

sizzlin' summer concerts



page 2

large donations



page 3

odyssey of the mind



page 8



l's sports

page 9

Fans in the Stands replaces former Pep Talk in downtown historic Lowell

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The former Pep Talk store at 207 E. Main is under new ownership and has been renamed Fans in the Stands. April McClure and her sister Misty McClure-Anderson took it over last month. They plan to continue selling Lowell Red Arrows merchandise and offering all of the apparel customization services, such as embroidery and vinyl, that Pep Talk had.

"We know we're still going to offer the fan gear, embroidery and screen printing," McClure said. "But it's not just a retail outlet. We also do custom shirts, hats and coats for a lot of the businesses in town, which a lot of people don't know. J&K Towing are one of our biggest ones, we do all their shirts and jackets. Walnut Grove Excavating is another one, we do all of theirs."

McClure, a fifth generation Lowellian, previously owned Eja Salon in Grand Rapids and has also worked for Station Salon and Springrove Variety.

"I worked at Pep Talk part time when I was at Station Salon," McClure said. "My

sister and I used to come in here and create our own shirts for football games, Girls Night Out and things like that. I loved doing that. I got into it. I really liked it and I just need to be creative."

The first big difference you notice when you walk into Fans in the Stands is the new paint job. Gone are Pep Talk's signature colors and patterns, replaced by classy grey and white. McClure's goal was to accentuate the fancy architectural aspects of the historic building.

"It was all polka dots and diamonds, everything was black, red and white," McClure said. "Last weekend we cleaned everything, organized and painted. It was a big project. It's still kind of bare in here right now, but we're finishing it up. I love this building. The dark grey brings out the beautiful, old columns and trim. The architecture is one of the best things about this building."

McClure already has big plans in the works for Pink Arrow Pride and Christmas Through Lowell.

"I am so happy that I've got a place in downtown Lowell," McClure said.



Tru, the official greeter, at the new Fans in the Stands, 207 E. Main.

Lowell resident honored by Tigers for 28 years of service

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell resident Dick Cooper was recently honored by the Detroit Tigers when he retired after working at their Lakeland, FL spring training facility for 28 years. He threw out the first pitch

at the March 1 game and was presented with a home plate autographed by Tigers luminaries such as Al Kaline.

"It was very heartwarming," Cooper said. "I threw the ball towards home plate, let's put it that way. It was so cool. All the

ushers signed the plate, along with numerous Tiger personnel, like Al Kaline, Willie Horton, assistant general manager David Chadd and many, many other people that I got to become good friends with during my time down there."

A lifelong Tigers fan,

Cooper said his original intent in going to Lakeland was simply to watch some Tigers spring training games. His first job was to watch the gate where the players and their families would enter the park. Eventually he was promoted to lead usher and head of security for the whole TigerTown complex and Publix Field in Lakeland.

"Through thick or thin, I've always been a Tigers fan," Cooper said. "I used to go down there for a few days, just to watch spring training. Then I was fortunate enough to get hired to work for the Tigers in February of 1991."

Over his three decades with the team, Cooper made friends with many Tiger legends.

"I got to meet quite a few of the players," Cooper said. "Most every day when I'm down there I talk with Al Kaline. I also know folks like Willie Horton, Alan

Trammell, Kirk Gibson and Jim Leyland. On my last day working I had the privilege of meeting the new manager, Ron Gardenhire. He was a very nice man."

Cooper said he plans to lead a life of leisure now that he's retired. He predicted that we should probably not expect to see the Tigers competing in the 2018 World Series this fall.

"Now I probably won't do much of anything now," Cooper said. "I'm sorry to say the Tigers probably won't make it all the way this year. It's a rebuilding year. Personally, I think they will surprise some people, but they probably won't go all the way. The Cubs are probably one of my favorite National League teams. They've got a good shot at it, they've got a good team, but there are a lot of good teams out there this year. A lot of teams spent some money to make themselves better."



Cooper's name and image were flashed on the scoreboard at Publix Field.

50¢



Sizzlin' Summer concerts on the Riverwalk begin Thursday, June 14

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter
The lineup for this year's Sizzlin' Summer Concerts in Lowell has been announced. The free concerts will take place on Lowell's scenic Riverwalk each Thursday evening at 7 pm between June 14 and August 23. Presented by LowellArts and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, these concerts bring over 1,000 people to downtown Lowell each week all summer.

"These concerts showcase and support a diverse selection of musicians and musical styles from throughout Michigan," said Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. "Styles include blues, world music, country, rock, big band and jazz."
Parking is free, it's wheelchair accessible and there will be plenty of food and spirits to enjoy.

For more information, visit lowellarts.com.

- June 14: Serita's Black Rose (seritasblackrose.com)
- June 21: The Mainstays (themainstaysmusic.com)
- June 28: The Bootstrap Boys (thebootstrapboys.com)
- July 5: Big Band Nouveau (bigbandnouvea.com)
- July 12: The Soul Syndicate (thesoulsyndicate.com)

- July 19: Jake Kershaw (jakekershaw.com)
- July 26: Stolen Horses (stolenhorsesmusic.com)
- August 2: The Thirsty Perch Blues Band (thirstyperchbluesband.com)
- August 16: Luke Winslow-King (lukewinslowking.com)
- August 23: May Erlewine and the Motivations (mayerlewine.com)



along main street



GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

Talking About Stress Workshop - Tues., April 10, 4:30-5:30 pm. Join intern Laura Vogelsang, to learn about how stress physiologically affects the body and different ways to relax. We will also be making aromatherapy necklaces using essential oils. Class size is limited to 10 and is filled by lottery selection. Please register in advance.

Cardmaking Together - Tues., April 17, 2:30-4:30 pm. Join us in making handmade cards. All supplies provided and no experience required.

Chitchat Readers Book Club - Tues., April 17, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join other members in discussing an interesting book. Stop by the clubhouse to borrow a book.

Mindfulness Workshop - Tues., April 17, 4:30-5:30 pm. Join other members to practice the emotional physical benefits of mindfulness and learn how to incorporate it into your daily life. Please dress comfortably. Presented by Jan Miller, LPC.

Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

VETERANS POTLUCK

Any veterans, on Sun., April 15 at the Veterans Center, 3116 Alden Nash. Questions, call Vikisu at 616-481-7706.

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

LOWELLARTS PLAYERS PRESENT RUMORS

LowellArts players present a dinner theater production of Rumors by Neil Simon. Directed by Kim Miller. Advanced tickets required for dinner theater, show-only tickets also available. Show dates are April 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, May 3, 4 and 5 with dinner at 6:30 pm and performance at 7:30 pm. Show-only matinee on Sat., April 28 at 2:30 pm. Performed on stage at the historic Strand Theatre, now called Larkin's Other Place, 315 W. Main Street. Contact LowellArts for tickets or information, 897-8545 or go to info@lowellartsmi.org

MAYFIELD & MOSAICS

LowellArts hosts two exhibitions simultaneously featuring two different art groups - the Mayfield Fibers Arts Group and the Mosaic Artists of Michigan. Both artist groups exist to draw attention to and educate people on their specific, time-honored art forms. Steeped in tradition, yet full of innovation, this exhibition highlights the work of contemporary mosaic artists and fiber/textile artists. Exhibits are April 21 - May 26 at LowellArts, 223 W. Main. Gallery hours are Tues. - Fri., 10 am - 6 pm and Sat., 10 am - 5 pm. For information call 897-8545 or go to info@lowellartsmi.org

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Lowell auto dealer donates \$12,000 to local charities



Last week, Charlie Jeffrey and the crew at Betten Baker GMC made sizable donations to three local charities. Flat River Outreach Ministries received a \$7,000 check, Gilda's Club of Lowell was given \$3,000 and Pink Arrow Pride got a \$2,000 donation. Dawn Broene from FROM, Wendy Wigger and Lindsay Jousma from Gilda's Club and Teresa Bechum from Pink Arrow Pride came down to the dealership to collect the generous donations, which were provided in the form of giant checks.



