

city council



page 3

biodigester auction



page 7



Ihs sports



pages 11, 12 & 13



As February 2018 departs, floodwaters threaten Lowells homes and businesses

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

It was a wet weekend in Lowell as the Grand River rose to 18.2 feet on Friday evening, three feet above flood stage and the fourth highest measurement in recorded history. The fairgrounds were flooded and the whole area south of Main St. was impassable thanks to flooded streets. Many Lowellians were unperturbed by the flooding. Businesses remained open and Main Street sidewalks were still crowded with shoppers and diners on

Thursday and Friday. Traffic was sparse on Saturday. A few daredevils were observed risking a possible traffic citation to drive behind the barricades to take photos of, or simply gawk at, the surreal sight of the rising water.

From Thursday through Saturday, Lowell city manager Michael Burns gave daily 2 pm press conferences for local newspapers and TV stations to update area residents about the disaster and the city's response to it.

“As of 9:20 am our current flood stage level is 15.07 feet and are deemed in flood status,” Burns said at the first briefing on

Thursday, Feb. 22. “The National Weather Service has projected an increase in our elevated flood stage by .1 feet to 18.6 feet. In

addition, the projection for cresting has changed from 11 am on Saturday

February flood, continued, page 10



Lowell city manager Michael Burns at the press briefing in city hall on Friday, Feb. 23.



Stoney Lakeside Park wasn't exactly 'lakeside' anymore, as park neighbors Laiken Anderson (13), Lordyn Anderson (8) and Jack Deimel (5) found out when they tried to play there on Friday, Feb. 23.

Arrows are once again wrestling state champs!

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Hoping for their fifth straight state title, the Red Arrow varsity wrestling team drew back, took aim and nailed a bullseye besting Tecumseh, Eaton Rapids and Gaylord high schools to be named the Division II state champs at the Wings Event Center.

Friday evening at the state quarterfinal competition, Lowell first did battle with Tecumseh coming out victorious 52-17. Senior Keigan Yuhas started things off on the mat at 215 pounds for the first match of the evening and earned a fall in just :48. The talented and steadfast senior opened both the semi-finals and finals rounds earning falls at :59 and :34. That performance was highlighted by the win over Eaton Rapids heavyweight grappler Dallas Price, who topped Yuhas by 70 pounds

but still ended up on the bottom of a Red Arrow pin.

The quarterfinals continued with Lowell sophomore heavyweight Tyler Delooff who took down his opponent by fall at 1:11 to move the score to 12-0 in Lowell's favor. Lightweight sophomore Nick Korhorn added a third fall at 103 pounds earning his victory in just :30. Ahead 18-0 Lowell dropped the match at 112 pounds before earning a 2-0 decision by 119 pound sophomore Dawson Jankowski moving the score to 21-6.

Action continued at 125 where Lowell fell short allowing Tecumseh four points. They followed that with five straight wins by junior Jeff Leach at 130 pounds by fall at 3:07; freshman Doak Dean by fall at 4:54 at 135 pounds; 140 pound junior Avry Mutschler, a

sudden victory; 145 pound sophomore James Fotis by 15-0 technical fall; and sophomore Austin Boone at 152 a fall at :40. David Kruse wrapped up the round after losses at 160 and 171 pounds by adding five more points via a 17-0 technical fall to seal the lopsided 52-17 win.

Crooked scoring continued the next morning in the state semi-finals where the Arrows picked up a 45-16 win over Eaton Rapids to earn their bid into the finals round. After Yuhas opened with a big win the team lost the match at 103 pounds and then won two back to back. 112 pound junior Hunter Browning and Jankowski returned to the mat for the second time earning consecutive wins by 3-1 decision and by fall at 1:55

State champs, continued, page 20



David Kruse ends the tournament with a win celebrating their fifth straight title.

50¢



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Many attend annual fund-raising fish fry

The all you can eat fish fry at St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 N. Amity, was packed with hungry diners despite the flooding outside.

“We’ve served about 200 people tonight,” said Tim Hess, a Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus and one of the volunteers running the event. “Last week we had 315, so the flood may have impacted attendance a bit. We’re raising money for an ultrasound for Alpha Family Center. If we do well, we should be able to purchase that by Easter.”



along main street

•••
The two most powerful warriors are patience and time.

~ Leo Tolstoy

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 18-202825-DE

Estate of SYLVESTER
BLAINE MUMAW,
deceased.

Date of birth:
12/29/1919.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS: The
decedent, Sylvester
Blaine Mumaw, died
09/30/2017.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Ellen L. Gaca, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 4950 Quail Run Dr. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

February 20, 2018

Ellen L. Gaca
4950 Quail Run Dr. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616-363-3595

GILDA'S CLUBHOUSE ACTIVITIES

LaughFest Bingo - Tues., March 6, 7-8 pm. Come on over and join in for a fun game of LaughFest Bingo. Bingo, desserts and prizes provided.

LaughFest Tour and Open House - Tues., March 13, 1-5 pm. Gilda's Club Lowell welcomes LaughFest visitors and guests to tour the clubhouse and learn more about our cancer and grief programs.

LaughFest Laughter Yoga - Tues., March 13, 4-5 pm. Join certified yoga instructors for this opportunity to laugh for the health of it. Laughter Yoga is a unique concept based on the principle of 'acting happiness' - tell your body what to do and your mind will follow. Pre-registration is required.

Spring Craft - Tues., March 13, 4-5 pm. Join volunteer Mary Shipley for time together creating a fun spring craft. Mary will teach us how to create a cute spring bunny out of recycled material. All materials provided and you may take home your creation.

LaughFest at LowellArts: Drum Circle with Josh Dunigan - Tues., March 13, 6:30-7:30 pm at LowellArts. Calling all youth! Bring your adults and come on over to join Josh Dunigan for a fun time connecting together through drumming. Josh will lead us in a community drum circle and we will also learn the benefits of drumming as it relates to overall emotional health. RSVP at the clubhouse.

West Michigan Art Competition

The 32nd Annual LowellArts West Michigan Art Competition highlights outstanding artwork by West Michigan artists who reside in a 25 county region from March 10 thru April 14. This year's distinguished juror is Ryan Kaltenbach who currently serves as exhibits director at the Northville Art House near Detroit. Gallery reception and presentation of the awards is Thursday, March 15, 6-8pm. Gallery Hours: Tues-Fri 10am-6pm and Sat 10-5pm. www.lowellartsmi.org

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations. The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.

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Sat, Mar 3, 10-9
Sun, Mar 4, 11-6

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Thank you so much for providing pizza to the DPW, LPD and LFD during the many hours worked managing the flood!

City of Lowell

the lowell ledger

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PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
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Much discussed at council meeting including changes to Broadway and revenue generations

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Tuesday, Feb. 20. The meeting was held on Tuesday because city offices were closed on Monday for the Presidents Day holiday.

Four members, out of the audience of 14, spoke during the time allotted for citizen comment.

Mike Larkin asked the council when they would make infrastructure improvements to N. Broadway St.

"We budgeted for it, so it's something we are planning on later in the year," said Lowell city manager Michael Burns. "We really haven't really started [to] design yet, no. We're still working on S. Broadway."

Larkin then questioned why taxpayer money should be used to repair S. Broadway when it's going to be made off limits to the general public. Assistant city manager Rich LaBombard said that the street could

be opened to public traffic as needed after a gate is installed.

"There will be a temporary fence there that the city can remove as needed to accommodate events," LaBombard said. "We're not abandoning the right of way."

Perry Beachum also raised questions about the city fixing S. Broadway with public money, then making it a semi-private street.

"I would tend to agree with him [Larkin] that [the city would be] putting public money into what essentially is going to become a private road," Beachum said. "The city would still have the right of way but it's closed for parades and a few things now and then. I still think of it as a private road."

Wastewater treatment plant superintendent Mark Mundt is retiring on March 30. He introduced his replacement, Brian VanderMeulen of United Water.

"[VanderMeulen] has been working with me for about seven and a half years," Mundt said. "He is stepping up to replace me as the superintendent of the plant."

Cory Chambers was hired to replace VanderMeulen in his former position at the water plant.

Jim Pfaller suggested the council look around a little bit for a new city attorney before replacing retiring city attorney Dick Wendt with another attorney from Wendt's law firm. Pfaller also said that the proposed location for a trail extension goes through his front yard where it will damage 45 year old trees.

"I have no intention of signing an easement [for the trail]," Pfaller said. "I think it's somewhat unfair. [...] It's impacting everybody on the south side of Bowes Rd. Because of the location of telephone poles everybody is going to have to sign an easement."

Mundt returned to the podium to echo Pfaller's sentiments.

"We are not interested in having a trail on Bowes Rd.," Mundt said. "He has 45 year old pine trees. We have 30 year old redbuds and I will challenge any of you to find a more beautiful stretch of street in this town when the springtime comes. We try to be good citizens by keeping our place up. I'm not interested in having a path in front of my house. [...] I don't want to give up any of my property. I don't want strangers from outside this town walking up and down my road. I'm selfish that way. It's not a security thing, I just don't feel like I need it. I've lived here for 25 years and I think I have a right to say that."

The council spent about 17 minutes discussing revenue generation options for city infrastructure improvements. They finally decided to have Burns research various possibilities and then report back with a "formalized study."

"[With] the revenue that we receive today we can provide services or we can provide infrastructure, we can't do both," Burns said.

"We have been asking for the public's opinion on

this for about a year and really haven't got a lot of feedback," said councilor Greg Canfield.

Lowell city council's next regular meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, March 5.



Mark Mundt and Jim Pfaller said they don't want a trail on Bowes Rd.



Perry Beachum and Mike Larkin asked why public money should be used to fix a private street.

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN
Lowell Area Schools Are Now Welcoming The Class of 2031!



If you are the parent of a child who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2018 Kindergarten enrollment packets will be available March 1 at lowellschools.com or the Alto, Bushnell, or Murray Lake Elementary buildings!

After per-enrollment form has been submitted, you will be contacted to sign up for a visitation time.

PARENT INFORMATION MEETING and STUDENT VISITATION

| | |
|--|--|
| Alto Elementary Wednesday, April 18, 2018 6150 Bancroft Avenue SE 987.2600 | Murray Lake Elementary Monday, April 16, 2018 3275 Alden Nash Avenue NE 987.2750 |
|--|--|

PARENT INFORMATION MEETING (Parents ONLY)

Bushnell Elementary
700 Elizabeth Street | 987.2650
Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 p.m.

Student Visitation (Parents & Students)

Friday, April 20, 2018

Note: Visitation is for students who have not attended preschool at Bushnell.

