenon Legally Blonde, the movie starring Reese Witherspoon, is the most difficult the school has taken on, according to Kolp. Featuring more than twenty songs, as many dances and a slew of costume and set changes, "This show is the most challenging show we have produced musically; it is a very demanding score and really fun. These kids rose to the challenge and I couldn't be more proud of my cast, crew and pit. The whole show just moves so quickly. There aren't any slow spots or boring bits."

Cast headliner Salem Grody, a senior, stars as Elle Woods in the production. Showcasing her melodic vocals, Grody dazzles on stage as Elle, utilizing her

own cheerful disposition to embody the role. According to Kolp, "Salem has been a rock. She just is Elle Woods naturally. She is talented and sunny; she always notices things about others and has positive things to say about everyone. Despite the extreme pressure of headlining a show this huge, I have never seen her be short with anyone and haven't ever heard her complain. I have been blessed with wonderful leading ladies; Salem is a shining example."

Joined on stage by a cast of senior veteran actors, Kolp said that the talent is rich in the two part production, "I can't say enough about my seniors. We chose a show with lots of highlighted, strong characters because we knew we had a large crop of veteran actors and they have certainly stepped up. Aiden Remar was born to play quirky Emmett and Jacquelyn Pytlik steals the show as Chutney Windham."

Other performers include Maya Williams, Olivia Nurmikko and Savanna Dempsey and the Delta Nu sorority girls, senior Shannon Hoeskstra who uses her comedic ability to play Enid Hoopes, Josey Pontius who gracefully plays the role of "the other woman" Vivienne, Kevin Williams who briefly appears as the studly delivery driver Kyle and three-year theater

veteran Tiana Petricevic plays the brassy crowd-pleasing Paulette.

Beyond the highly entertaining bubble gum feel of the musical, you will find lessons pertinent to every generation of young people making the show both "bubble gum" fun and relevant at the same time. "I love the themes of the show, being true to yourself and not judging others," said Kolp, going on to describe one scene that she hopes will have an impact on the audiences. "My favorite scene is the tear jerker when Emmett and Elle sing their duet 'Legally Blonde.' We staged that scene to highlight Elle as a role model and representative of all girls who are striving to do what is right despite the negativity and judgement they face. The first time I blocked that scene with the girls, we all ended up in tears at practice. I hope it gives everyone chills when they see it and serves as a reminder to be kind to others and give them the benefit of the doubt as well as a reminder to keep doing good in the world no matter the obstacles."

The production does tackle some adult content, so Kolp asks that parents use their discretion when attending the show. "This show is about growing up and finding out who you are, so Elle faces some people who make poor decisions. That means the show includes some mild



The LHS drumline and faux cheerleaders join the rest of the cast on stage for a musical number.

language and some adult situations. Common Sense Media gives the movie version a '12 and up' rating. Our version is more conservative than the movie or MTV version of the musical, but it is more than a G rated production in order to tackle some of the more sophisticated themes teens and young adults face."

With two more showtimes scheduled

for this weekend, Kolp expressed her pride in what the cast and crew have accomplished thus far. "Most people don't realize the time, dedication, talent and sheer force of will that go into making a show like this run seamlessly. Seeing the kids do so well on stage tears me up every night. I feel like their mom away from mom and I couldn't be prouder."

Remaining showtimes for Legally Blonde the Musical are Friday, March 17 and Saturday, March 18, at 7 pm inside the Lowell Performing Arts Center at LHS. Tickets can be purchased in advance at seatyourself.biz/lowellhs or at the door and are \$10 with proceeds supporting future productions of the theater program.



Salem Grody, Aiden Remar and Tiana Petricevic on stage.



Senior Salem Grody in her starring role as Elle Woods.

Red Arrow

- GYMNASTICS

SPORTS

Lowell gymnasts place twelfth at State Meet

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity gymnastics completed another historic season last weekend at the MHSAA Team and Individual State tournaments placing twelfth as a group and bringing home two individual medals earned by two seniors.

After a harrowing year of countless injuries and illnesses, the team made it to state competition placing third at regionals. “Out of all my years coaching, health issues were the worst this year. And half the stuff wasn’t even gymnastics related,” explained Lowell head coach Michele DeHaan. “Each week it seemed like a different girl had a different issue. After everything we went thru from the beginning of the season, for us to be able to pull together and make it to team state again is pretty amazing.”

Overall the team earned a twelfth place 137.325 point finish. Junior Maura Fitzpatrick led the Arrows on the vault with a 9.175, tying senior Lisa Price with a 9.1, to lead on the floor exercise. She also earned a second-place finish among her teammates on the beam and fifth on the bars. Senior Karmen Anderson took the balance beam with an

8.5 and also placed second and fifth on the bars and floor exercise respectively. Finishing best on the bars was senior Corah Kaufman who scored an 8.875. Sophomore Corah Miller and senior Alise Forward put in top performances scoring along Lowell’s top five on three of four events.

This is the third time the girls have made it to the state tournament in the program’s history. With all three appearances taking place in the past four years, the seniors are the group that helped change the face of Lowell gymnastics. According to DeHaan, “All three times we have made it to team state, the girls of the class of 2017 were a part of the team. I’m just so proud of these girls. This year’s seniors have been part of our program since they were in elementary school. They have made so much history these last four years and represented our program with such class.”

