

library improvements



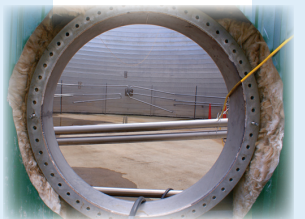
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Lowell's annual Memorial Day parade salutes and remembers our Veterans



Lowell VFW commander Herman Weststrate lays a tribute of flowers for the fallen.

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

On Monday, Veterans, soldiers and patriots gathered for Lowell's annual Memorial Day parade and observances.

Organized by volunteers from Lowell's American Legion Post #152, The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8303 and hosted by Dirk Ritzema, the parade portion of the event began at 10 am. Exiting Broadway to Main the processional was led by members of the military and accompanied by the patriotic musical styling of the Lowell High School and middle school bands. Also

taking part in the parade were local Boy Scout Troop 102, Lowell Area Girl Scouts, the Kent County Youth Fair royal court and members of the city council. The parade paused briefly along Main stopping at the Veterans Memorial to

Cemetery with those in attendance following along.

Ritzema welcomed guests and then turned the mic over to the Fusion Rock Band who played the National Anthem and to local Girl Scouts who recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

"Many brother and sister veterans have payed that ultimate price. We are here today to remember them in particular but also all veterans living and deceased. This is what Memorial Day is all about."

~ Dave Thompson

honor those soldiers who perished at sea and then continued on to Oakwood

In a touching flower ceremony members representing organizations throughout Lowell placed bouquets at the foot of the Civil War Monument in honor of those lost in all wars. Represented groups included Teresa Beachum from the Pink Arrow Pride, Lori Ingraham for Lowell Relay For Life, Lisa Plank for the Lowell Area Historical Museum and Carol McGregor for Gilda's Club.

Memorial Day parade, continued, page 9



Veterans were the focus during the parade.

Improvements to city airport may be in the works

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

There are tentative plans for some improvements to the Lowell City Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake. The airport currently has one paved runway and two turf runways, but the paved runway is damaged. Airport manager Casey Brown said that could change this year.

"We're spending a fair amount of money on capital improvements," Brown said. "We've been making numerous improvements over the year, cleaning things up and making lots of repairs. We have some big maintenance projects on the docket this year. We're having the runway cracks resealed in a partnership with MDOT where they provide some funding and



we provide some funding. That's for crack sealant and remarking the runways, putting down new runway lines and numbers."

The airport does not have access to any taxpayer money, so when the electricity bill comes or if they need to make any repairs or purchase

equipment, the airport has to come up with the cash themselves.

"We're a self-sustaining department of the city," Brown said. "We don't use any taxpayer revenue out here. All of our revenue is

Airport improvements, continued, page 2

King Milling continues to keep facilities current

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

King Milling Company, 115 S. Broadway, has been improving their facilities since the company started in 1890. When finished, the current construction project will add several new, large industrial buildings to their portfolio.

"To support milling capacity growth and to improve its grain handling facilities, the company is currently adding two, 400,000-bushel steel grain bins and a 7,000 bushel per hour grain dryer," said James M. Doyle, King Milling senior vice president. "The dryer will be used during the harvest period to dry wet wheat coming in from the field. The total capacity for drying wet wheat will increase to 11,000 bushels per hour up from 5,500 bushels per hour currently. This dryer will help growers and grain elevators get their trucks unloaded faster, especially during wet years. The two new grain bins will be 100 feet tall at the eave and 75 feet in diameter. For comparison, the two large, existing bins at the corner of Ottawa and Hudson streets are 60 feet to the eave and

King Milling facility, continued, page 4

Airport improvements, continued

generated by our tenants and any other methods that we can generate revenue with out here. We don't use the local city fund. We may use city services but we pay for those city services, so if we have some road grading done or things like that out here we may utilize some of the city labor and city equipment, but we pay out of our fund for that labor and equipment cost. We're an entity of the city. The city ultimately runs it. I'm the airport manager but I answer to the city manager. We are basically self-sufficient. We follow the city guidelines for safety, legality, insurance and all those things. We pay all that cost out of our airport fund. We don't impact any of the city taxpayers' general fund in any way. We've always operated that way. All of our operational costs, improvements and all of our physical capital costs are paid for out of our fund. But we're doing well, our cash flow is good."

Nearly all of their airplane hangars are full and the ones that aren't will probably be full soon. They also hired a mechanic recently.

"We have essentially every hangar [of 24] full and are looking at some possibilities for expansion a few years down the road," Brown said. "We have one or two vacancies right now with some people interested in becoming tenants. We have great activity there.

One guy is going to be arriving here in the next couple of weeks. We have a new mechanic, Jeff Bullis, on the field taking care of our aircraft. He's been in for about two months now. He is here part-time servicing our needs, focusing on annual inspections, aircraft maintenance and some aircraft restoration work. It's nice to have a person out here that can provide that service and support our local guys."

The airport is busiest in September when they have a special event that draws in pilots from all over the country.

"We do our annual fly in every year in September," Brown said. "We had a phenomenal turnout last September. We're planning a few smaller activities around that this year, a couple small, low key events. We've been having some discussion around the airport board about trying to come up with a few more ideas to invite the community out there to do a few things at the airport. We're looking for some opportunities there to make our presence a little bit more known in the community and try to figure out ways to show that when pilots come into the airport from out of town, they are purchasing things from our stores and eating at our restaurants."

Governor Snyder recently signed House Bill 4063, which makes "aiming a beam of directed energy

from a directed energy device at or into path of aircraft or moving train" a felony punishable by five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

"That has not had a big impact out here in Lowell, obviously," Brown said. "I haven't heard recently of too many instances, but I know it's kind of an ongoing problem. Shortly after 9/11 it was getting a lot more press than it seems to these days. I think it was a fad that died off. Now the activity may still be happening, we just don't hear about it in the media as much anymore. We've never had any accounted instances of anybody doing that to any of our pilots. I think making it a felony might be a little bit heavy if it's kids just being kids, doing what kids tend to do. Sometimes they don't think very clearly

before taking action. I think a felony may be a little steep in that circumstance. We were all kids once. Kids do things that are kind of silly. If there was no harm and they get caught I think a felony may be a little steep. But if it's truly malicious,

if somebody has malicious intent and it did cause a problem, I think whether it created an injury or not it could possibly qualify as a felony."

For more information about the airport call 616-897-5785, find them on

Facebook or head to airnav.com/airport/24C

"Lots of good volunteers out here," Brown said. "It's just a really nice group of down home guys out here just having fun flying airplanes and doing things like that."



along main street

MEIJER DOUBLE DAYS

Meijer Simply Give's double days are Fri., June 2 through Sat., June 3. This means for every \$10 Meijer Simply Give Card you purchase at the Lowell Meijer, Meijer will donate \$20 and turn your donation into \$30 for food programs at FROM.

FOOD COMMODITIES

Food Commodities provides for Kent County families at or below 200 percent federal poverty level or in need of food. If you or a family you know could use this assistance please have them stop by the food pantry June 8-9, Thurs. 9 am-11 am and 2-4:30 pm and Fri. 10 am - noon (no need to pre-register). Please call 897-8260 with any questions.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

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 orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries will be Wed., June 7 at 6 pm. Call 897-8260 for more information.

ART COUNCIL FUNDRAISER PLANNED

A fundraiser is being planned to raise money for LowellArts. The event will be held in June at the soon to open Big Boiler Brewing on Main Street. For every dollar donated, two will be matched by an anonymous donor up to \$50,000. Watch the Ledger for more information on this important happening.

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.

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Redstone Commercial Investments takes over biodigester to pretreat Litehouse wastewater

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The former LEAD biodigester at 625 Chatham is once again buzzing with activity. A company called Redstone Commercial Investments has taken over the facility and plan to use it to pretreat wastewater from Litehouse before sending it on to the municipal wastewater treatment system. This process should not cause any foul odors.