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sharing the vision



LAS Superintendent Greg Pratt

energy savings

Lowell Area Schools has been participating in two energy conservation programs since 2004. The first is a conservation program which reduces consumption through a people approach by

changing habits and the second program looks at the efficiency of all our equipment. To date our cost avoidance is an amazing \$8,018,860. This number represents the additional amount of money we

would have paid if we didn't change our energy use habits or invest in more efficient equipment. We continue to be one of the top school districts in the nation, with respect to avoiding expenditures, in the area of energy.

Our energy program has been successful due to the efforts of our entire staff. Leading this initiative has been the work of Mr. Jim White, retired Curriculum Director from Lowell Area Schools. Jim has a passion for finding ways to save energy, which in turn saves the district money. Mr. White performs ongoing audits and adjustments that target our longer breaks (winter, spring, summer) to ensure that equipment is off when staff and students leave and ready to turn back on when they return. Working together, we not only avoid costs and save money, we reinvest those savings directly into the classroom in order to continue to provide a great education to all our students. Our staff remain diligent in their everyday operations to ensure we are saving energy and dollars for our district while we provide world class education to our students.

On the equipment side of the work, our district has started to replace outdated lighting systems with new LED lights. Alto Elementary and Murray Lake Elementary exterior lights and the Murray Lake gym have been the latest changes to the LED lighting. These areas that have high volume lighting over long periods of time provide significant savings.

A big thank you to the entire staff of Lowell Area Schools for their extraordinary efforts in conserving energy. Their contribution and attention to energy conservation has and will continue to result in considerable cost savings to the district.

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET FOR 2018-2019 FISCAL YEAR

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 12, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., the Township Board of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, within the Township, to hear and consider comments regarding the proposed Township budget for the April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019 fiscal year. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the Grattan Township Hall.

The property tax millage rates proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given pursuant to Act 43 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1963 (Second Extra Session), as amended and complies with MCL 141.436 and MCL 211.24e

Dated: February 21, 2018
 TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN
 Michelle Alberts, Clerk

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viewpoint

to the editor

ask the right question

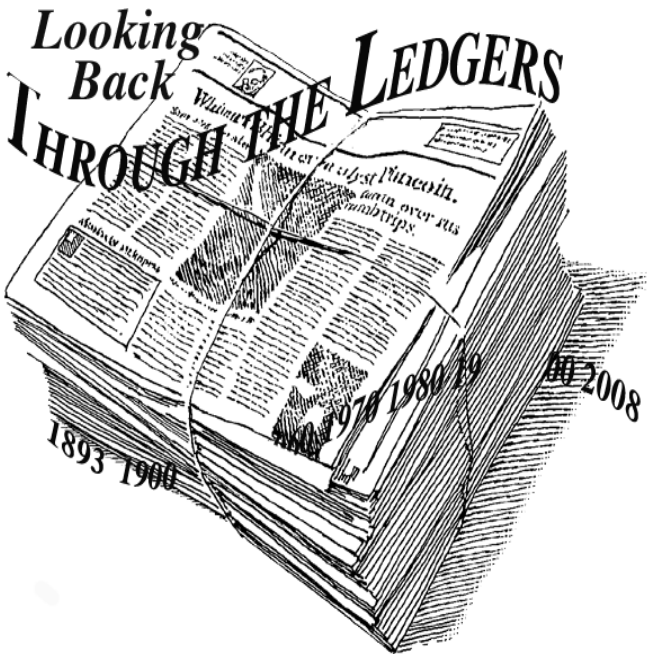
Dear Ledger,
 The editor may be right (Off the Cuff, Feb. 21st). We can only hope that young people will start to ask what is wrong with our society, when an increasing number of us feel the need to commit mass murder. Obviously, their elders are unwilling to even ask the question.
 Scott Kooistra
 Lowell

We love to hear from you!

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.

the lowell ledger
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

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125 years ago Lowell Journal March 1, 1893

For sale. The two valuable stallions Faust and Margot, recently owned by Goodyear and Bechtel, of Hastings, Mich., the same having been imported by Powell Bros., of Springboro, Penn., in 1886 from France. These stallions are registered, eight years old and in line condition. The owner will exchange them for city or farm property or sell them on reasonable terms. For particulars call on or address P. T. Colgrove, agent and attorney, Hastings, Mich.

School commenced Monday morning last Friday after a two weeks vacation on account of the diphtheria.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger February 28, 1918

Local factory to furnish rims for army bakers sieves. The Michigan Bent Rim factory is installing electric motor power, to supplement its steam power plant, and improved machinery and will resume active operations in a week or ten days on a government contract on large size rims for bakers sieves for army use. John Wolfgang of Hamilton, O., was here last week and retained as manager. John Stehouwer, who had accepted a position in Grand Rapids; but owing to the

a cacophony of concerns

Dear Editor,
 I cannot, in good conscience let the letter written to you by Jack Misner go unanswered. His reference to Dr. John Gartner circulating a petition and getting 70,000 plus signatures warning us of "dire trouble" due to President Donald Trump's mental instability I feel was irresponsible. How many of the 70K "professionals" fearing "dire trouble" have evaluated the President? My best guess is zero. The information they based their opinion on is what is reported by CNN, MSN, etc., and not on clinical evaluation. Mr. Misner did not say when the petition was circulated...before or after the President's physical and mental evaluation that gave him a clear bill of health both physically and mentally.
 Mr. Misner also mentioned the 300,000 gun deaths in the past 10 years. What he failed to mention was the fact that the majority of these deaths were suicide. Referring to the CDC's National Vital Statistics Report for 2015 (the most recent year for which I could find the final report) of the 2.7 million deaths in the USA, 36,252 firearm

deaths were recorded. Of the 36,252 firearm deaths 22,018 were suicides and 12,979 were classified as homicide. In contrast to this, there were 47,478 accidental deaths from poisoning, 37,757 from auto accidents, 55,403 drug induced deaths and 33,171 alcohol induced deaths. Yet there is no cry for outlawing alcohol, automobiles or prescription medicines. How many 9/11 attacks did it take to improve airline safety...ONE! Because of that one day you no longer can carry a pocket knife or a box cutter on a commercial airliner. You can't even carry more than three ounces of shampoo or hand lotion. How many Columbine or Sandy Hook shootings will it take to protect the next generation of students like we do the passengers on aircraft? The Ford Presidential Museum has armed security 24/7. There are armed security personnel at most - if not all - college sporting events and often at high school events. We as a society put more value protecting property than life. We live in a free society and we make choices as a society on what is important and precious. We, as individuals, think that everyone has values similar to us. We cannot imagine taking another life and think that a mass shooting is even further farfetched. But evil exists.

After the recent tragedy in Florida where so many were injured (physically and mentally), the cry goes out that guns are the problem. Yet when a car was driven through Times Square in New York in May 2017 there was no outcry for autos to be outlawed. I could go with a list of things when used improperly are dangerous. We, as a society, need to be diligent in looking for the evil that exists around us and be prepared to respond... either by saying something, reporting something or doing something to stop the evil. It is difficult for humans to comprehend doing physical harm to another human in a peaceful environment. The individual that has this capability has been conditioned to violence through his/her environment, either through the entertainment they participate in (movies, television & video games) or what they witness (spousal abuse, physical abuse, bullying, etc.).

As a certified firearms trainer I am often asked "What do you see is the problem?" My response is most often that the HIPA laws prevent the mental healthcare providers from sharing important information with the FBI NICS background check system. There is no easy answer to the privacy/public safety question. We need to ask ourselves: "How did we get to this point?" Since the founding of our country up to the Columbine shooting in 1999, there was not the violence we see today. What has changed? Prior to the mid 1960s you could get a firearm without a background check. Most hardware stores sold them "over the counter" and no one thought twice about a 12 year old picking up a box of 22 caliber long rifle ammunition to go target shooting with. We have stronger gun laws, anyone under 18 is prohibited from purchasing a long gun and handguns are restricted to 21 years. Is it the violence seen on TV, Cable TV, in theatres or the video games sold today? Or could it be the pressure we put on ourselves? Technology is pushing society to do more with less. Everyone seems busier now than ever. It seems that everything needs to be bigger, better, faster... and if you aren't striving for that, you are a failure. Could it be the "Watch out for numero uno" message [that] has led us to where we are?

One final statistic: Over 10 MILLION innocent lives have been lost to abortion in the last 10 years...more than 34 times the number of American lives lost during WWII. More lives lost than in all our wars combined. Maybe the Supreme Court decision of January 22, 1973, degraded the value of the human life, which has led to where we are today.
 Sincerely,
 James L. Pfaller
 Lowell

importance of the government contract has consented to remain in Lowell.

Maynard A. Elerick, a former Lowell school boy now a corporal in Battery C, 136 Field Artillery, stationed at Fort Sheridan near Montgomery, Ala., paid a visit last week to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Elerick, and brother Will Elerick and family of Portland, formerly of Lowell.

High water in Flat and Grand rivers is falling slowly. The Cutter company's under-floor pulleys which were frozen in for some time have been released and operations there are resumed. With most of the snow gone, last night came another fall of heavy snow which at 9 a.m., Thursday is still coming.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 4, 1943

A Lowell girl is reported as saying she would get married if she could be sure that wedding guests would throw shoes at her. That's one way to get around shoe rationing.

Since all distilleries have now been converted to the manufacture of alcohol for munitions, it has become necessary to add liquor to the long list of rationed articles. A customer may buy up to two quarts of liquor a week, however, the purchase must be made all at one time as not more than one sale a week may be made to any one person. Oh yes, you will be checked on it! A signed slip will be retained at the liquor store and a number punched each time a purchase is made. Well, up to two quarts a week should be enough to satisfy anyone who is bent on trying to kill himself.

Weather: The first day of the week started with a blustering snow storm which lasted throughout the day, although the snowfall amounted to only two or three inches.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger February 29, 1968

One of the latest concepts in education... known as "team teaching" . . . is featured at the Bushnell School in Lowell and the district received recognition at the

anniversary

Johnson

The children of Phillip and Charlene Johnson happily announce their parents' 50th wedding anniversary. Phil and Charlene (Sherry) were married on March 2, 1968 in Ewart, MI, moving to Lowell in 1972 where they opened up Johnson's Food Basket.



When it closed in 1988, Phil and his brother Lyle bought Linden Lighting where he still currently works. They have been blessed with three children, Randy (Cheryl) Johnson, Diane (Jesse) Davidson, Danielle (Luke) Davidson and eight grandchildren, Austin (17),

Andrew (16), Katie (15), Leah (13), Jacob (12), Emily (9), Max (9), and Kayla (7).

Their children say they are proud to call them their parents and appreciate the love, dedication and support they've shown each other in their 50 years of marriage!



