

the lowell ledger

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vol. 47 issue 14

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Our Top Stories of 2018



- Biodigester
- Lowell floods
- Showboat grant
- Noel Dean retires
- Marijuana
- Wrestling State Champs
- and more



2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

50¢

1945 school fire site of new development

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The former Unity High School at 320 N. Monroe made the news recently when it was revealed that the site is going to be turned into a development called "Riverview Flats" with 10 condominiums, retail space and parking. Not in the news recently is the incident on Jan. 22, 1945 when an unknown arsonist burned down the Lowell High School school building that used to exist in that same area.

According to a story in the Jan. 25, 1945 Lowell

Ledger, "Investigations under way since Sunday have convinced authorities that the disastrous fire which swept through the Lowell High School building early Sunday morning had been [deliberately] set. State police Sgt. Quentin Dean, in charge of arson investigations for the Rockford post, spent part of Sunday and Monday probing the ruins in overalls and turned his findings over to the state laboratory in Lansing on Tuesday. He was accompanied to Lansing by superintendent W.W.

Gumser. State police and the sheriff's department have launched a search for a fire bug in the community. [...] Arnold C. Renner of Lansing, chief of the fire division of the Michigan State Police, and his assistant, Sgt. Quentin Dean, who were at the scene of the fire Sunday, were profuse in their commendations of the way the local fire department fought and controlled the fire."

The arsonist who burned down the school was never found, the crime never solved. According to an undated Grand Rapids Press article from soon after the fire, "Suspecting incendiaries in the fire that ruined Lowell High School Sunday morning, deputy Frank Stephens reported Tuesday that every clue is being run down and that state police laboratory tests are being made of some of the debris. Stephens said that the fire was the third 'without reasonable cause' which has occurred in or near Lowell in the last two months. A three story brick store building on Main St. and a residence fire just



Lowell Ledger, Jan. 25, 1945: "Lowell high school as the fire was brought under control by the hard work of the local fire department and the assistance of Ionia and Kent County equipment." Photo by Leonard Studios, Lowell, courtesy of Flora Jean Beachum.



Photo by Leonard Studios, Lowell, courtesy of Flora Jean Beachum.

outside the village. In the latter case, flames broke out while the owners were in Detroit. A window was found open. In the school ruins, the deputy said he and Lt. Quentin Dean, in charge of arson investigations for state police, determined that a ramp door leading into the basement workshop area was not locked when the flames broke out."

The fire destroyed about 75 percent of the building, which had been open since the 1918 school year. The district had \$98,500 worth of insurance on the building, but the repairs were estimated to cost between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

According to the Jan. 25, 1945 Lowell Ledger, "The fire, which had evidently burned for quite some time unnoticed, gutted the interior of the building, leaving three-fourths of the structure in utter ruins. The loss is estimated at between \$150,000 and \$200,000. The property was insured for \$98,500, which is all that could be carried. \$12,500 of this was on equipment. The three story brick building was erected in 1915 at a cost of \$50,000, but many improvements and changes had been made through the years, and it could not now be replaced for several times that amount. Its loss during these critical times is a real catastrophe for the community."

The fire had been burning for quite some time before it was noticed and

reported to the authorities.

According to the Jan. 25, 1945 Lowell Ledger, "The fire is thought to have started in the central part of the building, possibly in the balcony above the north end of the workshop in the basement, and then swept up through the first floor and senior high session room to the roof, which caved in, leaving the rooms around the outer walls standing, although severely damaged by smoke, water and the intense heat. Lowell firemen fought the blaze for six hours or more, assisted by the Ionia City Fire Department and a Kent County rural unit from Ada, aided by many volunteers. Students' school books with an estimated value of \$3,000 were lost in the fire, but Superintendent Gumser reports that all school records were saved. [...]

The fire was reported shortly before 8:30 [pm] by Mrs. George Fonger, who saw the flames through the rear windows as she drove by on Lafayette St. A number of nearby residents

New development, continued, page 10



An exterior view of what the Riverview Flats condos and retail development could look like when complete. Image copyright r.o.i. Design.