“Redstone is under contract with the creditor of the facility,” said Ross Pope, owner of Redstone Commercial Investments. “I do a lot of creditor work. I’ve been engaged since January, when the other management team was removed, to start figuring out and analyzing the problems, which we’ve done. I formed an entity specifically for this project called AWES, Advanced Water and Energy Solutions. We formed it to solve the pretreatment side of this thing.”

AWES has hired an experienced team to figure out the cleanest, most efficient method of pretreating the wastewater from Litehouse.

“We’ve worked through the problems and now we have solutions,” Pope said. “We brought in professionals from around the country who are familiar with doing this type of work. They are going to work with

us specifically on putting together the proposal to begin operation again sometime this summer, hopefully.”

Part of the biodigester construction included a pipe that took wastewater directly from Litehouse to the biodigester. Since the biodigester closed, Litehouse has gone back to hauling their wastewater to Muskegon in several semi truck trips each day and dumping it into that city’s municipal wastewater treatment system.

“Litehouse’s growth has been extraordinary,” Pope said. “That directly results in the industrial waste increasing proportionally. It’s not a simple process. You’ve got an almost \$7 million facility here that’s been set up to handle it. The problems that occurred were that Litehouse has grown so much beyond the original design capacity, coupled with some treatment failures that caused it to go sideways for a bit. It was a combination of things, nothing major that’s not solvable. Litehouse’s wastewater is a difficult problem. It’s not a consistent flow of the same thing. We’re going to spend another \$500,000 to right-size it and engineeringly resolve the issues. The treatment of Litehouse’s waste is not easy because of its variability and the high

level of organics. It’s always different based on the products they’re producing and there is a lot of organic material in it that is different than you get with any other kind of wastewater, like city water or sanitary sewer. For example, they use a lot of different oils in their dressings. Those organics can’t be put out into the city system because they’re not set up to handle it. It’s also going to have to handle a lot more capacity than was originally conceived. I think what they had going on here was they were trying to manipulate the waste to make it work for the biodigester to create the gas to fulfill the agreement between LEAD and the city and LEAD and Lowell Light & Power. We’re focused right now on making the wastewater pretreatment side work, which is a large part of what was causing the odor and the malfunction here. It’s not that complicated to make right once you have the right components in place. It would be sort of foolish to take millions of dollars and just flush it for something that’s easily fixable.”

Pope said they are installing a carbon filter that will capture any foul odors generated by the facility.

“My directive is to make sure that we make this operate that is acceptable to

the community,” Pope said. “We’re not going to have any more upset neighbors with their home values in jeopardy because they have a noxious odor coming in their windows when they’re open.”

There are currently no plans in place to use the facility to create electricity again.

“We haven’t dug into the biodigester, we’re not looking at that,” Pope

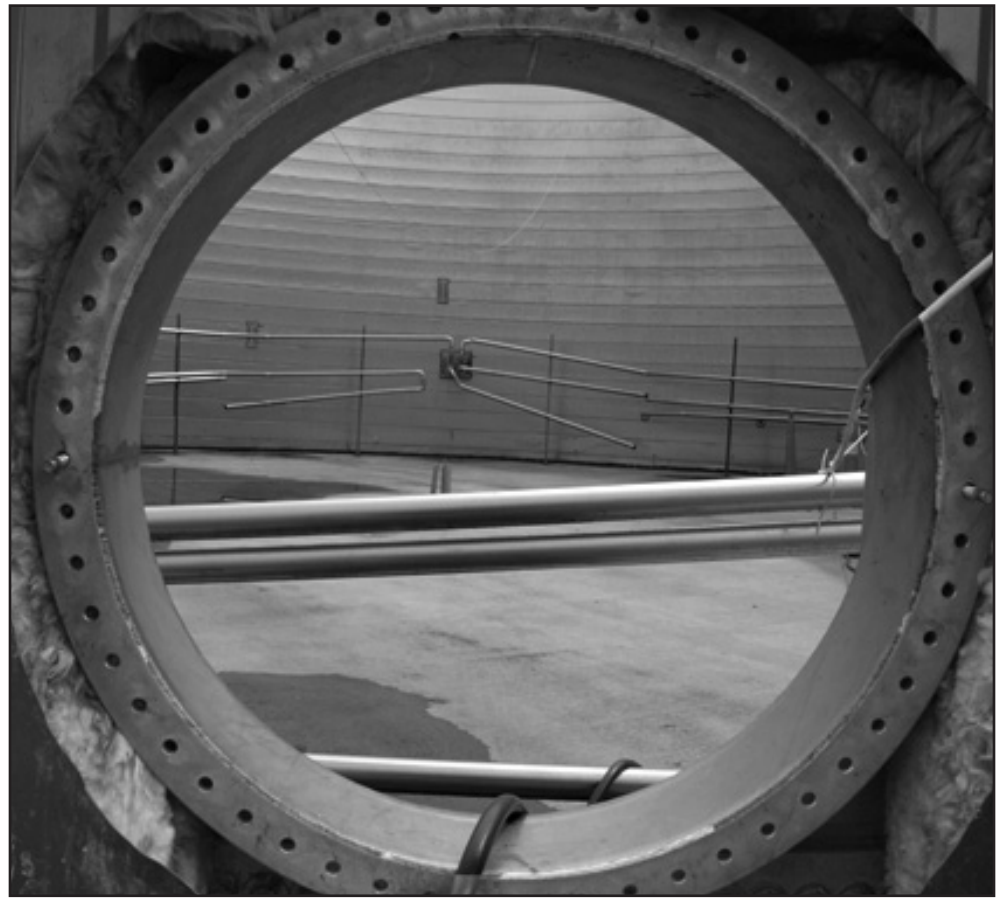
said. “We’ll investigate the biodigester at some point down the road, but it’s not a priority. We haven’t even looked into the analysis of that yet.”

Pope and AWES are working on a plan that is acceptable to both the city and to Litehouse.

“We’ll be making up a proposal to both the city and to Litehouse in the near future to start handling that waste again and we should

be ready to operate in late summer,” Pope said. “A lot of people can benefit from getting this straightened out. [It would be] a huge benefit for the city, a huge benefit for Litehouse, a huge benefit for this facility and these assets. It will make a lot of people happy.”

For more information and to keep updated on their progress, check the AWES website, awes-us.com



The infamous big, green biodigester tank is now clean and empty inside.

college news

Hope College has announced the dean’s list for the spring semester of the 2016-17 school year. To be named to the dean’s list, a student must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Following are local students on the dean’s list, of Ada: Kyle Ross, Julia Toren, Sally Van Beek, and Kate Zwiers; of Alto: Riley DeWitt, Mikayla Freyling, Brooke

Hubbel, Zachary Pieri, and Jacob VanderVeen; and of Lowell: Elizabeth Pniewski, Katherine Pniewski, and Amanda Susnak.

Kallie Holzhueter, of Lowell, has been awarded the Excellence in a Discipline award at the Master’s level for instruction and curriculum from Grand Valley State University. Holzhueter is the daughter of Kurt and Donna

Holzhueter and is a graduate of Lowell High School.

The Excellence in a Discipline award honors one student from each undergraduate and graduate discipline. Faculty from each department select the recipient based upon an earned minimum number of credit hours at an exceptional grade point average.



At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

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April LPD statistics

According to recently released statistics, Lowell police department made 26 arrests during April. These arrests included six drug law violations, one alcohol law violation, three for driving with a suspended license, seven for outstanding warrants and nine that are described in the police department’s information as

“other arrests.” That adds up to a total of 95 arrests in Lowell during the first four months of the year.

Lowell police also responded to plenty of misdemeanors during April. There were two larceny calls, two calls for malicious destruction, two disorderly conduct calls, two breaking and entering calls, four dog

complaints and four assaults. Lowell police issued 50 citations and notified seven residents about ordinance violations. They were called to “assist” 50 times and were dispatched to 12 accidents. Out of 186 traffic stops, they let 159 drivers go with just a warning.