Addition of assistant director among myriad of changes at Alpha Family Center

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter
The myriad of changes at a Lowell based non-profit organization, the Alpha Family Center, now includes the addition of an assistant director. Minnesota native Alyssa Jenney was recently named to the role after two faithful years of volunteer service at the facility. Located at 517 E. Main Street, the center provides support for area families through education, medical services and donated resources. AFC provides free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, diapers and wipes, children and maternity clothing and other baby supplies to local mothers. Jenney began her path by donating her time each Tuesday as a client advocate according to AFC executive director Christa Wetzel.

work," Wetzel said. "She is a younger gal so her connection to the target age group we work with is a huge asset." Jenney made her way to Lowell just over two years ago by following her heart to her now-fiance Jason, an Alto native. After joining Impact Church, her soon-to-be spouse told her about an experience he had working at Love Week, the church's annual community give back. "My fiance Jason was assigned to Alpha," Jenney said. "I was visiting home but he told me about it when I got back. I was curious what they did there so I looked it

up and gave Christa a call. I have always been passionate about child care, children, pregnancy and [being] an advocate for life." Jenney's duties will be varied at the center, according to Wetzel, but will focus primarily on the women and children who utilize the center. "She will fill the roles of overseeing all of the client services and ensuring there is staffing in all areas. We operate with about 25 volunteers [and] so if there is a client advocate or receptionist missing, she will fill in those spots as needed. She will be able to give a more focused effort to this portion of the

organization, which will allow me the ability to do more administrative tasks. She immensely improves the experience as she is a very compassionate and caring individual that is a team player. A graduate of Anoka Ramsey Community College, where she received a degree in arts, Jenney looks forward to fulfilling her career and worldly duties through the AFC. "I hope to provide a friend and support system to those

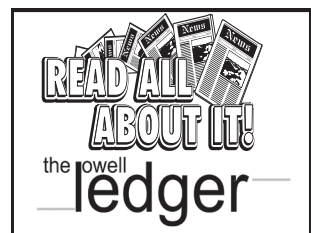
I mentor," Jenney said. "A place that they feel safe and loved and where they can learn and grow. I strive to help mothers and fathers to be better parents and learn new things and techniques for parenting, life skills and a relationship with God. Furthermore, I hope to help Christa further the ministry and grow it so we can help more people."



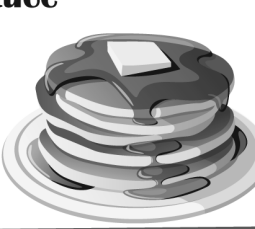
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Members reflect during annual Cross Walk held on Good Friday

by Kathryn Atwood
 contributing reporter

Gathering at noon on Good Friday to reflect upon the sacrifice and rising of Jesus, members of more than a dozen local churches and Christian based organizations participated in the annual Cross Walk coordinated by the Lowell Ministry Alliance (LMA).

Believers assembled at the Lowell First United Methodist Church to join in prayer and hymns prior to lifting and carrying the full sized cross. Pausing, at various destinations throughout Lowell, to join in prayer and listen to the

story of the crucifixion. The procession ended at Oakwood Cemetery where the sojourners heard final scriptures and bowed their heads in prayer once more. Participants included the hosting LFUMC, Flat River Outreach Ministries, Lowell First Baptist Church, Alpha Family Center and Impact Church, to name just a few. "We gather with all the churches and everyone [who] has [had] a hand in planning. It's a joint effort," explained Impact lead pastor Jason Holdridge.

LMA is a collaboration of ministry leaders that have been working together

for the past two years, meeting once a month to serve the community. Replacing a former group that dismantled, LMA aims to better support the people of Lowell through their joint efforts. The Cross Walk is one of several events planned by the organization. Upcoming events include the National Day of Prayer service held on May 3 at noon on the Riverwalk; the Class of 2018 Baccalaureate program at Lowell High School on May 20 at 4 pm; and a community worship service to be held during the Riverwalk Festival on Saturday, July 14 from 7-8:15 am, also at the Riverwalk.



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viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Journal April 8, 1896

In the spring the housewife's fancy turns to wall paper and paint. Her steps should turn to W. S. Winegar. He has the goods at right prices.

Mrs M. S. Chapman met with a sad accident at her home in Grand Rapids last week. She fell down stairs receiving severe bruises, but fortunately breaking no bones.

McConnell & Co. have secured John L. Kopf, who will begin work Monday, April 20th. He will be pleased to meet all the old customers. Call and see him.

A number of the young men gave a very successful party at Music Hall last Thursday evening. The young ladies who attended had an enjoyable time and felt amply repaid for the one recently given by them. Long live our boys.

Word was received at Grand Rapids, this morning that the town of Rockford was in flames. An engine was at once sent to their relief, but arrived too late to do more than prevent the flames from spreading. Loss reported about \$50,000.

A. C. Morgan and wife of Lowell, and Mrs Engene Hardy, of Pentwater, and Mrs W. Rowleader visited with Mr and Mrs Fred Andrews at Alto last Tuesday. While there Mrs Rowleader had a bad misfortune, falling through the back stair. She was hurt quite severely, but no bones were broken.

The Christening at the Cong. church last Sunday evening was attended by a large and interested audience. The little son and daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank R. Ecker, the infant son of Mr and Mrs Victor J. Obenauer, of Detroit were christened by Rev. Jas. Provan, and the little daughter of Mr and Mrs Jas. Provan was christened by Rev Mr Jones. The church was very prettily decorated and the exercises, consisting of recitations and music, were finely rendered.

Married, at the residence of the brides parents, Mr and Mrs Angus McDiarmid, on Tuesday afternoon, March 31st, Estella, to Rev. Clarence Deal, of Climax. Rev. Levi P. Masters, of Kalamazoo, assisted by Rev. A. P. Moors, performed the ceremony. They left on the 4 o'clock train for Bancroft and Climax, for a short visit. The guests present from abroad were, Miss Grace Buell, of Grand Rapids, Mr and Mrs Winchell, of Ionia, and Williard Deal. Mrs Deal will finish the school year here and in July they will go to housekeeping in Climax.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 4, 1918

The case of the people vs. Wm. Brownell was tried before Justice Andrews yesterday. Brownell was arrested on complaint of Humane Officer Randolph,

charged with starving his horses, one of which died. The Justice gave him 90 days to ponder over it.

Lieut. Walter Kropf is home from the aviation camp at Morrison, Va. Will probably be going "over there" in the near future.

Jacob Rhyn of Alma and Miss Ruth Mitchell were united in marriage at the Congregational parsonage Monday evening April 1, Rev. A. H. Lash officiating.

Now is the time to buy toilet soaps. We have some extra good values at 10c and 15c the cake, while they last. Henry's Drug Store.

Don't buy any shade of paint that does not suit you. We have all colors in stock and it's Monarch, the 100 per cent pure kind, the best by every test. Sold only at Henry's Drug and Paint store.

The members of the Clover Leaf club are requested to meet at the City State bank Wednesday at 9, a.m., April 10, to help the War Stamp committee canvas the town for the sale of Thrift and War stamps.

The Spartan society will meet with Mrs. Harold Weekes Wednesday, April 10. Please bring thimbles.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Nicholson of Grand Rapids were in town Wednesday and attended the Senior play.

Advertised letters in the Lowell postoffice: August Brown, Leo Miller, Rob't J. Thompson, Mrs. F. A. Barber.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 8, 1943

Excess purchase and hoarding of potatoes by consumers are practices discouraged by officials who report that supplies the first of the year were only 1 per cent below normal. Federal food distribution administration officials suggest potatoes should be bought only as needed, baked or boiled with their jackets on, or at least peeled thin to conserve the minerals that lie close to the skin.

Village street cleaners have been hard at work the past few days cleaning up sand and gravel and last remaining ice from the curbs along the length of Main street and as a result the street presents a much neater appearance.

Leave it to the ladies of this community for knowing how to get up a good meal containing all of the essential vitamins and calories without encroaching upon precious ration stamps. That Board of Trade dinner was a real example of what can be done—even to providing a second wedge of delicious homemade pie.

One good way to show our affection for the men and boys who have gone into the armed services, is to keep up the home town in such a fine condition that they will be proud of it when they come back. They think of the home town with deep affection. Meanwhile they are seeing fine communities as they go about the country, and perhaps noted places in foreign lands. This will make them more critical when they come back. They know what fine cities look like. If they get back and see that the old home town does not compare well with places they have seen, they will feel disappointment. Every time we put in good looks, improving the home places, or cooperating for the general improvement of the community, we help give the boys a happy feeling when they finally get back home.

Hardly a day passes but that the local fire department is called out because of grass fires. On Tuesday there were four such calls. Grass fires are costing the village a heap of money. See Common Council notice elsewhere in this issue regarding the necessity of obtaining a permit before starting such fires.

Mrs. Charles Doyle, local chairman for the Red Cross, requests that if any person was missed in the Red Cross call and still wishes to contribute, he may do so. Phone Mrs. Doyle and you will be called upon.

outdoors

bargain hunting

Dave Stegehuis

On-line apps, clipping coupons, and shopping sales are strategies for getting a bargain on goods and services. Michigan hunters looking for a hunting bargain may want to check out opportunities to pursue Eastern wild turkeys.