An example of what the interior of one of the condos might look like. Image copyright r.o.i. Design.

the lowell ledger

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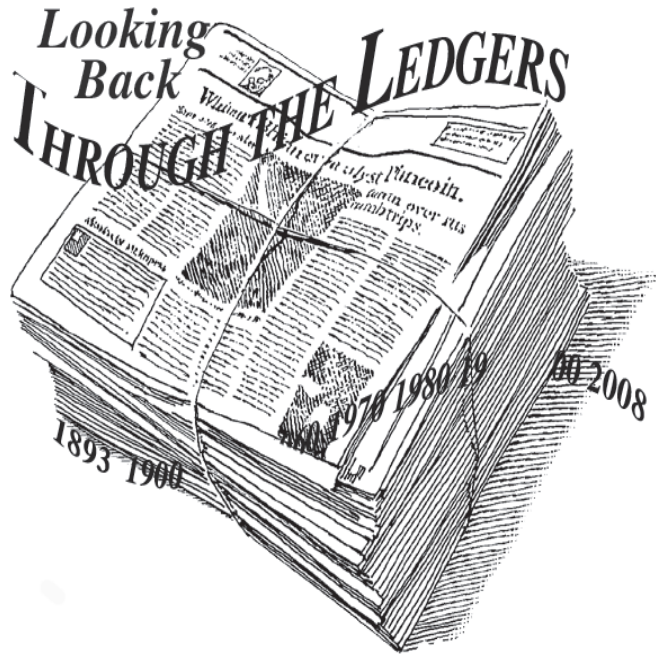
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viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger December 30, 1893

One of the most bitterly contested will cases of the year came to an end in the Probate court on the 22nd. Adam Van Dusen, a Vergennes township farmer, died, leaving his farm, valued at \$4000, to a son and daughter who lived at home and cut off two other daughters with \$5 each. The will was contested and the case was stubbornly fought, the claim being made that the deceased made a will subsequent to the one filed for probate. Judge Perkins made an order sustaining the will.

About half the population of Ada seemed to have assembled in Judge Grove's court room Tuesday afternoon to hear Fred Crampton, the young sparrow order forger plead guilty and learn what sentence the judge would impose. Young Crampton, with his wife, came in a moment late and had to walk across the court room with the gaze of every one riveted upon him. He did not seem to notice that but his red and swollen eyes and distressed air indicated that he appreciated the seriousness of his predicament and had been crying recently. His pretty young wife sat just inside the railing and kept admirable control of her features until the judge began to talk to the prisoner, when she buried her face in her hands and wept bitterly. Seven lady relatives of the prisoner were present and none of them had dry eyes when the judge was finished. Prosecuting Attorney Wolcott read the information, when the judge asked: "What do you say, young man, do you plead guilty or not guilty?" "Guilty," replied Crampton in a very low tone.

100 years The Lowell Ledger December 26, 1918

Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Emmons had a narrow escape from death by asphyxiation one night late last week. Mrs. Emmons was awakened by sickness and found her husband in a like condition and on attempting to rise fell to the floor. She succeeded in reaching a window and by repeated rappings attracted the attention of Miss Hazel Maynard, who with others gave first aid and summoned Dr. Greene. On opening the doors the rush of escaping gas revealed to the neighbors the cause of the trouble, due to a closed damper in the pipe of the hard coal burner.

"Not a case of flu left in Lowell village," said Village President Winegar Wednesday evening, thus giving a finishing touch to a perfect Christmas day.

Kent county is the driest one in the state, the liquor law being better enforced here than elsewhere, according to Lee H. Pryor, legal advisor of the state food and drug department, who was in Grand Rapids.

75 years The Lowell Ledger December 30, 1943

The furniture and undertaking business established here fourteen years ago by W.A. Roth, will have a new name beginning with the New Year and will hereafter be known as Roth & Sons Company. The Roth store has made an enviable reputation for itself throughout the entire trading area, and all join in extending congratulations and best wishes to the firm.

Both the bank and the post office state that many people bought War Bonds this year as Christmas gifts.

Farmers are to be permitted to use binder twine for any part of the growing, harvesting or shipping of agricultural products, the War Production Board announces. Previously an order limited twine use by farmers to mechanical self-tying binders.