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King Milling facility, continued

105 feet in diameter. The added storage capacity will provide more Michigan wheat growers a place for their crop as well as accommodate increasing wheat yields. Michigan growers are the most productive wheat growers in the US with a record yield of 89 bushels per acre in 2016. The company is also increasing its wheat handling capacity such that it can move wheat to its mills at 10,000 bushels per hour up from 3,000 bushels per hour now. A bushel is equal to 60 pounds of wheat."

The new buildings are the latest part of a spurt of construction activity at the mill during the past few years.

"Now in its 127th year in business, King Milling Company has grown considerably, especially in recent years," Doyle said. "In 2012, [King Milling] erected a mill-feed loadout structure that stores 20 truckloads and can load out a bulk truckload of its milling by-product in 15 minutes. In 2013, the company completed a second flour mill referred to as the 'B mill.' This mill has a daily capacity of 5,000 hundredweights of flour in 24 hours."

The King Milling Company has a long history, starting in 1890 when Francis King, Frank T. King, Charles McCarty and Reuben Quick bought the Superior Mill for \$20,000. In 1896 they absorbed another



local company, Forrest Mills. They immediately started improving the milling facilities, converting to the then-new steel roller mill process, which vastly improved efficiency. Francis King was president of the company until he died in 1900. His son, Frank T. King, then took over as president. In 1911 Thomas Doyle bought Charles McCarty's shares in the company. King Milling purchased the Peckham Furniture Company in

1927 and converted it to a poultry and livestock feed manufacturing facility. They put Frank's son William Doyle in charge of this venture. When Frank T. King died in 1934, Charles Doyle took over as company president. Unfortunately, Charles was paralyzed by a severe stroke in 1936. While Charles retained the title until his death in 1943, his brother William Doyle, began acting as company president at that time.

King Milling enormously increased the volume of their business during William Doyle's time in charge and were able to make many large improvements to their facilities. They built new flumes, new water turbines and two concrete dams across the Flat River that are still used today. On March 7, 1943, the mill burned to the ground. The mill and thousands of bushels of wheat were a total loss. The brand new mill opened in April 1945; ten days later company president William Doyle died of a heart attack while on a business trip to Chicago. His son King Doyle became the new president of King Milling. When he died in 1995, his son Brian Doyle took over as company president.

"King Milling Company has long followed a policy of investing in its business," Doyle said. "This has been good for the longevity of the business, its employees, the agricultural community that supplies the mill and for the Lowell area in general."



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viewpoint

to the editor

matthew 22:40

Dear Editor,

Thomas Jefferson authored the “separation of church and state” in order to explain the founding father’s intent regarding the “Establishment Clause” of our Constitution. Let us remember that this nation was founded by immigrants escaping the religious wars and persecutions of Europe. It was a nation born of the Enlightenment.

There is a reason the words of Emma Lazarus are inscribed on the Statue of Liberty. “Give me your tired, your poor” continues to be our nation’s symbol of hope for all humankind.

Jack Misner
Vergennes

outdoors

camp site comfort

Dave Stegehuis

Memorial Day weekend signals the beginning of the camping season in Michigan. Labor Day brackets the other end of the season for the majority of campers. Good weather and vacation schedules draw campers to destinations all around the state.

There are hundreds of private campgrounds found near popular tourist venues. Federal, state, county, township, and city parks offer camping opportunities usually on waterfront. Some campgrounds may provide all of the amenities like a game room and a pool, while others offer rustic settings which may only be a cleared space in the woods.

Camping styles have changed over the years, but the enjoyment of spending time with friends and family in the great outdoors has endured the distractions

of modern lifestyle. There are a number of choices when selecting camping equipment. Seeking advice from experienced campers can provide valuable information for newcomers.

Surprisingly, tent camping seems to be making a comeback. When I was very young everyone tented, because that is all there was at the time. Now there are more choices, but people still tent because it is fun. Also, equipment is reasonably priced, easy to transport, and convenient to store off season.

Popup camping trailers can be pulled by smaller vehicles and still provide appliances for keeping and cooking food and heat for comfortable cool weather camping. Travel trailers are larger and can offer all the conveniences of home. These units are generally

pulled by a larger vehicle depending on the size of the trailer. Currently, travel trailers seem to be the most popular. Fifth wheel trailers tend to be larger, heavier, and do require a more robust vehicle and a special hitch assembly. Pick-up campers require a truck big enough to safely carry the unit. Pick-up campers allow one to pull a trailer loaded with whatever makes you happy. Motor homes have all of the amenities in one unit. Park it, turn off the engine and you’re home.

All of these units have advantages and

disadvantages depending on the intended use. Thoroughly discussing the pros and cons of each one of these options would take some time. The unit selected will most likely be a compromise for most campers. If one is new to camping it is wise to thoroughly research each option to determine the best choice. Keep in mind when and where you will be camping, as well as who is going and what activities will happen on arrival. Dealing with recreational equipment can be interesting and fun, just look at it as part of the experience.

the lowell ledger

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125 years ago Lowell Journal June 3, 1891

Some one’s dogs are making great havoc among sheep through this section. There have been 22 killed and damaged since Friday morning. They made a clean sweep of Dan Bryant’s flock on Sunday night last.

Kisor & Ayers, our popular Marble men, have just closed a contract for beautiful Red Granite Monument to be placed at the grave of John F. Cilley. In this sale there were several other firms competing with them, but they secured the contract on the first and only price they made.

In a circuit of eight miles in our town four fine houses are in building, four barns, all with basements, Mr Wright’s fruit dryer, besides several additions to barns, etc.

There will be a meeting of the P. of L. next Friday evening at the Hall in place of Saturday evening, as there is some business to be transacted before the County Union which will meet next Saturday at the brick school house west of Lowell.

Mr. W. R. Mason and son Jay, have set over 9000 raspberry plants, and 1000 blueberry plants this spring.

P. W. McPherson has bought 120 acres of the Alex McLean farm. There are ninety yet left unsold.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 31, 1917

If Mr. Edison were not so busy with the submarine problem we should write and ask him if he couldn’t devise some way of arranging congress as the honest farmer does his potatoes—so that the larger ones would always be on top.—[Columbus. O. Journal. But useless congressmen, like empty wagons, make the most noise. So the everlasting talk goes on, while all the world suffers.

An Englishman of note says that the cost of living in the United States is double that in England, after the latter country has been three years in the great war. String the rascals up high.

Skin ‘em alive was a good slogan for the food gambler, while it worked; but now another hide beside that of Old Man Consumer is due to hang on the fence; and oh, how we would like to help tan it!

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 4, 1942

Decoration Day exercises in Lowell last Saturday were carried out in a manner befitting the occasion and in accordance with the prepared program. The parade, headed by colors and the band, marched to Oakwood cemetery where the graves of our soldiers were decorated. The address of the day was given by the Rev. R. C. Warland, pastor of the Church of The Nazarene, and was well received by an attentive audience. The speaker reviewed Memorials from Gettysburg to the present and gave very enlightening thoughts on present day situations. Many visitors

We love to hear from you!

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Wirgau



Ellis Johnathan Wirgau

Andrea (Richmond) and Dustin Wirgau, of Lowell, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Ellis Johnathan Wirgau. Ellis was born Sunday, March 26, 2017, weighing 8 lbs., 6 oz. He joins his older siblings, Gabriel Jerrold, Nora Rose and Kaitlin Ann. Ellis is the fifth grandchild of Barb and Johnathan Wirgau of Posen and twenty-fourth grandchild of the late Diane and Jerrold Richmond, of Lowell.

business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Ryan Hesche received Sales Associate of the Month in May. This award recognizes Hesche for his outstanding success and achievements.