Anderson, Fitzpatrick, Miller, Forward, Price and Kaufman competed at the corresponding individual tournament with Price and Kaufman putting in medal level performances on single events and Anderson and Fitzpatrick bringing home all-around honors.

Anderson competed on all four events for a combined points total of 34.575, her highest score coming on the beam where she earned an 8.775. Fitzpatrick also competed on all four events totaling a 34.5 with her highest mark from the vault with an 8.8.

Medal winners Price and Kaufman finished off their careers on a high note climbing the podium for events they have both excelled at over the seasons. Price dazzled on the floor exercise placing third among all competitors earning a score of 9.475 and Kaufman impressed on the uneven bars placing fifth with an 8.75. Both girls overcame obstacles to earn their finishes.

After missing her mark at last season’s state meet due to a scoring error, Price nailed her routine this year causing an emotional reaction from coach DeHaan. “Lisa was flawless. She commands your attention when she performs, people turn their heads when her music starts. Lisa performed her floor routine and when they flashed her score of 9.475 I couldn’t help but tear up. All I wanted was for her to get the score she deserved and she did. We have no

control over the competition in our sport so where she placed didn’t matter, I was so overcome with emotion because she finished with a personal best and a fair score.”

Kaufman battled back from an injury that left

her in a back brace for five weeks. Her fifth-place state finish was a history making achievement for the program. “Corah didn’t even know she made some history of her own. She is the only gymnast in Lowell history to qualify on bars

and place on bars all four years. She came back more determined than ever to get back to state and place for the fourth time. I’m just so proud. I honestly have the best job in the world,” according to DeHaan



Corah Kaufman and Lisa Price were the Arrow’s individual medalists.



The Arrows appear at the state finals for the third time in four years.

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Red Arrow

- HOCKEY

SPORTS

LC loses 7-0 against Brighton in State quarter final

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

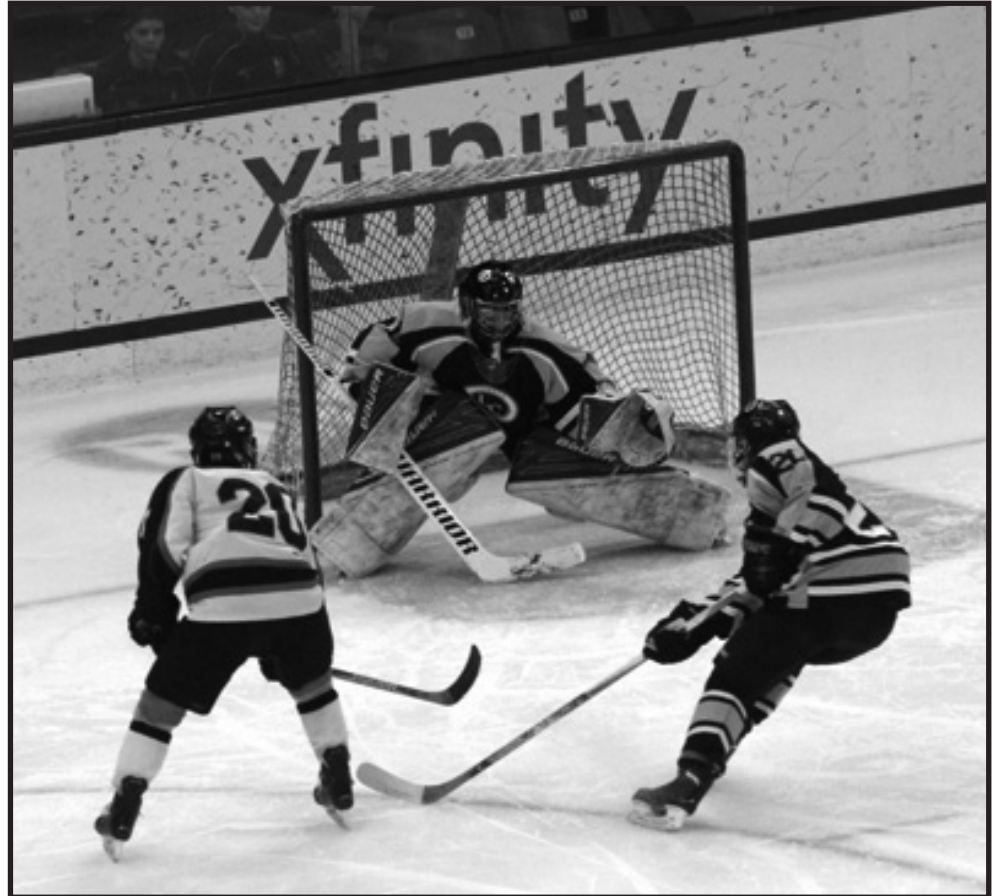
Lowell Caledonia hockey finished a phenomenal season last week Wednesday at the Munn Ice Arena on the campus of Michigan State University. In the program's first appearance at the MHSAA state quarterfinals, they fell 7-0 to Brighton.

After winning their first regional championship in a double overtime thriller against Grand Ledge/Fowlerville, LC took to the ice against their quarterfinal opponent with a historical

regional championship already tucked in their back pockets. Unable to mount an offense for the duration of the game, Brighton took over the scoreboard 3-0 by the end of the first period, tacked on two additional goals in the second and sealed the deal with another pair in the third. The 7-0 loss ended LC's state tournament run but marked important moment for the program that has experienced its greatest successes over the past two seasons. Caledonia

senior Alex Osborn left the match with a nod for an All-state honorable mention.

