



page 16

charming



page 8



march madness predictions page 9



lhs sports spring preview page 11

50 CENTS



Lowell Expo will have 100 local businesses and organizations on display this Saturday

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell Expo will take place at Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes SE, on Saturday, March 25 from 9 am until 3 pm. The Expo is an event where over 100 local businesses and organizations will show off their wares, hand out samples and perform demonstrations of their services. It's your chance to explore a ton of local businesses without having to drive to different buildings all over the area.

"For 2017 we have over 30 new businesses participating, everything from babies to excavating," said Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker. "Our theme this year is #LowellExpo-BuzzoftheTown. Lowell is buzzing with new business and new changes."

There will be so much going on at the Lowell Expo, one little article simply can't contain it all. Among its

many delights, the Lowell Expo will offer live music, \$5 haircuts, a fashion show, free massages, free blood pressure checks, plenty of free candy and snacks and dozens of demonstrations and samples. The ever

popular game show event is a returning favorite.

"Back by popular demand, we're doing a game show portion in the final hour of the Expo," said Josh Bruwer, one of the people involved in organizing the Expo. "That should be a lot of fun. We didn't do a game show last year and in its absence we realized how popular it was. People kept asking

about it, so we figured we'd bring it back. Each sponsor has a set of questions about their industry. There are going to be two players, 13 questions, the first person who has a guess will buzz in and have the opportunity

to answer the question. The first one who answers seven questions correctly wins the prize donated by that sponsor. There are a lot of cool prizes. For example, Portland Federal Credit Union is giving away a really nice basket with gift cards and \$100 worth of prizes and Arrowhead Golf Course is giving away a membership for the 2017 season. There are a lot of

really exciting prizes for people to win, I think that's part of the popularity of the game show. It's a nice way to end the Expo. It brings a resurgence of excitement. That last hour at most expos is a dead period. There's not a lot going on, people are winding down. The game show brings it to a climactic end. The whole day builds up to that point and we end with a bang. You have to be there to compete. We're going to have the sign up around 1 pm and then folks will have the opportunity to see if their name was drawn at 2:15. That's when the game begins. We're excited about it. It's going to be a lot of fun. I think people will get a kick out of it."

"This year we are bringing back the game component, Biz Buzz Trivia, sponsored by our business spotlight businesses: Portland Federal Credit Union, The Gordon Group, Arrowhead Golf Course, Snow Avenue Greenhouses

and Station Salon," Baker said. "Contestants will be playing for over \$600 in prizes and Lowell Bucks. Sign ups to play will begin at 1 pm at the Chamber booth located in the main hall. There will be staff on hand to help people with sign ups. At 2:15 we will begin calling contestants for each game, a total of six games will be played. Our game show host, Cliff Yankovich, will ask questions that are specific to our business spotlight sponsors."

There are also lots of new businesses involved with Expo this year, many offering discounts or gifts.

"I am a contemporary portrait photographer, photographing high school seniors, mother/daughter sessions, executive head shots, families and glam portraiture," said Kim Feenstra, owner of Kim Feenstra Photography.

Expo this weekend, continued, page 7



LCTV board shares announcement of grants handed out this year

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council discussed trails, the LCTV fund and more at their latest meeting at city hall on Monday, March 20. The meeting was attended by about 18 people.

Dennis Kent, member of the LCTV Endowment board, revealed to the public which organizations were lucky enough to get a piece of the \$133,491.30 disbursed in grants this year. They donated \$40,000 to the city of Lowell for the VOIP project, \$25,000 to the Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association for a land purchase, \$20,000 to the Lowell Rotary for the Rebuild the Showboat committee, \$20,000 to Lowell Township for the Grand River Front Park project, \$14,500 to Vergennes Township for fiber optic expansion, \$4,000 to the Fallasburg Historical Society for website

development, \$4,000 to the city of Lowell for LCTV fund administration expenses, \$3,526.30 to Lowell Area Schools for audio equipment and \$2,465 to Vergennes Township for fiber optic expansion.

The council decided that at a future meeting they will have a public hearing about a Public Act 198 industrial facility tax credit of \$6.7 million that Litehouse applied for. According to state law a public hearing and a resolution are required from the city council. Litehouse will use the \$6.7 million to expand the footprint of their property and add more freezers to their food processing operation.

"It's certainly worth some discussion," said councilor Jim Hodges. "I would tend to agree that we like to encourage growth with industry. These are good things. I'm very much in favor of this."

"Litehouse has been a great partner in the community," said councilor Greg Canfield. "Litehouse provides lots of jobs [and] continual expansion. Anything we could do to support them I think would be a good move."

The council will have the public hearing and vote on the resolution about Litehouse's industrial facility tax credit at the April 17 meeting.

At the very beginning of the meeting councilor Canfield requested the addition of an agenda item about trails.

"The trails group is meeting with Lowell Township," Canfield said. "It sounds like some funding from the state is coming along and that project will move along more quickly. I just wondered where we are in the city as far as making that happen and trying to ensure that the trail does come through Lowell to



LCTV Endowment board member Dennis Kent revealed who shared in the \$133,491.30 worth of grants this year.

support the retail district. I think that if we bypass the retail district it's a huge loss for the community."

"The biggest thing that the council really needs to move on is looking at the ordinances of sidewalks versus trails and what the designations are going to be," said Lowell Area Recreation Authority board member Perry Beachum. "We have some in the community

that are concerned about... If it's going to go in front of mine am I going to be responsible? Is it going to be considered a sidewalk? Am I going to have to plow it? Am I going to be responsible for the cost of that? [...] That is really kind of the sticking point right now. How is the city council going to address that?"

City council, continued, page 2

City council, continued

“We need to have this discussion,” said councilor Alan Teelander. “We’re the clog in the pipe of getting these trails through. If we could have a special meeting I would like to call for that. Expedite this. It would help [the Lowell Area Recreation Authority] a lot.”

After a little further discussion, the council decided to schedule a special joint workshop meeting with the Lowell Area Recreation Authority in council chambers at city hall at 5:30 pm on Monday, April 3. City council's next regular meeting will be held shortly after at city hall on Monday, April 3. A Coffee with Council is scheduled at Chamber of Commerce on the Riverwalk from 8 until 10 am on Saturday, April 1.



Councilor Greg Canfield requested a discussion of local trails, inspiring an upcoming special joint meeting with the council and the Lowell Area Recreation Authority.

BUSINESS LIQUIDATION AUCTION

Having sold my real estate, I will sell the following at 11930 E. Fulton (M-21) on the west side of Lowell, MI.
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Looking for a way to get involved in the community? Want to volunteer, but don't know what to do? Come to our volunteer orientation and learn about all of our day, evening and weekend opportunities. Our needs range from evening cashiers to daytime donation sorters with lots of options in between. Volunteer orientations at Flat River Outreach Ministries will be Wed., April 5 at 6 pm. Call 897-8260 for more information.

TOTS ALMOST NEW SALE

Curiosity Corner TOTS Almost New Sale is Sat., April 29 from 9 am to 1 pm at Cherry Creek Elementary, 12673 Foreman St. Want to sell child related items? Sign up at www.lowellschools.com/tots-sale

**ON THURSDAY, MARCH 30TH • 7 PM
AT LOWELL CITY HALL**

The Lowell Area Fire & Emergency Services Authority - serving the City of Lowell, Vergennes and Lowell townships will be presenting for the public, an overview of current and future operations including equipment, manpower, training, management, affiliated services and funding requirements for the department.

submitted by:
Jim Herb -Chairman
(616) 897-4986

SENIOR FOOD COMMODITIES

Senior Food Commodities provides low income adults 60 years of age or over with a monthly distribution of food that may include cheese, vegetables, fruit, grains, cereals and canned meats. Upcoming distribution dates are May 10-12 and pre-registration is required and must be completed a month prior to receiving food. Distribution is during regular food pantry hours. For more information or to register, contact Flat River Outreach Ministries at 897-8260.

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.

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
The Public Accuracy Test for the
May 2, 2017, Special Election
has been scheduled for March 28, 2017
at 10:00 a.m. in the Township Hall at
12050 Old Belding Rd., Belding, MI**

**The Public Accuracy Test is conducted
to demonstrate the computer program
used to record and count the votes cast at
the election meet the requirements of law.**

Kessie Brummel
Grattan Township Clerk

BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE

**The public accuracy test for the May 2, 2017
Kent Intermediate School District Regional
Enhancement Millage Proposal will be held in
the Bowne Township Historic Hall located at
8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto, Michigan 49302 on
Monday, March 27, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.**

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

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Lowell robotics team competes every weekend

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Basketball and hockey might be dominating the sports page, but it's also robotics season and the Lowell Red Arrow robotics team is competing every weekend.

"The Lowell Red Arrow robotics team is comprised of 22 high school students led by a volunteer coach and eight adult volunteer mentors, said the team's mentor, Heidi Nagel of the Kent District Library. "Middle school students are welcome to participate but they are limited to certain activities. During build and competition season, the team meets in the middle school's former shop room on Monday and Wednesday evenings and every Saturday."

The robotics competitions are basically a high-tech version of 'capture the flag.' The meets take place in elaborate arenas with all sorts of obstacles and traps the robots must avoid on their way to snatch the other team's flag.