50 years The Lowell Ledger December 26, 1968

Frank Kapugia, a former Lowell resident, has set his goal as a career in teaching and he doesn't intend to let his blindness keep him from it. Now a senior at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Frank is taking his student teaching this term at Mott High School in Warren. A speech major at MSU, he is teaching two classes of accelerated American history and one speech class.

In order to show their 5th Grade Campfire Group that there is more to Christmas than just the receiving of many gifts, leaders Mrs. Gary Eickhoff and Helen Galbreath helped their group prepare a box of goodies which was sent to the 1st Marine Division in Viet Nam.

The spirit of Christmas is a wonderful thing. No one knows this better today than members of the Lowell police force, who were witnesses Monday to a moving story. A woman came into the station with two youngsters and handed over a small bill. She had found it on the street, the woman told officers, and was certain it probably belonged to someone who needed it for Christmas shopping.

25 years The Lowell Ledger December 29, 1993

Following the 10 most important minutes of their married lives, Lee and Shelley Esterley wondered how they would meet the wonderful challenge that lay ahead of them. Through the miracle of medical technology Esterley was able to become pregnant by using a fertility drug called invitro. A month after she learned she was pregnant, doctors told Shelley and Lee that if everything progressed perfectly, they would soon be parenting not one, but four babies.

The Lowell Township Board has given the West Michigan Radio Flyers Association a model airplane club, operating at the VanStrien property, until April 1 to work out an agreement with residents in the area before they intercede. This summer the board was approached by Mrs. Jack Molinosky, 11712 Grand River Dr., saying the noise by the model airplane club was bothering her almost every day of the week.

With the decision of Spencer Township to stay in the Kent County Library system in 1994, both Vergennes and Lowell Townships will remain in the system, Lowell and Vergennes agreed to stay in the library system in 1994 if their payments for the upcoming year would be lowered. Spencer Township was the last of the seven townships to agree with the new payment formula, thus assuring that the library system would stay intact for at least one more year.



Gov. Rick Snyder makes final determinations on commutations and pardons

Gov. Rick Snyder has completed his review and recommendations for commutations and pardons for those convicted of a crime in Michigan and has decided to grant 61 requests for clemency.

The governor's executive clemency authority is derived from Section 14 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, which provides that the governor shall have power to grant reprieves, commutations and pardons after convictions for all offenses, except cases of impeachment.

A commutation is defined as the reduction of an individual's sentence and does not nullify the underlying conviction, while a pardon erases a conviction from an individual's record. All applications for pardons and commutations must be filed with the Michigan Parole Board. More than 4,000 applications have been received by the board since Gov. Snyder took office, which were then reviewed for merit. Those applications determined by the board to have merit were then sent to the governor's office.

Gov. Snyder and his legal staff along with the Michigan Parole Board and the state Department of Corrections evaluated applications. Gov. Snyder has approved 61 of those recommendations.

"I appreciate the great work done by the state Department of Corrections and by the Michigan Parole Board in the processing of the applications and in the recommendations they provided," Snyder said. "I understand the importance and impact my decisions have, which is why I took great time and care in making my decisions."

The pardons and commutations granted today are found here. No further information will be available on these cases or the governor's decisions to grant or deny any request.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES

US Sen. Debbie Stabenow
202-224-4822
stabenow.senate.gov

US Sen. Gary C. Peters
202-224-6221
peters.senate.gov

US Rep. Justin Amash
202-225-3831
amash.house.gov

Mich. Sen. Dave Hildenbrand
517-373-1801
SenDHildenbrand@senate.michigan.gov
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business directory

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Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
Edward Jones
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Put this year's investment performance in perspective

How can you assess your investment portfolio's performance in 2018? The year was full of wild swings in the financial markets, so your own results may well have bounced around quite a bit, too. But you can still get a clear picture of how you did if you keep your investments' returns in the proper perspective – by making sure your expectations are *relevant*, *realistic* and *reviewed*.