The team graduates eight seniors this season and finishes in the fourth position in their Tier II conference. Caledonia seniors bidding farewell to their high school hockey jerseys are Reese Milton, Alex Osborn, Nate Regan, Nolan Winterburn, Carter Yon and Owen Radtke. Lowell seniors exiting the ice are Nick VanTil and Eddie Heikkila.



LCTK sophomore goalkeeper Davis Ziesmer positions himself to save a shot by Brighton's Ben Peterson as LCTK defender Ethan Green chases after him during the third period of their Division 1 State Quarterfinal at Munn Ice Arena in East Lansing Wednesday.

(Photo by Brett Bremer)



LCTK junior forward Austin Whaley (14) pushes through center ice with the puck during the Division 1 State Quarterfinal against Brighton at Munn Ice Arena in East Lansing Wednesday.

(Photo by Brett Bremer)

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP
 Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
 Synopsis of Minutes March 13, 2017

Motions Approved:


1. Timber sales Prospectus
2. FOIA Coordinator Resolution 2017-D14
3. Road Closing Resolution for Parnell Resolution 2017-D13
4. Road Closing Resolution for Old Belding Rd 2017-D12
5. Public Hearing for 2017/18 Budget
6. General Appropriations Act Resolution 2017-D09
7. Charges and Fees Amended Resolution 2017-D10

Our next Township Meeting will be April 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at www.grattantownship.org

CITY OF LOWELL
PUBLIC NOTICE

LAST DATE TO FILE NOMINATING PETITIONS TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2017 4:00 P.M.

City of Lowell registered residence of the City interested in seeking election to the Lowell City Council to fill any of the three (3) two to four year term vacancies occurring must obtain nominating petition forms for circulation and return no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. Petition forms are available between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday from the Lowell City Clerk, Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell.

 Susan Ullery
City Clerk

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP
 COUNTY OF KENT,
 STATE OF MICHIGAN

In re: Application of Vergennes Township, for Establishment of an Industrial Development District within the Township of Vergennes

Notice of Public hearing to Consider Establishment of an Industrial Development District (Under Act 198, Public Acts of Michigan, 1974, as Amended)

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township of Vergennes is requesting to establish an Industrial Development District on land commonly known as the Vergennes Township Industrial District within the Township of Vergennes, Kent County, Michigan, as authorized by the provisions of Act 198 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1974, as amended. Such lands and such request are more fully described and set forth in documents on file with the offices of the Vergennes Township Clerk, 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, Michigan.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Township Board of the Township of Vergennes will meet at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, Michigan, on March 20, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of hearing the owners of said land and any other resident or taxpayer of the Township with respect to the establishment of said Industrial Development District.

Heather L. Hoffman
 Vergennes Township Clerk

CALL 616.897.9261

Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Red Arrow season ends at State tournament

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The Red Arrow boys varsity basketball team headed to the state tournament last Monday to take on conference foe Greenville once again for a shot at their second consecutive district title, but it was not to be.

After maintaining a 13-10 lead after the first and a 29-25 lead at the half, the Arrows opened scoring in the third before watching their opponent go on a nine-point scoring streak that overtook the lead 34-33. Adding three more in the form of a swisher from sharpshooter Keegan Goetz, who tallied 24 in the game, Greenville led 37-36 at the close of the third.

Rallying back, the Arrows worked with

determination in the fourth putting the game back within two 49-47 with less than ten seconds remaining in the game. Forcing a foul on senior Matt Beachler, the Arrow standout went to the line for two. With all eyes on the Division I recruit, Beachler was only able to land one of his shots leaving Lowell trailing by one with just one second left on the clock. Faced with another do or die nail-biting moment senior Andrew Poulton pushed the ball to half court toward Beachler, only to watch a Yellow Jacket grab the pass. Beachler wrestled for the ball as the clock ran out, finishing the Arrow season with a heartbreaking 49-48 loss.

Senior Austin Branagan led the team on the boards

racking up 20 points in his final appearance on the hardwood as a Red Arrow. Other seniors scoring in their last outing were Zach Petroelje, Poulton and Beachler, who each scored eight points. Junior Addison Buckius added four. The team ends the season with an overall record of 12-8 and a second-place finish in the OK White with a record of 8-4. They graduate six seniors including two that leave the program to pursue their collegiate basketball dreams.

Branagan and Beachler have been a force on the team as four-year varsity starters, both earning multiple accolades and earning, as a team, the Arrow's first district title in decades last season. Each have left their

legacy on the banners and plaques inside the athletic halls and gymnasiums at Lowell High School and changed the dynamic of the program with their tenacity and drive.