Phillip and Charlene Johnson

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health

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Wayne A. Chritenson III, John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie

- family medical history

Medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, cancers and clotting disorders develop as the result of many factors. Some are caused by environmental factors, such as poor diet, lack of exercise, smoking, drinking and chemical exposures. Some are caused by genetic factors that are passed from one generation to another. While some are the result of both environmental and genetic factors.

Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 (adult onset diabetes) has a strong genetic component. This means that relatives of Type 2 diabetics have a high likelihood of becoming diabetic in their lifetime. This can often be prevented with proper diet, exercise and weight control.

Heart disease often has a strong genetic component and tends to run in families. People with a family history of heart disease should be sure to monitor and control their blood pressure, control their cholesterol, not use tobacco and control their weight with diet and exercise.

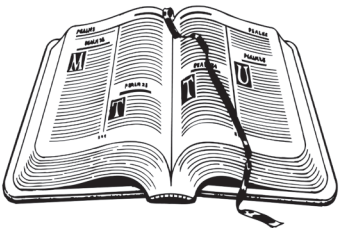
Hypertension (high blood pressure) often develops as a result of many factors, but the biggest factor is family history. If you have family members with hypertension, it is important that you have your blood pressure monitored regularly. You should also control your cholesterol, not use tobacco and control your weight with diet and exercise.

Many cancers tend to run in families. The most common ones are breast, colon and prostate. If you have a family member with one of these cancers, it is important that you begin a cancer screening program sooner and more regularly than the average person.

Clotting disorders are often hereditary. Clotting disorders can place a person at increased risk of a blood clot which can travel to the lung and cause a pulmonary embolism or to the brain and cause a stroke. People with clotting disorders often develop blood clots easier than the average person as the result of trauma, surgeries or prolonged immobilization.

Many people fail to realize the importance of knowing their own family medical history. They often do not realize that they may be at risk of developing the same conditions that their siblings, parents or grandparents have been diagnosed with. It is very important that everyone learn not only their immediate family medical history, but also their distant family history and share that information with their health care provider. Having regular physical exams and sharing your family's medical history with your health care provider is the best way to prevent your family's medical problems from becoming your own.

area churches



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
103 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
www.goodshepherdlowell.org

Worship Service Sunday - 10:30 AM
Sunday School..... 9:15 AM

Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
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
Barrier-Free

St. Mary Catholic Church
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com

Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm

Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
865 Lincoln Lake SE • 616.897.5906

Pastor Jon Propper
Worship Service - Sundays 9:30AM
Lowell's Open Table - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM
Serving meals and providing fellowship to the greater Lowell community

OPEN AND AFFIRMING
www.lowellucc.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES

2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
897-7168 -www.fbclowell.org
Pastor Jon Pickens, Lead Pastor
Christi Swain, Director of Children's Ministries

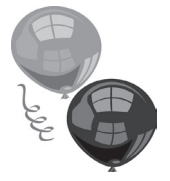
SUNDAY WORSHIP.... 9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
SUNDAY School..... 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**
Middle & High School - Mon-school year*Wed,summer, 7 PM

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
discover. grow. share

621 E. Main Street
897-5938
www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance

WORSHIP
9 AM - Traditional • 11 AM - Contemporary
Kid's Crew 11:15 AM
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

happy birthday



FEBRUARY 28
Mark V. Ritzema, Connie Roth, Scott Denton, Claresa Guastavino, Skylar Brown, Sarah Hoag, Ed Lamberson.

MARCH 4
Scott Vashaw, Bryce Tulppo, Patrick N. Johnson, Jared Brzezniak, Dawn Emelander.

MARCH 1
Barak Brown, Jill Callihan, Laura Christiansen.

MARCH 5
Don Silvis, Michael Nearing, Brandy Washburn.

MARCH 2
Mary Vezino, Roger MacNaughton, Anna Kline, Lisa Schoen.

MARCH 6
Pat Covell, Darlene Waldron.

MARCH 3
Sarah Newell.



Contents of Lowell's biodigester to be auctioned off

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The contents of Lowell's failed biodigester are going to be auctioned off through an online auction on March 13.

"We were notified a couple weeks back that LEAD was intending to liquidate the assets at the site," Lowell city manager Michael Burns said during the city council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20. "That is a city facility and the land is

not part of that auction. Just to make that clear, it's their personal property remnants. I don't really have anything more at this time."

"Current stakeholders of the former Lowell Energy AD plant have elected to sell all equipment via online auction," said a press release from auction company Biddergy.com. "The nearly \$6.5 million facility built in 2015 has been subject to debate,

legal battles and licensing issues since inception. The 25,000 SF facility housing the anaerobic digester uses upflow/downflow/reflow technology created by German Engineering firm enCO2, LLC and would convert 4,000 to 8,000 tons of manure per year from a local farm, about 1.5 million gallons of wastewater, waste fats, oils and greases from local businesses, into methane

that powers an 800 kW electric power generator. All equipment was in operation recently. Since, it has either been professionally decommissioned or maintained in an idle position. Previous odor issues are believed to be blamed on design flaws and operator issues. This equipment is all in good working order."

There will be two options for this auction.

Option one will be everything as a complete lot with a starting bid of \$100,000. If that doesn't fly, the items will be sold individually. Items going on the auction block include a bio gas generator, a heat transfer unit with five Grundfos pumps, an Ace Roto mold storage tank, a generator control panel, oil storage tanks, pneumatic valves with solenoids, air compressors, hoses, pumps, tools, parts, hardware, approximately 20 empty tanks, miscellaneous motors and parts, light fixtures,

16 drums of chemicals, a portable drum fan, a complete carbon filtration system and many more interesting things.

To check it out for yourself, visit the auction website at biddergy.com/Browse/R79611190/liquidation_-_former_lowell_energy_ad_anaerobic_digester_waste-to-energy_facility. To make an appointment for a walk through the facility to inspect the items, call 866-260-1611. Winning bidders must remove all items from the site within 30 days.



The biodigester as pictured on May 26, 2017. Stock photo

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOWNE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following application for an exception from the required width to depth ratio in the R1-Rural Residential District for two proposed parcels:

Property Addresses and Existing Parcel Numbers:

Property Address: 10912 100th St. SE
Parcel Number: 41-24-29-451-001

Property Address: 10910 100th St. SE
Parcel Number: 41-24-32-200-001

The proposed width to depth in the R-1-Rural Residential District is 1:3 for lots less than 40 acres in size. The requested exceptions for two proposed parcels are as follows:

Parcel A: 1:4.5 (additional 338.2 feet of lot depth based on proposed 250 feet of lot width)

Parcel B: 1:3.4 (additional 89 feet of lot depth based on proposed 250 feet of lot width)



The requested exceptions may be recommended for approval by the Planning Commission following the public hearing.

The hearing will be held as follows:
WHEN: THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: BOWNE TOWNSHIP HALL
8240 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
ALTO, MI 49302

The proposed amendments are available for review at the Bowne Township offices, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Alto, Michigan, 49302 during normal office hours on Wednesday & Thursday from 9 AM to Noon and 1 PM to 3 PM and on Friday from 9 AM to Noon or by calling 868-6846.

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk
Bowne Township

Ship it.

Because nobody can hug an email.

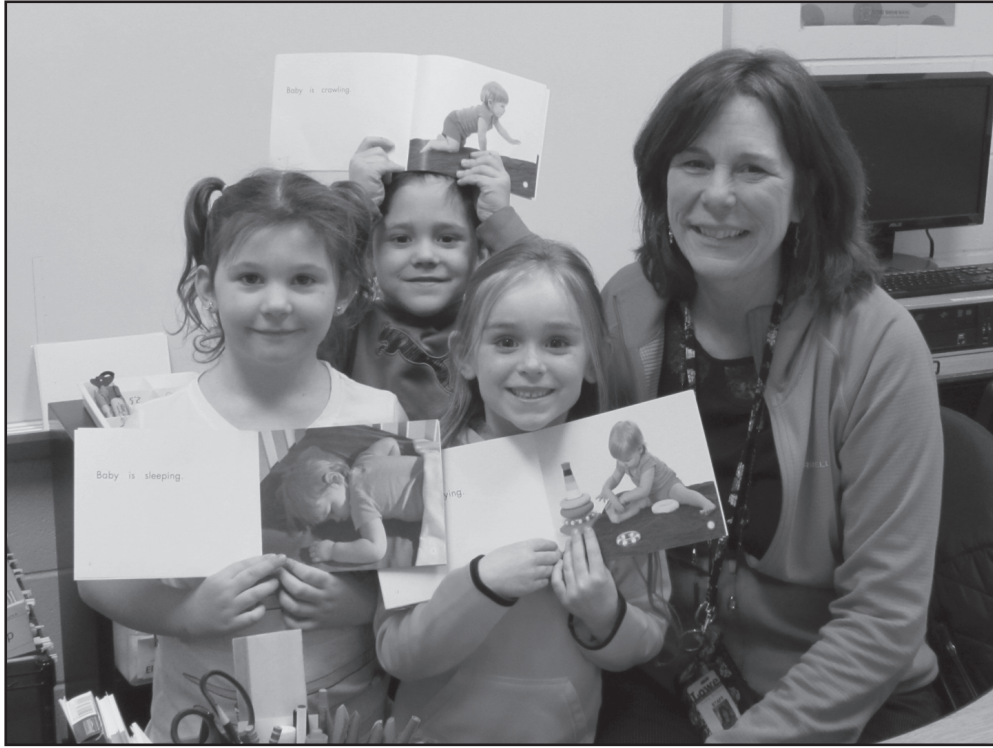
When your sentiments need to go the distance, choose FedEx® shipping. Available from your local pack-and-ship experts.



the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway, Lowell
897-9555

FedEx
Authorized ShipCenter



Murray Lake Elementary's Staff Member of the Month

Sue Wernet is the Staff Member of the Month at Murray Lake Elementary. Kyndera Lee, reading intervention coordinator, had this to say about Wernet, "Sue Wernet continually has a friendly smile on her face. She makes students and staff feel like they are valued. Her experience, expertise and dedication make her an asset to the Murray Lake reading team. Sue is always willing to go the extra mile for all the students at Murray Lake.

She is especially passionate about cultivating reading skills with the younger students. Murray Lake is lucky to have her!"

"I love working with children. I have worked for Lowell schools for twenty years. It is so rewarding to see students improve their reading skills and become more confident. I'm very happy to be part of the Murray Lake team. The students, families and staff are wonderful," commented Wernet.