Ryan Hesche

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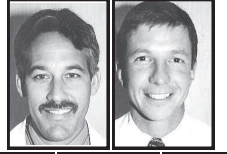
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health



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

excessive sweating

The palms of your hands, soles of your feet and your under arm areas have more sweat glands than any other part of your body. Some people tend to sweat a lot in these areas. This problem is common and can be very embarrassing. Excessive sweating is rarely caused by a disease. The problem tends to begin in childhood. It often runs in the family. Sweating becomes worse with emotions and stress. It does not happen when you're asleep. The palms of your hands, soles of your feet and your under arm areas have more sweat glands than any other part of your body. Some people tend to sweat a lot in these areas. This problem is common and can be very embarrassing. Excessive sweating is rarely caused by a disease. The problem tends to begin in childhood. It often runs in the family. Sweating becomes worse with emotions and stress. It does not happen when you're asleep. The treatment depends on how much you sweat, how much the sweating interferes with your daily activities, and to what lengths you'll go to get relief. Several treatments are available. The most common treatment is the application of an aluminum chloride solution called Drysol. This can be applied to the skin before bedtime and then washed off in the morning. Tap water iontophoresis is a second method of treatment in which electrically charged water is applied to the skin. In several cases botulism toxin (also known as Botox) can be injected into the skin to provide relief for up to six months. And finally, as a last resort for the most severe cases, surgery can be performed to cut the nerves responsible for sweating. Any of the above treatments can have side effects. It is important that you discuss these risks with your health-care provider prior to starting any treatment.

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Changes underway at the Englehardt Library

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

There are a lot of changes underway at the Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe. The new granite chess board was covered in the Lowell Ledger last week and they also plan to put in a reading deck, expand their wireless internet coverage area and remodel the entrance.

“We are going to be having a reading deck,” said branch manager Heather Wood-Gramza. “It’s near completion. They’re putting the fascia on it as well as finishing up the accessibility ramp.”

The deck was paid for and built by the Lowell Rotary.

“The Lowell Rotary club sponsored this,” Wood-Gramza said. “They paid \$10,000, a significant gift. The city helped out with the excavation and the city received a Lowell Area Community Foundation grant to help out with the architectural stamp and the landscaping. What makes this really special is that Rotary didn’t just write a check, Rotarians have been building it,” Wood-Gramza said. “There is a Rotarian named John Sterly and he is a builder by trade. He has been guiding everyone through this process. That deck is so well-built, it is not going anywhere. What makes this really special is, a lot of organizations can write checks and that is

great. Funding projects that we might not otherwise be able to fund is awesome. I think it speaks highly of the group that they put a lot of sweat equity and a lot of hours into this. And they still are, they’re still finishing up. Once it’s completed it’s going to be fully accessible. The Friends of the Englehardt Library have provided funding for the furniture that’s going onto the deck.”

“This will be a really great place for people to enjoy the wonderful Riverwalk area.”

~ Heather Wood-Gramza

Soon you’ll be able to get free WiFi simply by standing near the library.

“We’re working on expanding our wireless signal so that people can access free wireless even when we’re not open,” Wood-Gramza said. “Right now people can access the Kent District Library’s free WiFi outside of the building when we’re closed, but you have to be really close to the building in order to get that WiFi signal. Right now I’m working toward getting that signal amplified so that it will not only go into that area from the deck and beyond, but to get another access point that will cover

the lawn where most people sit during the Summer Concert Series.”

The entrance is about to get a facelift and a special garden is also going in.

“Pretty soon you’re going to notice the front entrance area is being transformed,” Wood-Gramza said. “Recently we did a groundbreaking in the front entrance area of what will be known as the Friends of the Library reading and

chess garden. In the next couple weeks you’re going to see new paving stones that will extend from the flagpole to our front area. We’re going to have a wider bricked area to kind of open up the entrance space because that can get kind of clogged. Eventually we’ll have plants, benches and other amenities so that people can enjoy that outdoor area as well. That’s being headed up by the Friends of the Library and the Lowell Middle School chess club has donated the chess table and benches.”

For more information about Englehardt Library programs and events, visit

their website, kdl.org/location/englehardt-branch or call 616-784-2007.

“This will be a really

great place for people to enjoy the wonderful Riverwalk area,” Wood-Gramza said. “I’m sure

it will be a hit during the Summer Concert Series. There are a lot of exciting things happening here.”



Murray Lake Elementary Staff Members of the Month

These ladies are both such a gift to Murray Lake Elementary. They work incredibly hard to ensure our students are getting the best support in reading everyday. They approach every situation with a positive attitude and always go above and beyond for our students.

“These two deserve this! Congrats,” said Molly Burnett, principal.

“Smiles, laughter and stories are why I love working with the children at MLE. The most rewarding part of my job is seeing the students’ reading skills improve. I feel fortunate to be part of the Murray Lake team,” commented Sue Wernet.

“I love working as a reading support interventionist. Reading is my passion and I’m grateful

for the opportunity every day to share my love of books and reading with these kids. Seeing the students with whom I work make progress throughout the year as their skills improve is very gratifying. It certainly is a privilege to be partners with the dedicated and compassionate teachers at Murray Lake Elementary,” said Janet Fabis.



Sue Wernet., at left and Janet Fabis, above, love working with students.

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Local business owner publishes a collection of humorous short stories based on “mostly” true adventures

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Local business owner Cliff Yankovich has written a new book, “Otter Was a Beagle-ish Dog,” published by Schuler Books Chapbook Press. The book is a series of short stories that describe, in hilarious, irreverent detail, various true adventures from Yankovich’s life, including a teenage motorcycle trip and his battle with throat cancer. Yankovich and his wife Julie Claire DeVoe own Chimera Design, the custom jewelry store in downtown Lowell at 208 E. Main.

“It’s a compilation of small stories that I threw together into a book,” Yankovich said. “I put Otter [the dog] on the cover because our dog is way more popular than Julie or

I. People used to come into the store just to see Otter. After she passed away last Halloween, people kept coming in to see her anyway.”

Yankovich has spent decades on his writing, for several different publications and for his blog cliffsriffs.blogspot.com

“I’ve been freelance writing since the 80s,” Yankovich said. “The first publication that gave me a shot was Grand Rapids Magazine. This was when they were just getting off the ground. I think the first piece of mine they published was, I wrote about a go-kart track out south of Grand Rapids. You could go out there and rent go-karts. In the early 2,000s

I had a regular column in a small, weekly newspaper on the east side of the state called ‘The View.’ I wrote a couple columns that really honked people off. In one of them I was encouraging people not to talk on their cell phones while they drove. Anybody that knows me knows my current thing is don’t text while you’re driving. And then the worst piece, or the best piece, was when I was writing about people who sold candy for their Girl Scouts or other activities that their children were in. I was taking the standpoint that if the kids are selling candy, let the kids sell candy. Anytime a kid comes through my door he’s pretty much guaranteed a sale, but when mom or dad come in on behalf of the kid, come on! When I was a lad I earned my way to YMCA camp selling peanuts. My mom didn’t take the cans of peanuts around, she wasn’t going to camp, I was. I schlepped them door-to-door. I got published in a few alternative weekly magazines, one in New York City and one in Texas. I was a fairly regular contributor to Advance Newspapers. When I first started writing for them they had like 13 editions and the editions of the paper would be 40-50 pages. My little niche was I would write about kids in high school sports and I would try to find the kids that weren’t getting any press. My most memorable

subject, and I can’t recall his name at this point, he went to one of the high schools, he was on the track team every year for four years, showed up at every practice, gave everything he had and was never good enough to compete in a meet. Those were the kind of kids that I liked to write about. Not that there was anything wrong with the star quarterback and that kind of thing, but those guys had tons of press. I would look for the young men and women that didn’t get any. It was fun. And I’ve been blogging all the time ever since I found out that you could express yourself for nothing on the Internet.”

The book contains Kerouac-style road trip stories, as well as the story of his fight with throat cancer.