"Competitions take place over three days and involve 40 robotics teams," Nagel said. "On Thursday night teams set up their pits and are allowed to have practice matches. On Friday morning, all robots must pass inspection and teams present their robot designs

to judges. The actual competitions are matches of 2:30 minutes where robots are in alliances of three teams competing against another alliance. Every team competes in 12 matches with a randomly assigned combination of alliances. By Saturday afternoon of competition weekends the top eight teams get to select their three team alliances. Then a series of quarterfinal, semifinal and final matches take place with an award ceremony closing out the competition on Saturday evenings. The actual competition involves a lot of team spirit with students dressed up, audience chants, cheering and a great deal of dancing. It's a very exciting and energetic event that has to be experienced to be understood."

Lowell's team did pretty well last year and could do even better this year.

"The Lowell Red Arrow robotics team meets year-round, but our activities vary depending on whether or not we are in build or competition season," Nagel said. "Robotics build season begins in January after the international game reveal and kick-off. This is when teams around the world learn this year's robotics game, can unlock the encrypted game manual, receive a kit of parts and

can tour a demonstration of the field of play. Build season lasts six weeks, during which the teams build their robot. All robots are bagged and tagged after those six weeks and then we enter competition season. This consists of six weeks of competitions, followed by regional and then world championships. Last year our Lowell robotics team finished in 72nd place in the Michigan State championship and we qualified to compete in the World Championship in St. Louis. Our team competed with 600 teams from 39 countries and we ended 48th place within our division."

Students involved in the robotics team learn all sorts of useful skills and talents.

"During our regular meetings, students are engaged in work teams," Nagel said. "They either develop CAD models for the robot, prototype and then build different mechanisms for the robot, write the computer programs that control the robot, develop scouting programs to assist the team in determining alliance partners or they work on a variety of marketing tasks, such as fundraising or creating buttons and other material to inform people about the team."



The Red Arrow robotics team with one of their robots.

The Red Arrow robotics team is looking for new members of middle school and high school age, and they are always in need of adults to help out with time and/or money.

"New student team members are always welcome," Nagel said. "Students do not have to be interested in computer programming or engineering to participate. There are many tasks needed in order for the team to function. We could especially use students interested in marketing or business.

Adults are also welcome to visit and learn more in order to become potential mentors or sponsors. Sponsors are recognized on our team's website with major donor logos appearing on our team shirts worn during competitions. The team can always use additional funds. Competition fees are in excess of \$5,000 and while our robot costs cannot exceed \$4,000, we actually built our robot this year with less than \$1,000. The team always needs tools, supplies and snacks. At the

moment, we are hoping to raise funds to purchase a CAD-capable laptop computer for the students. We have one currently, but there are several students interested in learning how to better work with the CAD software. We would need about \$500 in order to make this purchase."

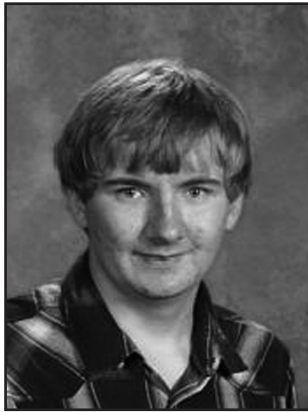
The team's complete schedule is posted on their website, lowellrobotics.org. If you want to go cheer them on, their next competition will be on the weekend of March 25 in Mason, MI.

LHS February "Students of the Month"

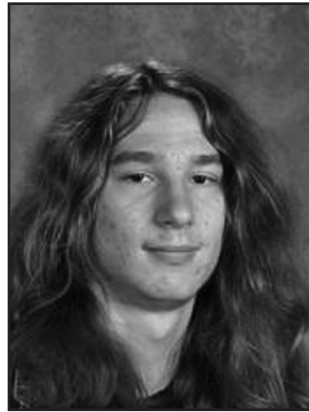
Lowell High School has announced that three Lowell High School students have been named Student of the Month at Kent Transition Center. Jarred Casalina, 11th grade, is enrolled in the automotive program; Tarrance Edwards, 11th grade, is enrolled in the facilities maintenance program; and Jarius Gerulis, 11th grade, is enrolled in the facilities maintenance program.



Jarius Gerulis



Tarrance Edwards



Jarred Casalina

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LOWELL

COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Lowell will hold a public hearing on April 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave. SE, Lowell, MI 49331, concerning an application to amend the text of the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Lowell.

The principal provisions of the application to amend the Zoning Ordinance can be summarized as follows:

Amend Article 11 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow churches in the C, General Commercial District by Special Use.

The application is on file and may be examined at the offices of the Lowell Township Clerk, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, Lowell, MI 49331, during Township office hours. All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the application to amend the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments concerning the application may be submitted to the Township office, at the above-stated address, up to the time of the public hearing.

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

help protect older adults from financial abuse

Financial exploitation costs older Americans billions of dollars per year, according to several sources, including the National Council on Aging. If you have older parents, could they be vulnerable to financial scams and rip-off artists? And, if so, what can you do to help protect them?

Unfortunately, it is possible for anyone to become a victim. For a variety of reasons, older adults may be easier targets than younger people. And that is why, when interacting with your parents, you should look for these warning signs:

- *Suspicious new relationships* – If your parent mentions something about a new friend, a romantic partner or some type of caregiver who seems to have taken a great interest in your parent's financial situation, you may have reason to be suspicious. Do not be afraid to ask some questions.

- *Multiple checks written to same person or entity* – If you think your parents may be making questionable financial moves, ask to see their checkbook. If you see several checks written to

an unfamiliar person or business, you might be viewing evidence of a financial scam. If so, you will want to intercede before your parents get victimized again.

- *Changing power of attorney or beneficiaries* – If your parents suddenly decide to name someone new as their "agent" (the person responsible for carrying out a power of attorney), you may need to investigate. And the same is true if your parents change the beneficiary designation on their investment accounts or insurance policies.

- *Unusual urgency to make an investment* – If you learn that your parents want to make some type of investment "immediately," you should be concerned. No reputable financial professional would ever pressure them – or anyone else – to "act now" on an investment.

Apart from watching out for the above signs of trouble, what else can you do to help guard your parents from fraudsters?

For starters, urge your parents – repeatedly, if necessary – to never give out personal information over the phone or online.

Scammers have gotten quite clever at impersonating legitimate businesses or organizations – for example, unless you are looking closely at the email, you might think the logo of a bank or another company is being accurately depicted. Again, though, reputable businesses typically don't send messages that are demanding, threatening or otherwise employing some type of extreme language.

Also, stress to your parents that they should never wire money to a random account. Plus, remind them about the truth of "no risk" offers: Any financial offer that sounds too good to be true is just that – untrue. Every legitimate investment carries both risks and rewards.

Here's another suggestion: Older adults who have debt problems may be especially vulnerable to offers that claim to "clear up" all their debts. But there's no quick fix to this problem and any caller who claims otherwise is likely being deceitful. Encourage your parents to discuss their debt situation with an honest, professional debt counselor or a financial advisor.

Finally, if your parents don't already work with a trusted, qualified financial professional, introduce them to one.

Your parents worked hard all their lives. Do what you can to help them enjoy their "golden years" in dignity.

business matters



McDonald's has been selected for the 2017 Best of Lowell award in the fast food category by the Lowell award program.

Each year, the Lowell award program identifies companies that we believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and

business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Lowell area a great place to live, work and play.

Various sources of information were gathered

and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2017 Lowell award program focuses on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the Lowell award program and data provided by third parties.

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viewpoint

outdoors

team turkey

Dave Stegehuis

Elk and moose were reintroduced to the more remote regions of Michigan after a long absence. The animals are a welcome addition to our already diverse wildlife populations and provide exciting viewing opportunities for those who actively seek out encounters or rely on chance sightings. Elk and moose are elusive creatures and occupy limited habitat, so I would guess that most state residents have not

observed either species in the wild. Elk numbers are at a point where a few lucky hunters will draw a tag to hunt in special seasons to keep the population in check with habitat and social limitations.

Eastern wild turkeys also fell victim to overhunting and habitat loss and disappeared for a time. Turkeys were reintroduced in the early 60s and since then have

thrived to the point where they occupy all counties in the Lower Peninsula and most in the U.P. Unlike elk and moose, turkeys may be hunted by anyone who wants to do it. There are special seasons and designated hunting units and one must apply through a lottery for a specific license. Large units are open at certain times for over the counter license purchases.