Beachler will exit the school holding at least five records. He earned most points in a game recognition in 2014 when he scored 44, topped the list for most

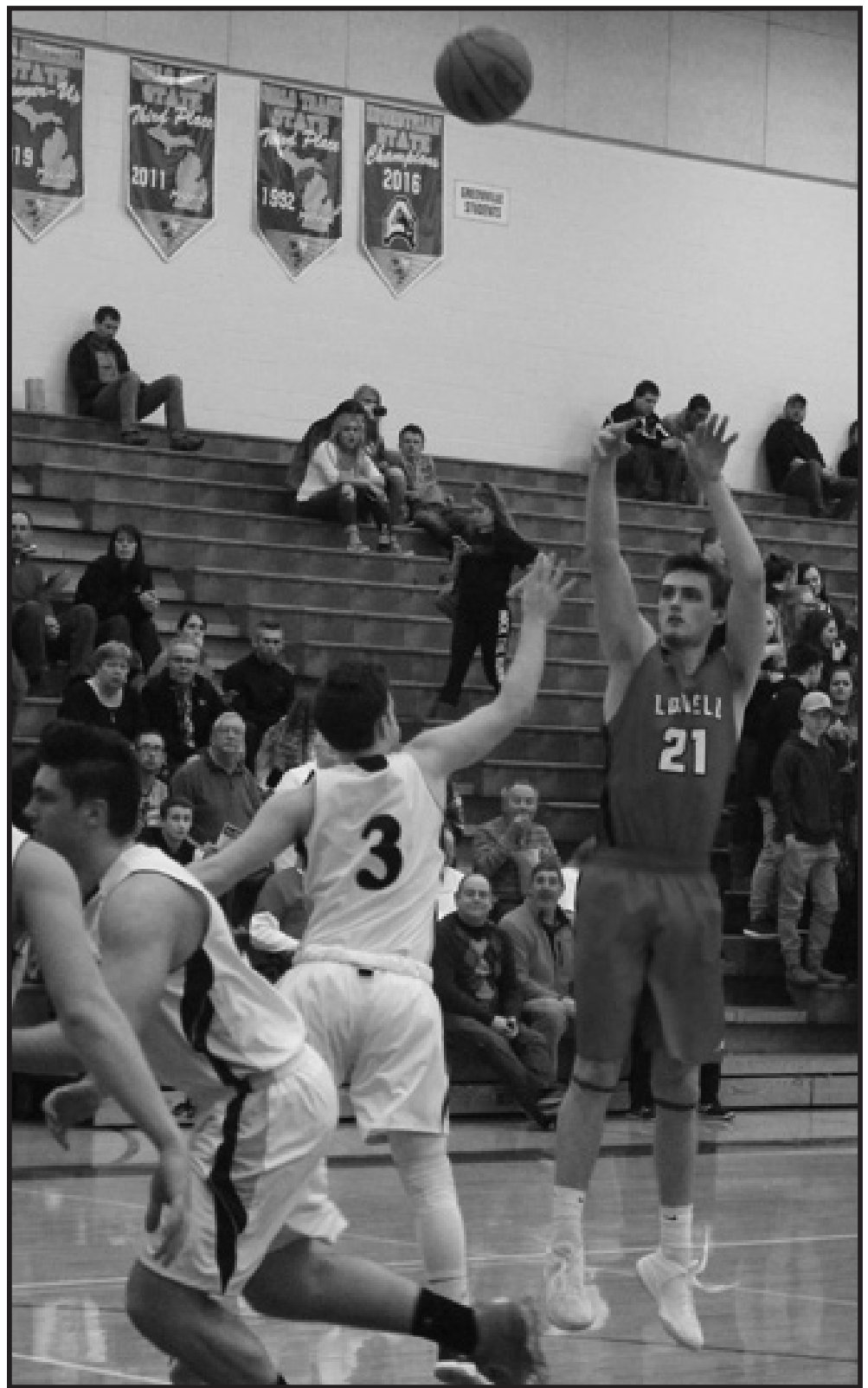
threes in a game the same year netting nine, catapulted through the long-standing most points in a career mark with 1,572 this season and also holds the records for most threes in a career nailing 195 and the most steals in a season grabbing 41.

Branagan, a defensive standout and consistent

scoring leader who will play for Goshen College in Indiana next season and Beachler are both in contention for three other records that are still being decided by the school's statisticians. The two, who are longtime friends, are vying for most steals and blocks in a career and most blocks in a season.



Matt Beachler on the sideline during his last appearance as a Red Arrow.



Austin Branagan goes up for a few of his 20 points against Greenville.

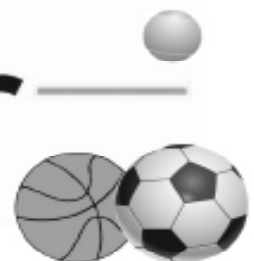
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Go Red Arrows!



Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell

ledger



obituaries

ARMSTRONG

Michael Armstrong, 69, of Lowell, went to be with his Lord on March 6, 2017 after a lengthy illness. He is survived by his best friend and wife of 44 years, Lynne; his sons, Michael II (Bianca), and DJ; his father, Tony Flaherty; his sister, Teresa (Todd) Brown; his brothers, Jim (Madelyn) Flaherty, Tim (Sandy) Flaherty, Dan (Brenda) Flaherty, Terry (Mari) Armstrong; his brothers-in-law, Mike Dennis, Jim (Juana) Dennis; and special cousins, Toni Coy-Price, and Shelby Armstrong. Mike was a success in several occupations throughout his life and always wanted what was best for his family. He was a big fan of the Detroit Tigers, Minnesota Vikings, and the Michigan State Spartans. Mike was an avid bowler and had a passion for the game. His proudest accomplishment was his ability to teach bowling. Over a 25+ year span, he coached hundreds of area kids in bowling. He and his wife ran the Junior Bowler Program at Miracle Lanes, and later Michigan and Westgate Bowl. He was happiest spending endless hours instructing young bowlers. He considered those kids his extended family. He wanted them all to know how much joy they brought to his life. So when you hear thunder above, know that Mike is up there able to bowl again, and, I'm sure, trying to give a few pointers. As per Mike's wishes, a "Celebration of his Life" was held Saturday, March 11th, 2017. Memorial contributions may be made to Hope Network of West Michigan, PO Box 890, Grand Rapids, MI 49518-0890.