Sue Wernet with a few of her students.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

10381 BAILEY DR SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Vergennes Township Board of Review for 2018 will be held at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Dr., SE, Lowell, MI 49331, on the following dates:

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018 AT 10 am
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 12 at 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm, APPEAL HEARING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, at 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. APPEAL HEARING

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions and protest, and to equalize the 2018 assessments. By board resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided letter is received prior to March 9, 2018.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real and personal property for 2018 are as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| Agricultural | 48.0% | 1.0399 |
| Commercial | 50.83% | 0.9836 |
| Residential | 48.66% | 1.0275 |
| Industrial | 49.58% | 1.0084 |
| Developmental | 50.00% | 1.0000 |
| Timber Cutover | 50.00% | 1.0000 |
| Personal Property | 50.00% | 1.0000 |

Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary and reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3 day notice. Contact Tim Wittenbach 616-897-5671.

Heather Hoffman
Vergennes Township Clerk

MLE Volunteer of the Month

Murray Lake Elementary has named Nancy Green as their Volunteer of the Month. Green has been volunteering at MLE for many years now, ever since her grandchildren were students here. "The students love to work with Mrs. Green. She is kind, patient, dependable and very knowledgeable about the different school subjects and how children learn best. Students and teachers look forward each week to our time with Mrs. Green," said Lori Cyrocki, second-grade teacher.

"When I retired in the summer of 2007, I knew I wanted to 'go back to school.' So I followed three of my grandchildren to Murray Lake! They've moved on through the Lowell schools to college and/or graduate school, but the positive and caring attitude of the entire staff; and the eagerness and excitement in the children when they grasp a new math

concept; beat the timer with their sight words or read a book they were sure was too advanced for them; keeps me coming back. I

can usually be found in first and second grade or in the library. These kids brighten my life every day that I'm at MLE! My husband

Howard and I have three daughters and sons-in-law, seven grandchildren and four great granddaughters," commented Green.



Nancy Green helping a student at Murray Lake Elementary.

Remember to

LET THE LEDGER KNOW!

If you have a local story, a story idea or an upcoming event -
"Let the Ledger Know!"

You can contact The Ledger in a variety of ways...

On FACEBOOK - post a picture, story or comment.

BY EMAIL - write to ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

When submitting copy, place it into the body of the email.

If you have pictures, attach them as jpegs.

Make sure you identify everyone in the picture and explain the photo.

BY PHONE - 616-897-9261

All stories submitted will be reviewed and may be published in either The Lowell Ledger, Buyers Guide or online at thelowellledger.com!

EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: How did the Global Climate Action Summit coming up later this year in San Francisco come about and what do organizers hope to accomplish? -- *Jamie Smith, San Jose, CA*

The purpose of the forthcoming 2018 Global Climate Action Summit—scheduled to take place September 12-14, 2018 in San Francisco, California—is to showcase the actions that state and local leaders, businesses, investors, scientists, students, non-profits and other so-called “sub-national actors” have taken to reduce their emissions already. Organizers hope to secure bold commitments from them to do even more, thus showing that decarbonization and economic growth go hand-in-hand and galvanizing a global movement for climate action that leaves no one behind.

This new international meeting is the brainchild of California’s 79-year-old outgoing governor Jerry Brown, one of the country’s great crusaders for cutting carbon emissions despite lack of federal interest in solving the climate crisis. According to Brown, subnational actors are a critical part of the climate solution and can help push the world’s leaders to go further, faster. These leaders will join

citizens from around the world to showcase examples of major climate action initiatives already taking place without the aid of the federal government. They hope to inspire deeper commitments from each other and from national governments in support of the Paris Agreement.

Brown has tapped three leaders as summit co-chairs: Patricia Espinosa, executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Anand Mahindra, chairman of the Mahindra Group, an Indian conglomerate that recently committed to meet its Paris climate agreement commitments; and Michael Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York City and founder/CEO of Bloomberg LP who is a vigorous campaigner for and generous donor to environmental causes. These three are primarily responsible for shaping the event’s purpose, format and overall curation and leveraging their voices and network for the cause.

Why now? According to Brown, 2018 is a turning point: Countries and all of us must step up the commitments that were made in Paris and do more. “The momentum we generate this year must lead to a climate turning point by 2020 in order to prevent the worst effects of climate change,” says Brown. “It must be the beginning of a new phase of action and ambition on climate change.”

Participants are expected to go beyond just sharing what they have achieved to date and announce stepped-up commitments to usher in what organizers are hoping will be “a new era of decarbonization and prosperity.” The

culmination of the meeting will be a call to action to nations to step up their ambition under the Paris Agreement and cut emissions on a science-based trajectory that limits warming to well below two degrees Celsius.

“The Summit seeks to change the climate conversation, broaden and depoliticize the issue, and activate everyone to call for change to preserve our future,” Brown concludes. The governor’s actions in steering California to be one of the world’s most fuel efficient large economies is even more inspiring than his words. Given that Brown won’t be able to run again for governor due to term limits, the Summit may represent the last hurrah of his storied political career.

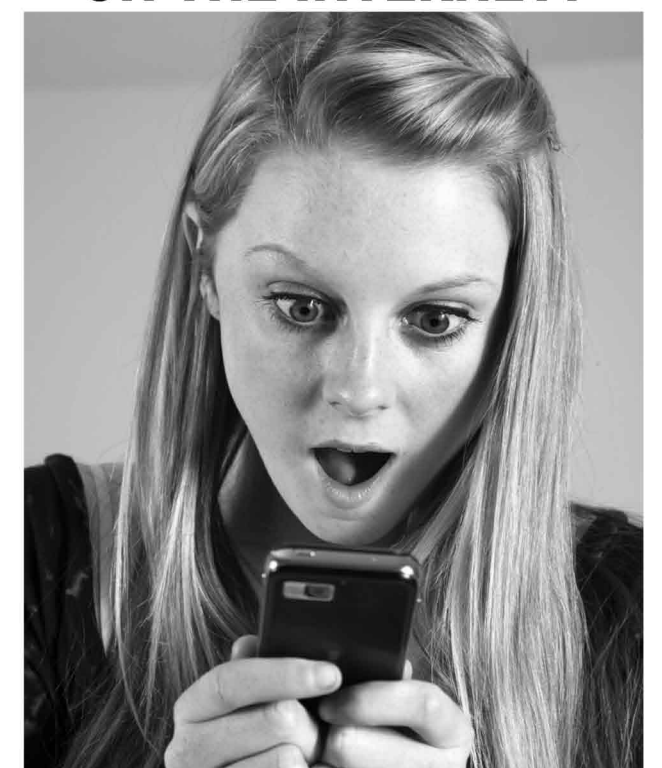
CONTACT: Global Climate Action Summit, globalclimateactionsummit.org.

EarthTalk® is a weekly syndicated column produced by Doug Moss and Roddy Scheer for the non-profit EarthTalk. To find out more, submit a question, or make a donation, visit us at EarthTalk.org.

The Global Climate Action Summit, coming up next September in San Francisco, is the brainchild of California’s 79-year-old outgoing governor Jerry Brown, one of the country’s great crusaders for cutting carbon emissions despite lack of federal interest in solving the climate crisis. Credit: Neon Tommy, FlickrCC.

...
A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.
~ *Charles Spurgeon*

JUST CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU'RE READING ON THE INTERNET?



BEWARE of online bloggers and wannabe news sources that can publish whatever they please without repercussions.
MOST ARE JUST LETTING OFF STEAM OR WORSE, HAVE A PURPOSE THAT IS NOT DISCLOSED OR A HIDDEN AGENDA.
Be sure your news source puts their readers first, is audited and is a member of the Michigan Press Association.

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF LOWELL 2018 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The City of Lowell Board of Review for 2018 will be held at the Lowell City Hall, 301 E Main St SE, on the following dates:

Organizational Meeting:
Tuesday, March 6th, 4:00pm
Appeal Hearings:
Monday, **March 12th**, 10:00am to 4:00pm
Tuesday, **March 13th**, 3:00pm to 9:00pm

Meetings are by Appointment, to schedule, contact: City Hall @ ph. 616.897.8457

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests and to equalize the 2018 assessments
By City Charter, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 6th 2018

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2018 are as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Commercial..... | 50.09 | | 0.9982 |
| Residential | 48.13 | | 1.0388 |
| Industrial | 48.84 | | 1.0237 |
| Personal Property | 50.00 | | 1.0000 |

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3 days’ notice.
Contact: Michael Burns – City Manager, ph. 616.897.8457

2018 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

2910 Alden Nash Ave SE
Lowell, Mi. 49331

2018 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Lowell Township Board of Review for 2018 will be held at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 9 a.m. =
Organizational Meeting

Monday, March 12, 2018 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
&
Tuesday, March 13, 2018 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2018 assessments. By board resolution, residents are allowed to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 12, 2018.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2018 are as follows:

| | | |
|--------------|-------|--------|
| Agricultural | 48.60 | 1.0288 |
| Commercial | 54.10 | .9242 |
| Residential | 48.39 | 1.0332 |
| Industrial | 47.71 | 1.0479 |
| Personal | 50.00 | 1.0000 |

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 days notice.

**Contact: Supervisor Jerry Hale,
2910 Alden Nash Ave SE
616-897-7600**

Board of Review Members, Sandra Graham, Nancie Mathews & James Foerch.
Jerry Hale, Township Supervisor,
Secretary of Board of Review.



February flood, continued

morning to sometime after 7 pm on Friday evening. We anticipate our flood level to be in this state for approximately 12 hours before we see a reduction in elevation. This projection is less than the flood of 2013 which reached 19.2 feet and greater than our 2004 flood elevation of 17.55 feet. This would be projected to be the third highest elevation flood in city of Lowell history. The city of Lowell, Lowell Area Fire Department and Lowell Light & Power are working directly with the Kent County Office of Emergency Management on this event. We are also working with King Milling who maintains the dam on the Flat River near the Lowell Showboat. There is a barricading plan in place and [it] will be assessed as the flood event continues. To accommodate those affected by the flooding, the city has temporarily lifted our on street parking ordinance between the hours of 2 am and 6 am. The city of Lowell anticipates that S. Jackson St. north of the bridge will be impassable later [Thursday] afternoon and other routes will be recommended for safe passage. Areas we believe will receive most impact include the fairgrounds and the south side of Bowes Rd. but primarily the area of Main St. east of Monroe to Division St. We are asking residents who live south of Main St. between S. Monroe and S. Division to remove any valuables from your basement and your main floor. The police department has already issued notices to those in that area. Some businesses along the south side of Main St. may

see some water in their parking lots, specifically Huntington Bank and Big Boiler Brewery. According to Lowell Light & Power, they don't anticipate this flood to impact the power supply. However, if residents impacted by the flooding would like power disconnected from their property, they can call Lowell Light & Power directly at 616-897-8402 for their meter to be removed temporarily. Kent County Emergency Management is working with Red Cross and Salvation Army on sheltering if needed. On the city's behalf, Flat River Outreach Ministries will be working with those entities if the need arises. At this time, the city will not be providing sandbags. However, sand has been placed in the municipal parking lot at the northeast corner of Monroe and Avery thanks to a donation from Timpson Trucking. We have been informed by Kent County that sandbags are available at Give 'Em a Brake Safety on Sanford Rd. in Grandville, along with area Home Depot and Lowe's stores. In the city of Lowell, Bernard's Ace Hardware has them available and Self Service Lumber is looking to provide them."