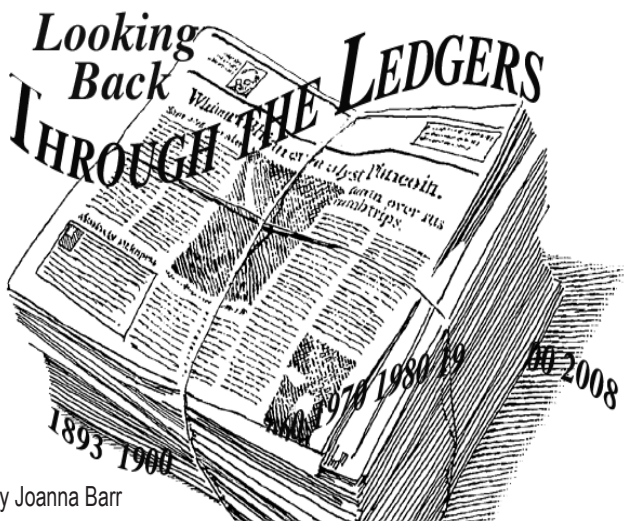
Turkeys are hunted in the spring and fall. The spring season is the

most popular for good reasons. The weather is relatively mild and the awakening of all things wild following a Michigan winter makes for a great time to just enjoy being outdoors. Also, spring is the mating season when tom turkeys get loud and aggressive. Toms can be called in from a distance if they like what they hear. Decoys are another way to draw the attention of a wandering long beard. Besides, there is plenty of other game to hunt

in the fall. I think the best thing about hunting turkeys is that it can be a team sport. One hunter can work the calls and the other handle a bow or gun. The team approach provides spouses, relatives, friends, and especially moms and dads with sons and daughters to share a very real exciting experience. This reality isn't virtual. When young folks are getting into hunting for the first time, hunting close together provides an opportunity to mentor

youngsters about hunting techniques as well as all-important safety issues.

It doesn't necessarily require a lot of expensive equipment to hunt turkeys and the large impressive birds can be found in hunttable numbers across the state. The wild turkey has been a welcome addition to our wild game roster keeping alive the rich hunting tradition in Michigan.



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal March 25, 1891

The Signal Service weather signals are now displayed over the Postal Telegraph office, and we can now know when it is necessary to turn up our coat collars without waiting for the cold to numb our sensibilities.

Surely spring has come. The infallible harbingers have put in their appearance and spring will soon be with us. The blackbirds came Saturday and Sunday the "sucker" fisherman, two of him, was on the deck—or rather on the dam. Surely spring has come.

Will Avery arrived home, last Thursday, from Minneapolis, where he has been for the past six months. He will take a position with A. W. Weekes in the new store just opening in Graham's block.

The Lowell & Hastings R. R. Co. are now selling tickets from Lowell to Gd. Rapids for 55 cents, single, and \$1 round trip. Trains leave passenger station at foot of Washington St. This route lands passengers into Union Depot at Grand Rapids.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 29, 1917

Mr. Frank G. Taylor, the regular nominee for Township Treasurer, is one of the best known men in Lowell. Being employed by the late Charles McCarty in the Wholesale Produce, Grocery and Meat business fifteen years. Was a member of the firm of McCarty & Co. five years and was in the meat business five years, and is now employed in the Clark grocery. No one in Lowell has had a more general business experience than Mr. Taylor. That he is reliable and competent can be proven by all his business associates. Mr. Taylor has not been a persistent office seeker, this being the

first time he has ever allowed his friends to present his name as a candidate for any office. He has always lived in Lowell and now that his name is on the ticket, everyone turn out and give a good fellow and loyal citizen the support he is entitled to.

Amateur burglars raided several business places in Lowell last Thursday night and got away with the plunder, leaving little or no trace of their identity. They secured about \$10 in Shields' saloon, about the same value in flashlights, etc., at M. W. Gee's hardware. E. T. White's Grand Trunk grocery was also visited and some goods stolen. Sheriff Berry sent a deputy here to investigate, but at this time no valuable results are apparent.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 26, 1942

Mr. and Mrs. Glendon Swarhout docked in Brooklyn last Saturday after a hectic two-weeks' voyage from the Caribbean, and arrived in Lowell Monday night of this week. Their voyage home was made aboard an unarmed Dutch merchantman which narrowly missed being torpedoed off the Atlantic Coast. En route, their ship rescued twenty-six survivors from its own sister ship who had been afloat in punctured lifeboats for twelve days. Watch subsequent issues of the Ledger for further accounts of the thrilling experiences of G. S. & K. S.

The high water danger which prevailed here the first four days of last week has passed, both the Flat

and Grand rivers now being not far from normal levels. At its peak the high waters caused considerable inconvenience, especially to merchants who had to move basement goods to upper floors and to C. H. Runciman who was obliged to move hundreds of tons of beans to places of safety, but otherwise no material damage has been reported.

The Boy Scouts of Lowell have been asked to undertake in this town the systematic collection of waste. The first city-wide collection will be made on Thursday, April 2, beginning at 9:00 a. m. Householders and storekeepers are asked to cooperate by having waste material ready early for the trucks to pick up. Details as to the bundling of waste material will be sent out later. A committee of business men and Scout officials is being formed to supervise and aid in the undertaking. Rev. N. G. Noon, Scoutmaster, troop 101, is at present acting chairman. This is part of the war effort of this town. The main purpose of the undertaking is to make available to every householder and storekeeper a regular, systematic, house to house collection of waste material. There is no intention of interfering with arrangements already made by groups or individuals for the collection of special kinds of waste. After expenses are paid the income will be turned over to the Red Cross. Remember, the first collection will be made on Thursday, April 2, beginning at 9 a.m. Clean out your attic and your cellar of all waste material that can be used in the war effort.

Looking Back, continued, page 14

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.

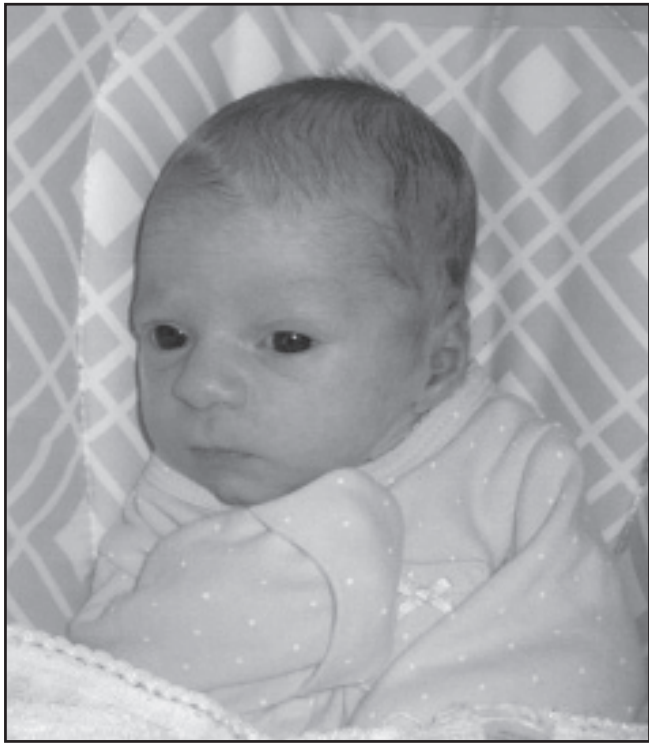


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area births

Short



Louise Marie Short

Lyle and Jessica Short, of Clarksville, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Louise Marie. She is also welcomed by her big sister, Acacia Lyn. She was born January 22, 2017, weighing 6.5 lbs. at St. Mary's Hospital.

Grandparents are Rick and Lynda Wright of Lowell and Andy and Brenda Short of Plainwell.

Social Security in plain language – it feels good to be understood

Social Security is with you throughout life's journey. As in any relationship, communication is key to forging strong connections and fostering understanding. At Social Security, the way we communicate with you is important to us. We keep this in mind when we write

paperwork filled with jargon that requires dictionaries and internet searches to understand. You want to process what you read immediately and without the help of a thesaurus. We get you.

That's why our website is easy to access, convenient to navigate, and



each publication, blog entry, frequently asked question (FAQ) and press release.

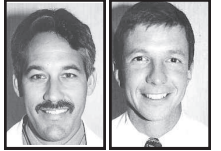
The Center for Plain Language has issued its annual Federal Plain Language Report Card. The annual report grades federal agencies on how well they communicate with the public. Social Security scored a B plus! We're proud of that grade, but we won't stop trying to improve it.

There's only so much time in the day and we know you have a full "to do" list. We know you don't have time to read confusing government

secure to use. Our FAQs at www.socialsecurity.gov/faq and publications at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs contain clear, accurate information that is easy to understand. Some publications are available in up to 17 languages and they're written in the same clear, concise way as our English publications.

Nothing is more important to our agency than meeting the needs of those we serve. Social Security looks forward to continuing to secure today and tomorrow for you and your family.

health



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

breast cancer screening

Screening for breast cancer is usually done by mammography. Screening is done for all women at a certain age without symptoms in hopes of diagnosing breast cancer at an early stage when the chance of a cure is greatest. Screening mammography has been shown to lower the risk of dying from breast cancer. Mammograms are not perfect, sometimes cancers are missed or lesions are detected that are not actually cancer, resulting in additional testing and unnecessary procedures. This is called a false positive result. Mammograms can also lead to over diagnosis if they detect very low risk cancers that would never have caused any problem in a woman's life.

Two large organizations in the United States have released recommendations on when mammograms should be done and the frequency of testing, based on their review of current studies. Because all women are different and family history is varied, there is not one universal answer as to when a particular woman should begin screening.

The United States Preventative Services Task Force recommends screening mammograms for women aged 50-74 every two years. For women less than 50 years, they state that women can choose to be screened based on individual risk factors. They

make no recommendations for screening women age 75 and older.

The American Cancer Society updated its recommendations last year. They recommended that women start screening at age 45 and get annual mammograms until age 54. After age 54 they recommend screening every other year for women at average risk. Screening should continue until there is an average life expectancy of less than 10 years. Women younger than 45 may choose to begin screening earlier based on individual risk factors.