For a long time turkeys, once native to Michigan, were absent from the landscape. During the early 1900s attempts to re-introduce turkeys were essentially a series of experiments. In the 50s more released turkeys survived and with additional releases and natural reproduction began to flourish due to improved habitat and aggressive management. Now turkeys occupy all counties in the Lower Peninsula as well as most of the Upper Peninsula.

Today, anyone who wants to hunt turkeys can get a license and find a place to hunt. There are license quotas for specific areas, but over-the-counter licenses are usually available.

Turkey hunting is easy to get into because of the proximity of turkey flocks to everyone in the state. Extensive travel and special accommodations are not necessary. Archery equipment or regular shotguns can be used for hunting. There are restrictions on some types of firearms and ammunition.

Hunters can walk around and look for birds, sit against a tree, or hide in a blind and wait for something to strut by. Fair warning, turkey hunting can become an obsession. If one has never hunted turkeys or not hunted at all, one may be in for a surprise out in the turkey woods.

There is a limited fall turkey season, but the spring hunt is the most popular. After a long winter it is an opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy the mild weather surrounded by the sounds and smells of the awakened landscape. Add to that the excitement of pursuing very interesting and wary wild game. Waiting motionless as a strutting tom turkey approaches within range is as exciting as hunting gets. As simple and inexpensive as turkey hunting can be, the opportunity to research and learn new hunting techniques and theories make for a challenging experience. There are special shotguns for turkey hunting, as well as a variety of calls, clothing, and blinds. For many, dealing with equipment is a large part of the experience.

Depending on one's expectations, turkey hunting can be as easy or as complicated as one makes it. If you are looking for a bargain, turkey hunting may be the answer.

We love to hear from you!



Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher; duplicate comments/authors within a short period may be dismissed. Opinions expressed in "To The Editor" are not the views of the Ledger employees or the publisher. All letters are subject to editing. Thank you letters and advertising will not be printed.

Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.

health

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

- anaphylaxis in children

Anaphylaxis is the extreme of an allergy. For a child to develop such a reaction, he or she must have been exposed to a substance at least once in the past. During the first exposure, there are no visible symptoms. However, the body learns to recognize the substance and builds a defense mechanism against it. With subsequent exposure, the body reacts to the substance as if it were harmful.

Anaphylaxis is a serious and potentially life-threatening condition that requires prompt medical treatment. Most episodes occur within seconds to minutes after exposure, but a reaction can be delayed for several hours. Typical symptoms include itching, flushing, hives, wheezing,

gasping for air, fainting, weakness or low blood pressure.

The only medicine that treats anaphylaxis is epinephrine. It usually comes in a long injector (EpiPen) and can be safely given by parents, teachers or even by children themselves if they are old enough. If there is a suspicion of anaphylaxis the safest thing to do is to give the epinephrine. There is no contraindication to giving the medication. Other medications like Benadryl can be used to help with itchiness and hives. Steroids can decrease swelling and inflammation.

Avoiding exposure to the suspected foods, medications or insects is the best way to prevent anaphylaxis.

Lowell homeschool students place at regional science fair

Classical Conversations homeschool groups held a regional Science Fair and the Lowell group had three winners. Aubrey Maley took third place overall for the Challenge B students with her research on how early nutrition affects growth rates in chickens.

For the Challenge A students, Katie Olander was awarded second

place overall studying the conditions in which bread stays fresh or grows stale. Isaiah Birmingham placed third overall for his project demonstrating the principles behind force multiplication in a closed hydraulic system.

You can find more information at classicalconversations.com or email sgrinage@classicalconversations.com



Aubrey Maley



Isaiah Birmingham & Katie Olander

area births

Hinkelman



Grace Kimberly Hinkelman

Levi and Korinne Hinkelman of Ada proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Grace Kimberly Hinkelman. Grace arrived at 1:43 am on Friday, February 2, 2018, at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids. She weighed

6 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 20 inches long. Grace has one brother, Alden (3 1/2) and one sister, Ellaina (2). Grandparents are Jon and Diane Hinkelman of Watervliet and Richard and Kimberly Stasa of Henderson.

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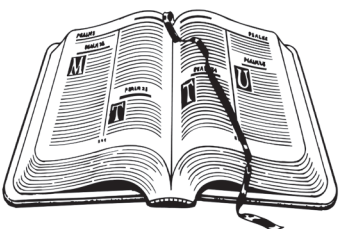
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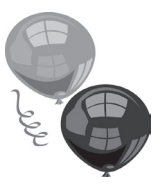
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happy birthday



- APRIL 4**
Troy Pethers, Nick Corbeil, Janet Kelley.
- APRIL 5**
Doug Klahn.
- APRIL 6**
Brad Yonker, Connie Vaughn, Malley Cahoon, Carol Hovinga, Fran Clouser, Cheryl Foster, Taylor Milstead, Jonathon Hoag.
- APRIL 7**
Corey Vollink, Rick Sauber, Lindsey Thaler, Mary Kimble, Kenneth Dalga, John Henderson, Brad Shoen.
- APRIL 8**
Jay Vezino, Sandy Converse.
- APRIL 9**
J.R. Guastavino.
- APRIL 10**
Julie Webb, Nicholas Comdure, Chelsea Comdure, Betsey Walker, Sarah Rusch-Hildenbrand, Tristan Lane Ellsworth-Bristol, Barbara Bechtel, Lois Wittenbach.



Looking Back, continued

50 years ago Lowell Ledger April 4, 1968

The purchase of the new 8 m.m. film projector for the Lowell Public Library will greatly widen the scope of the service of the library to the community according to Mrs. Evelyn Briggs, librarian. "With the aid of this new projector," she said, "we can take advantage of the large film library housed at the Kent County Library in Grand Rapids. We have already used the projector for the entertainment of the tots at our story hour and there is material at the main library acceptable for any age group." Mrs. Briggs added that the films are available for use by groups in Lowell. Anyone interested should contact her for details. Those who contributed toward the purchase of the projector were: Lowell Township Board, Garden Lore Club, Lion's Club, Rotary Club and the Civic Affairs Committee of the Loyal Order of Moose.

A new officer has joined the Lowell Police force. He is Robert Perrin, 25, who was appointed to the post on recommendation of Chief Avery Block. City Manager Bernard Olson, who is also the city's personnel director, confirmed the appointment Monday. Perrin is a former member of the Police Reserves. With his wife, and their two children, he resides at 501 Amity.

Jack Smith and his wife, Sandy, returned Sunday from a four day all expense paid trip to Bermuda. Jack recently was the winner in a regional sales contest through the Dodge Delta Sales Club and Jackson Motor Sales. Last year, in this same contest, Jack won a trip for himself and his wife to Las Vegas, Nevada.

Final approval has been received from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for transfer of licenses for the Village Inn from Urb Kyser to Erma Bartlette, wife of Chuck Bartlette of Saranac. The new owners plan to continue extensive renovations of the interior. Urb will remain as manager.

Our Man at City Hall predicted last week that voter turnout in Monday's council election would be 400. Today he is somewhat red-faced. Only 392 cast ballots! Here's a puzzle! How come a boxcar out of Vermont finds its way to a siding of the C&O tracks here in Lowell? In very bright colors no less and taken from the fact that it is from the Green Mountain State.

Mrs. ItoI Dalstra, recently retired owner of the Lowell Rest Home, reports that her large Christmas Cactus, which bloomed all through November and December, is now budded out and will be blooming again in time for Easter.

Speaking of nimrods, that word was used here last week to describe fishermen. We stand corrected by our Outdoor Editor, who says that nimrods are hunters while anglers are those who pursue the denizens of the deep.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 7, 1993

Initial steps were taken to etch a new sidewalk improvement program in concrete Monday night by the Lowell City Council. The City enacted a sidewalk improvement program between the years 1988 to 1991. This was a voluntary effort on the part of property owners. The City participated with a 50 percent contribution of the cost for sidewalk replacement and 25 percent for walks. Over four miles of sidewalk was installed. "The program was viewed as a success," City Manager Dave Pasquale said. In response to the program, the City is proposing a new sidewalk program. This one would be absent of City participation and would have special assessments. To initiate the program it was recommended that sidewalk projects on Hudson and Monroe be started this year. "The streets receive a high volume of traffic and are linked to the downtown and schools," Pasquale said. It is proposed that on Hudson (Main to the north City limits) 2,598 feet of walk be put in. That would cover 23 properties. On Monroe (from Main to Fremont) it is proposed that 792 feet of sidewalk, covering 22 properties, be replaced and 379.5 feet of new sidewalk, covering four properties be installed. The cost would be between \$10 to \$12 a lineal foot. Special assessment districts could be established. The sidewalk program enacted from 1988 to 1991 either replaced or put in new sidewalk covering 22,347 lineal feet which covered 210 properties.