The next day, Burns announced that sewage from the wastewater treatment plant had to be pumped into the Grand River in order to avoid backups of nasty substances into area basements.

"As of 7:05 am, our flood stage level is 17.47 feet and the city is approaching moderate flood status," Burns said. "The



This might be the last flood season for the old Lowell Showboat.

National Weather Service has projected a decrease in our elevated flood stage by .4 feet to 18.2 feet. At this time we still anticipate cresting sometime after 7 pm on Friday evening. We anticipate our flood level to be in this state for approximately 12 hours before we see a reduction in elevation. This projection is less than the flood of 2013 which reached 19.2 feet and greater than our 2004 flood elevation of 17.55 feet. This would be projected to be the fourth highest elevation flood in city of Lowell history. City staff [are] working very hard and [are] working long hours to manage this event. The police department has added additional officers above the

normal daily complement. The public works staff has been working staggered shifts from 6 pm last evening up to now to manage the event. The Lowell Area Fire Department is available if needed. Our plan is to continue this through the weekend. At this time we do not anticipate the need to have city hall staff on duty this weekend. All calls to the police department will be forwarded to Kent County Central Dispatch. Road closures at this time are the following: Jackson St. from Main St. to Grand River Dr. in Lowell Township is closed, all streets south of Main St. east of Monroe and west of Division are closed and Bowes Rd. from Fulton St. (M-21) in Lowell

Township to Hudson St is closed also. At this time we do not anticipate the need to close Hudson St. but do ask drivers to be mindful and use caution when crossing over the Grand River. The city of Lowell will take a zero tolerance approach to drivers who attempt to enter barricaded areas unless those drivers reside in the affected area. The city manager and police chief have assessed flooding in

Ionia and Saranac and do not anticipate the need to evacuate the affected areas in our city. If the need of sheltering arises First Baptist Church of Lowell at 2275 W. Main would be the location. Sheltering has not been activated at this time. Our biggest concern at this time is over-taxation of the wastewater treatment

More on the flood,
next page



The intersection of Kent and Washington was flooded over.



Good luck throwing your litter into that garbage can.

Flood, continued

plant. Suez International, who manages our plant, is slowing down the system to prevent an overload. As of 4 pm we began bypass pumping, where combined storm water and diluted sanitary sewer is being discharged directly into the Grand River to alleviate the wastewater treatment plant from being overwhelmed. The release into the river was also to help prevent backups into basements. We have notified the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Kent County Health Department, the daily news publication of the county where the discharge occurred and nearby downstream communities affected by this as required by Michigan Law. This occurred in the 2013 flooding also. That being said, we are receiving some reports of sewer backups north of Main St. and east of Monroe St.”

At Saturday's 2 pm briefing, Burns reported that a drunk man was arrested after driving a vehicle into an area where the road was closed for flooding. He also mentioned reports of kayakers who were apparently unaware they were kayaking through raw sewage.

“As of 7 am our flood stage level was 18.2 feet and is in moderate flood status,” Burns said on Saturday, Feb. 24. “We anticipate our flood level to reach 18.3 feet around 1 pm and at that level until approximately 1 am tomorrow before we see a reduction in elevation. This is now the fourth highest elevation flood in city of Lowell history. City staff along with the Lowell Area Fire Department [have]

worked very hard to manage this event. The only incident to report last evening was an arrest of a male subject for operating while impaired as this individual tried to bypass a barricade into the flooded zone and was found to be over two times the legal limit. Road closures at this time are the following: Jackson St. from Main St. to Grand River Dr. in Lowell Township is closed, all streets south of Main St. east of Monroe and west of Division are closed and Bowes Rd. from Fulton St. (M-21) in Lowell Township to west of Valley Vista and then between Pleasant and Hudson St. At this time we do not anticipate the need to close Hudson St. but ask drivers to be mindful and use caution when crossing over the Grand River. We continue to ask drivers to avoid going past the barricades and for people not to attempt any recreational kayaking in the area. Our biggest concern has been over taxation of the wastewater treatment plant. Those issues have been mitigated as a result of the bypass pumping and the plant is operating as normal. We anticipate having to continue to bypass pump the sanitary and storm sewer into the Grand River for the next few days to alleviate sewer backups as best as possible. Businesses normally open on Saturday in the downtown are currently open. Some properties have water in their basements and that is somewhere between six to 10 inches depending on which side of Main St. they reside. The Lowell Area Fire Department asks that for those who are using gas power ditch pumps to release water from their

homes, to ensure that the pumps are clear from the entrances to their home and locate them as far away as possible. Lowell Light & Power is also asking for people to not remove their electric meters on their own. Please call Lowell Light & Power at 616-897-8402 and they will address this for those interested. As the water recedes and clean up begins, the Lowell United Methodist Church will assist those affected by the flooding and provide cleaning supplies and proper cleaning steps when dealing with flooded homes.”

At 5:40 pm on Saturday, Feb. 24, the city posted on Facebook about a possible 'state of emergency' declaration from Governor Snyder, good news for those whose property was damaged.

“The river is slowly starting to recede. Our last river reading at approximately 2:45 pm indicated that we were at 18.15 feet,” the post said. “We were recently informed that the Kent County Board of Commissioners has recently issued a local state of emergency due to the widespread flooding

throughout the county. This will be forwarded to the governor's office to determine if they will issue a state of emergency for affected areas of the state. This could provide funds and other resources to those impacted by the flooding. The city of Lowell will keep you informed of this matter.”

At current press time, the most recent information update from the city was a post on their Facebook page at 9:15 am on Sunday, Feb. 25.

“Flooding levels are slowly subsiding,” the post

said. “As of 7 am, the Grand River had a level of 17.89 feet. We will continue to see a slow but gradual reduction in levels throughout the day. For those directly impacted by the flooding, lunch will be available at the Lowell United Methodist Church between noon and 2 pm this afternoon. City staff is continuing to monitor conditions throughout the day. We will provide updates as they come in.”

To keep track of the river's depth, visit the National Weather Service website at water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=grr&gage=lwlm4.



A resident surveys the flood water on Jackson Street.



The parking lot across from the Riverwalk was a risky place to leave your vehicle last weekend.



The fairgrounds underwater once again.



The high water levels did not deter these fishermen.

Red Arrow

- GYMNASTICS

SPORTS

Gymnasts host Dawn Fisher Tournament

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell varsity gymnastics wrapped up their regular season last Friday with the Dawn Fisher Tournament.

Fisher, who lost her battle with cancer, was an avid supporter of the team. Her daughter Skye was once a member of the team.

"This meet is only for girls to compete on events that they did not qualify on for regionals," explained coach Michele DeHaan. "It is very fitting for us to honor Dawn at this meet because when her daughter Skye was on the team, we never qualified for regionals. We barely would score 100 for a team score, but Dawn was always there cheering all the girls on. I wish she was still around, she would be so happy with the progress we have made with the program."

Gymnasts from Potters House and Kenowa Hills

high schools joined Lowell for the competition. The Arrows picked up several top spots. Putting their best performance in on the bars, Lowell took the top four spots with sophomore Taeghan Ronchetti in fourth, freshman Nora Jannenga in third, freshman Tressa Huizinga in second and freshman Kira Jungblut in first. The team also saw top placements by senior Marissa Grover on the beam with first and Huizinga scoring second.

The meet allows gymnasts one last shot at achieving regional qualification and a chance to be noticed. According to DeHaan, "Besides honoring Dawn, my favorite thing about this meet is that the girls that compete all the time have to sit the bench and cheer for their teammates who don't get to compete that much. Everyone on the team is

important and this is the meet that gets to showcase different girls that do not

get a lot of recognition."

Fisher's family members attend the meet

each year handing out medals at the close of the meet. This year Lowell

junior and granddaughter of Dawn Fisher, Aili Fisher, handed out the awards.



Medal winners along with Fisher's granddaughter Aili (far left), a current Lowell junior.

This week the team will participate in regional competition in order to gain a bid in the state finals with a top three finish. All 15 members of the team have qualified for regionals with nine qualifying all around. Competing on all four events will be: seniors Maura Fitzpatrick and Amber Brown, juniors Corah Miller, Hadyn Nash and Emily Lothian and freshman Theresa Judd, Katy Hock, Marlie McDonald and Aubri Lemke. Competing on vault, beam and floor events will be: Jungblut, Ronchetti and Jannenga. Competing in two events will be Huizinga (vault, floor) and Grover (vault, bars). Freshman Aurora Fredricks will compete on the vault. The regional meet will take place at Kenowa Hills Saturday morning with the top three advancing to the team state competition to be held at Rockford on March 9.

- BOWLING

Boys advance to state and one individual qualifier

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Competing in both team and individual regional competition this past weekend, at Sherman Lanes in Muskegon, the boys placed second to advance

to state and had one bowler advance. The girls ended their season with a tenth-place finish and no state qualifiers.

Competing as a team on Friday the boys picked up

a second-place finish with 3,681 pins. Kenowa Hills came in first followed by Northview, Cedar Springs and Forest Hills Northern. The top three advance to the state competition.

Lowell, the defending Division II state champions, began their day with six baker games. From a slow start they bounced back to nab third place. Excellent scores in their three regular

games helped them gain a spot at the tournament. High scorers on the lanes were senior Carson Clark who rolled a 203 and a 214, sophomore Collin

Clark with a 206, senior Foster Skoog, 208 and junior DJ Simpson, 223 for

Bowling,
continued, page 14

Sports Summaries

ICE HOCKEY

Skating on their opponents' ice twice last week, the Lowell/Caledonia varsity hockey team broke even falling to Grand Rapids Christian (3-1) and toppling Northview. Thursday at the Eagle's Ice Center, against GRC, their lone goal was earned by Lowell senior Charlie Hayes and assisted by Lowell senior, Austin Whaley and Caledonia junior, Carter Osborn. They won (5-2) over Northview a day later at Griff's Ice House. LC goals were logged by Whaley, junior Hunter Fridley, sophomore Wade Fridley, senior Ethan Pinto and junior Brendan Irons. Two assists were credited to Hayes. This week the team began their postseason by taking on Kalamazoo United on Monday at the Kentwood Ice Arena. The winner took on East Kentwood in the pre-regional finals on Wednesday.