The difference between the two groups recommendations are based on different conclusions about balancing the potential harm of screening against the potential benefits. The United States Preventative Services Task Force recommends fewer screenings to prevent over diagnosis and over treatment. The American Cancer Society recommends more frequent screening, believing that more screenings are necessary to find cancers at an earlier stage when cure is more likely.

All women should discuss when to start screening and the frequency of mammograms with their physician based on their own risk factors and beliefs about the risk and benefits of mammographic screening.

Planning A Wedding?

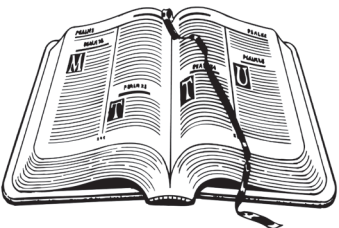


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Sunday School..... 9:15 AM

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Pastor Dick Sherlock

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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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897-7060
Rev. Dr. Paul Mpindi PHD
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM
Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
Evening Worship.....6:00 PM
Nursery available at both services
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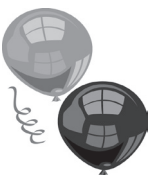
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MARCH 23
Brian Gabrion, Richard King, Brendan Lally, Caleb Koeppel.

MARCH 25
Chris Yeiter, Shirley Carigon, Sari VanKeulen, Andy Quada, Troy Sloan.

MARCH 24
Joe Vezino Jr., Candy Speerstra, Angela Titcombe, Marian Rutherford.

MARCH 26
Margaret Hoats, Carol Maynard.

MARCH 27
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MARCH 28
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Lowell Expo this weekend, continued

"I sell prints with digital release in folio box packages and framed prints. My studio has been in Lowell since November 2016. At the Expo I will be offering \$89 session fee, regularly \$175 and gift with purchase for those that book a photo session."

"We will have some free items with our business name on them," said Jason Cupp, owner of J&K Roadside Service. "We just want the Lowell community to know we are here to serve their towing and roadside needs. We will have two of our trucks at the expo, one is the roadside service vehicle that does jumpstarts, lockouts, fuel deliveries and tire changes. The other will have a vehicle attached to the boom that showcases an accident. We also want people to know if they are in an accident to request a local tow company so their vehicle stays in the area and not all the way to Grand Rapids."

"I am brand new, my business just started in January of 2017," said Walnut Grove Excavating owner Travis Gemmel. "My goal is to work on the smaller projects that a homeowner needs completed, such as land clearing, driveway removal, brush removal, grading and much more. I am now certified to do septic tanks. I will not be demonstrating

anything at the Expo, but I will have my skid steer and mini excavator on display."

"Also new outside this year is Pork Fat Sum's," Baker said. "Their mission is to exceed your expectations of what good BBQ is supposed to taste like."

If you have children and are worried they might get bored and act up, there will be a good opportunity for them to work off some excess energy.

"New this year is the Hall of Fun, which will feature Ninjas on the Move," Baker said. "While they can't bring their whole course to the Expo, there will be enough to test your skills. Their mission is to bring Ninja Warrior to those who otherwise wouldn't have access to it by creating affordable and accessible opportunities to push their limits. Their vision is to cultivate a generation that is fit mentally, physically and socially and that is ready to get on the move."

"Ninjas on the Move is an initiative that I started about a year and a half ago," said owner Drew Struckmeyer. "Our mission is to make ninja warrior affordable and accessible for every single kid. NBC's American Ninja Warrior has created a craze throughout the country, causing kids to want to participate in ninja warrior activities.

Sadly, most ninja warrior experiences are incredibly expensive. Our goal is to be able to teach classes and bring our mobile course to schools, churches, community events and birthday parties at an affordable price so that every kid has the opportunity to become a ninja warrior, all while conveying a positive message. Our ultimate goal is to help kids overcome the obstacles on the course as well as the ones in life. Last summer we had 1,000 kids run our course. We are projected to hit 3,000 this summer. All Expo attendees will have the opportunity to check us out in the Hall of Fun. We'll have many of the obstacles featured on NBC's American Ninja Warrior, including two mini 'warped walls' nine feet and 11.5 feet tall, the 'quintuple steps,' the 'salmon ladder,' the 'ring toss,' the 'cliffhanger' and a number of balance obstacles. You can also see other events that we'll be at in the coming months and how to book us for your own."

Out of work or unhappy with your job? There will even be job opportunities at the Lowell Expo.

"If you're out looking for a job, come out to the Expo," Baker said. "There are opportunities to talk to people who are hiring. They're looking for people to fill positions."

Looking to buy or sell your house? You can take care of that at the Lowell Expo.

"Right now the housing market in Lowell is booming," Baker said. "The inventory here is extremely low, but people want to buy. They've got buyers, but there are no homes to buy. If you're thinking of putting your home up for sale, there will be a lot of realtors at the Expo that you can talk to about that."

If you missed out on the Expo last year, you definitely won't want to miss it this year.

"Going to the Lowell Expo is a great way to learn of businesses in the Lowell area and connect with business owners in your community," Feenstra said.

"The Expo is a success because local businesses and organizations stepped up and were able to sponsor it," Bruwer said. "It's a way for the sponsors to get their names out there. When it

comes to the Lowell Expo, because it's in the great community of Lowell, there is always a great turnout. It's a great way for folks in the community to spend a day to really get an idea of what there is available, what businesses, what organizations are available. What a lot of people like about the Expo is every year we are looking for ways to make it better, more exciting, more of a draw for people to come in and see what the Expo is all about. Lowell Area Schools is always great. Without them there's no place to have the Expo. Fortunately they've been on board through the years and they're a main sponsor again this year."

"The Expo is a staple event of the Lowell community," Struckmeyer said. "Growing up in Lowell I always looked forward to the event to see the faces of Lowell and its latest happenings. The community of Lowell is incredibly close knit and owes this achievement in part to the Lowell Community Expo."

"Everyone's welcome and it's free to anyone who wants to come," said

Larry Milkulski, one of the creators of the Expo. "If you just moved here or you've lived in the area for years, it doesn't matter. It's well worth your time to go through it. You'll learn something new."

"I can speak for myself on why I go to the Expo," Gemmel said. "I love being able to see what new and existing businesses are in the Lowell area. I like being able to meet the owners and what their business has to offer. We have such an awesome community and I always want to be able to support a local business first. The last several years I have realized there are some great companies in our community, but I had no idea because they may not be on Main St. or a path I come across. The Expo allows me to connect with them."

"People should go to the Expo to see what the Lowell and surrounding areas have to offer our citizens," Cupp said. "You don't always have to go to the mall or into the city when we have a great community of businesses right here in Lowell."

LEGAL NOTICE

TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Settlor, Carol C. Cline, who lived at 1037 Gladstone Dr., SE, E. Grand Rapids, MI 49506, died 2/6/2017. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Craig A. Bruggink
P.L.C. (P29358)
429 Turner NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-456-4038

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Carol C. Cline Trust dated 1/15/1996, will be forever barred unless presented to Aaron C. Cline, 540 Rosewood Ave., E. Grand Rapids, MI 49506, Successor Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.

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A Charmed Life nail salon opens in Lowell

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Yet another new business has opened in Lowell last week. Rockford-based nail salon A Charmed Life opened a second location at 216 W. Main on Thursday, March 2. They have massage chairs and offer services like manicures, pedicures and eyelash extensions.

"They put them on one at a time," said owner Kristine Gault. "They're synthetic mink. Your eyes are closed and we put them on with tweezers. Most people fall asleep. The first appointment is two hours. They just fall out naturally with your natural lashes and then every two or three weeks you get them refilled."

Gault said she had never even heard of Lowell, but a friend owns a store here and told her that Lowell is an excellent place to open a business.

"My friend Tennele Petersen owns the Lennon & Willow Boutique [204 W. Main] and she was the one that told me, 'You've got to come to Lowell,'" Gault

said. "I was like, 'I've never heard of Lowell!'" My friends laugh at me because I don't leave Rockford much. But we love it here. The city was great to deal with. We bought the main floor here, units one and two and we really like it. It's a great downtown area. A lot of traffic goes through here. It reminds me a lot of Rockford when we started ten years ago. There were a lot of open spaces and then it filled up and now they've got all these nice restaurants. The first day we had walk-ins and it was a horribly cold, windy day. We've had a really good reception so far."

A Charmed Life's Rockford location has won the 'Best Mani/Pedi in Grand Rapids' award in the 2016 Grand Rapids Magazine readers' poll and the salon was also recently profiled in a national magazine.

"We were featured in 'Nails' magazine last year for our 'Ultimate Charm' pedicure," Gault said. "That includes a sugar scrub, a mask with hot towels, a deep tissue massage on your

calves and your feet and then a paraffin dip. It relaxes the muscles and just feels amazing."

They are already looking to hire at least a couple people as soon as possible.

"We're closed on Mondays and Tuesdays now until we get more staff," Gault said. "We are looking to hire a licensed cosmetologist or manicurist. We are also looking for an apprentice. An apprenticeship runs through the State of Michigan, but they work here and we train them for a manicurist license, so it's all hands-on work. They work 20 hours a week for six months and take the state test and then they're licensed. By that time they know the clientele. It's a great way to get your license and have a job right after and not have any student loans. We've had 13 successful apprentices go through our Rockford store. We have it down to a science. We would like to have one here in Lowell. We are looking to continue with the apprenticeship program here."