Kettle Lake Elementary (Middleville), McConnely Park and Creekside Park. Which one of these doesn't have a wooden multi-structure playground? The answer is Creekside Park. However, that is set to change by May of 1994. Tina Phillips, a member of the Lowell Jaycees, presented plans for the Jaycees to construct a wooden playground at Creekside Park before the Lowell City Council. The Council enthusiastically approved. "I think it's an exciting

project, one the community can get behind," Lowell Mayor Jim Maatman said. The project, which could cost up to \$50,000, would be paid for through Jaycees fund raising. The Parks and Recreation Commission recommended approval of the project on March 20. The exact location of the playground would be mutually agreed upon between the Jaycees and the City. Parks and Recreation board member Don Green said thought has been given to putting the playground structure where the current playground area is. As for what the playground structure would look like and include, Phillips said thoughts and ideas would be taken from elementary students. Approval was given, with the understanding that a maintenance agreement would have to be worked out.

In an effort to control the dog population in Lowell Township the planning commission passed an ordinance limiting the number of dogs per household. The ordinance limits households to three dogs and includes revisions pertaining to barking dogs, vicious animals and dogs running loose. According to commission members the need to control dogs in the community comes as a result of the Kent County Sheriff's Department receiving numerous complaints. The Sheriff's Department couldn't do anything in the past because no rules were in place regarding dogs. The ordinance states that dogs must be restrained by chain or a leash, not to exceed six feet in length, and controlled by a person with the ability to restrain it. It also defines a vicious animal as any animal which has bitten or may bite a person or domestic animal without molestation. The ordinance also sets rules as to how the county may prosecute animals who are deemed vicious. The county may command an animal owner to appear in court and show why the animal should not be confined or destroyed. If the court finds that the animal in question shows habits or molests passers-by when lawfully on the public highway it may confine the animal to the owner's premises or order the Director of Animal Control to destroy the animal. The ordinance would also require other domestic animals such as horses, cattle, swine or other animals, not usually considered house pets, be kept on parcels of lands larger than four acres and at least 100 feet from any adjoining property or street line. Although the ordinance was passed by the planning commission it must still be submitted to the township board for approval before it can be enforced by the county.

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You can call us toll free at 1-800-772-1213. Social Security offers some automated services that allow people to receive service without waiting to speak to a representative. The automated services are available 24 hours a day and include some of the most popular services that people need. With automated services, you can request a benefit verification (proof of income) letter, replace a lost SSA-1099 (tax summary needed for taxes), request a replacement Medicare card, ask for form SSA-1020 to apply for help with Medicare prescription drug costs, or request an SS-5 application for a Social Security card.

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letter" or "Replace Medicare card." Next, you will be asked for some personal information to identify yourself, then we will respond to your request. We will mail you the document or form you requested. It takes less time to use automated services than to reach a representative by phone on a busy day.

Sometimes, you just need Social Security information such as, "What date will my check arrive?" or "What is the SSI program?" Automated services feature some informational messages about these popular topics. If payment delivery date is the type of info you need, when asked "How can I help you?" just reply "Payment delivery date." You will hear a recorded message stating the current month and the future month's payment dates. Other topics include direct deposit, SSI messages, the

cost-of-living adjustment, Medicare prescription drug program, tax information, representative payee, and fraud. Dial, and listen — what a simple way to stay informed.

Whether you use our automated services, speak to a representative by phone, use our website, or visit an office, Social Security wants to connect with you. Connection is a vital part of helping you secure your today and tomorrow. To connect with us through our automated services, visit <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/agency/contact/phone.html>

Vonda VanTil is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov

LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

To be considered, all proposals
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April 20, 2018.

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The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell Area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

Five Lowell Odyssey of the Mind teams compete at state finals competition

On Saturday, March 17, 113 Odyssey of the Mind teams from around the state gathered at Thornapple Kellogg schools in Middleville to compete in the 38th annual Michigan Odyssey of the Mind competition. Five teams from Lowell Area Schools were represented at the competition.

Two teams consisting of students from Murray Lake, Cherry Creek and Alto Elementary competed in the division one age bracket. The all third grade "Triathlon Travels" team had to design, build and

drive an original vehicle in an Odyssey style triathlon. Their third place finish out of eleven teams was quite impressive since they were competing against many other students who were two years older. The "Emoji, Speak for Yourself" team had to use three dimensional emojis to communicate the story of a once famous, but now forgotten emoji, with a twist...no spoken language was allowed. The emoji team finished second in their division advancing them to the World Finals competition.

The Lowell Middle

School "Triathlon Travels" team also had to design, build and drive an original vehicle in an Odyssey style triathlon. For one of the events, the team created and mounted a pneumatic cylinder on their vehicle to propel a smaller vehicle down a lane and stop precisely in a scoring zone, which really impressed the judges.

Two teams from Lowell High School participated at the state finals competition. One team performed in the "Triathlon Travels" problem with a complex drive system on their team created



The elementary "Triathlon Travels" team with their team created original vehicle. (Left to right: Zack Shea, Weston McFarland, Adelle Kreuger, Olivia Lothian, Brooklyn Jackson and missing is Ella Anne Pike).



Senior Chloe Looman receiving her scholarship award with Pam Gombert, Michigan Odyssey of the Mind Association director.

vehicle, while giving a history lesson during their presentation. The other high school team competed in the "Animal House" problem where they were asked to design and build a balsa wood structure that turned into an animal and balanced as much weight as possible. This team secured a second-place finish in their division and problem, advancing them to the World Finals competition.

The day also brought a scholarship award for Lowell High School senior Chloe Looman. Creativity

Unlimited in Michigan, sponsor of the Odyssey of the Mind program, awarded five \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Looman has participated in Odyssey of the Mind for the last twelve years.

Since starting the program in Lowell twelve years ago, this is the sixth time Lowell will be represented at the international world competition to be held at Iowa State University in May.

Over 800 teams from around the world will compete in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. The competition emphasizes creativity and teamwork and has grown into the largest international creative problem-solving competition worldwide. Millions of kids have been working hard all year perfecting their solutions to OotM problems and competing within their regions and states. Only

a few advance to World Finals – these teams represent the best of the best creative minds. While the competition is fierce, there is also a feeling of camaraderie among competitors. Many students form lifelong friendships that span the U.S. and the globe. At World Finals, the teams have the chance to learn about other cultures through a common goal... to be as creative as they can!

The students are beginning to raise funds to participate in the competition. Each team will need to raise approximately \$5000 to attend the World Finals tournament. Please consider making a donation to help the students who will be representing our community and state at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals competition. If you or your organization would be interested in helping out the teams, please email lowellodyssey@gmail.com for more information.

Red Arrow Spring SPORTS SCHEDULES

BOYS & GIRLS VARSITY TRACK
 * Denotes a meet at Red Arrow Stadium
 4/17 at 4:15 pm at Greenville

GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE
 * Denotes a home game at Red Arrow Stadium
 4/11 at 7 pm Grand Haven*

BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE
 * Denotes a home game at Red Arrow Stadium
 4/12 at 7 pm at Caledonia
 4/14 at 12 pm at Forest Hills Eastern

GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS
 * Denotes a game at LHS tennis courts
 4/10 at 4 pm at Lakewood
 4/12 at 4:15 pm Wayland*

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER
 * Denotes a home game at Red Arrow Stadium
 4/9 at 6:45 pm Greenville*
 4/10 at 6:45 pm Reeths-Puffer*

BOYS VARSITY GOLF
 * Denotes a meet at Deer Run Golf Course
 4/10 at 3:30 pm Unity Christian*
 4/12 at 1 pm Kent County Classic at Thornapple Pointe

GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL
 * Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Field
 4/11 at 4:15 pm Northview* - double header
 4/13 at 4:15 pm at Northview

BOYS VARSITY BASEBALL
 * Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Field
 4/7 at noon - Indiana Games at New Albany
 4/11 at 4:15 pm Northview* Double header

...
Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.
 — Margaret Mead

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Player **Spotlight**

Our Spotlight Athlete This Week: *Carson Clark*

For senior Carson Clark, bowling at Lowell High School has been a family affair. His younger brother Collin has bowled alongside him for two years as part of the varsity team and his father Chris is the head coach. Clark logged the best finish for bowlers in the program's history this season placing third at the state tournament as an individual. He also led the way to a flawless undefeated season and the program's first team state title last season. His skill on the lanes earned him the top average in the OK White for two years in a row and all-conference honors all four years of his Red Arrow bowling career.

Ledger: *How long have you been involved in bowling and are you involved in any other sports?*

I have been involved in bowling since I was about five years old.