ARNETT

Pamela Ruth Arnett, age 59 of Belding, went to be with her Lord Sunday, March 12, 2017. She was preceded in death by her father, Bruce Reames. Pamela is survived by her husband of 35 years, David; children, Beth Arnett, Eric Arnett; mother, Winona Gagnon; brother, Bob (Seiba) Reames; sisters, Kathy (Ken) Swart, Gladi (Fred) Burns, Pat (Tom) Walma; grandchildren, Ashley Burks, Brekin, Brielle and Sienna Arnett; and great-grandson, Hudson. Private services were held by the family. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 129 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503; or the ASPCA at www.aspc.org, or call (800) 628-0028.



PECKHAM

Shirley Ann Peckham, loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend, age 76 of Lowell, passed away Monday, March 13, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband, Oscar H.; son, Mark; parents, Cecil and Ila (Phillips) Seeley; brothers, Chuck and Al Seeley. She is survived by her children, Anthony H. (Andi) Peckham, Heather (Mark) Kloosterman; grandchildren, Britny Peckham, Eleni Pfaff, Luke and Sara Kloosterman, Brock Peckham, Natasha Casillas; great-grandchildren, Landon, Zaydon, Carl, Braydon, Marcus, Trystyn, Noah; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. Visitation will be 6:00-8:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, and 10:00-11:00 a.m. Thursday, March 16, at St. Robert of Newminster Parish, 6477 Ada Dr., Ada, in the Marian Chapel, enter through Door A. Memorial Service will be held Thursday, March 16, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Robert of Newminster Parish, 6477 Ada Dr, Ada, in the Marian Chapel. Memorial contributions may be directed to Pink Arrow Pride, PO Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



PETERSON

Donna Jean Peterson, age 83 of Lowell, went to be with her Lord Sunday, March 12, 2017. She is survived by her children, John (Dawn) Peterson Jr., Nancy (Howard) Flanagan, Linda Peterson, Darrin (Melissa) Peterson; brother, Lawrence (Lil) Bloomsa; grandchildren, Bo John (Jessica) Peterson, Jonathan Peterson, Nicole Flanagan, Emily Peterson, Alex Peterson; and great-grandchildren, Oscar and Magnus. Private services were held by the family.



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS and ASSIGNS OF NAOMI BUNCH and PLEAS BUNCH

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

JAMES M. VANDERWOUDE and SHARON L. VANDERWOUDE, husband and wife, Plaintiffs,

Vs

PLEAS BUNCH, and NAOMI BUNCH, husband and wife, TAMMY POLLICE, TRACY BUNCH, BEANNA HOSKINS, HARVEY BUNCH, and the UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OF PLEAS BUNCH AND NAOMI BUNCH, Defendants.

Honorable Dennis B. Leiber

Case 16-08077-CH

P.O. Box 811 Big Rapids, MI 49307 (231) 796-5900

NOTICE is hereby given that the above captioned Quiet Title Action has been filed with the Kent County Circuit Court to quiet title in Plaintiffs regarding the following described lands:

Township of Lowell, County of Kent, State of Michigan:

The East 330 feet of the North 660 feet of West 1/2 of Southeast 1/4, also that part of East 330 feet of West 1/2 of Northeast 1/4 lying South of centerline of Grand River Drive, Section 9, T6N, R9W, Lowell Township, Kent County, Michigan.

Defendants' unknown heirs, successors and assigns of Naomi Bunch and Pleas Bunch shall have twenty-eight (28) days from the last publication of this Notice to file an answer in this action.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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2	8	3	4	6	7	5	1	9
9	6	7	1	3	5	8	4	2
7	9	2	8	5	3	4	6	1
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Looking Back, continued

communities. Subjects taken up included bombing, gas, sabotage, air raid shelters, subversive activities and many other details.

The sixth grade room of the Lowell public schools is enjoying programs on the fine new radio which it was recently awarded by a Grand Rapids Department store for submitting one of five sets of questions to be used in finding a Quiz Kid from Kent county to appear on the Chicago radio program. This was quite an honor for the boys and girls and their teacher, Mrs. Hannah Reynolds, as they were in competition with schools all over Kent county. Thanks to A. F. Zwemer, the radio is all connected and working nicely.

Negotiations are being completed this week for the sale and transfer of the F. P. MacFarlane Company, feed and fuel dealers, to Bruce Walter of the Lowell Lumber & Supply Company. Sale of the MacFarlane Company was deemed advisable by the owners due to the fact that Don Wingeier, the manager, has been called for military service and had been given a limited time in which to arrange business affairs. Mr. Walter states that the MacFarlane store will be continued in the same location and that he will continue to carry on the lumber business as usual.