If you're having a bridal party or just want to do something relaxing, check out A Charmed Life.

"We would love for the community to come and check out the space," Gault said. "It's very important to

take care of your hands and feet. We're all on our feet a lot. Massage is good for circulation."



A Charmed Life, a new nail salon, opened last Thursday. Pictured are cosmetologist Angela Welch, owner Kristine Gault and Bailey the dog.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 10, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., in the Township Hall, located at 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, Michigan, to hear citizens' comments regarding a request for a Zoning Amendment.

The Zoning Ordinance Amendment is for revisions to the following sections:

SECTION 1 Section 4.45 of the Lowell Township Zoning Ordinance is hereby ADDED to include standard for home occupation

SECTION 2 Section 4.46 of the Lowell Township Zoning Ordinance is hereby ADDED to include standard for Home-Based Businesses

A public hearing to receive public input and comment on the proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment is required by the Township Zoning Ordinance effective October, 2016, and by the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (Act 110 of 2006), as amended.

Information concerning the proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment may be inspected at the Township offices during regular office hours. All interested persons are hereby invited to attend the public hearing and provide comment, express concerns or offer support. In lieu of personal appearance, you may submit written comments regarding concerns or support, to the Planning Commission at the Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, Michigan.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission
Kent County, Michigan

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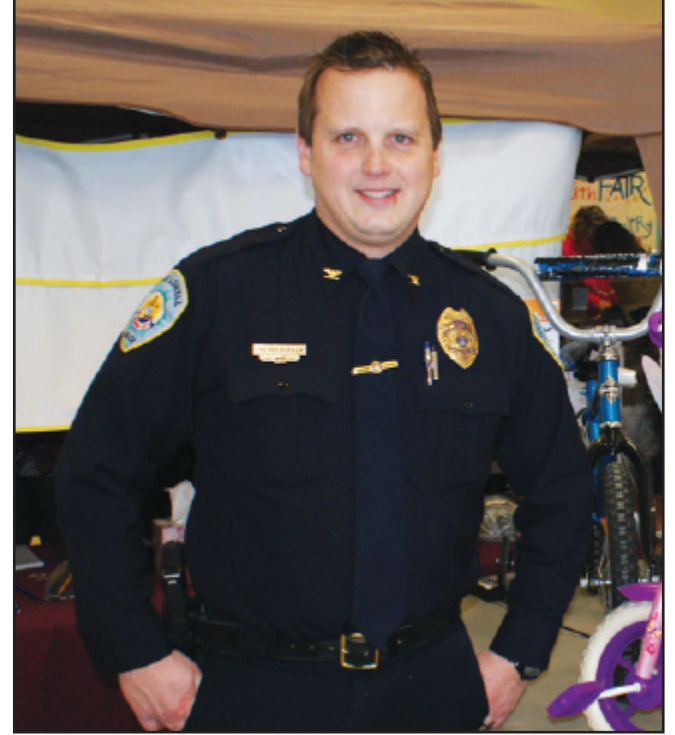
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What are your March Madness predictions?



Steve Donkersloot
Lowell Light & Power general manager
Duke, Arizona, Kansas, UCLA (final four)
Duke and UCLA (championship)
UCLA, 70-65 (NCAA Champs)



Steve Bukala
Lowell Police Chief
Duke, Arizona, Kansas and Kentucky are my final four. Hoping MSU will upset Kansas, but not likely. Championship game is Duke and Kentucky with the **Duke Blue Devils** playing with a chip on their shoulder as the champions. 79-74 will be the score.



Erin VanEpps
Main St. BBQ owner
Duke vs Gonzaga, Louisville vs UCLA (final four)
Duke vs UCLA (championship)
Duke, 81-76 (NCAA Champs)



Michael DeVore
Lowell mayor
I don't follow basketball, I'm more of a hockey and baseball guy. So I'll go with teams I've heard of. My final four are:
Duke, Gonzaga, Louisville and North Carolina
In the championship game Duke will play North Carolina.
North Carolina will win 85-79.



Greg Pratt
Lowell Area Schools superintendent
KU, NC, Ariz, Duke in the final four.
Duke and NC in the finals.
148 points with a Duke win.



Jon Jacobs
Lowell Ledger publisher
Duke, Arizona, Kansas, UCLA (final four)
Duke will play Kansas and Duke will win 82-77



Jeanne Boss
Lowell Ledger editor
Baylor, Arizona, Kansas, UCLA (final four)
Baylor, UCLA
UCLA (NCAA Champs)
148 pt. total



Cathy Acker
Buyer's Guide
Duke, Gonzaga, Kansas, Kentucky (final four)
Duke, Kansas (championship)
Kansas (NCAA Champs)
144 pt. total

Clarksville landscape changed as downtown building is demolished

Bonnie Mattson
Staff Writer

Cleanup began Saturday, March 11, in downtown Clarksville after extreme high winds destroyed a century-old building just three days prior.

The rear wall of the building, which until just a few weeks ago was home to the Clarksville Area Library, was blown in by winds reaching more than 50 miles per hour. Shortly after, the

strong winds blew through the brick structure and picked up the roof, lifting it over the front facade and onto Main Street.

Jayson Friesner had

been renovating the other half of the building in preparation for opening a restaurant in April.

Demolition and the cleanup progress was slowed, with crews waiting for dumpsters to be emptied and returned.

Main Street, which

had been closed since Wednesday, re-opened Sunday.

United Bank, just to the south of the destroyed building and RaDar's on the north were both evacuated Wednesday. Both buildings received minimal damage. The bank moved

temporarily to the village hall as demolition began.

RaDar's re-opened Sunday night and the bank went back to business as usual Monday.

With the building's owner currently out of the country, future plans for the site are unknown.




Until three weeks prior, this brick building in Clarksville had housed the community library on one half and a restaurant being refurbished in the other half was set to open in April. (Google Maps image)



The landscape of downtown Clarksville is forever changed after 50- to 60-mile-per-hour winds destroyed a century-old building.

(Photo by Doug Stadel)

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2017-2018

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Please visit the elementary school your child will attend to obtain a packet and schedule your child's visit time.

Alto Elementary
6150 Bancroft Avenue SE 616-987-2600
Parent Meeting and Student Visitation: April 12, 2017

Bushnell Elementary
700 Elizabeth Street 616-987-2650
Parent Meeting: March 23, 6:30 pm

*Kindergarten Packets for Bushnell will not be available until 3/23 at the parent meeting.
Student Visitation: April 14, 2017—for students **NOT** attending Bushnell Preschools

Murray Lake Elementary
3275 Alden Nash Ave NE 616-987-2750
Parent Meeting and Student Visitation: April 13, 2017

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Red Arrow

SPORTS

The Red Arrows represented well over the winter season

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity athletics had a record-breaking winter sports season this year. Six teams represented the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) at the state level, and highlights include two Division II state titles.

No strangers to success, the mighty Red Arrow wrestlers hit the mat this year seeking their fourth state championship in four years. The team was a shining example of success as they put together a perfect conference record. First they claimed the conference title, then they won the regional and state competitions. Their practically flawless "fourpeat" season also included 13 individual state qualifiers and a state champion in 135 pound freshman Austin Boone, who grappled undefeated in the team state finals prior to his solo. Boone was among a talented group of freshman who made a big impact over

the season. The young team graduates just four seniors; Eli Boulton, Max Bishop, Bryce Dempsey and Sam Russell.

The boys bowling team picked up a state title and recorded a strikingly similar season record to their wrestling counterparts. They sailed through the OK White season undefeated and were named the regional champions, earning the program's first bid at the state finals. Three rounds and three victories later the bowlers brought home the Division II state title. The team's success included three individual state qualifiers; Logan Smith, Ben Stewart and Carson Clark. Smith and Stewart scored within the top fifty in the state and Clark landed in the top 10.

Despite a difficult season the girls bowling team experienced some success at the state level with the qualification of junior Morgan Allison.

Allison consistently led her squad this winter and finished in 45th place at the individual competition.

Lowell gymnastics made a pair of appearances at the MHSAA state finals, qualifying as a team for the third time in four years and sending six gymnasts to the individual meet. They placed third in both their OK Rainbow and regional contests, then came in twelfth place at state with a score of 137.325. Tumblers Karmen Anderson, Maura Fitzpatrick, Corah Miller, Alise Forward, Lisa Price and Corah Kaufman competed at the individual tourney. Price placed third on the floor exercise and Kaufman earned her fourth state medal on the uneven bars.

Another Lowell team to represent at the state level this winter was the Lowell Caledonia ice hockey team. Competing for their first season in a tougher Tier II bracket, the team

earned their first regional championship in the team's history after a double overtime victory over Grand Ledge/Fowlerville. Though their debut in the state quarterfinals ended in an 8-0 loss to Brighton, the team finished a solid fourth in conference and showed the continuing growth of the sport. The team graduates a group of eight seniors this season, including Nick VanTil and Eddie Heikkila. Lowell juniors Austin Whaley and Charlie Hayes will return to the team next season.