Ledger: *What is your favorite aspect of bowling and what, so far, has been your most memorable meet?*

My favorite aspect of bowling is how much science goes into creating oil patterns and bowling balls and my most favorable match/tournament was the Hudsonville Invitational.

Ledger: *What do you like to study at LHS?*

I have enjoyed the three AP history courses I have taken.

Ledger: *How has coach Clark helped you along the way?*

He has kept me working hard and reminded me that there's always something to work on.

Ledger: *Why are sports important and why are they important to you?*

Sports are important because they give a sense of accomplishment when you do well and they remind you that you aren't perfect.

Ledger: *What awards or accolades have you received as a Lowell student and athlete?*

I have been on varsity all four years and I have many top 10 tournament finishes.



Ledger: *What was it like competing alongside your brother?*

Competing alongside my brother has been a great experience, it gives me a reason to keep bettering myself and him as well.

Ledger: *Who is your personal inspiration?*

I have always looked up to Mike Horian and Charlie Brown Jr., they have both been an inspiration to me and helped me along the way.

Sports Summaries

GIRLS TENNIS

Red Arrow girls varsity tennis opened up their season with a shut out last week Monday against non-conference competitor Comstock Park High School. The exemplary 8-0 victory was won in straight sets. The team will travel to Lakewood High School on Tuesday, April 10 and welcome the Wildcats of Wayland High School after spring break on Thursday, April 12.

BOYS GOLF

Hitting the links for the first time this season, last week Tuesday, the Lowell boys varsity golf team earned a ten stroke victory over Kenowa Hills High School at Gracewil Country Club. The 180-170 win was fueled by top performances from juniors, John Russell and Drew Davidson, who both tallied a 44; and sophomore Noah Barnhart and junior Tyler Karcia with a 41. After the spring holiday they will welcome Unity Christian High School at Deer Run Golf Course on Tues., April 10, at 3:30 pm. They will also compete in the Kent County Classic on Thursday at Thornapple Point Golf Course at 1 pm following up with the Grand Rapids Christian Invitational at Quail Ridge, Saturday at 9 am.

GIRLS SOCCER

The Red Arrow girls varsity soccer team faced the Rockford Rams on the road last week settling for a 3-3 tie after a ferocious effort on the field. Junior Regan Coxon found the back of the net twice in the game to lead offensively. Senior Darby Dean earned a first-half goal as well as an assist. The girls will face a trio of tough competitions post spring vacation consisting of two OK White battles. They will host Greenville High School on Monday, April 9; nonconference foe Muskegon Reeths Puffer on Tuesday, April 10 and Cedar Springs on Friday, April 13; all three contests begin at 6:45 pm inside Bob Perry Memorial Stadium.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Lowell girls varsity lacrosse added a second win to the season last week Tuesday hosting the Grandville Bulldogs earning a 17-6 runaway victory. Leading just 7-4 after the first half, the Red Arrows catapulted toward their win in the second scoring ten goals in a widespread offensive. After enjoying their week of respite, the team will return to the field on Wednesday, April 11 to host Grand Haven High School for their first conference match up of the season. Action is scheduled to begin at 7 pm.

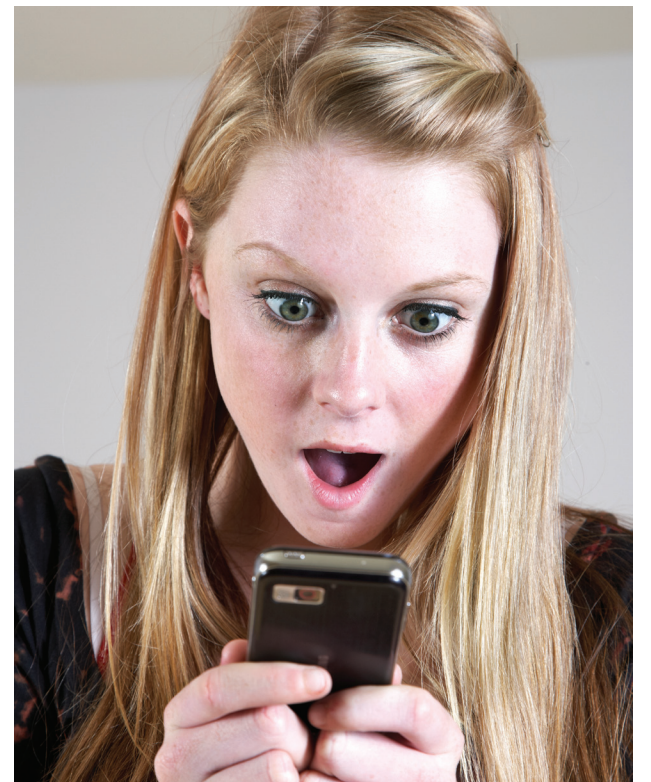
ARROWS GIVING BACK

Donating their practice time, the Lowell Red Arrow varsity softball team and head coach Bill McElroy gave back to the community at the Alpha Family Center of Lowell. The sluggers rolled up their sleeves and helped with clean up and construction projects at the organization's soon-to-be fully renovated building located at 517 East Main Street. The non-profit center serves families in the community through resources and education.

BASEBALL

Facing post season nemesis the Rockford Rams in non-conference action last week, the Red Arrow varsity baseball team was shut out 11-0. Senior pitcher Travis Cornell took the loss at the mound for Lowell giving up five runs on as many hits, while striking out only one over just under four innings. Fellow senior Connor Doma went 1-1 at the plate to lead the team's offensive effort by hitting a single in the fourth inning. The team will compete next in the Indiana Games on Saturday, April 7 versus New Albany High School and then face a doubleheader back at home on April 11 against the Wildcats of Northview High School in their OK White season opener at 4:15 and 6:15 pm.

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Dear EarthTalk: Just when I finally purged my kitchen of non-stick cookware due to the risks posed by Teflon, I now learn that my rain jacket and waterproof boots are also putting my health at risk from exposure to similar “hydrophobic” chemicals. What’s a concerned outdoors person to do about staying dry and comfortable on a rainy hike?

--
Alex Walker, Philadelphia, PA

Most of us remember when GORE-Tex first appeared and revolutionized outdoor clothing and gear by infusing products with a waterproof treatment that could also “breathe” so we wouldn’t get clammy on the inside as our outerwear repelled the elements. Since then, this synthetic chemical-based weatherproofing has become ubiquitous throughout the outdoor industry, not only in jackets, but also in boots and shoes, backpacks, tents, swimsuits and just about everything else that gets exposed to the wet and wild.

And while we’ve all been happily making our way through the rain and snow, we might not have realized that there is a dark underbelly to all of this weatherproof outdoor gear: perfluorinated compounds (PFCs). These synthetic chemicals are related to the “hydrophobic” PFOA formulations that make non-stick cookware easy to clean by encouraging liquids to bead up and roll away. And like their chemical cousins on cookware, the PFCs in

your jacket could be making you sick and polluting the environment.

“PFCs are environmentally hazardous substances, which are persistent in the environment,” reports Greenpeace, which launched its Detox Outdoor campaign in 2012 to convince outdoor gear makers to stop using toxic chemicals in their products. “Studies show that some PFCs can accumulate in living organisms such as the livers of polar bears in the Arctic and are also detected in human blood.” Meanwhile, animal studies indicate that PFCs can harm reproductive processes, negatively impact hormonal balances and promote the growth of tumors.

Once released into the environment PFCs break down very slowly. They remain in the environment for several hundred years and are dispersed over the entire globe. Some are found in secluded mountain lakes or accumulated in wildlife. Some are also found in human blood.

If you have waterproof shoes or a rain jacket that is more than a year or two old, chances are it was treated with a PFC-laced Durable Water Repellent (DWR) finish before it left the factory—and could be leaching trace amounts of these toxic carcinogenic chemicals into your

body and the environment. And PFCs never break down entirely, so they can continue to cause harm indefinitely.

Luckily, given Greenpeace’s advocacy and resulting consumer awareness, the majority of gear makers have started to phase out PFCs. Smaller brands including Paramo, Pyua, Rotauf, Fjällräven, R’ADYS and Dannah were the first to commit to PFC-free product lines, but the bigger players are coming around, too. W.L. Gore, Patagonia, The North Face, Marmot, Columbia and others have voluntarily committed to phasing out PFC-based DWR formulations by 2020 per Greenpeace’s original ask.

But getting there depends on finding suitable alternatives. Many companies have temporarily switched to less toxic while still fluorocarbon-based DWR formulations while they look for greener formulations. For its part, Patagonia is betting big through its corporate investment fund Tin Shed Ventures on Switzerland-based start-up Beyond Surface Technologies, a company founded in 2008 by scientists who left careers at big chemical companies to make DWR-like textile treatments using natural raw materials.