“My hope is that maybe my story would help somebody laugh a little bit through it and see that there’s a light at the end of the tunnel that ain’t necessarily a train,” Yankovich said. “A big part of my motivation and a bigger part of the book is the cancer deal. I hate the phrase ‘cancer journey.’ I refer to it as ‘cancer boot camp.’ I don’t recommend it. In the last chapter I have four things to do if you got diagnosed with throat cancer. Probably the biggest helpful piece of that, if somebody has to go through what I went through, I tell them to get their feeding tube installed before the



whole thing begins. I had the totally wrong view of a feeding tube. In my mind that was something you gave to somebody that was on their way out. The other thing I have to say in my own defense, at the cancer center they sort of used the feeding tube as a stick. ‘If you don’t keep eating, if you don’t take in enough calories, we’re going to put in a feeding tube.’ The person that convinced me to finally get one, the second time I went in for chemo she said, ‘Why don’t you have a feeding tube?’ I said, ‘No, well I, blah blah blah, I think that’s for people,’ she said, ‘No, honey, you’ve got it all backwards. The feeding tube is what will keep you alive. If you were my brother or my father and you were going through this I would have told you to get the feeding tube installed before anything started.’ I sort of adopted her mantra and actually I’ve shared that with a couple of local people who were going through throat cancer.”

The book includes a lot of information and advice that could be helpful to those dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

“One of the things that really helped me coming out of my cancer experience was getting into breathing and meditation,” Yankovich said. “As you can imagine, there is a lot of anxiety that goes along with cancer. And even after you’re done, that’s the stupid thing, there’s all kinds of survivor’s guilt and all kinds of ‘Why me?’ I wasn’t a smoker and I didn’t live a lifestyle that would indicate someone getting throat cancer. They really couldn’t give me a cause. That kind of stuff drives

you crazy. A doctor got me started with breathing and simple meditation, then one thing led to another. I found the Hay House online [hayhouse.com]. They have a lot of that type of teaching and online instructional videos and things for free. That was another thing that I wish I had known at the beginning rather than at the end of my cancer camp. The whole meditation, breathing and that type of thing lowers your anxiety level way down and it was way up. That’s the thing about cancer, it’s stressful on a whole lot of different fronts. Financially, physically, it just messes you up.”

Yankovich is healthy, cancer-free and already working on his next book.

“It’s been three years and I’m doing good, kicking butt and taking names,” Yankovich said. “I’ve had so much fun with this book that I have the genesis for a second one in mind. It’s continuing on my favorite theme of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. There are a couple of Lowell people that have agreed to let me tell their story. I’m also going to get some collaboration on this one. It should be fun.”

You can get a copy of “Otter Was a Beagle-ish Dog” at Chimera Design or on the Schuler Books website.

“Here at the store, every day is book signing day,” Yankovich said. “If someone is good enough to buy my book, I’ll autograph it. It’s on our website and it should be on Schuler’s website shortly. Every time I sell ten books, I’m donating one to either Gilda’s Club or the cancer center that I went through.”

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Memorial Day parade, continued

Ritzema then thanked those who made the day possible, “Cemetery sexton Don DeJong and his crew, the three musical groups from the Lowell schools, Boy Scout Troop 102 for putting the flags along Main Street and in the cemetery, the American Legion and VFW color guard and Honor Rifle Squad, Bob Rice who is playing Taps today and all veterans, young and old, thank you for being here.”

Keynote speakers Jan and Dave Thompson took to the podium, each sharing their own stories of experiences during World War II. Avid community supporter Jan began, telling the story of her father being drafted to the war at the age of 34. “My dad was gone

for four years. My mother took a job to make it easier for us while dad was gone but she always found time to do whatever she could for the war effort. She met with other women to roll bandages for the wounded servicemen, she taught special classes of first aid in case we were bombed or attacked in any way. I think often that’s where I got my love for volunteering.”

She then talked about other work and sacrifices made by those left home during the war, including dealing with rationing, the collection of scrap metal and purchase of savings bonds to fund the war and preparation for what seemed like pending attacks before closing, “On this Memorial

Day 2017, I say God bless America and God bless all of us too.”

Her fellow keynote speaker was her husband Dave Thompson, who saw the war begin at nine years old, long before his 21 years of Naval service. “The war started with a great imagination. I became in my own secret world a super agent that was hunting out the enemy in the dark corners of Grand Rapids wearing my dad’s air raid steel helmet and wearing his gas mask while he was out to work.”

The former Memorial Day event organizer went on to speak of the jubilant celebration in his nearby hometown at the close of the war and his own time in

the military taking time to focus on those lost. “Many brother and sister veterans have payed that ultimate price. We are here today to remember them in particular but also all veterans living and deceased. This is what Memorial Day is all about.”

After sharing more stories from the past Dave closed out his time on the microphone with a very current message for those in attendance.

“Veterans, we thank each of you for being here this morning but we urge you to keep a vigilant eye on the horizon. We are living in a world today that at times is looking a bit unstable. For this great nation to survive - and we will - we all need to remain alert.”

Life Scout Ivan Reynolds had the honor of ringing the bell at the ceremony striking it once for each veteran lost over the past year while host Ritzema read the names. The day of events were completed with a rifle salute and the playing of Taps.



A local Boy Scout rings the bell in honor of veterans passed in last year.



Memorial Day event coordinator Dirk Ritzema at the podium.



Jan and Dave Thompson address those in attendance.



Lowell city councilmembers, Greg Canfield and Jim Hodges, mayor Mike DeVore and city manager Mike Burns.



Soldiers fire their weapons over the Flat River in honor of those lost at the sea.

Red Arrow

- LACROSSE

SPORTS

Arrows wrap up season with 8-6 loss to East

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

First-year girls varsity lacrosse coach Jesse Vasquez said he is extremely proud of the progress accomplished by the 8-6 Lady Arrows who wrapped up their season in a loss to perennial force East Grand Rapids High School in the regional round of playoffs.

"It was a great experience for us. We played one of the best teams in the state and it showed us how good we have to be to compete at that level," said Vasquez, of the postseason match up with the Pioneers. "For us, we want to get there, we want to be one of the best teams in the state. Playing East and seeing the level you have to play at really helped us and brought insight on what we have to do moving forward."

Senior powerhouses, Sela Bauman and Laurel Frederickson, who will both sign for the sport next year in college, were big playmakers in the game. Bauman netted the team's two goals and Frederickson stopped 12 shots on goal. They are among the group of eight seniors graduating this spring that have changed the face of the sport at Lowell High School. According to Vasquez, "These seniors

have changed the program forever. This program will never be the same and it's because of the eight seniors."

Those seniors exit with a winning 5-3 conference record as well, good for a third-place finish in a very competitive conference, an accomplishment Vasquez said he feels sets the pace for future seasons. "For us it's been about changing the culture of the program and also being able to compete now. I love what we were able to do this season. We competed at a high level, regardless what the score was, these young ladies just battled and played hard every minute."

Earning recognition for that level of play this season were Frederickson, fellow senior Tiana Petricevic and standout sophomore Ella Dougherty, who were each selected as all-conference players. Bauman and junior Nikki Paulus were named to the honorable mention list. Frederickson and Dougherty were also selected as all-state honorable mention.

Underclassman Dougherty is one of 13 returning players next season expected to lead. "Ella Dougherty, Nichole Anheuser and Skylar Young

will be the ladies who we are looking at for big impact on the field and off the field as well. Jennifer Cooper and Nikki Paulus will be kids we look at for an impact on the offense end of the field," explained Vasquez. "We are losing one of our better defensive players, so we are

looking at Ava Frederickson and Ellie Sandman to have a bigger roll on defense for us. We need all 13 kids to continue to get better and improve their skills for us to continue to be successful."

A novice to coaching lacrosse, Vasquez said he has learned many things over

the course of the season that he will utilize in his second go at a conference title next year. "We have to become more physical. Practice has to be more intense, we have to bring more of a physical presence to the game. Of course, be better in the little

things, catching the ball on the move, cradling better and overall having a better understanding of the game. We had a great year but the future of this program is unbelievable and the sky is the limit for the lady lacrosse program."