The Caledonia/Lowell/South Christian boys swim and dive team put together a tremendous first season in the pool. The team placed 30th at the state meet, two points behind local competitor East Kentwood High School, and saw swimmer Ryan Parsons place 11th in the 50 freestyle and 13th in the 100 freestyle. The team placed a

respectable second in their OK Rainbow conference. The team graduates just one Lowell senior, Andrew de Voest.

After a 9-3 winning conference season, the Red Arrow girls basketball team rocked the hardwood this season, claiming the schools first OK White title in 11 years. Led by all conference shooters Cassie Dean and Regan Coxon the team's tree losses were in their non-conference season opener, to Forest Hills Central and to Northern. The team includes three seniors; Bridget Garter, Christy Lyon and Hana Steinebach. Nine players will return, along with some new varsity members from the 19-1 JV squad.

Two teams did not bring home any hardware this winter but displayed program growth in their competitions. Boys basketball ended the season with an overall record of

12-8 and a conference record of 8-4 after two devastating near misses in the contest for the OK White title. Despite missing their target the team finished second in the OK White and graduates three all conference athletes in Matt Beachler, Austin Branagan and honorable mention recipient Andrew Poulton. The program also celebrates their first players to play at the collegiate level. Bleacher will play for Division I Central Michigan University and Branagan will bring his talent to Goshen College.

Lowell competitive cheer experienced a rebuilding this winter with a brand new head coach, Lowell alumni Dayna Crumback. Setting benchmarks for seasons to come, the team's highest points total for the season was 599 and their best finish was third place at meets hosted by rivals Forest Hills Northern and Northview.

Spring sports slated to begin during next few weeks

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Nearly a dozen spring sports are scheduled to kick off over the next few weeks at Lowell High School. Each team is eager to earn success this season in the newly-aligned OK White conference and beyond.

After enjoying back to back OK White championships the Lowell varsity baseball team had a difficult 2016 season. They had a dismal losing record of 14-25 overall, 5-10 in conference and were a first round exit in the district playoffs. This season the team will try to return to their winning ways against some new conference opponents. With two college signed athletes

(catcher Nate Stephens and pitcher Jarrod Melle) and a slew of seasoned sluggers, the team will play under the direction of head coach Juston Miller. Their season starts the second week of April when they will meet Cedar Springs

This spring the varsity softball team are coming off of last season's 18-12 winning record. In his second year at the helm of the Red Arrow varsity softball team coach Bill McElroy will look to improve upon that record as well as their 6-4 OK White tally. Team standouts Kenzie North and Emily DePew will return, along with a host of other talent.

Their non-conference home opener against Wyoming is on March 22 at 4:15 pm.

Boys lacrosse wants to improve on last year's successful 12-3 season this spring. The boys finished second in the OK White. The team lost a core of talented seniors last year but added a new head coach, Tom DeJong. The first home match for them this season will be against Grand Rapids Christian on April 14 at 7:30 pm at Red Arrow Stadium.

Girls lacrosse also hired a new coach this season, Jesse Vasquez. The team graduated five seniors last season. Returning are two college bound lacrosse

players, Laurel Frederickson and Sela Bauman. Last year they picked up the first regional victory in the team's history and finished with a record of 9-9-1, one of the best on record for the young program. This season the girls will kick off with road contests against Harper Creek and Vicksburg before welcoming Comstock Park on April 10 at 7 pm for their home opener.

Heading back to the field ripe with seasoned talent, the girls soccer team will attempt to build on a break-even season of 9-9 overall and 5-5 in the OK White. Last spring they exited the district

tournament after a loss to Forest Hills Northern. The team graduated one senior, Ally Laird, last year and will return 16 to their roster, including captains Darby Dean, Amber Curtis, Riley Conlan and Christy Lyon, plus successful goalie Bridget Garter. The girls lacrosse home opener is scheduled for March 28 at 6:45 pm against Rockford.

Also returning to competition for the Red Arrows during the spring sports season will be the boys golf, girls tennis and girls and boys track teams. They have struggled among their conference competition in the historically difficult

OK White, which included such schools as East Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Christian and Caledonia High School. This season, in the newly aligned conference, teams will have to pave a new path among new competitors. Lowell's teams will now face Greenville, Cedar Springs, Northview, Ottawa Hills, Forest Hills Central and Northern in pursuit of a championship.

Finally, Lowell welcomes back to competition the shooting team, who claimed a national championship last summer and the co-ed crew team.

New coaches for both boys and girls varsity lacrosse

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Red Arrow varsity lacrosse will have two new coaches this spring after the exit of coaches Eugene Talbot and Ellery Alexander and the hiring of new program leaders Tom DeJong and Jesse Vasquez.

Talbot took over the boys program just one season ago taking the helm from Eric Bredin and guiding the team to the regional semifinals and a 12-3 season during his tenure. Alexander had

been with the team for two seasons garnering the team's best seasons to date and first regional win during her time as a Red Arrow. Lowell High School athletic director Dee Crowley had kind words for the pair of exiting coaches. "The contributions of both coach Talbot and coach Alexander were very much appreciated during their time as coaches, as each provided stability and growth for the lacrosse programs. We wish coach Talbot the best as his

family moves to the New England area and also coach Alexander with her career opportunities."

Taking over on the boys team this season will be Tom DeJong, who comes to the Lowell with a wealth of knowledge in the sport. DeJong has laid the groundwork and started lacrosse programs at four other schools and has more than nine years of experience coaching all levels of the sport from elementary to

collegiate. The certified US Lacrosse Level 1 coach has been married to wife Bonnie for the past 22 years and is the father of two children, Breeanna and Austin.

A familiar face to Red Arrow athletes will take over the girls program. Vasquez is currently the successful coach of the Arrows' girls junior varsity basketball team. He has led the team to many successful seasons during his time in the position, including this year's

19-1 finish that included a flawless 12-0 run through the OK White. Overall, Vasquez has a record of 83-17 with the team. Relatively new to the sport of lacrosse, Vasquez is preparing for the challenge eagerly, according to Crowley, "Coach Vasquez brings a high level of energy, intensity and excitement in his coaching style and looks forward to spending time with the student-athletes in a sport that is new to

coaching for him." Vasquez is married to wife Paige and is expecting his first child later this spring.

Lacrosse season kicked off this week with both girls and boys tryouts. The teams' first contests are scheduled for the 27th and 28th of the month in Vicksburg. The gentlemen will play Monday at 7 pm and the ladies will play Tuesday at the same time.

obituaries

COLLINS

Harold Gardner Collins passed away March 11, 2017, at his Laguna Hills, CA, home following complications with Parkinson's Disease.



He was 85. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dorothy Jean Collins; his sons, Todd (Debbie) of Smyrna, TN and Dan (Patrice) of Lake Forest, CA; nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; his brother, Bernard (Pat); his brother-in-law, Darold; six nieces and nephews; several lifelong friends; and his constant companion, Greta the Dachshund. Born June 12, 1931, to the late Harold E. and Alma Collins in Lowell, Michigan, Harold, "Hal" or "Gardner" was the oldest of three children, sister Dolores (dec.) and brother Bernard. The time he spent in Lowell shaped the course of his life. His great passion for radio was born when he began building them at the age of 14 with a neighborhood friend. He earned his amateur radio license at the age of 16 and continued to operate them for the next four decades. An accomplished trumpet player at Lowell High, Hal carried that passion for music throughout the rest of his life. He also met his wife Dorothy in high school and they were married in 1952. Hal entered the Navy at the onset of the Korean conflict and pursued electronic communication, earning high marks that enabled him to choose stations in California and Kodiak, Alaska. Upon being discharged in 1954, Hal returned to Michigan to study electrical engineering at the University of Michigan. Upon earning his BS in Electrical Engineering, Hal accepted a position at Hoffman Electronics and relocated his young family to southern California, changing jobs many times over the course of his career to keep his family in Orange County. He worked for such companies as Magnavox, Babcock, Hughes, Boeing, and North American Aviation. He was integral to cutting edge projects like GPS and space communications, which earned him several trips down to the Cape to take part in the launch of NASA's space shuttles. A Celebration of Life for Harold will be held at O'Connor Mortuary at Alicia and Laguna Hills on March 23, 2017 at 9:30 am. In lieu of flowers, please donate memorial gifts to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research at <https://www.michaeljfox.org/get-involved/donation2.php>

Looking Back, continued

50 years ago Lowell Ledger March 23, 1967

Lowell police break up area robbery ring. An alert Lowell police officer, Jim Hutson, has brought about the arrest of Raymond Earl Lowry, 51, of Ionia, and a juvenile that may have solved several hundred thefts which have taken place in this area over the past five years. Officer Hutson observed a station wagon at the site of the new construction of Lowell Baptist Church on West Main St. Sunday afternoon. He stopped the car as it was leaving the property and found an electric sander in the front seat between Lowry and his 15-year-old accomplice. They admitted stealing the sander from the church but offered to take it back. Questioning the youth they found him most cooperative and he told them of several hundred thefts from construction sites and buildings in West Michigan. Police also found a quantity of copper and other tools in the station wagon. Hundreds of dollars of other material and tools were found at the man's home. Lowry admitted to police after several hours of questioning that he was involved with the youth in the robberies but would not implicate other members of the ring. Most of the robberies were committed in daylight with the thieves dressing

RAY

Gladys Jean Ray, age 81 of Alto, passed away Sunday, March 19, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ronald; and great-granddaughter, Adreanna. She is survived by her children, Kerry (Keith) Koning, James (Marsha) Ray, Jody (Lori Dussia) Ray, Robin (Andrea Renze) Ray; grandchildren, Rebecca (Kevin) Hilderbrandt, Bryan (Erin) Koning, Jessica (Darin) Parker, Marissa Ray, Emily (Brian Dougherty) Ray, Tyler Ray, Dylan Ray-McFarland; great-grandchildren, Kaiden Hilderbrandt, Kullen Hilderbrandt, Halley Hilderbrandt, Gracey Koning, Nixon Ray, Mason Ray; and very special friend, Debbie Heukels. Gladys was prom queen in high school and very social. She loved camping and snowmobiling, and worked for 30 years at J.C. Penney. Funeral will be 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI. Rev. Ken Ford of Alton Bible Church officiating. Memorial contributions may be directed to Spectrum Health Hospice, 100 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503; or Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter, 25200 Telegraph Rd., Ste. 100, Southfield, MI 48033-7443.