Supervisor Theo Bailey of Vergennes Twp. appeared before the Common Council Monday night soliciting a cut for services of the Lowell fire department for answering fire calls in Vergennes. During the year past a charge of approximately \$67 was made for services of the department at each of four fires and inasmuch as the charges made were figured at net cost the council members could not see their way clear to cut the rate. Last year the Lowell fire department answered a total of 23 alarms, the prorated cost of which was \$67.07.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger March 16, 1967

Safe cracking burglars hit both the King Milling Company and Root-Lowell Manufacturing Company on Sunday night taking some \$700 in cash from the two safes, police reported. Both robberies were discovered by the employees when they came to work Monday morning. The robbers entered the King Milling Company through a rear door and got into the office by crawling through an air duct they ripped open in the basement. They chiseled the top hinge off the large safe and then pried the door open. The company said that \$144.00 was missing. At the Root-Lowell plant the safe robbers broke a window in the rear of the factory and ransacked the office of the manufacturing company. They tore the door off the filing cabinet safe in Plant Manager Elmer Schaefer's office and removed between \$200 and \$300 company spokesman said. Lowell police have several leads on suspects that were observed in town over the week end but no arrests have been made. Police say they are not sure that it was the same thieves in both plants.

The Wesley Millers on Montcalm Avenue, Lowell, are having quite a problem with a pack of bobcats that have set up housekeeping under a lumber pile near the house. Conservation Officer, Arnold Richmond, hopes to catch the critters in live traps and will attempt to flush them out with hounds. Anyone having such traps or hounds are invited to bring them out and try their luck. Bobcats are protected by law and cannot be shot without a special permit, but if any of them end up this way, the Grand Rapids Museum would like them for mounting.

Police sent novice driver, Linda S. Shores, 15, back to her instructor for more practice in backing into a parking space. Miss Shores hooked her bumper on a parked car belonging to Rev. Oscar Smith of Lowell and pushed it into a parked truck owned by Bill Richard, also of Lowell. The accident occurred when the young lady was attempting to park on East Main Street on Monday evening.

Word has been received from the General Motors offices that Wm. Edward Myers, a former Lowell boy, has been promoted to resident comptroller of the Fisher Body plant at Baltimore, Maryland. Myers joined the General Motors Company at Lansing as a payroll auditor shortly after his graduation in 1949 from Michigan State University. He is the son of Mrs. Bert Myers and was graduated from Lowell High School in 1942.

Herbert Elzinga, Cashier and member of the State Savings Bank staff for 25 years was named Executive

Vice President and Cashier and to the board of directors of the bank at their meeting on Tuesday, Harold J. Englehardt, President announced.

Fire gutted the inside of the Duras Olin farm home at the corner of M-21 and Whites Bridge Road Thursday afternoon. Lowell firemen fought the blaze for two hours when the fire spread from a shed in the rear and burned out the inside of the two story frame house. Lowell Fire Chief Baker said the fire is believed to have started when burning papers set the shed ablaze. Mr. and Mrs. Olin were unable to stop the fire from spreading to the house. The house was ablaze when Lowell firemen arrived. The Saranac Fire Department also turned out to fight the blaze. Damage was estimated at \$3,000 by Fire Chief Baker.

Two Lowell rock and roll groups will meet in a battle of the bands on Tuesday, March 21, in Runciman Elementary School. The dance is sponsored by the Lowell Police Department and the Lowell Branch of the YMCA. The two bands are the Showboat famous Headhunters and the Shaggs. Admissions will be sold at the door. Refreshments will be served.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 18, 1992

It's guiding, not lecturing. It's problem solving, not doing problems. University of Chicago's Secondary Mathematics program is new to the Lowell Math Department and Lowell students. In its initial year, it has been exciting for some, frustrating for others. "Math instruction is no longer the teacher showing and then telling students how to do a problem," explains Lowell High School math chairman Sue Frasier. UCSM sets up criteria that students have to meet. It's charge is all students learn and understand the criteria presented. "The math department worked on a curriculum based on the standards set by the program," Frasier said. "After establishing the curriculum we found a text book to fit the curriculum." Students are no longer lectured to, given 30 problems and told to go for it. Now every problem is different and they are required to pool their sources to solve the problems. This problem solving is done through group work effort. Preferably, the groups are formed from different levels of math students. "It has been found in group learning formats made up of mixed abilities, the lower level students come up with the creative ideas in the cooperative learning process." Frasier believes the good that comes from the new program is that it exposes students to problem solving; it is not the teacher showing and telling; its students using tools available to them to solve problems; and its more than just math. The new math program incorporates history, English and science. It also demands responsibility, organization, time management and prioritizing. "Since the inception of the program here at Lowell, I don't think the math teachers have ever been more together in the 17 years I've been here," Frasier said. As with any new program, the UCSM program has had its bugs. The math department has taken heat for the number of math students on the ineligibility list. "The reason for the higher numbers is math is the only department that has pioneered a system where D's and E's are considered failing," Frasier said. Lowell's math chairman says many students who find their names on the list, do, because they've waited until the last minute to turn in assignments. "They turn in all their assignments the morning of the test. How much learning is going on when this takes place?" Frasier says the system may be partially to blame. "Maybe the system is encouraging this by giving students 15 days to complete their homework. That will be looked into this summer." The biggest change and adjustment has been asked of the students. The old system helped students form habits that the new math system asks that they forget. "Students who were in the old system for the past two years resented the change at first. Those students who haven't are doing well," Frasier said. The UCSM program requires that teachers make themselves available to students before and after school. "We are available to help students," Frasier explains. It's up to them to take advantage of the help available to them.