Seniors: Makenzie Daly, Maya Williams, Tiana Petricevic, Hana Steinebach, Laurel Frederickson, Sela Bauman, Shannon Hoekstra and Lucy Wade.

- CREW

Crew grabs fifth and 2-sixth place in state regatta

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Despite overcast skies and driving rain, the co-ed Lowell crew team loaded into the Grand River off Riverside Park in Grand Rapids for the Scholastic Rowing Association of Michigan State Championship regatta two week ago, exiting the water with one fifth- and two sixth-place finishes.

Placing best for the Red Arrows in the opening heat races was the varsity two-woman team who placed second with a time of 7:21.73; Steven Tripp in the varsity singles clocking a 7:02.73 good for fourth place; Sydney Riffle who placed third in the varsity singles with a time of 8:21.48; the two-man boat team, which placed second in their heat with a time of 6:16; and the eight man boat team who came in sixth with a heat time of 5:28.79.

Earning the three top state finishes for the rowers in the finals round were the two-woman boat team who placed sixth overall with a time of 7:20; Logan VanderMeulen in varsity singles who matched that sixth-place finish recording a time of 7:18.47; and top finisher Riffle who placed fifth in singles action clocking an 8:21.24.

The Arrows next took a rare international trip this past weekend to compete in exhibition action above the northern border in Canada to complete the season. The crew team graduates six seniors this season, including top finishers, VanderMeulen and Tripp, as well as Devon Siciliano, Noah Hawkins, Shawn Barr and Nathan Hawkins.



Red Arrows on the Grand River in state competition in Grand Rapids. Photo submitted by Justin Scott



Sports Summaries, continued on page 14

Red Arrow

-SOFTBALL

SPORTS

Girls clinch OK White championship after 14-2 season

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

For only the fourth time in school history, the Lowell Red Arrow varsity softball team clinched an OK White conference championship last week with a clean sweep over the Greenville Yellow Jackets capping off a tremendous 14-2 league season.

The senior-free team started the season off with a five game winning streak and continued to put together victory runs accumulating an overall winning record of 25-11-0. Their two conference losses came at the hands of Northview who topped the Arrows 9-3 and Forest Hills Central who managed just one more run for a 10-9 victory. The rest of their conference season was dominated with wide margin wins driven up by big hitters. Their pitching talent has been added to their force finding the strike zone and keeping it there.

The series with Greenville was a fine example of the teams strength this season starting with a doubleheader in Greenville on Monday where the team nabbed the two wins needed to claim the OK White title outright. In game one the Arrows shut out the Yellow Jackets with sophomore Emily Depew

on the mound 12-0. Depew struck out six batters and produced three hits. Fellow sophomore Maddi Jordan and junior Kenzie North had a successful game at the plate, North leading the charge with a four for four performance. The win ensured the Arrows a share of the conference crown.

Winning game two by the same score, 12-0, the Arrows saw the same three faces rise up with North going three for three, including two doubles and Jordan and Depew adding three hits apiece. Depew once again claimed the pitching win striking out eight. She has struck out more than 200 from the mound this season. "Emily is a fierce competitor and a warrior. She has pitched a lot of innings for us. This year she has really developed a rise ball. With her velocity and the fact that she can spin it up or drop it down, makes her tough," said head coach Bill McElroy.

The second shutout sealed the OK title for the Lady Arrows, a moment they celebrated with sheer joy according to McElroy, "They were pumped. It was very enjoyable. After watching these kids work so hard all year, it was great to

see them accomplish one of their goals."

Finishing up the series Wednesday at home, the girls completed their sweep with a 12-2 victory that saw Depew nail a home run and strike out nine en route to the win. Sophomore Corah Miller, Depew, freshman Kaia Zimmerman and

Kenzie Jordan sent out two hits each in a big day at the plate. The 16 hit offensive effort was led by three hits apiece from M. Jordan and North who had a big impact on the series, "Kenzie has had a great season. She does a nice job of getting the bat on the ball," said McElroy of the slugger. "As our

number three hitter, her job is to drive in runs and get on base. She is the team leader in RBIs and is batting over .400. We talk a lot about on base percentage. Kenzie has done well in that area also with a .456 on base percentage."

The team held their final exhibition game Tuesday on

the road at Byron Center. This weekend at Rockford High School, the Arrows will face Greenville once again in the semifinals at 10 am. With a win, the ladies will compete in the same location for the district title at 2 pm.



The OK White champion Lowell Red Arrow varsity softball team after their title win.

- BASEBALL

Arrow baseball finishes third in conference

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Red Arrow varsity baseball squashed the Yellow Jackets of Greenville last week sweeping a three game series with the OK White rival that pushed the team to an 11-7 third-place conference finish.

Games one and two of the trio of meetings were held back-to-back in Greenville Monday night. Excellent pitching from seniors Sterling Anderson and Jake Wosinski, combined with runs driven in by Anderson, junior Connor Douma and senior Jarrod Melle, added up to a 3-1 Lowell victory in game one. Anderson and

Wosinski racked up thirteen strikeouts on the mound led by Anderson who tallied eleven in his six innings. The game was decided in a forced eighth inning after remaining tied at one for four. The two run comeback was fueled by a single from C. Douma and a double from Melle.

University of Connecticut bound Melle made a big impact for the Arrows again in game two, this time tossing a 5-0 shutout from the hill. He threw for all seven innings of the game allowing only three hits, walking zero



and striking out ten in an impressive performance. Lowell offense was led by senior Jack Malone in the third when he doubled scoring junior Garrett Pratt. Melle backed that up with a double, plating junior Brady Douma who singled and Malone. The team's other two runs were scored on singles from Melle and Pratt in the fifth and sixth inning respectively.

A quick lead grab in game three in Lowell on Wednesday, kept the game out of reach for Greenville who eventually fell to the Red Arrows 4-3. A sacrifice fly from senior Cooper Perry, a single from Melle

and a double from Malone in the first gave the Arrows an early 3-0 lead. Malone doubled for the fourth score in the third and was the leading batter going a perfect three for three at the plate. Melle and Anderson collected multiple hits in the win. Perry claimed the win at pitcher staying on the mound for all seven innings while striking out six.

The team ventured to East Grand Rapids High School last weekend to participate in the annual Gerken Tournament before opening their postseason district run at Northview High School Tuesday.

Junior Austin Whaley waits out a good pitch at the plate in the sweep over Greenville.

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obituaries

GRUMMET

Lila Lee Grummet, age 80 of Alto, passed away Monday, May 22, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert; and brother, Steven Green.

She is survived by her children, Bob J. (Becky) Grummet, Bill (Carol) Grummet, Marilee (Mark) Trierweiler, Joe (Laurie Wenzel) Grummet; sister Linda (Denny) Hawk; 13 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and good friend, Pat Thomet. Lila Lee loved spending time with family



and traveling. She was also an avid sportswoman, enjoying hunting and fishing. She was active in the Alto community as a member of the Alto Development Association, Head of the Alto United Methodist Church Administrative Board, and President of the United Methodist Women. Services were held Thursday, May 25 at Alto United Methodist Church. Rev. Robert Wright officiated. Interment Bowne Center Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Alto United Methodist Church; Shriner's Hospitals for Children Burn Care Clinic, 3229 Burnet Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45229; or Kent District Library Alto Branch, 814 West River Center Dr. NE, Comstock Park, MI 49321.