VANDER ZIEL

Henry George Vander Ziel, age 76 of Lowell, went home to be with his Savior on Saturday, March 18, 2017. Hank was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He farmed in the Lowell area for almost 40 years. Hank fought a courageous battle with cancer surrounded by family and in constant companion with his dog, Brandi. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Gerit and Bernard. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Yvonne; children, Paul (Annmarie) Vander Ziel, Steve (Joan) Vander Ziel; brothers, Harold (Cora) Vander Ziel, Richard (Nancy) Vander Ziel; sisters, Berdena Buys, Greta (Nick) deWolf, Kathy Vander Griff, Betty Lotterman; sister-in-law, Wilma Vander Ziel; grandchildren, Dawn (Shane) VanderVeen, Kristi (Allen) Wizorek, Amy, Andy, Melissa, Kelly, and Kyle Vander Ziel; and great-grandchildren, Kaylynn, Carter, Kenna, Kinleigh, and Aria. Visitation will be from 6-8:00 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, March 24, at Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Rd. SE, Ada, MI 49301. Memorial contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society, 129 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



in construction workers clothes and casually walking off with tools, and materials. The thefts occurred in several counties from Greenville to Kalamazoo. Lowry waived examination in Municipal Court on Monday and was unable to post the \$1000 bond. Trial date has not been set at this time.

The new 45 mile per hour limit on West Main St. out to a 1/2 mile past the city limits at Alden Nash have been very successful in slowing down traffic. Police have been patrolling the area and report good cooperation from most motorists. Some are suggesting with the terrific increase of accidents on M-21 between Lowell and Grand Rapids that it may be necessary to have this kind of limits over the entire 15 mile stretch of highway.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 25, 1992

Alto Lions donate TV/VCR to Salvation Army. "Our Club decided we wanted to help the homeless," Alto President Mel Beer said. "I made calls to different agencies to find out what they supported and who they helped. The Club decided it wanted to help the mothers and their children. That's why this shelter was chosen." After deciding on the shelter, Alto's Lions Club asked [Joanne] Woods to come out to one of its meetings and address the club. Joanne Woods is the Salvation Army's Family Service Director for an 18-bed emergency shelter for women and children in need of re-establishing their everyday routines. Woods says the shelter at 160 Fountain NE is full most of the time with women and children. "Most of them are here because of eviction, loss of job or their welfare has been cut off," Woods explains. The shelter keeps residents anywhere from three days to three weeks in an effort to help them get re-established. "We help provide them with information on searching for a job, and on parenting," Woods said. The educational information is provided through tapes. As of this week, those tapes will be watched on a 27- inch television screen and played on a new VCR, all of which was donated to the shelter through the Alto Lions Club. "We are grateful for all the donations from service clubs," Woods said. "We thank the Alto Lions Club for its donation of a 27- inch television and a VCR."

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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6	5	8	1	3	9	7	2	4
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DNR conservation day

Gov. Rick Snyder has proclaimed Wednesday, March 15, as Michigan Conservation Officer Appreciation Day in recognition of the brave men and women who serve in the Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division.

The division was created in 1887, making it Michigan's oldest statewide law enforcement agency. Conservation officers are fully commissioned state peace officers. They are best known for their environmental and natural resources protection responsibilities, but they also ensure recreational safety and protect citizens by providing general law enforcement duties and lifesaving operations in the communities they serve.

"These men and women represent a special type of law enforcement officer," Snyder said. "From inner cities to the deep woods, wetlands to the Great Lakes, on watercraft, off-road vehicles and on foot, DNR conservation officers serve with courage and professionalism. Conservation Officer Appreciation Day is a great opportunity to explore careers in DNR law enforcement, learn more about our world-class natural resources and thank our officers for all they do on behalf of the Great Lakes State."

The DNR Law Enforcement Division is an elite, versatile team that uses the latest technology to

solve crimes and safeguard Michigan. It maintains strict mental, physical and character standards for its officers. Candidates must complete 22 weeks of rigorous training and fulfill a probationary period before making the grade. Following the 22-week training academy, officers undergo 18 additional weeks of intensive field training and five more weeks of specialized seasonal training.

In addition to protecting the cultural, environmental and natural resources that make Michigan unique, conservation officers often serve as first responders in communities and work closely with local, state and federal agencies.

"We're proud of our conservation officers," said DNR director Keith Creagh. "Their tireless efforts help preserve the natural resources and recreational opportunities that make Michigan such a special place to live, work and play."

"Michigan is a stronger, safer state thanks to our conservation officers," said Law Enforcement Division chief Gary Hagler. "They are integral to the overall team of professional law enforcement officers across Michigan that protects citizens and ensures a high quality of life that makes our state an attractive destination for visitors."

Learn more about conservation officers at www.michigan.gov/conservationofficers

DNR salutes AmeriCorps members working in Michigan as natural resource stewards

Bob Gwizdz
Michigan DNR

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recently recognized AmeriCorps during a national observation of AmeriCorps' continuing efforts to help young people gain job experience, while serving their communities.

From Adopt-A-Forest and invasive species and forest health monitoring to classroom visits and renovation of cabins and park facilities, AmeriCorps members make a tremendous positive impact serving with the DNR.

During AmeriCorps Week 2017 (March 4 to 11), individuals, programs and organizations honored and celebrated the contributions 80,000 Americans make to their communities, along with the service of more than one million AmeriCorps alumni.

Established by the Corporation for National and Community Service, AmeriCorps provides young people – usually recent college graduates – opportunities to gain work experience in areas like education, the environment, health and public safety.

In turn, AmeriCorps members' willingness to serve for a small stipend, funded either by the sponsoring agency or the CNCS, pays big dividends for entities like the DNR.

"Having an AmeriCorps member has made a tremendous and meaningful contribution to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources by expanding our capacity to complete on-the-ground conservation initiatives," said Scott Whitcomb, Pigeon River Country State Forest unit manager. "As a state agency responsible for environmental stewardship on millions of acres of state land, there are more projects to complete than we have the ability to handle with the limited resources at our disposal. AmeriCorps lets us take on some of those projects that simply would not get done otherwise."

The DNR first brought on AmeriCorps members in the late 1990s through a partnership with the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps. AmeriCorps MCCC members serve in state parks building signs, helping to control invasive species and even working in the conservatory (greenhouse) on Belle Isle.

Bob Clancy coordinates the MCCC program for the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division's stewardship



AmeriCorps NCCC members worked with Summer Youth Employment Program participants at Waterloo State Recreation Area to refurbish cabins near Mill Lake. The AmeriCorps members served for approximately eight weeks to renovate two cabins for public use.

section. Clancy said the AmeriCorps programs are a win-win for members and the DNR.

"We get the benefit of having a great group of energetic young folks fresh out of school who are thinking about natural resources, which is what we need for this work. It's not easy work; you're in the mosquitoes and the ticks and the heat and cold — working outside all year round," Clancy said. "And the longer the AmeriCorps members stay, the more experience they get. They can go through training and learn about fire season, they can get their pesticide applicator's license or they can go through the growing season when we're controlling invasive species."

This extra training comes in handy, since many AmeriCorps members serving with the DNR are interested in a career in natural resources or a related field.

Devin Lyons, a former AmeriCorps MCCC member, studied sustainable agriculture and food production before working at the conservatory on Belle Isle in 2016.

The program offered Lyons a chance to explore a new direction and he now uses the skills he learned at the conservatory as a freelance landscaper.

"I learned a lot more about growing plants for their aesthetics and not just for their nutrients," he said.

Another group of AmeriCorps members serves with the DNR through the National Civilian Community Corps. AmeriCorps NCCC members served with the DNR in 2013, 2014 and 2016, helping to create new picnic areas, maintain trails and build new fences.

Last summer, a team of AmeriCorps NCCC members and Summer Youth Employment Program participants helped refurbish cabins at Waterloo Recreation Area near Mill Lake in Chelsea.

Murdock Jemerson, the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division Rose Lake district supervisor, said the extra help during the busy summer season made all the difference.

"These cabins sat vacant and unused, and there's no way our regular park ranger staff could have done what the summer youth employment program participants and the AmeriCorps members did," he said.