BOYS SWIM & DIVE

Swimming their way to a conference championship last week the Caledonia/Lowell/South Christian (CLS) boys varsity swim and dive team also qualified several swimmers for the state competition. Topping their competitors with a score of 480, CLS was followed by runner up Wayland who scored 459 and dealt the team their only conference loss this season. The two teams led third-place finisher Thornapple Kellogg/Hastings by more than

100 points. Those making the time cuts for state competition include Michael Johnson, Ryan Parsons, Parker Lee and Ethan Arendsen in the 200 medley relay clocking a time of 1:39.53 and Parker Lee in the 100 butterfly. They ended the regular season with a record of 5-5, with a 5-1 record in conference. Next up will be the 2nd Shave Invitational at the Holland Aquatic Center and the MHSAA state meet at Eastern Michigan University March 9 and 10.

SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Several Red Arrow seniors were recently recognized at a signing day event held at Celebration Cinema North for their commitments to further their educational and athletic careers at the college level. Congratulations were given to Lowell football and wrestling all-star David Kruse who will attend Michigan State University, basketball and soccer player Darby Dean who will attend Ferris University, football and baseball player Brady Douma who has committed to Hope College, track and football player Caleb Devereaux who will attend Siena Heights University, football and baseball player Connor Douma who will share his talents with Hope College and football and lacrosse standout Addison Buckius who will bring his talents to Davenport University.

Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Lowell girls earn OK White conference title

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Two regularly scheduled and one make up game were on the calendar for the Lowell girls varsity basketball team last week. The team did not disappoint, picking up three additional wins to seal their second consecutive OK White conference title.

The team took to the court on Tuesday where Greenville outscored Lowell in the first and second period, but lost ground in the latter half to fall 39-35. Trailing 22-11 at the half, they were led by junior Regan Coxon who earned 26 points and senior Cassie Dean who contributed seven.

“Everyone on the team has a role and those two lead the way scoring most nights,” said coach Heath Kent. “They do a good job of attacking the basket which puts a lot of pressure on the defenses.”

Thursday they traveled

to Northview for a make-up game, canceled earlier this month due to inclement weather. The 49-43 win over the Wildcats was once again led by Coxon who matched her earlier week performance netting 26. Lowell once again trailed early, but came together in the second half. Senior Riley Conlan was the second leading scorer picking up ten.

Welcoming Cedar Springs for their final contest of the week, the Red Arrows took to the court determined for a second title win after their pre-game senior celebration. Seniors Dean, Kenzie North, Conlan, Darby Dean and Makyla Branagan were honored for their contributions alongside their parents during the center court presentation.

Jumping into action against Cedar Springs the Arrows quickly took control of the game limiting scoring

opportunities for their opponent and ultimately keeping them to just five points in the first half. While Cedar did gain some traction in the third and fourth Lowell’s consistent scoring, good free throw percentages

and mean defense made their big lead stick. The lopsided 47-27 win was led by C. Dean who posted 13, Coxon who added nine and Branagan who chipped in seven.

The win garnered the Arrows their second consecutive title after a more than a decade drought for the program. The team ended their league season with a near perfect 11-1

record, their only loss coming from the Rangers of Forest Hills Central, 45-38. Their overall record of 16-4 reflects additional losses to non-conference rivals Jenison, East Grand Rapids and Caledonia.



Back to back OK White conference champs, the Red Arrows, on the court after their win.

This week the team will host the Forest Hills Northern Huskies on Monday for the first round of districts. In their last two contests, Lowell beat the Huskies 51-42 and 43-38. With a win the team will advance to the semi-finals on Wednesday. The finals round will be held Friday at 7:30 and 7 pm respectively. Both games will be hosted by East Grand Rapids.

Arrows lose to Wildcats, record win over Red Hawks

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Nearly through the regular season, the Red Arrow varsity boys basketball team went 1-1 last week. They dropped a heartbreaker to the Northview Wildcats 34-33 and won at home 67-39 over the Cedar Springs Red Hawks.

Suffering a difficult season the boys now hold a record of 2-17 overall and 1-10 in conference. “Our record certainly isn’t

indicative of our effort and commitment to each other. It would be very easy to point fingers, give up and go through the motions. But we have actually grown closer and stronger as the season has gone on. Remained united, battled adversity together and committed to finishing the season strong,” said coach Travis Slanger.

Their continued effort, consistent morale as they hit the court and readiness to

compete each game proves their commitment

“This is not a team that is laying down because we have faced some adversity. This is a team that is working hard for their school and community,” said Slanger adding, “We don’t adjust expectations. We don’t expect or except less because we have lost some games. Everyday we work to compete and improve.”

Last up in the regular season is a match up with Greenville scheduled for Thursday at home with a 7 pm tip off. The team will then reset for the postseason where Slanger says they’ll get a fresh start. “We are showing progress and we have the opportunity to finish strong in preparation for districts. On March 5, everything resets and everyone is 0-0.”



Go Red Arrows!

Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

the lowell

ledger

Bowling, continued

second place. This is the fourth consecutive state bid earned by the program.

The next day in the same location the gents competed as individuals qualifying one bowler to move on to the state level. Four-year varsity starter and team standout Carson Clark not only moved on, but led all 99 competitors on the lanes. Clark rolled over 200 in all six of his games leading from the close of game one and earning a high game of 235. All top five finishers were from the OK White. Simpson just missed the cut landing in 12th place with consistent scores of 189, 190, 201 and 212.

The less experienced ladies team put up a matching effort with much different results. Competing as a team the ladies placed tenth with a total pin fall of 2,979. The team was in the third position after

the six game baker set, but fell behind in the regular set. Rolling best for the team in the season-ending match were sophomore Brianna Lachowski with a 152 and a 154, sophomore Olivia Dennie who rolled a pair of 134s and senior Laura Lachowski with 151. Sophomore Emma Blakie logged a personal best high series of 549.

In individual action the following day, the ladies fell short of any qualifiers for the state tournament. Their best finisher, the elder Lachowski, placed thirteenth with a total pin fall of 979, just 25 pins away from top ten advancement. Other top performers included Blakie with a 153 and 154, B. Lachowski with a 152 and 160 and Dennie who posted a 179.



Senior state qualifier Carson Clark on the lanes during the regionals.

Photo submitted by Lowell Athletic Department

The boys will continue on this weekend at Super Bowl Lanes in Canton where they will compete Friday in team action looking for their second consecutive title. Clark will participate in the individual state tournament on Saturday at the same location.

Small ways to change your routine for a better you

Sometimes the smallest changes to your daily habits can have the biggest impact on your wellness. With that in mind, here are a few easy ways you can change your routine for a better you.

SIT LESS

Does your job require you to sit still most of the day? Even if you work out regularly, an otherwise sedentary lifestyle can be bad for your health. Be sure to get up throughout the day in order to stretch and walk around. It only takes a minute to reap the benefits, so don't skip these breaks. Consider installing an app on your phone to remind you at periodic intervals when it's time to move, and if possible, alter your workstation to make it

easier to assist in this effort. Standing desks, treadmill desks and even biking desks can keep you active throughout the day.

RETHINK BRUSHING

Good oral health includes taking great care of your gums -- and research shows that harmful bacteria and plaque that lurk below the gum line can have a big impact.

"A healthy mouth needs healthy gums, and even diligent brushing may not remove all harmful plaque,"

said Sarah Thiel, RDH. "Toothpaste that goes below the gum line to destroy plaque bacteria in the mouth is a great addition to your brushing routine. Because if you're not taking care of your gums, you're not taking care of you."

Consider switching to a toothpaste specifically developed to improve gum health, like Crest Gum Detoxify, which uses Activated Foam Technology to seek out harmful bacteria in hard to reach places in order to neutralize it, even below the gum line.

SPICE IT UP

If you rely on fat and

sugar for the bulk of flavor in your cooking, consider improving your seasoning routines for more nutritional meals.

DRINK MORE WATER

What are you drinking during the day? If the answer is juice and soda, consider replacing at least some of that with water. Water doesn't have to be flavorless. Infuse your water bottle or pitcher with your favorite fruits, vegetables and herbs. From cucumber and strawberry slices to watermelon and mint, you can have fun while hydrating.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

APPLICANT: Blu Sky Farms

PROJECT ADDRESS:
12000 Cascade Road, Lowell MI, 49331
Located at the SW corner of
Cascade Road and Alden Nash.

PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBER: 41-20-28-200-007

REQUEST: The principal provisions of the application can be summarized as follows:

Blu Sky Farms is requesting a Special Land Use permit in the I-1, Light Industrial Zoning District under the provisions of "c) Lumber and wood products, including mill work, prefabricated structural wood products and containers." The property in this request is described as 1.0 acre but has a measured size of 0.672 acres.

WHEN: THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

Any person is welcome to attend this meeting and to offer comments or submit written comments regarding the proposed Special Land Use until the date and time of said hearing. The application is on file and is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices during normal office hours; phone 616-897-7600.

February 28, 2018

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission
Kent County

obituaries

DENHOUTEN

Patricia Ann DenHouten, age 75 of Lowell, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at home Tuesday, February 20, 2018. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Robert DenHouten; children, Celeste DenHouten, Carmen (Larry) Conover, Carl DenHouten; grandchildren, Joshua (fiancée Laura Ness) DenHouten, Max DenHouten, Chelsi and Hunter Scott, Brody Breidrick; and sisters-in-law, Joanne (Jim) Holman and Dorothy (Dan) Rairigh. Memorial service was held at Vergennes United Methodist Church, Lowell. Rev. Matt Stoll officiated. Interment Bailey Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959.



JOHNSON

Wayne Eugene Johnson Sr., age 84 of Lowell, passed away Saturday, February 24, 2018. He was preceded in death by his son, Wayne E. Johnson; and daughter, Evelyn K. Johnson. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Neva Johnson; son, John L. Johnson; daughters, Carol L. (Don Kuiper) Johnson, Sharon E. (Chris) Crumback, Andrea S. (Jim) Bean, Julie E. (James) Smith; sister, Louise M. Wood; brother, Owen L. Johnson; brother-in-law, Merle Steffes; 14 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren. Wayne worked as a custodian for Forest Hills Central for 26 years. To him, family was everything; he was a loving husband, dad, grandpa and papa. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions can be made to Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM), 11535 Fulton St. E, Lowell, MI 49331.