After assessing the costs of road improvements on James Street, the bad economic times, and the money that will be needed to run the new high school, the roughly 16 James Street residents made it clear they were not willing to take on the extra financial

burden of storm sewers, sanitary sewer and curb and gutter. As established by the City Council at the last meeting, a public information session was held to review proposed improvements on James Street. Each affected property owner received a notice with proposed special assessment costs in the mail to review prior to the meeting. The James Street residents were in favor of the City putting in an eight inch water main, replacing the existing two-inch main and thus providing James Street residence with an improved water service. Area residents have suffered many years without adequate water pressure. "I considered putting my own well in after first moving to the area," said Bev Hoist, "but City officials kept saying water improvements were coming. It's been 29 years now." Lowell's City Manager said the eight-inch mains, while they will not provide [d] optimum water service, will be much improved over what they currently have. The City will pay the freight to replace the two inch water mains with eight inch mains. The residents agreed to pay for the road replacement patch-up work needed after the mains are put in. The cost for the basic road replacement was not available, but Pasquale said he would have the numbers at the next meeting, April 6. Mark Baughman questioned if it was just the water problems that have spurred on the improvements on James Street. "I think many [of] us here believe the Dick Bryan request to have services brought to him for his condominium project served as a catalyst." Councilman Bill Thompson said the City initially got into it through the need for a water system overhaul. "The problem has always been finding an ideal time to do it," Thompson explained. Even with the increased size in the water main a booster station would be needed for the condominium project. The eight inch mains will not provide enough pressure for fire hydrants. Had residents wanted sanitary sewer it would have been special assessed for each affected property owner at \$19.77 per/lineal foot. The cost of road improvements, including curb and gutter, would have been split by the City and property owners on a 50-50 basis. Mayor James Maatman, while understanding the plight of the property owners, said the day will come when property owners will have to hook up to a sewer plant if it's available. "The day will come where property owners will be forced to do so. The price to do that will never be cheaper. It's up to the property owners to weigh the options, pay now or pay later."

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THEME: HOBBIES

ACROSS

- 1. Tetanus symptom
- 6. Second mo.
- 9. Wild guess
- 13. Ottoman Empire bigwig
- 14. Unit of length of yarn
- 15. *Rock collector's pick-up
- 16. Blockbuster starring Sigourney Weaver
- 17. "_____ the President's Men"
- 18. Lively
- 19. *Bibliophile's pastime
- 21. *Knit or purl
- 23. Sigma Alpha Epsilon
- 24. *Birdwatching site
- 25. Prohibit
- 28. *Coin collectors amass it
- 30. Red Sea nation
- 34. _____ Andrews, sportscaster
- 36. _____ meter or _____ scope
- 38. Caterpillar hairs
- 40. Cogito _____ sum
- 41. *Collector's item to a philatelist
- 43. One of deadly sins
- 44. Respected Hindu
- 46. Boris Godunov, e.g.
- 47. Buenos _____
- 48. Spaghetti _____
- 50. In a frenzy
- 52. Actor Stallone
- 53. Quiet time
- 55. Lamb's mother

CROSSWORD														
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MARCH 8 - MARCH 14

- A late-winter snowstorm is blanketing cities and suburbs across the Northeast this week, from Maryland to Maine, causing thousands of school cancellations and halting work and travel for millions of Americans.
- Some people talked about moving to another country when the new president was elected but, that's exactly what seems to be happening in New Zealand. The number of Americans who applied for a grant of citizenship in New Zealand has risen by 70 percent in the 12 weeks following the election of Donald Trump when compared to the same period a year earlier.
- Fox News anchor Shep Smith dismissed Kellyanne Conway's credibility on air saying, "We don't really quote [her] anymore, because, well, history. ..." Later in the segment, he said Conway's "previous words have been up for debate." This was in response to Conway's defense of President Trump's unsubstantiated claim that Obama ordered a wiretap of Trump Tower.

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- 57. *Crossword, e.g.
- 60. *Hobbyist, technically
- 64. East Asia country, pre-1945
- 65. Grass bristle
- 67. Cagey
- 68. Abraham's sacrifice

- 69. Be a witness
- 70. "Siddhartha" author
- 71. "Don's ask, don't _____"
- 72. Shape with an ax
- 73. Domains

DOWN

- 1. Practice in the ring
- 2. Opposite of sun-kissed
- 3. Most populous continent
- 4. Storage place, pl.
- 5. "Flashdance" song
- 6. *Vexillology subject
- 7. Underwater electricity generator
- 8. *Model-builder's wood
- 9. Let it stand, to proofreader
- 10. Cleopatra's necklace
- 11. Egyptian hieroglyph for "life"
- 12. Turkish title of respect
- 15. Kerri Walsh's moves
- 20. Some tides
- 22. "_____ your hand at..."
- 24. _____ verb, like "ask around"

- 25. *What an apiarist likes
- 26. Woven wall hanging
- 27. *When backyard astronomers gaze
- 29. Cobblestone
- 31. Mix together
- 32. Tiny purses
- 33. Like Flonase
- 35. Type of film
- 37. Mosque V.I.P.
- 39. *Crafters' e-outlet
- 42. Preface
- 45. Novelist HonorÉ de _____
- 49. 1/100 of afghani
- 51. Zambian or Malawian money
- 54. Fido's restraint
- 56. Olden day anesthetic
- 57. Assume a posture
- 58. Russian mountain range
- 59. Eagerness
- 60. Again
- 61. Alleviate
- 62. Celestial bear
- 63. Whiskey grain, pl.
- 64. *Model-builder's purchase
- 66. Diminutive

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

**LAST WEEK'S
ONLINE
POLL
RESULTS**

Which of these can you not live without?