In 2011, the DNR partnered with Huron Pines AmeriCorps program. Starting with a single AmeriCorps member stationed at the Pigeon River Country State Forest, the program has grown to include 10 Huron Pines AmeriCorps members serving across the northern Lower Peninsula.

Last summer, Huron Pines AmeriCorps members helped bring 150 volunteers to the Pigeon River Country State Forest to refurbish the Discovery Center there. They installed accessible walkways, planted wildlife-friendly shrubs, painted the interior of the building and built an interpretive trail — all in one day.

"It was just amazing, and that was one of the many things they've done that show what the program is capable of," Whitcomb said.

Kimberlyn Burgos is a Huron Pines AmeriCorps member focused on wildlife outreach. In a single day, she taught lessons to eight different classes of first-graders. Throughout her term, she's also working

on translating the DNR's educational program "Elk University" into Spanish and coordinating volunteers for Adopt-A-Forest.

"These are things I've never done before, so I'm really looking forward to having that experience I wouldn't get anywhere else," Burgos said.

Doug Tyran is a Huron Pines AmeriCorps member serving in Grayling. He said he's glad to be able to explore new avenues he's interested in, like helping out with inventory at the DNR's Forest Fire Experiment Station in Roscommon and learning about fire suppression.

"There's the networking part of it, too, so it's a really great opportunity to be in this position and get some good work done," Tyran said.

Lisha Ramsdell, the associate director at Huron Pines, said it's great to see members use their AmeriCorps experience as a stepping stone to their career.

"This is a program that's not just about conservation, it's not just about the benefits to AmeriCorps members, it's about tying all of those threads together and connecting back to our community," she said. "It's about how we can bring more awareness to the value of our public resources. By having members do things that the staff didn't have the hours in the day to do — especially in terms of outreach — it's really going to help promote Michigan's healthy natural resources."

To learn more about the DNR's AmeriCorps partners, contact Huron Pines AmeriCorps, the National Civilian Community Corps or the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps.



STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: DAYTIME TV

ACROSS

- 1. a.k.a. Myanmar
- 6. *"_____ Rescue" airing on Saturday Mornings
- 9. Eye affliction
- 13. Brown, Dartmouth and Yale, e.g.
- 14. Down Under bird
- 15. *"Rangers" who first appeared on daytime TV
- 16. Lays in peace
- 17. 1960s altered state inducer
- 18. Spy name?
- 19. *Cooking TV personality
- 21. *"The Price _____"
- 23. Elton John's title
- 24. Leave in a bucket
- 25. Mason glass
- 28. Prospectors search for the mother one
- 30. Exotic furniture wood
- 35. _____ Europe/Asia mountain divide
- 37. Not bright
- 39. Smooth
- 40. Lover of Aeneas
- 41. Fluorescent red dye
- 43. Beth Israel synagogue, e.g.
- 44. Capital increases
- 46. French novelist ... mile, 1840-1902
- 47. Be a snitch
- 48. Conundrum
- 50. Brooklyn basket-ballers
- 52. *Soap time

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- 53. Ice, dark, and middle
- 55. Make a pigeon sound
- 57. *"_____ Hospital"
- 61. *Female view
- 65. Smoke detector, e.g.
- 66. Anger management issue
- 68. Russian river
- 69. Be a slowpoke
- 70. Foot digit
- 71. T. S., poet
- 72. All is well that does this well
- 73. Even, to a poet
- 74. Cook with dry heat
- 29. *Controversial Mehmet
- 31. _____ Bowl of the 1930s
- 32. What one did after one oohed
- 33. Throat dangler
- 34. *She's live
- 36. Like Yangtze River
- 38. Digestive aid
- 42. Naturally, in slang
- 45. Unctuous
- 49. Turkish military leader
- 51. What _____, or of any kind
- 54. March Madness' eight
- 56. Convex molding
- 57. Flight destination
- 58. _____ Distinctive elegance
- 59. _____ Persian backgammon
- 60. Blunders
- 61. *Target viewer of an ABC Afterschool Special
- 62. Pelvic parts
- 63. Between ids and super-egos
- 64. J. J. _____, a Houston Texan
- 67. Beluga yield

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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thelowellledger.com

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the Lowell Planning Citizens Advisory Commission will hold a public hearing at a special meeting on Monday, April 10, 2017 at 7:00 pm., in the City Hall at 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan. The subject of the hearing will be: **Special Land Use amendment request for New Union Brewery, 400 W. Main Street.** New Union Brewing has applied for an amendment to its existing special land use permit to add a building on the subject property for the purpose of serving food for on-site consumption, in addition to the principal use of producing and selling beer. Because this is an amendment to an existing special land use, a public hearing, along with review and approval from the Planning Commission, is required.

Copies of documentation on the special land use request and the City's Zoning Ordinance are available for public viewing during regular business hours at Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan. Written Comments will be received until the night of the hearing.

If you are planning to attend this hearing and are handicapped requiring any special assistance, please notify the City Clerk by calling at (616) 897-8457 as soon as possible.

Susan Ullery
City Clerk

LEDGER OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 5 pm
Friday: 8 am - Noon
Closed Sat. & Sun.

P.O. Box 128
Lowell, MI 49331
897-9261

Julie Dykhouse

Behind The Scenes

Position:	Owner, Miss P's Catering
Residence:	Just outside of Lowell
Origin:	Near Columbus, Wis.
Education:	Forest Hills High School
Experience:	28 years in maintenance at St. Robert of Newminster church, Ada
Family:	1 husband, 3 children, 3 step-children, 2 grandchildren
Hobbies:	Working out, running, golf, excessive holiday decorating
Pets:	1 very friendly cat



From lunches to weddings, Miss P makes it delicious

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Julie Dykhouse is the owner of Miss P's Catering, acatering and event planning company in the Lowell area. Dykhouse started the company after she retired from decades of working for a church.

"I worked at St. Robert of Newminster church in Ada for 28 years doing just about everything," Dykhouse said. "I started out as the maintenance person, cleaning the church and what-not. As the church grew, so did my position. They knew I could cook and one day there was a funeral and nobody to cater the event. They decided, 'Let's pull the maintenance girl, she can cook.' I realized that I could cook for 300 people pretty easily. I like to cook for a lot of people more

than I like to cook for two people. My poor husband eats a lot of leftovers. Word of mouth grew, friends and family knew about me and people were like, 'I have this wedding, could you help?' That's how it all started. I thought I would do it for a living once I retired, but I'm more busy now than when I was working. The only thing I worry about is, as a caterer how fat am I going to get? My sister always says, 'Nobody likes a skinny caterer, Julie.'"

Miss P's catering is a family affair. Dykhouse learned her "home cooking" methods growing up as one of 11 children; her sister works closely with her and the company is named after her granddaughter.

"I have been cooking

most of my life, I like to do home cooking," Dykhouse said. "I have ten brothers and sisters and we all had to learn to do something. My mother taught me the basics of cooking and what-not and my interest kind of grew from there. My sister Rita is my right hand man. She helps me prep and I do all the cooking. The company is named after my granddaughter Payton. She is eight years old and we always call her 'Miss P.'"

She moved to this area as a teenager and was not happy about it at first.

"I am from Columbus, Wis., it's about a half hour from Madison," Dykhouse said. "You could actually take Columbus and Lowell, pick them up and interchange them and you wouldn't



notice. They're about the same size and everything else. My dad was born and raised there and I still have a ton of family there. Eight of my siblings still live in the area. We moved to Ada when I was 13 and my dad got a job offer. I went to Forest Hills High School and I hated it at first. I had an odd last name [Salzwedel], I let my mother cut my hair and my bangs were terrible, so they picked on me."

Dykhouse is a particular expert on weddings, having planned hundreds of them. They also do events like company picnics, open houses, funerals and baby showers.

"We can do almost any kind of event, but I've been a wedding planner for over 28 years," Dykhouse said. "I have done over 700 weddings. I coordinate about 30 weddings a year. When it's all come together and everything has gone how I told them it was going to go, the praise that

I get from my clients, those are the things that make it all worthwhile. Those are always the rewarding ones, especially when I do events. When the wedding is over and somebody comes to me and they say, 'I didn't worry about a thing, everything went smoothly.' That's what my job is, to make sure that you have no worries, concerns or cares that day."

She has several employees and Dykhouse said they are versatile and talented.

"I've got eight girls who are waitresses and bartenders and they work for me part time on the weekends," Dykhouse said. "We offer a bartending service at events if you want it for a party. I don't buy the alcohol, but my girls are all bartenders at restaurants."

Miss P's Catering offers home-cooked meals made from scratch with great care for the particular needs of each client.

"I'm not a gourmet by

any means, I specialize in home-cooked goodness," Dykhouse said. "People love my Swiss chicken, which is sautéed chicken served on a bed of stuffing with Swiss cheese and French fried onions on it, people love that. I do really good braised beef tips, pork tenderloin wrapped in bacon, pasta primavera with farfalle and roasted vegetables, baked ziti, chicken Alfredo, penne pasta with balsamic vinegar, that kind of stuff. It's a lot of comfort food. I also love to do different types of salad. I do a lot of things for youth groups and I'm very conscious of gluten-free and allergies so there is no cross contamination."

If you are interested in procuring some of the best event planning and catering available in the Lowell area, check out Miss P's website, misspscatering.com, call 616-437-2006 or email jdykhouse55@gmail.com