Let's look at how these terms can apply to a meaningful evaluation of your investment progress:

- *Relevant* – Many investors compare their portfolio returns to a popular market index, such as the S&P 500. But this comparison is not really valid for a variety of reasons. For one thing, indexes are typically not diversified across different types of investments – the S&P 500, for instance, only tracks large U.S. companies. But your portfolio should consist of a broad range of investments: domestic and international stocks, bonds, mutual funds, government securities and so on, appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance. Also, your portfolio's performance will be affected

by your contributions and withdrawals, while market index returns are not. So, instead of measuring your results against an index – and possibly worrying about underperformance – you're better off establishing relevant expectations of your investment returns, based on your specific goals. So, for example, if you want to retire at age 62, you'll need to know the rate of return you need to achieve this goal – and then compare that desired return with your actual results.

- *Realistic* – Ideally, of course, you'd like really high returns with really low risk – but that's really not feasible. To get high returns, you'll need to invest aggressively, which means you'll need your portfolio to be heavily weighted in stocks. However, stocks are also riskier than more conservative investments, such as bonds or government securities. So, you'll need to be realistic in what you can anticipate from your portfolio. You can shoot for high returns and accept the higher level of risk, or you can lower your expectations in exchange for greater stability.

- *Reviewed* – The performance of the

financial markets – and also your own portfolio – will fluctuate from year to year. Consequently, it's important to review your portfolio's results and the progress you're making toward your goals on a regular basis, possibly with the help of a financial professional. In these reviews, you may conclude that you're doing fine, or you might discover that you need to rebalance your portfolio by realigning your investments with your goals and risk tolerance, or perhaps make other adjustments – such as changing the amount you invest – to get you back on track. In addition, you may even need to re-evaluate these goals in response to changes in your life – a new job, marriage, new child, and so on – as these changes could affect the rate of return you need from your investments.

As you look back on 2018, and look forward to 2019 and beyond, take a holistic approach to how you evaluate your investments' performance. By looking for relevance, being realistic about what you can expect, and reviewing your portfolio in the context of your goals, risk tolerance and changing circumstances, you can gain a thorough understanding of where you are, where you want to go – and how you can help yourself get there.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

NEWSPAPERS Outperform Direct Mail in Michigan

the **lowell** ledger

Michiganians depend on newspapers for advertising inserts²

Newspapers are the preferred source of coupons over direct mail.

Michigan consumers prefer to receive advertising inserts in printed newspapers – higher than those who prefer to receive them through direct mail²

Michigan adults make more purchases as the result of newspaper ads than direct mail.²

82% of consumers use coupons received through newspaper inserts¹

33% of Michigan adults prefer receiving coupons from direct mail.²

79% Eight in 10 newspaper readers took action as a result of reading a newspaper ad in the past 30 days⁴

17.2% of adults made a purchase in the past 90 days as the result of a direct mail flyer³

Direct mail lacks the **effective reach** of newspaper advertising.

86% of adults look at newspaper inserts to get the best deals³

72% of Michigan adults never bought anything as the result of a direct mail piece²

50% of Michigan adults did not buy anything as the result of a direct mail piece in the past year²

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Sources: ¹2K17 Valassis Coupon Intelligence Report; ²2017 Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved; ³Triad/Coda Ventures Insert Study; ⁴NAA; ⁵Pulse of America 2018

Sports Summaries

Boys Freshmen Basketball

The Lowell freshmen were hosted Thursday afternoon by the Forest Hills Eastern Hawks. The Hawks were not friendly to the Red Arrows, putting on a man-to-man full court press and outscoring the Arrows 19-2 in the first quarter. The Arrows showed the Hawks they could play good defense by only allowing Austin Forell one two-point basket in the second quarter. The Red Arrows scored five points for a halftime score of 21-7. The Hawks scored 11 points to the Red Arrows seven in the third quarter. The fourth quarter saw the Arrows outscored by the Hawks 11-8 for a Forest Hills victory. Forest Hills East Hawks 43, Lowell Red Arrows 22. The Hawks were led in scoring by Konnar Bramble with 10 points. Caleb Kuper and Carson Smith followed with seven points each. The Red Arrows were led in scoring by Dominick Ronchetti with five points, followed by Gage Snarski with four. Forest Hills Eastern hit two of four three-point attempts for 50 percent shooting from behind the arc. Eastern only shot three for eight from the free-throw line for 37 percent shooting. The Red Arrows were zero to two from behind the three-point arc and three to 10 from the free-throw line for 30 percent. Coach Marc Woolery knows the Red Arrows need to work on some things, but thinks the team is starting to come together.