CONTACTS :
Greenpeace Detox Outdoor Campaign, detox-outdoor.org; Tin Shed Ventures, tinshedventures.com; Beyond Surface Technologies, www.beyondst.com.

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.

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Murray Lake Elementary’s Volunteer of the Month

Murray Lake Elementary has named Brandi Bledsoe as their Volunteer of the Month. “Brandi comes in every Friday morning to help in the media center. She assists with many different tasks to help keep the media center up and running. She checks books in and out. She takes time to teach students how to find particular books for which they’re looking. She has a great rapport with the kids. We are so thankful that she volunteers every week to help make Murray Lake a great place to be,” said Patti Harreld, media center specialist.

“I take great pleasure in working in the media



center at MLE every Friday morning. I enjoy seeing how eager the kids are to read and check out their books. Mrs. Harreld is funny and kind. We both love books,” commented Bledsoe.



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Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports
the lowell ledger
Go Red Arrows!
[Images of sports equipment: sneakers, football, basketball, soccer ball]

obituaries

FRANCISCO

Michelle Kay (Linebaugh) Francisco, age 56, of Lowell, entered the presence of her Lord on March 30, 2018. She passed from this life at Mercy Health, St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids, under the care of Faith Hospice, following a heroic eight-year battle with cancer. Michelle was born on August 7, 1961, in Greenville to Delbert Franklin and Karen Rae (Brownell) Linebaugh. She graduated from Belding High School with the Class of 1979, continuing her education at Grand Valley State University



where she was a 1993 graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She worked at St. Mary's Hospital, Zeeland Community Hospital, Metron of Belding and most recently for Holland Home as executive director of Fulton Manor. She married Duane "Dewey" Francisco on February 16, 1985, at Belding United Methodist Church. Among her many life accomplishments, she served as chairperson of the Michigan Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee for several years. Michelle was always energetic and looking forward to her next adventure with family and friends. She was a true example of selflessness, living the Bible message out each day. Her commitment to her community and worthy causes was endless, as she served on the Belding Area Chamber of Commerce, the Belding Apple Fest and Labor Day Celebrations and was a founding member of the B Foundation, among many other worthy causes. The memory of Michelle will be cherished by her dear family including her husband, Dewey; her son, Matthew Duane Francisco; parents, Delbert and Karen Linebaugh of Belding; brothers, Peter (Leah) Linebaugh of Belding and Marc (Mikayla) Linebaugh of Belding; a sister, Margo Reeves of Belding; nieces and nephews, Kyleigh, Hannah, Brooke, Levi, RJ, Brock, CoraJo and Isaac; and several aunts and uncles, brothers- and sisters-in-law, cousins, BFFs, cougars and countless close & dear friends. Visitation will take place on Wednesday, April 4, from 2 to 4 pm and 6 to 9 pm at Verdun Family Funeral Home, 303 S. Bridge Street, Belding, Michigan 48809. Michelle's life will be celebrated at her funeral to be held at 12 noon on Thursday, April 5, 2018, at Belding High School auditorium with Pastor Ron David officiating. The family will also greet visitors at the school prior to the service beginning at 10 am. Interment will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell. Those wishing to express their sympathy are welcomed to consider a donation in Michelle's memory to the B Foundation or Holland Home. Envelopes will be available at the services or by contacting the funeral home. For additional information please contact Verdun Family Funeral Home in Belding at (616) 794-1300 or at www.verdunfh.com

GENTRY

Lyle Dean Gentry, age 92 of Lowell passed away Saturday, March 31. He will be greatly missed by his wife of 68 years, Ethel Gentry, brother Robert Gentry, sons Douglas D. (Waverly) and David G. (Guenn),

daughter Debby L. Gentry, seven grandchildren Austin (Kristi), Chelsea (Max) Garter, Jamin, Jeshua, Josiah (Hannah), Maddy and Forrest, and three great-grandchildren, Kitri, Lyric & Miles. He loved his family very much. Lyle enlisted in the Navy in 1943, serving in WWII for two years. He and his two brothers, Don & Bob fought valiantly for their country. Don was killed in the Battle of the Bulge and Bob fought in the Pacific. All were true Patriots. He grew up on the family farm and played baseball in his younger



days, and later had a career working for Standard Oil / Amoco / BP Oil Co. He was a hard-working man who also loved to fish, golf, bowl, and play cards. His other hobbies included woodworking, furniture upholstery and was really a Jack of all trades. He loved flower gardening and bird-watching. He was always there to lend a helping hand and / or offer great advice, or tell one of his fabulous jokes. And, he loved to make new friends. He was one of the friendliest guys around! Everyone who met him, loved him. Funeral services will be held in Illinois where he was born and where they lived from 1961-2009 before moving to Michigan nine years ago. There will be a memorial service planned locally at a later time, yet to be determined.



MARRON

James Matthew Marron of Lowell, Michigan, passed away from COPD on March 26, 2018, at the age of 87. Jim lived his life fulfilling his passions and dreams. Jim took inspiration from the works of Frank Lloyd Wright to design his family's home in the Lowell countryside. He along with his wife, Evelyn, undertook its construction as a labor of love over the course of many years. Much of the furniture in his home was designed and built by him, including a zigzag sofa that faces two rooms. Jim was a long time member and past president of the Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association. When GRAAA was looking for land to build an observatory, Jim served on the committee to find a place. After many options were found unsatisfactory, he and his wife Evie offered to lease the GRAAA part of their land in Lowell Township, and the James C Veen Observatory was built there, constructed by GRAAA members, including Jim and his family. Family vacations were often centered around astronomical events. Jim viewed 8 total solar eclipses all over the world. Jim was very involved in local community theater, acting in numerous Civic Theater and Circle in the Park plays. He helped found the Thebes Players in Lowell, and directed and acted in many of their annual productions. Jim was very active in the Lowell Area Arts Council, and served on their board. Merging his love of theater and astronomy and his wry sense of humor, Jim wrote, directed, and produced two low-budget cult films set at the observatory, a murder mystery and a science fiction film. (Think "Plan 9 from Outer Space") Jim charmed everyone he met, and was a friend, mentor, father figure and grandfather figure to many. Jim loved to travel, and family vacations often included extended family and friends. Jim is mourned by his wife, Evelyn, of nearly 65 years; his son Michael (Ofelia); his daughter Aubrey; and his granddaughter Marilyn Marron (Josh Simpson); brother-in-law Bill (Sandy) Darby; sister-in-law Sally (Darryl) Cummings; and many family and friends. Please join Jim's family and friends at an open house celebration of his life on Saturday, April 7th, 2018, at LowellArts Gallery, 223 W. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331, from 3-6:00 p.m., where you can hear and share stories about Jim. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the GRAAA and the James C. Veen Observatory online at <https://www.graaa.org>; Thebes Players C/O LowellArts, 223 W. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331.



MULLEN

Mildred E. Mullen, 81, of Mesa, AZ, formerly of Lowell, died on March 28, 2018. She is survived by her son, Timothy J. Fuhrman of Mesa, AZ; sister, Sharon (Gary) Eickhoff of Lowell; several nieces and nephews. Per Mildred's request her body was donated to science.

ROTH

Walter John Roth, age 92, of Okemos, passed away quietly on December 8, 2017, at McLaren Hospital in Lansing. Walt was born on the family farm in Keene

Township on February 10, 1925, and was the youngest of six children born to Swiss immigrants, Godfrey and Rose Roth of Lowell. He attended Wilkinson School and Lowell High School graduating in 1943. Walt joined the Army Air Corps (Air Force) in 1943 and was trained as a flight engineer for B-29 bombers. After WW II, he attended Michigan State College (MSU), was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and graduated in 1949 with a Bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering. Walt worked for Standard Oil Company for several years before joining the Michigan Highway Department (MDOT) in 1956 as a traffic engineer, retiring after 31 years of service in 1988. Walt married (Dorothy) Kapua Reeves in 1952 and they had four children, Dawn (Glen) Greene of Manistee, Scott of Okemos, Julie of Colorado and Lori (James) Evely of Colorado; and five grandchildren, Johnathan, Michael and Bonnie Greene and Jessica and Jamie Evely. Walt loved travel and camping with the family and visited nearly all 50 states. He was an avid reader and enjoyed bowling and golf into his 90s and liked playing cards, cooking, gardening and saving money and could repair almost anything. Walter gave great advice, had a fantastic memory and told many entertaining stories from his life. He was a wonderful father and grandfather who will be greatly missed. Walter was preceded in death by his wife, Kapua; his brothers, Fred of Iowa, Alfred and Rudolph of Lowell; his sister and brother-in-law, June and William Houser of Virginia; sisters-in-law, Dora, Virginia, Joan and Doris Roth. His last surviving brother, Edwin of Lowell, passed away in March 2018. He is survived by his children, grandchildren, sister-in-law, June Roth of Lowell; and numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial for Walt will be held later this summer.