In Loving Memory of DOROTHY A. HOUSE

June 11, 1954 ~
February 16, 2012

*Sady missed
by friends
& family*



MCCLURE

Marilyn Marie McClure (Wester), 1948-2018
Our beloved wife, mom, grandmother, and friend, aka "Meme," "Mar," "Merr," lost her sparkle on February 21, 2018. Marilyn loved her family, friends, and "her" town Lowell, Michigan, where she started and ended her life's journey. Marilyn was always ready and willing, with a sparkle in her eye, to meet a friend at McDonald's for a fountain Diet Coke, run treats to her grandchildren and their friends, volunteer at the next event, or stay up until the wee morning hours, talking to her daughters about the latest news in Lowell, or just listen to their fears, hopes, and dreams. It was a sure thing she would have an opinion as to what needed to be done, with most things being solved with a Diet Coke, some candy, a hug and kiss, and a "stop feeling sorry for yourself" by the end of the conversation. She'd say, "Everything will turn out alright," all while making sure her husband knew what was on the day's calendar and what role he'd play that day as she taxied her grandkids, whom she adored, to their next event, or to spend the day with a family member or friend. For Marilyn, there was always a reason to get on the road and do something for someone.



Marilyn's love for fun and laughter rubbed off on everyone with whom she came into contact. But don't get her mad, as she could hold a grudge like nobody's business. What made Marilyn so special was her unconditional love, inner strength, and love for life that she was able to share with so many, making everyone feel as if she loved them best. Marilyn had deep roots in Lowell and was always willing to share, with anyone that would listen, that her grandchildren were 6th generation "Lowell Lights." Her midnight "drive bys" (not the type that are highlighted on the nightly news), her cruises down Main Street, and her weekly rides around Lowell were always for a purpose: to make sure she knew what was going on in town and confirm everyone was doing well under her watch. Her memory would put an elephant to shame. Ask her what happened on the corner of Main and Center Street 2 days, 4 weeks, 12 months, or 20 years ago, and she knew not only "the story," but the people that were involved and where they could be currently found. She loved to share the "good ole days" with anyone that would listen, but especially with her lifelong friends and grandchildren, as there was nothing better to her than to sit around the table and talk about the fun and laughs they had shared on so many different occasions. She was a social butterfly like no other, her Elvis Club, McDonald Coffee Clutch, and Old Ladies Card Club will not be the same without her smile that seemed to brighten even the darkest day. She will be greatly missed by many, as she played an integral role in so many lives. Marilyn is survived by her husband, Greg McClure; daughters and son-in-law, Misty McClure-Anderson, Mark Anderson, and April McClure; grandson, Chase Anderson, and granddaughter, Ruth Anderson. We will try and carry on her zest for life and love for Lowell. As the years pass and time brings change, one thing is certain, we are BETTER people because she listened, cared, and loved us. Marilyn is simply unforgettable. Marilyn put on her last pair of earrings and matching lipstick for her Celebration of Life, which was held Tuesday, February 27, at Ada Bible Church. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. There were smiles, memories, and laughter; as anyone that knew Marilyn, knows she would have wanted us to have a good time. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Greater Lowell Chamber Foundation, Rebuild the Lowell Showboat, PO Box 224, Lowell, MI 49331.



PETERS

Roselynn June Peters, age 77 of Lowell, went to be with her Lord Tuesday, February 20, 2018. She was preceded in death by her parents, Floyd and Huldah Stahl; and sister, Marilynne DePew. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Leo Peters; children, Dale (Rose) Peters, Renee Peters, Gregg (Katie) Peters, Dawn (Jesse) Lozier; brothers Floyd (Donna) Stahl Jr., Darryl (Sharon) Stahl, Larry (Arlene) Stahl; grandchildren, Alycia, Joshua (Theresa), Chris (Danielle), Tory, Kimberly, Jesse, Devin, Jasmine, Alana, Sarah, Tamara, Kailie, Hannah; and 11 great-grandchildren. Funeral service was held at Calvary Grace Brethren Church, Alto, MI. Pastor Bryan Maley officiated. Interment Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. Memorial contributions can be made to Pink Arrow Pride, PO Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



It's easy to request a replacement Social Security card online in Michigan

In Michigan, to apply for a driver's license or state identification card, the Secretary of State requires one document demonstrating a valid Social Security number such as a W-2 form, a recent paystub containing the full Social Security number, an SSA-1099 or a Social Security card. Luckily, replacing a lost or stolen Social Security card in Michigan is easy. Congress approved the requirement for REAL ID cards in 2005 to provide enhanced security standards for state driver's licenses recommended by the 9/11 Commission. More than two dozen states have complied with the new licensing and ID standards so far. The remaining states will be converting to the REAL ID standard between now and 2020. Losing an important document, like a Social Security card, can sometimes be a hassle. However, because we have the ability to verify state-issued identification, such as driver's licenses, in Michigan, you can request a replacement Social Security card online. Our new online version of the Application for a Replacement Social Security Card can make

getting a replacement easy and stress free. It allows people in certain areas to apply for a replacement card through our secure my Social Security portal without traveling to a field office as long as you're not requesting a name change or any other change to your card. To get started, you'll need to create a *my Social Security* account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. When you open a *my Social Security* account, we protect your information by using strict identity verification and security features. The application process has built-in features to detect fraud and confirm your identity. Your security and protection is what matters most. Once you have a personal account, simply access your account, go to "Social Security Card Replacement," and follow the instructions to replace your Social Security card. It's safe, convenient, and secure. Learn more about getting a replacement Social Security card, and find out if you can request yours online by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

**STATEPOINT
CROSSWORD**

**THEME: ST.
PATRICK'S DAY**

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- 9. Bagpiper's garb
- 13. Hawaiian veranda
- 14. Big Island flower necklace
- 15. Helper
- 16. V.C. Andrews' "Flowers in the ____"
- 17. Uno ____ or one more
- 18. 4 x 4 race
- 19. *"Water of life"
- 21. *Shamrock
- 23. ____ Aviv
- 24. Rumpelstiltskin's weaver
- 25. Wildebeest
- 28. Mega Bloks competitor
- 30. *Outdoor St. Patrick's Day event
- 35. Starting point on way to riches
- 37. Clump
- 39. Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
- 40. *Ireland, once
- 41. Ox connector, pl.
- 43. Quartet minus one
- 44. Put out on a curb
- 46. *William Butler Yeats, e.g.
- 47. Cardinal vices
- 48. Bee's favorite drink
- 50. Russian mountain chain
- 52. Go gray
- 53. Period of illness
- 55. Workout unit
- 57. *These never lived in Ireland
- 60. *Hibernia
- 64. Musician's exercise

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FEBRUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 27

- Mourners gathered, Tuesday, at the Billy Graham Library in North Carolina to pay their respects to America's preacher, who died last week at the age of 99.



- The top five countries winning the most medals in the 2018 Winter Olympics held in PyeongChang County, South Korea, are Norway with 14 gold medals, Germany with 14 gold, Canada with 11 gold, USA with nine and Sweden with eight.
- President Nicolas Maduro danced reggaeton on stage Tuesday as he formally signed up for re-election as president of Venezuela. Maduro's main rivals for dictatorship are barred from running against him.
- New fitness trend improves health of planet and participant. The exercise is called plogging and is performed by picking up trash while jogging. The new craze began in Sweden, where "plocka upp" means "pick up" but has been picking up followers all over the world. #plogging hashtag

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- 65. Flying saucer acronym
- 67. Cleveland's controversial chief
- 68. Villain
- 69. Decompose
- 70. Do penitence

- 71. Parting words
- 72. Pro vote
- 73. "Walk the Dog" toy, pl.

DOWN

- 1. Deli side
- 2. Beaten by walkers
- 3. Nay sayer
- 4. Middle measurement
- 5. Jefferson coin
- 6. Lined with elm trees
- 7. "Back To The Future" actress
- 8. ABBA's genre
- 9. Capital of Ukraine
- 10. Like some rumors
- 11. Shakespeare's tragic monarch
- 12. "Don't give up!"
- 15. Olfactory property, pl.
- 20. Funereal lament
- 22. Chop off
- 24. ____ tower
- 25. *"The wearing of the ____"
- 26. Evian, backwards
- 27. Finno-____ language
- 29. Lump of stuff
- 31. Refuse visitors
- 32. Skylit lobbies
- 33. Faulkner's "As I Lay ____"
- 34. Irregular or jagged
- 36. Religious offshoot
- 38. *Stout, e.g.
- 42. Liverpool star
- 45. Cursor-moving button
- 49. Wade's opponent
- 51. Wiggle room
- 54. Shylock's line of work
- 56. Socrates' famous pupil
- 57. Dog command
- 58. Classic art subject
- 59. Puts two and two together
- 60. Itty-bitty bit
- 61. Call to a mate
- 62. Unacceptable
- 63. "Nobody ____ It Better"
- 64. Flow alternative
- 66. *British to the IRA

Puzzle solutions on page 14

SUDOKO

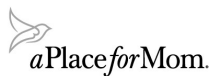
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**Online
Poll
RESULTS**

What is your favorite Winter Olympic Sport?

- HOCKEY 20%
- SKIING/SNOWBOARDING 40%
- LUGE/BOBSLED 0%
- ICE SKATING 20%
- CURLING 0%
- OTHER 20%

Lowell's Only Hometown Newspaper!

2017 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR CITY OF LOWELL AND LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Is my water safe?

We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from?

Your water comes from 4 groundwater wells, each over 87 feet in depth, and drawing from the Grand River watershed. They are located at 1596 Bowes Road in Lowell behind the water plant.

Source water assessment and its availability

The state performed an assessment of our source water in 2003 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to "very-high" based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our source is moderate.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity:

microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm

water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. Lowell City Council meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers at Lowell City Hall, 301 E. Main, Lowell, MI. Lowell Township meetings are held at 7:00pm on the first and third Mondays of each month at the Lowell Township hall, 2910 Alden Nash s.e. Lowell, MI. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact Brian VanVeelen at 897-5234. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [WWW.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/).

Variance and Exemptions

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2017 calendar year. The presence of these

contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 to December 31, 2017. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year,

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Lowell is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring levels; these substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below.

| Contaminants | MCLG | AL | Your Water | Sample Date | # Samples Exceeding AL | Exceeds AL | Typical Source |
|---|------|------|------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------|--|
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | |
| Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb) City of Lowell & Lowell Twp. | 0 | 15 | ND | 6/13 thru 6/14 2016 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppb) City of Lowell & Lowell Twp. | 1300 | 1300 | 12 ppb | 6/13 thru 6-14 2016 | 0 | No | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits |

| Unit Descriptions | |
|------------------------|--|
| Term | Definition |
| ppm | ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L) |
| ppb | ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L) |
| positive samples/month | positive samples/month: Number of samples taken monthly that were found to be positive |
| positive samples | positive samples/yr: The number of positive samples taken that year |
| NA | NA: not applicable |
| ND | ND: Not detected |
| NR | NR: Monitoring not required, but recommended. |

WATER QUALITY REPORT, CONTINUED

Looking Back, continued

| Important Drinking Water Definitions | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Term | Definition |
| MCLG | MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. |
| MCL | MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. |
| TT | TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water. |
| AL | AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. |
| Variances and Exemptions | Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. |
| MRDLG | MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. |
| MRDL | MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. |
| MNR | MNR: Monitored Not Regulated |
| MPL | MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level |

recent meeting of American Association of School Administrators in Atlantic City. Superintendent Jim Pace reports much interest in the plan, which utilizes much of the same equipment and materials for three classrooms clustered together.