of the JV game. Their high scorer, Grant Lancaster, hit a three-pointer and two free throws taking the lead at the end of the first quarter, 16-6. The Arrows played even with the Hawks during the second quarter with both teams scoring eight points. Forest Hills came out strong again in the second half with a full court man-to-man press. The Arrows only managed two baskets and a free throw while the Hawks scored 18 points to take command of the game. The Red Arrows made a come back, scoring 11 points in the fourth quarter but the Hawks scored 13. The final score was Forest Hills Eastern 55, Lowell Red Arrows 30. Grant Lancaster had 18 points while Kyle Butka had 10 for the Hawks. Lowell was led in scoring by Reid Reynolds with 11 points. Landon Grant had six points for Lowell. Forest Hills Eastern hit four of eight shots for behind the three-point line for 50 percent shooting. Eastern hit 11 of 14 free throws for 78 percent shooting. The Red Arrows were zero for three behind the three-point line. The Arrows hit 12 of 22 shots from the free-throw line for 54 percent.

game. The Hawks came out with a half court man-to-man defense that held the Red Arrows to 13 points, while the Hawks put up 21 to take an eight point lead to the second quarter. The second quarter saw the Hawks hit three, three-point baskets. The Arrows' Trevor Petroelje hit seven points to keep the Arrows in the game. The score was Eastern 38, Lowell 30 at the half. The Hawks outscored the Arrows by 10 points to take a 57 to 39 lead at the end of the third quarter. The officials made good use of their whistles during the fourth quarter, calling 14 shooting fouls. Both teams had a 28 shooting percentage from the free-throw line. Lowell was outscored by Eastern 15 to 14 points in the fourth quarter. The final score was Forest Hills Eastern 72, Lowell Red Arrows 53. Eastern's scoring was led by both co-captains Taylor Mitchel and Gage Krueger with 18 points each. The Hawks hit six for 14 from behind the three-point line for 42 percent shooting. The Hawks were four for 14 from the free-throw line for 28 percent shooting. The Red Arrows were two for six from behind the three-point line for 33 percent shooting and five for 16 from the free-throw line for 31 percent shooting.

Boys Varsity Basketball

The Lowell Red Arrow varsity team was welcomed to the home of Forest Hills Eastern for Thursday's basketball

The next game will be January 5, at 3 pm at the Deltaplex.

Boys JV Basketball

Forest Hills Eastern Hawks came out hot at the start

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May the coming year bring peace, joy, and prosperity in the New Year.

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Red Arrow Fall SPORTS SCHEDULES

BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING
* Denotes a home game
1/11 at 6 pm Conference meet #2
1/12 at 8 am Detroit Catholic Central

BOYS VARSITY SWIM & DIVE
1/3 at 6 pm Grand Rapids Union
1/5 at noon Pioneer Classic at EGR

L GIRLS GYMNASTICS
* Denotes a home game at LHS
1/5 at 10 am Rockford Flip Flop Invite
1/9 at 7 pm at Rockford

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL
* Denotes a game at LHS main gym
1/4 at 7 pm at Wayland Union
1/8 at 7 pm Northview*

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL
* Denotes a home game at LHS main gym
1/5 at 3 pm Godwin Heights at DeltaPlex
1/8 at 7 pm at Northview

L GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
1/5 at 11 am NPC Cheer Invitational
1/9 at 6 pm Jamboree #1 at FHC

L BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY
* Denotes a home game at Kentwood Ice Arena
1/4 at 7 pm Loy Norrix*
1/5 at 5 pm FHN at Patterson Ice Arena

BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING
* Denotes a meet at The Bowling Alley - Ionia
1/5 at 9 am Jenison Invite at Hudsonville Lanes
1/9 at 3:30 pm Ottawa Hills*

HEALTH

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



At Your Local Library

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

Bookworms Adult Book Discussion

Join us for rousing reads and riveting discussion. "Salt to the Sea" by Ruta Sepetys, Tues., Jan. 8 at 10 am.