WESTSTRATE

Herman Menno Weststrate passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 1, 2018, at the age of 94. He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Mildred (Eves). He is survived by his brother-in-law and sister-in-law Carl (Terri) Eves; children,

Herman (Bonnie) Weststrate, Jill (Alex) Jazey, Janice (Joel) Gargagliano, Linda (George) Ignatoski; 11 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Herman proudly served in the US Army during WWII, enlisting at Camp Custer, MI. He served as a bow gunner in the 11th Armored Division at Camp Polk, LA, and with the 713th Tank Battalion during the Okinawa Campaign in 1945. After returning home from WWII, he began his career at General Motors Fisher Body Plant in Wyoming, MI. He retired in 1982 after 32 years of service. After retirement, he enjoyed spending time with family and friends, horseshoe and bowling leagues, and attending WWII reunions with the 713th Tank Battalion. He was devoted to caring for his wife, Mildred, until she passed away in 2000. Visitation will be held Sunday, April 8, 3-6:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral will be held Monday, April 9, 11:00 a.m. at Evergreen Missionary Church, 10501 Settlewood, Lowell, MI 49331. Rev. Bill Hossler officiating. Military honors will be held under the auspices of the Kent County Veterans Honor Guard and the US Army National Guard at the church. Memorial contributions may be made to the Flat River VFW Post 8303, 3116 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, MI 49331; or Lowell Senior Neighbors, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331.



Red Arrow

SPORTS

Young gymnasts place 7th & 8th at USA Gymnastics meet

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Improving on their 2017 performances, two third-grade Alto Elementary students recently competed in the USA Gymnastics state meet held at Oakland University in Rochester. Both gymnasts placed in the all-around competition after top finishes on all events.

Wilson Johnston and Tate Outman train at Empowered Athletics in Grand Rapids, a designated member of USA Gymnastics by the International Gymnastics Federation and the U.S. Olympic committee. The young veterans of men's gymnastics are coached by Emily Albert and Joe Swinehart.

This spring the duo competed in Level 5 Division 1 and topped their last year's scores with Johnston earning an eighth-place finish as an all-around competitor and Outman finishing one better in seventh. Outman also earned the state committee's Rising Star award which honors those showing great drive and improvement, as well as selfless team spirit.



Tate Outman (left) and Wilson Johnston (right) at the USA Gymnastics state meet.

Michigan Tobacco Quitline offering free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges through May 31

Thinking about quitting tobacco? The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is expanding its telephone coaching and nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) program to all Michigan residents through May 31.

During this time, the

Michigan Tobacco Quitline will offer a free, two-week supply of nicotine gum, patches or lozenges for all new enrollees who want to quit smoking or chewing tobacco. Tobacco users who would like to quit may call the Quitline phone number at 800-QUIT-NOW (800-

784-8669). Enrollment is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Quitline serves all ages, however, callers seeking NRT must be over 18 and meet basic health requirements. Enrollees receive a coach who will assist them in setting a quit date, choosing a nicotine replacement product that is right for them and making an individualized quit plan. The coach will provide support with up to four telephone coaching sessions scheduled around the caller's quit date.

"Callers using NRT along with coaching, such as through a telephone-based service like 800-QUIT-NOW, can increase their chances of becoming smoke-free by five times the rate of someone quitting cold turkey," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical

executive. "Providing access to free NRT during this promotion might just be the jump start someone needs to quitting smoking tobacco for good."

The Michigan Tobacco Quitline is an evidence-based service providing free telephone coaching for the uninsured, pregnant women, residents enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare, veterans, cancer patients and American Indians. More than 100,000 calls have been received since the service was launched in October 2003.

The Quitline offers English, Arabic and Spanish-speaking counselors, as well as interpretive services for a wide variety of languages. For more information about the Quitline, call 800-QUIT-NOW or visit Michigan.gov/tobacco



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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8	4	7	2	9	3	1	6	5
3	9	5	6	4	1	2	8	7
4	7	6	1	2	9	5	3	8
5	1	8	7	3	6	4	2	9
9	3	2	4	8	5	7	1	6

Think **Outside** the Lunchbox

FAMILY FEATURES

Eating the same thing every day can make lunch seem so “blah.” Now’s the perfect time to break out of the lunch rut and add some excitement to your meals.

Thinking outside the traditional lunchbox is easy with the right ingredients. Perk up your noontime noshing with fresh, seasonal ingredients coupled with kitchen pantry classics, like California Ripe Olives, which add a unique flavor and bold, distinctive color to any dish.

California farmers grow more than 95 percent of the ripe olives consumed in the United States. From planting, pruning, harvesting and processing, they make sure that the highest quality olives come from their farms to your table — one can at a time.

Adding olives to any lunch can help bring California sunshine to each and every bite. Try some of these portable and packable recipes to add excitement to lunch on-the-go and find more at calolive.org.

Greek Salad in Jars

Courtesy of Simply Recipes

Makes: 4 salads

Salad Dressing:

- 3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt, plus additional, to taste (optional)
- pinch of black pepper, plus additional, to taste (optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 5 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 pint-size canning jars with lids

Salads:

- 1/4 medium red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 large English cucumber, sliced
- 1 yellow or orange bell pepper, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 3/4 cup California black ripe olives
- 1/2 cup (4 ounces) crumbled feta cheese
- 4 small handfuls fresh baby spinach or other dark, leafy greens
- 4 pita bread rounds, halved (optional)

To prepare dressing: In small bowl, whisk together vinegar, salt, pepper, oregano and honey.

Gradually whisk in oil. Taste. Add additional salt and pepper, if desired.

Divide dressing between four pint jars.

To assemble salads: Divide onion between four jars. Divide tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, olives and feta cheese between jars. Pack remaining space with spinach, compressing leaves slightly.

Secure lids and refrigerate up to two days.

To serve: Empty salads into bowls and toss with dressing. Serve with pita bread.

Note: Store and transport salads upright so dressing stays on bottom.



Deliciously Different

Smoked California Ripe Olives can produce a crave-worthy culinary surprise and become one of your favorite flavor discoveries. There are a few easy ways to make your own smoked olives, including preparing them on the grill with these quick steps:

1. Soak wood chips in water for 30 minutes. Drain well.
2. Pierce a foil pan several times with a small, sharp knife and spread wood chips in a single layer in the pan. Set directly on hot coals or metal bars on a gas grill. Close the lid and set heat to high only under the pan of chips.
3. When chips are smoking, place drained California Ripe Olives in a grill basket on grill with the burners off. Close the lid and smoke for 30 minutes.



Black and White Pizza

Makes: 1 pizza

- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil, plus additional for pizza crust
- 1 cup onion, quartered and thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons roasted garlic, minced
- 4 ounces small baby bella mushrooms, chopped
- 1 package prepared pizza dough
- 1 cup prepared Alfredo sauce
- 1 cup smoked mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 4 ounces fresh mozzarella cheese, torn into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 small boneless, skinless chicken breast, cooked and thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons fresh rosemary, chopped

- 1 can (6 ounces) extra-large California Black Ripe Olives, drained and cut in wedges
- freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano

Heat oven to 450 F and line large baking sheet with parchment paper.

In large skillet over medium heat, heat 1 tablespoon oil. Add onion, garlic and mushrooms, and cook, stirring frequently, 10 minutes, or until onions are soft. Reserve.

Roll pizza dough into thin oval on lightly floured surface. Transfer to prepared baking sheet and brush lightly with olive oil then spread evenly with Alfredo sauce.

Top with mushroom mixture, cheeses, chicken and rosemary. Sprinkle olives over pizza.

Bake 10-15 minutes, or until cheese is melted and lightly browned around edges.

Serve with Parmigiano-Reggiano.



Maple Olive Cheesecake Bites

Makes: 16-20 mini cheesecakes

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1/2 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons sugar, divided
- 6 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
- 3 tablespoons pure maple syrup

- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped California Ripe Olives

Heat oven to 325 F and coat 16-20-cup mini muffin tin with nonstick cooking spray.

In small bowl, stir together graham cracker crumbs, butter and 1 tablespoon sugar. Place equal amounts into each mini muffin cup then press firmly into bottom of each cup. Working with one cup at a time, press small piece of plastic wrap onto

surface and press crust firmly into mini muffin cups.

In large bowl of electric mixer, beat cream cheese, maple syrup and remaining sugar until smooth; beat in flour and vanilla on low speed. Add egg and beat until just combined; stir in olives.