Signs of spring: Many calls during the week of robins flying into the area and crocuses (or is it crocii?) beginning to come up. And then there's the sign at Curley's Diner reminding patrons of the number of days left until the advent of the vernal equinox.

The Lowell Planning Commission is hard at work these days mulling over possible changes in the master plan as it applies to the proposed civic area. Some of the original ideas no longer are applicable, but the commission is seeking new ideas before proceeding with any major innovations.

A few weeks back an Air Force pilot made a bad boo-boo by losing some H-Bombs in the vicinity of Greenland. Now comes word that a Lowell area soldier, Sgt. Dennis E. Brenk, is among a crew of airmen at work in the area of Thule, Greenland, trying to recover the missing bombs.

The way those ducks are cavorting in the open waters just below the spillway off Main Street, Spring can't be too far off!

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 3, 1993

Now, the rest of the story... Paul Harvey applauds Vennen's local cut-spending campaign. "Page two" - Daryl Kuiper, owner (not really, Paul, just general manager) of Vennen, Chrysler, Dodge, Plymouth, Dodge Trucks and Jeep Eagle of Lowell, MI faxed me an ad he is running in local papers to encourage taxpayers to write to their senators and congressman to cut spending first before raising taxes. Shortly after Paul Harvey's national commentary, Kuiper received a call from a dealer in Oshkosh WI asking Kuiper if he'd mind if he'd run a similar program in his community. The program Kuiper and the Vennen dealership put together was an ad that encourages people to write a short note to their congressman and/or senator to encourage them to cut spending first, before raising taxes. Kuiper credits Boyd Noviskey in helping to motivate him to do more than just complain about the way things are over a cup of coffee. "In all the years I've known Boyd, he's always writing to someone about something," Kuiper said. "On top of that, I've been listening to Paul Harvey talk about cutting spending." Those two factors pushed Kuiper, with the help of his managers, to develop a "cut spending first" ad campaign, which would also encourage letter writing. From that, he wrote a short letter and then faxed a copy of it and his ad and postcards to Paul Harvey. "In two hours Paul was telling a national radio audience about this campaign," says Kuiper in a disbelieving tone. "Hearing this was quite a rush. Then, I get a call from a guy in Oshkosh, WI who was listening to Harvey and wanted to start a similar campaign in his community." A call from a gentleman in West Virginia followed. "I'm getting more involved then I intended. It's out of character for me," Kuiper said. "But it is a good feeling." The Vennen campaign was advertised in Monday's Buyers Guide and is being advertised on WCUZ radio this week. Postcards on which to write a short message to your Senator/congressman are available at the Vennen dealership. Kuiper added that they will be mailed out to accounts, and to the Vennen customer base. Postage will be provided by Vennen. Addresses of our State representatives and senators were listed in the Buyers Guide. For those interested in writing, your representatives can be reached at these addresses: Senator Carl Levin, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Senator Donald Riegle, Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. Representative Paul Henry, House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515. Representative Peter Hoekstra, House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515. Kuiper said, ideally, the ad campaign will make more and more people aware. "If enough people respond we can make a difference." From a business standpoint Kuiper added that dwindling profits and higher taxes have already made it difficult to survive."

| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Your Water | Range | | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|--|---------------|------------------|------------|-------|------|-------------|-----------|---|
| | | | | Low | High | | | |
| Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products | | | | | | | | |
| (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants) | | | | | | | | |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) City of Lowell | NA | 80 | 20.8 | NA | 20.8 | 2017 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) Lowell Twp. | NA | 80 | 7.9 | NA | 7.9 | 2017 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Total Haloacetic Acid (ppb) City of Lowell | NA | 60 | 2.0 | NA | 2.0 | 2017 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Total Haloacetic Acid (ppb) Lowell Twp. | NA | 60 | 3.14 | NA | 3.14 | 2017 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm) City of Lowell | 4 | 4 | .451 | 0.16 | 0.64 | 2017 | No | Water additive used to control microbes |
| Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm) Lowell Twp. | 4 | 4 | .417 | .13 | .60 | 2017 | No | |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 1.05 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 2017 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4 | 4 | 0.64 | 0.2 | 0.8 | 2017 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Sodium (optional) (ppm) | | MPL | 15 | 13 | 17 | 2017 | No | Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching |
| Microbiological Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Total Coliform (positive samples/month) | 0 | 0 | 0 | NA | NA | 2017 | No | Naturally present in the environment |
| Fecal coliform/E. coli - in the distribution system (positive samples) | 0 | 0 | 0 | NA | NA | 2017 | No | Human and animal fecal waste |
| A violation occurs when a routine sample and a repeat sample, in any given month, are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive. | | | | | | | | |
| Radioactive Contaminants | | | | | | | | |
| Alpha Emitters (pCi/L) | 0 | 15 | 2.7 | NA | NA | 2013 | No | Erosion of natural deposits |

For more information please contact:

Water Plant Superintendent: Brian VanVeelen
Address: 1596 Bowes Rd. Lowell, MI 49331
Phone: (616) 897-5234
E-Mail: bvanveelen@ci.lowell.mi.us

Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS

State champs, continued

respectively. Chris Haynes of Eaton Rapids handed Lowell their second loss of the match at 125 before Leach and Dean earned 3-2 and 10-7 decision wins.

Lowell lost twice more at 140 and 171 pounds but picked up additional victories from Fotis will a 14-0 major decision; Boone who earned his second finals win by fall at :50; freshman Derek Mohr in his finals debut with a 12-8 decision,

senior Austin Engle by 17-2 technical fall at 189 pounds; and 215 pound senior Connor Nugent earned his final team fall at :49 finishing of the 45-16 win.

Facing Gaylord during their rookie visit to the state competition, Lowell started off with three wins then lost three before claiming the seven out of eight remaining duels for a 43-17 state crowning win. Following a quick Yuhas fall, Delooff

and Kornhorn added their second weekend victories by 3-1 decision and 11-0 major decision. Losses at 112, 119 and 125 pounds allowed Gaylord to nearly even the score, trailing by just one 13-12.

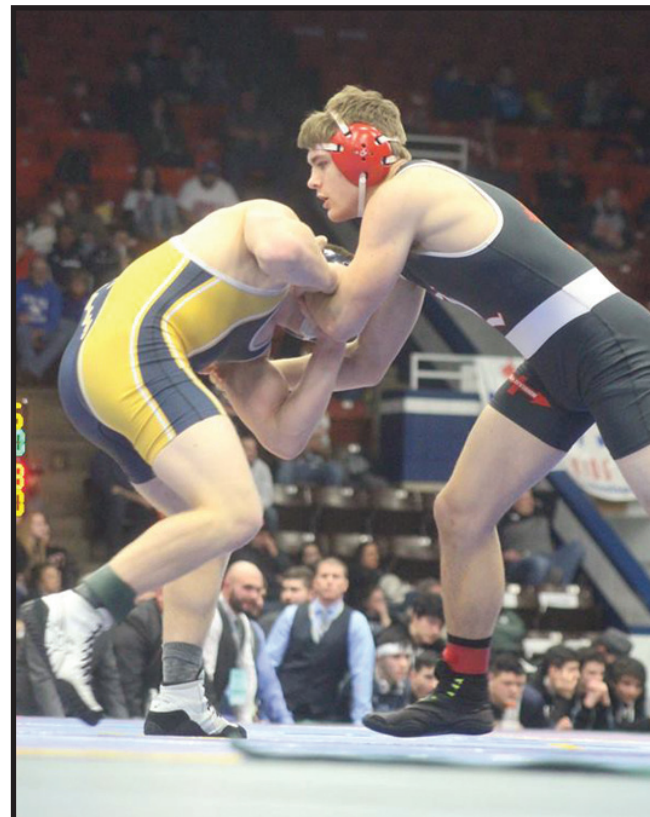
Losing just one of the remaining matches Lowell remained a top with third duel wins from Leach, by fall at 1:42; Dean by 7-3 decision, echoing the success of the family

who grappled before him; nationally ranked Boone by technical fall, 17-1; and Fotis by 10-2 major decision. Logging second tournament wins in the round were Mutschler by 5-1 decision, Engle by 7-5 decision and Kruse, Lowell's final victor. Officially earning their nearly unprecedented fifth straight championship. They are only the third team in the history of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) to accomplish the feat.

The now eight time state champions were led for the third straight year by fourth year head coach RJ Boudro, who has not known a season in the role without a state trophy. He took over the program the 2014-2015 season after serving as assistant coach under Dave Dean, who also led the team to state championships.

This is the second set of seniors in a row who earned team state champ honors during all four of their years at Lowell. This year's heavily awarded and dedicated group of soon to be graduates are Kruse, Engle, Yuhas, Channing Perry, Nugent, Tyler Lynch, George Gonzales, Christian Beimers, Carter Bierling, Elijah-Hall Jones, Roman Johnson, Lane Ryan and Jarod Wilson.

The last mission of the season for the Red Arrows is the MHSAA individual state finals to be held all day Friday and Saturday at the Ford Field in Detroit. 13 wrestlers will vie for the top state spots in their respective weight classes. Last year, only Boone walked away



Senior Austin Engle on the mat at the Division II state tournament.

with the honor. Tickets are available at the door for \$15 per session. Tickets are general admission and can be purchased only with cash.




Nationally ranked junior Avry Mutschler grappling at 140 pounds.



Red Arrow Nation was well represented in the stands at the Wings Event Center Friday and Saturday.

LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

Disney **THE LITTLE MERMAID**



\$10 ONLINE **\$12 AT THE DOOR**

March 9, 10, 16 & 17 at 7 p.m.
March 11 at 2 p.m.
in the Lowell Performing Arts Center

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
seatyourself.biz/lowellhs

Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Glenn Slater
Based on the Hans Christian Andersen story
and the Disney film produced by Howard
Ashman & John Musker written & directed
by John Musker & Ron Clements

Disney's The Little Mermaid is presented
through special arrangement with Music
Theatre International (MTI). All authorized
performance materials are also supplied
by MTI. www.MTIShows.com



Senior Keigan Yuhas started the finals round off with a fall in just :34.



**Way To
Go
Red
Arrows!**