STEWART

Marie Stewart (Eickhoff), age 96 of Lowell, passed away Friday, November 18, 2016 after a very brief illness. Marie was best known in the day for serving up chocolate sodas

at Christiansen's Drug store alongside her two sisters. She loved spending time with her family, playing Bingo, catching her favorite game shows and the Detroit Tigers on TV, and enjoying Balls Ice Cream on a hot sunny day! Marie leaves behind her daughter, Sue (Mike) Murley;



and grandchildren Karson and Jada Murley, Ashley (Trevor) Cook, Madison and Gabrielle Schram. Marie was preceded in death by her husband, Bob; and daughter, Amy; her parents, Martin and Lena Eickhoff; eight siblings and their spouses. Very special friends Marcia, Margie, Gen, and Shannon, who showed so much love to her and helped care for her over the past year. A special thank you to the Metron of Belding staff for your special care. Graveside Memorial Service will be held 3:00 p.m. Friday, June 2, 2017 at Oakwood Cemetery, 325 Fremont Street, Lowell, MI. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Lowell Area Historical Museum, 325 W. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331; or Lowell Pink Arrow Pride, c/o Lowell Community Wellness, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



WINGEIER

Gary Kenneth Wingeier, son of Kenneth Jack Wingeier and Nell Pullen Wingeier, passed away in New York City at the Veterans Hospital on September 9, 2016 after a lengthy illness. Gary was 68 years old. He attended grades 9-11 at Everett High School, Lansing, Michigan, and then his senior year at Forest Hills High School in Ada, Michigan, where he graduated in 1966. Gary was a member of the football and wrestling teams at both high schools. He then went to 2 years of college in an art major, first at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, and then at Old Dominion College in Norfolk, Virginia. He enlisted in the Navy in 1968 during the Vietnam conflict, serving as a Machinists Mate until 1972. He married Cindy Nowak of Ada in 1972. They were later divorced, and he moved to New York City, where he worked as a furniture mover and driver for several years. Gary is survived by brothers Michael and Scott Wingeier, and sister Marie Wingeier-Payzant. Graveside service will take place on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell, Michigan, at 2 PM. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a cancer research fund.



Red Cross calls for new donors to prevent a summer blood shortage

About 38 percent of the population can donate; less than 10 percent of those eligible do

The American Red Cross urges those who have never given blood before – as well as those who haven't given recently – to make an appointment to give blood or platelets now and help sustain a sufficient community blood supply this summer.

While the need for blood is constant during the summer months, the Red Cross experiences a drastic decline in new donors. Nationwide, about 32 percent fewer new blood donors, and more than 44 percent fewer in Michigan, came out to give last summer than during the rest of the year. Additionally, many schools where blood drives are held – and where new donors give – are not in session and current donors often delay giving due to summer vacation plans.

While about 38 percent of the population is eligible to give blood, less than 10 percent of those eligible actually do. The blood donation process takes about an hour with the actual donation only taking about 10 minutes.

Whether new to donating blood or a lifelong donor, the Red Cross offers helpful tips for an enjoyable donation experience:

1. As much as possible, eat iron-rich foods leading up to your donation.
2. Hydrate – drink an extra 16 oz. of liquid before and after the donation.
3. Have a healthy meal before the donation.

How to donate blood

Download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. Those who come out to donate blood or platelets with the Red Cross June 7 through World Blood Donor Day on June 14 will receive a limited-edition Nexcare Give bandage with the theme "Roll up a sleeve and give where you live," featuring vibrant city-inspired designs reflecting landmarks and locales from around the globe. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

4. Wear comfortable clothing with sleeves that can be raised above the elbow.

5. Complete a RapidPass on the day of donation, prior to arriving, to save time.

6. Remember to bring a picture ID, blood donor card or two other forms of identification.

"Every day, we have thousands of lives to help save, but blood and platelet donations often do not keep pace with hospital demand during the summer months," said Todd Kulman, external communications manager, Great Lakes Blood Services Region. "In less time than it can take to go out to eat, you can make a lifesaving difference for cancer patients, accident victims and others in need."

Appointments can be scheduled by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities

Hastings
5/31/2017: 1 p.m. - 6:45 p.m., Commission on Aging, 320 W. Woodlawn

Belding
6/2/2017: 12 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., Belding Community Center - Belrockton, 108 Hanover Street

Greenville
6/12/2017: 1 p.m. - 6:45 p.m., Calvary Baptist Church, 12501 Montcalm Ave. NE

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Sports Summaries



SHOOTING TEAM

Red Arrow shooting team saw action twice last week, starting off at the South West conference trap championships held at Rockford's Madison Square Sportsman's Club. The team of James VanDeusen, Noah Brown, Ethan Ettinger and Kenny Kropf placed fourth with a total combined score of 423. Placing seventh was Josh Bush, Noah Worsley, Caiden Hinzmann, Donald Trierweiler and Thomas Gaskin. VanDeusen led in individual competition reaching target 92/100 times. Brown followed with an 89, Ettinger and Worsley came next at 86 and Abigale Wester and Hinzmann scored 83. At the Kent County Conservation League the team took part in skeet and sporting clay events. Brown and Wester led the skeet contest both earning an 84 for the team. Just behind that finish were Hinzmann who shot an 83 and Bush who scored an 81. Individual sporting clay action was led by VanDeusen and Brown. The two, along with Wester, placed sixth as a team with a tally of 218.

GIRLS SOCCER

Despite nine saves in goal from senior keeper Bridget Garter, the Lowell girls varsity soccer team fell to Forest Hills Northern for the second time this season losing by 2-0 as earlier in the season. The OK White loss dropped the team's conference record to a still winning 8-4, placing them third in the standings for the season. Wednesday at home, the team celebrated its six senior members before taking on Western Michigan Christian and securing a 5-0 shutout victory. Sophomore Regan Coxon was responsible for three of Lowell's goals, while senior Darby Fuller and freshman Khloe Hayes each netted one. Assists were credited to juniors Riley Conlan, Darby Dean and Maura Fitzpatrick. Hayes and Garter combined in goal for the perfect defensive game. The team, now 13-5-1 overall, will enter the postseason after hosting Lansing Eastern on Tuesday for the first round of district action.

BOYS GOLF

Lowell boys varsity golf completed the first round of the postseason Thursday participating in the Northview High School hosted OK White conference meet. Landing in a familiar fourth place, the team tallied a combined card total of 351 strokes. Powerhouses Forest Hills Northern and Forest Hills Central claimed the top two spots, followed by host Northview who placed third. The team then placed eleventh at the district tournament hosted by Hamilton at the Diamond Springs Golf Course. Scoring for Lowell were juniors, Alex Dommer (85), Adam Anderson (87) and Alex Powell (92) and freshman Tyler Kapcia (93). Dommers finish qualified him to advance to regional competition as an individual. He will compete solo in Holland at Clearbrook Golf Course on June 1.

EARTH TALK



Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: I understand that the Trump administration has been busy pulling information about climate change and other environmental issues off of the EPA's website. What kinds of information and data are no longer accessible? -- Jim Harris, Norwalk, CA

It's no surprise that the Trump administration is looking to change course when it comes to federal action to mitigate climate change, but analysts have been surprised how quickly and drastically the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has "updated" its website to reflect the outlook of its new leader. The information purge began within just two weeks of Donald Trump taking office.

Researchers from the Environmental Data and

Governance Initiative (EDGI), a group of scientists tracking federal environmental and energy websites and data, first noticed changes on January 22 when a page formerly called "Federal Partner Collaboration" was updated with new content and renamed "EPA Adaptation Collaboration." A few days later, the EPA changed the content of both its "climate and water" page to reflect the new administration's interest in freeing up real estate developers from onerous restrictions, and its "international cooperation" page pledging to stand with other countries' in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Interestingly, these early changes were made three weeks prior to the confirmation of notorious climate change denier Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator.

The next big round of changes came almost two months later on the eve of the People's Climate March in Washington DC when the EPA removed several sub-pages under its climate section containing detailed climate data. This had originally been published during Obama's tenure to help the public understand the magnitude of the global warming threat and to provide researchers with information to put into their models to predict how climate change will affect the environment and human health.