Spoon equal amounts into each cup. Bake 20-25 minutes, or until filling feels set.

Let cool completely then run small, thin knife around edge of each to remove from pan.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: PERSONAL FITNESS

ACROSS

- 1. Inscribed pillar
- 6. Strike caller
- 9. MADD member, colloquially
- 13. Conestoga vehicle
- 14. Salt in cocina
- 15. Caldecott award
- 16. Lusitania destroyer
- 17. School org.
- 18. Idealized image
- 19. *Glutes, e.g.
- 21. *Burnable unit
- 23. Witch's work
- 24. What little piggy did
- 25. Overall part
- 28. "____ and shine!"
- 30. Chew the fat
- 35. *Lactic _____, cause of sore muscles
- 37. Editor's mark
- 39. Nary a soul
- 40. Be dependent
- 41. Sort of warm
- 43. Seed cover
- 44. Capital near Casablanca
- 46. Embarkation location
- 47. Oates' singing partner
- 48. Second book of Old Testament
- 50. Aphrodite's son
- 52. Nod
- 53. Opposite of riches
- 55. Fleur-de-_____
- 57. *Wearable device
- 61. Rhinitis or dermatitis
- 65. Top scout
- 66. Grade A item in grocery store
- 68. Actress Davis
- 69. Alley tom
- 70. Ciao in the U.S.
- 71. Finish
- 72. *Competitive group

CROSSWORD														
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- 73. Ambulance crew
- 74. *Time between sets, pl.

DOWN

- 1. *Swim, swam, _____
- 2. Not to be mentioned
- 3. Prima donnas' problems
- 4. Catfish's cousin

- 5. Deciduous horn
- 6. UPS competitor
- 7. *Yoga turf
- 8. There's none like home?
- 9. Office communique
- 10. Month before Nisan
- 11. Balthasar and Gaspar
- 12. Plant-derived home remedy
- 15. "Paradise Lost" poet
- 20. Be
- 22. Mandela's org.
- 24. Sentimental books and movies
- 25. *Isometric strength training prop
- 26. Mountaineer's tool
- 27. Baggins of the Shire
- 29. *Type of aerobics
- 31. Genesis skipper
- 32. Maraud
- 33. Like a feeble old woman
- 34. *Dumb_____ and kettle_____
- 36. Two of a kind
- 38. Wedding cake layer
- 42. Funny
- 45. Ankara country
- 49. Greek letters on campus
- 51. *_____ Sneakers, senior _____ workout programs
- 54. Freshwater diving bird
- 56. Rive Droite and Rive Gauche separator
- 57. T in SAT
- 58. *Resting heart _____
- 59. Site of Taj Mahal
- 60. Chowder mollusc
- 61. Def Leppard's "Rock of _____"
- 62. Singer Stewart and actor Steiger
- 63. Overabundance
- 64. Puppy barks
- 67. *Fitness venue

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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

Three smart ways to spend your tax refund

(SPM Wire) Are you expecting a refund this year on your tax filings? Here are three smart ways to use that cash influx.

- Save it: Whether you funnel the money into a retirement fund, a college savings account or set it aside for a rainy day, it is always smart to turn your tax refund into savings.
- Pay down debt: Before you dream of taking your tax refund on your next shopping spree, review the balance on your credit cards, your student loans

or other outstanding debt commitments and consider using the boon to pay down some of these I.O.U.s.

- Invest it: Use your refund as an opportunity to save money down the line, with a home upgrade like an energy-efficient washing machine or a programmable thermostat.
- This year, don't squander your tax refund. Instead, use this money to improve your financial circumstances in the long-run.

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Street repairs, sidewalk repairs, trails and more are topics of latest council meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council discussed street repairs, sidewalk repairs, water trails and more during their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, April 2. The meeting was slightly longer than an hour and was attended by 11 local residents.

During public comment, Perry Beachum asked the council to consider adding a sidewalk or trail to Broadway St. during the upcoming infrastructure project.

"I would still hope that the city would consider a change order and look at putting some kind of trail, designated walk area, sidewalk on S. Broadway," Beachum said. "You're basically turning that S. Broadway all the way down Bowes Rd. into a truck route."

A letter from a Bowes Rd. resident named Joanna Miller was read into the public record. In the letter, Miller said she was against the trail that might be going through her yard and her neighbors' yards.

The council voted to spend \$151,000 to complete a 'mill and overlay' street repair project on Hudson St. this summer.

"[The Kent County Road Commission] would like to start construction in mid May of 2018, with completion before July 1, 2018," said Lowell city manager Michael Burns. "While the schedule is not finalized, the intention is that when they are doing

the mill and overlay south of Main, this will need to be shut down with north and south through traffic being diverted to Jackson, while north of Main, north and south traffic will still be open lanes, but [the] lanes would be reduced."

"We're probably looking at a day to do milling and a day to do paving," said KCRC engineer Wayne Harrall. "Another option would be to mill and pave a lane at a time. [...] That would be about three days of milling and paving. The only period where we would have to flag traffic or possibly restrict northbound or southbound

movements would be as we get close to the Grand River bridge crossing."

The council voted to purchase and install new traffic lights and pedestrian signals for the corner of Hudson and Bowes. Since ownership of the intersection is shared between the city and the Kent County Road Commission, the city and the KCRC will split the \$120,000 bill.

"In October 2017 the city requested the Kent County Road Commission study the intersection of Hudson and Bowes to determine if a traffic signal is warranted," Burns said. "The study

determined a signal is necessary given the traffic volumes at peak hours and given the proposed improvements to Bowes and Broadway St. that will increase truck traffic at the intersection."

The council approved a "resolution of support" after listening to a presentation by Natalie Henley of West Michigan Environmental Action Council about the Lower Grand River Water Trail plan. According to the website wmeac.org, a water trail is "a designated route on a waterway with a network of public access points and signage."

"The proposed Grand River Water Trail route extends from Jackson County to Lake Michigan and will promote recreational opportunities along the Grand River and also has the potential to have an economic impact on local communities such as Lowell," Burns said. "The city's support of recognizing the Grand River Water Trail plan is an important step, formalizing the trail system and furthering the goal of establishing a statewide system of water trails."

"Recreation is also directly linked to economic growth because it will involve more

lunch break and they would have Friday afternoons off. During holiday weeks and the week prior to any election they would revert to the current 8 am to 5 pm hours, Burns said "for accounting purposes."

"Taxes are high and we keep adding fees for things and I just hate to cut services to our customers," said councilor Greg Canfield. "With what we pay here in taxes and stuff, we can do this without cutting our hours and still help employees to get long weekends."

The council voted to approve updates to the sidewalk ordinance, which will now be enforced. If the sidewalk on a property does not pass inspection, a sidewalk notice of hazard will come via first class mail. Property owners will be given a one year moratorium to bring their sidewalk into compliance by whatever means necessary. The sidewalk permit fee will be waived through June 2019. Starting July 1, 2019, you get five days to fix it. If you don't fix it, the police will issue a citation. You could eventually end up in court with a lien on your property, all because of a sidewalk job.

A local resident named Dick Johnson said that the city has been talking about fixing the sidewalks "for 40, 50 years" and found it unfair that they suddenly decided to give homeowners, some on fixed incomes, a one year deadline for potentially costly work.

"Maybe you've got the money to do it. I don't," Johnson said.

Canfield said that when he had sidewalk repairs done on his property he was able to have that repair bill added to his taxes and paid off incrementally over several years.

"We talked about [how] maybe that program might be available," Canfield said. "It's unfortunate the way things have been handled. All we can do is move forward from this point and that's what we're trying [to do], to find a better way to do that."

Lowell city council's next regular meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, April 16. They will meet with the public at a 'Coffee with the Council' event in the chamber of commerce building on the Riverwalk on Saturday, April 7 from 8 am until 10 am.



Lowell city council discussed street repairs, sidewalk repairs and more on Monday, April 2.

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people in the community and bringing more visitors to your area," Henley said. "It will provide economic growth for outfitters, businesses, grocery stores, shopping areas, restaurants and then, obviously, the parks."

The council tabled discussion of changing work schedules for city hall staff after councilors pointed out their choice of hours would require closing city hall on Friday afternoons, inconveniencing taxpayers.

"Most Fridays, traffic into city hall and phone calls are minimal," Burns said. "From noon to 5 pm there have been many times I have wondered about even keeping city hall open. This was especially the case, usually, in the summertime. In addition on many Fridays we tend to be shorter staffed as people are utilizing their [vacation] time."

Burns proposed having city hall's hours change to 7:30 am until 5 pm Monday through Thursday and from 8 am until noon on Friday. Employees would work nine hour days with a 30 minute