- Cell Phone 15%
- Microwave 8%
- T.V..... 31%
- GPS..... 0%
- Computer..... 46%

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Public hearing on industrial driveway tabled till April

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell Township planning commission had a public hearing and discussion about a new industrial driveway that Timpson Transport wants to build at 3000 Alden Nash SE, but in the end the commission tabled the issue until their April meeting.

About 23 citizens showed up to listen and discuss the industrial driveway. The project will include widening the road and the addition of a left turn lane. Neighbors on Alden Nash say that Timpson's trucks already cause problems in that area, adding a driveway will make those problems worse. Timpson Transport owners, Colleen Timpson and John Timpson, say their other driveway on Segwun causes a lot of traffic, especially at peak times and the new driveway is their

attempt to ease that burden. The project has already been approved by the Kent County Road Commission, but it is required by law that the township hold a public hearing.

"There is a temporary driveway right now," John

Timpson said. "I'm using that until the other one is granted. The Kent County Road Commission has already been granted, but we have to work through the steps of the township."

Neighbors of both the Segwun and Alden Nash

driveways were on hand to express their opinions about the project.

Philip Roth, who lives in the 3000 block of Alden Nash, said that he counted 55 vehicles pass the Alden Nash driveway between 3:30 and 3:35 pm

that afternoon. "Of course as Lowell develops that is just going to get busier and busier," Roth said.

Other residents expressed concerns about safety, some citing a fatal accident involving a Timpson truck last year when a 19-year-old man was killed.

"I understand that it's your right to put a driveway there, but I think it's our right to be legitimately concerned about the safety of commuters," said Davina Bryan, who lives directly across the street from the new driveway. "You're simply shifting [traffic] over our way."

The Timpsons agreed to a couple amendments to the plan, including discouraging trucks from using the driveway during certain hours and putting up signs. The Lowell Township planning commission tabled

the driveway issue until their next meeting at the Lowell Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash SE, at 7 pm on Monday, April 10.

"You [the Timpsons] have presented, you've heard what they have in mind, you've heard what the plans are" said planning commission chairman David Simmonds. "Now what the planning commission will do is, we're in favor of the drive[way] solution. The actual crafting of the amendment to the existing special use permits will take place at our next meeting. That gives the planning commission time to look at the existing special use permits. All of the information has been provided to us. [The planning commission will] begin to craft any amendments that need to be made if there are conditions such as signage or something like that."



Colleen and John Timpson (on the left) in discussion with the Lowell Township planning commission on Monday, March 13.



New "History Hounds" lecture series

The Historical Society of Michigan (HSM) announces a new series of monthly lectures called "History Hounds." The approximately hour-long in-depth lectures take place on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm and explore Michigan's most fascinating historical facets.

Participants will be able to attend in-person at HSM's Meijer Education Center at 5815 Executive Drive in Lansing or view the lecture remotely as a webinar.

Admission is free to HSM members and \$5 per

person for non-members. Seating is limited and pre-registration is suggested but not required for in-person attendees. Walk-ins are welcome. For in-person attendees, light refreshments will be available. Remote attendees need to register in advance. Individuals can register on HSM's website, hsmichigan.org or by calling (800) 692-1828.

"That Sinking Feeling: Michigan and the RMS Titanic" will be the debut presentation for the new program series and will take place on



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From *Dr. Reagan & Staff*

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March 15. The lecture presenter, Robert Myers, is the assistant director for education programs and events for HSM. His presentation explores the Titanic's history, her fatal maiden voyage and the Michiganders who figured into her story.

Michigan had more than a passing connection to history's most famous maritime disaster. More than 60 passengers aboard the White Star liner were either Michigan residents or immigrants bound for the Wolverine State. United States Senator William Alden Smith, who was from Grand Rapids, organized and chaired the United States inquiry into the sinking. Senator Smith's inquiry and findings became the basis for new maritime safety laws, including the requirement that ships carry enough lifeboats for all aboard.

Upcoming History Hounds lectures include "Drawing the Line: The Legacy of the Baseline and Michigan Meridian" with Morris O. Thomas from Michigan State University on April 12 and "Above and Below the Waves: The Eastland Disaster on the Great Lakes" with Caitlyn Perry Dial from the Michigan Women's History Center and Hall of Fame on May 10.

The Historical Society of Michigan is the state's oldest cultural organization, founded in 1828 by territorial governor Lewis Cass and explorer Henry Schoolcraft. A nongovernmental nonprofit, the Society focuses on publications, conferences, education, awards and recognition programming and support for local history organizations to preserve and promote Michigan's rich history.