According to The Washington Post, one of the recently removed sections challenged statements made by Scott Pruitt, while another provided detailed information on the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan (a new rule which the Trump administration is working to "undo").

Another removed section, "A Student's Guide to Global Climate Change," featured some 50 pages of content tailored to students studying environment

and climate, leaving thousands of teachers who had incorporated the data into curricula high and dry for the rest of the school year. (Luckily for teachers, the city of Chicago has republished an archived version of this section on its own website.)

"At a time when Americans are increasingly experiencing climate impacts in their daily lives, the administration has seemingly buried its head in the sand," says Astrid Caldas, climate scientist at the non-profit Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). "The facts about climate change have not changed, however, and politics are not a valid reason to archive basic explanations of science."

For its part, the EPA dismisses the critique as partisan quibbling. "As EPA renews its commitment to human health and clean air, land, and water, our website needs to reflect the views of the leadership of the agency," says agency spokesman J.P. Freire. "We want to eliminate confusion by removing outdated language first and making room to discuss how we're protecting the environment and human health by partnering with states and working within the law."

CONTACTS: EPA, www.epa.gov; EDGI, www.envirodatagov.org; Chicago's EPA Climate Change Archive, www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/sites/climatechange/home.html; UCS, www.ucsusa.org.

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Looking Back, continued

were heard to comment on the beauties of Oakwood with its well-kept grounds which were enriched by an abundance of spring flowers of every description.

A lot of small factories in Michigan must get into war production in ninety days or close. These produce civilian products using steel. Banned products range from bathtubs to pie-plates. Seventeen hundred Michigan firms will be affected. And they can't turn to other metals except gold or silver. A few may discover substitutes—if the soy beans hold out.—Utica Sentinel.

Parties displaying the U.S. flag should take the colors in whenever it rains, also at sundown every night, rain or shine.

A Ledger reader residing at Ada suggests that a petition be circulated in both Lowell and Ada requesting an early morning westbound bus be placed in service for the convenience of the public. At present, the first bus going west is not due until mid-forenoon. Parties interested should write Short Way Bus officials.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger June 1, 1967

Over 3,000 were on Main Street Tuesday morning for the Memorial Day parade; one of the best turnouts in years. Three marching musical groups gave the parade real sparkle. The Rev. O. M. Smith hit home with his timely message in the cemetery ceremony.

The Y pool was being filled Monday in preparation for opening the end of the week. Chet Hall, executive secretary of the area Y, said that \$3,400 had been spent this spring sandblasting the pool and giving it an epoxy painted surface.

Root-Lowell Corp. reveals plans to build new factory. Richard Brush, President of Root-Lowell Corporation, requested a change of zoning on 5 acres, owned by Lowell Development Co., to allow the company to erect a new factory building. The 20-acre site, under option by the company, is located just across the C & O Railroad tracks on Foreman Street.

The City Council met in special session on Monday afternoon to set the budget for the coming year; after a brief discussion the 5 members agreed to accept the City Manager's request for 12 mills. The discussion centered around the need to build up funds for future use by the city.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 3, 1992

Approximately 1,500 area residents took in the Civil War Muster at the historic Fallasburg Village over the weekend. The two-day Civil War encampment was dampened some by the inclement weather on Saturday, but Sunday's sunshine left encampment-goers raving about the first annual Civil War Muster. "People really enjoyed themselves and asked if we would be doing this again," Fallasburg Historical Society president Priscilla Lussmyer said. "We intend to do this again next year." The proceeds from the fund raiser will be used to establish a Pioneer Village of Fallasburg. "The funds will go directly into the Fallasburg expense fund to restore property," Lussmyer said. Lussmyer said that over 500 people went through the John W. Fallas home on Sunday. The home, built in 1842, has received significant restoration work over the past year. The Civil War Muster was the site for a recreation

of a Civil War encampment, a skirmish between Union and Confederate soldiers, an appearance by Abe Lincoln (Gerald Bestrom), who brought our 16th President to life for the two-day event. Demonstrations of life in the mid 1800s were given; and soldiers were drilled each day. The Union's mounted cavalry, the infantry foot soldiers, the artillery troops and cannons and the military band were all a part of the 1861 Third Michigan Regimental Volunteers of Grand Rapids. The Confederates were from all over the country, including Canada, Alabama, and Missouri. The two-day event allowed people to see and learn about the mid 1800s through an authentic recreation in the historic town of Fallasburg. Food available to the general public included meat pies and fruit, fare common for the soldiers of the 19th century.

Lowell baseball coach Kris Kropf made what he thought were some mighty lofty goals for his club. With a little encouragement his team made short work of his goals, and in the end, of his hair. Kropf told his team if they met two of his four goals that they could shave his head. Big mistake. The goals he set for his club were finishing third or above in the conference, winning five non-conference games and sweeping two of the following teams: Forest Hills Central, East Grand Rapids, Wyoming Park and Rogers. The Red Arrows won five non-conference games, finished third in the O-K White and swept Central and EGR. On Thursday, taking much delight in the exercise, the Red Arrow team members shaved their coach's head following practice. "I guess my goals were not lofty enough," Kropf mused. "Next year I will have to raise my expectations."

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1. Early stage
6. Mythical giant bird
9. Recipe instruction
13. * ___ Davis, won Tony and Oscar for same role
14. *Derek Jacobi won one in "Much ___ About Nothing"
15. Cockatoo's cousin
16. Cell phone bill item
17. Rare find
18. Winged
19. *Three-time winner Lin-Manuel
21. *Dick Van Dyke's winning role, 1961
23. River in Spain
24. Musical finale
25. It would
28. One of algae
30. Sacred beetle, to King Tut
35. Rejections
37. Be lazy or idle
39. Valuable musical antique
40. Make a portrait of
41. Christmastides
43. Track shape
44. Cool & distant
46. ___ ___ ___ , precisely
47. Unload on eBay
48. *"Evita" and "Cats" composer
50. Luau instrument, pl.
52. Sylvester Stallone, casually
53. #49 Down, pl.
55. ___ Zeppelin
57. *Musical based on Charles Dickens' novel
60. *This 5-year-old has a gift of telekinesis
64. "My wife can vouch

CROSSWORD

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MAY 24 - MAY 30

- A female zookeeper was killed on Monday by a tiger at Hamerton Zoo in the county of Cambridgeshire, north of London. The incident is not believed to be suspicious, it is considered a "freak accident" and no animals escaped from their enclosures.
- When asked how much a threat Valdimir Putin was to global security, Senator John McCain stated, "I think he is the premier and most important threat. More so than ISIS."

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- for me," e.g.
65. Part of Parisian address
67. Judge Judy's proceedings
68. Frost-covered
69. Table scrap
70. Haunted house quality

71. Sweet-talk
72. Genetic initials
73. Clear the board
- DOWN**
1. Female gamete
 2. Not final or absolute
 3. Move like parasailor
 4. "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
 5. Tapeworm
 6. Indian music
 7. Schiller's "___ to Joy"
 8. Fast food option
 9. *Like Yul Brynner's head in "The King and I"
 10. Antioxidants-rich berry
 11. *"Kiss Me, ___," first Best Musical recipient
 12. Lamb's mother
 15. Caribbean rattle
 20. *"Hello, ___!", held record for most Tonys
 22. Proof of age, pl.
 24. Like workman's hand

25. On spouse's side
26. Upholstery choice
27. Retire from military
29. a.k.a. podagra
31. Andy's TV buddy
32. Great reviews
33. Whatsoever
34. *He traded boxing gloves for ballet shoes
36. Snooty one
38. Plumbing problem
42. Inscribed pillar
45. Intensely emotional
49. Dark bread
51. Boudior sofa
54. Unwelcome computer message
56. More dire
57. Dish of stewed meat
58. Capital of Peru
59. Wild goat
60. Of higher order, prefix
61. Milano moolah
62. Valedictorian's spot
63. Away from wind
64. ___ de Triomphe
66. Vase for ashes

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