Night Owls Book Club

Discussion group meets on Wed, Jan 9 at 6:30 pm.

Tech Savvy Seniors

For older people in a digital world, it's easy to become overwhelmed or feel intimidated by all the new technology around us. Join us to discuss current tech topics and gain the skills and confidence to access information and services online. For adults. Wed., Jan. 16 at 1 pm.

Family Yoga Time with Lowell YMCA

Family Yoga begins with thoughtfully tuning in to the breath, followed by a fun practice that includes individual, partner, and group poses. Bring your own mat or use one provided by the Y. Ages 2-12 recommended with caregiver or parent present. Mon., Jan. 28 at 6 pm.

LHS Student of the Month

Lowell High School has announced that Tristan Ellsworth-Bristol, 11th grade, and Malcolm Venema, 11th grade, are the Lowell High School December Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department chair meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character, and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for Ellsworth-Bristol and Venema. The students

year and deserves to be awarded for his efforts! He has drastically improved his grades and attendance this year and teachers really enjoy having him in class. I am very proud of Tristan and look forward to seeing where he ends up after high school.



Malcolm Venema



Tristan Ellsworth-Bristol

He has the potential to do whatever he wants!"

Jennifer Lavis nominated Venema and she writes, "As co-executive producer of the Red Arrow Report, Malcolm has shown strong leadership qualities – he is organized and fair. He solicits input from his team but doesn't shy from confronting issues. He inspires and strives for continual improvement and is always looking for ways to innovate. Malcolm is positive and kind and maintains an approachable demeanor."

receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Ellsworth-Bristol was nominated by R.J. Boudro and he writes, "Tristan has really hit his stride this

- endometrial (uterine) cancer

Endometrial (uterine) cancer is cancer in the lining of the uterus. It is the fourth most common cancer in women. About 50,000 new cases are diagnosed every year. It is not the same as a cervical cancer. Cervical cancer starts in the cervix, which is the neck of the uterus. Endometrial cancer starts inside the body of the uterus.

Risk factors for endometrial cancer are age older than 50 years, infertility (or if you have never been pregnant), obesity, or have diabetes or thyroid disease, or family history of endometrial cancer (mother or sister, for example). High levels of estrogen can also be a risk factor. Examples of high estrogen include if you use estrogen therapy after menopause without another hormone called progesterone, if you have your first period at an early age, or if you start menopause at a late age.

The most common symptom of endometrial cancer is abnormal vaginal bleeding. If you are having menstrual periods, abnormal bleeding is any bleeding between periods

or very heavy periods. If you have gone through menopause and no longer have periods, any vaginal bleeding is abnormal.

There are several ways to diagnose endometrial cancer. An ultrasound of your uterus is usually the first test that is ordered. After that, your doctor may take tissue or cell samples from the uterus (called a biopsy). You may also be scheduled for a hysteroscopy, which is a small device like a telescope that can look into your uterus. If you are diagnosed with cancer, more tests are then needed to see how far it has spread.

Treatment of endometrial cancer depends on how far along the disease is. The most common treatment is surgery to remove the uterus, called a hysterectomy. Radiotherapy and chemotherapy are also options. Most patients with endometrial cancer are diagnosed early and have a good outcome. Women should have close follow up with their physicians in the first three years after diagnosis, as the risk that the disease will come back is highest during this time.

happy birthday



DECEMBER 26

Margaret Gasper, Shay Hacker, Stephanie Peel, Butch Landman, Kaitlyn Callihan.

DECEMBER 27

Mark Nyp, Jay Clark, Foster Skoog.

DECEMBER 28

Lisa Stormzand, C.J. Sokolowski, Matt Francisco, Randy L. Smith.

DECEMBER 29

Amanda Martin, Donna Baker, Lauren Malone.

DECEMBER 30

Stacy Thomas, Ben Hodges, Kyle Triplett, Joe Hunt, Stacey Craig, Joshua Gee, Maliree Trierweiler, Matthew Trierweiler.

DECEMBER 31

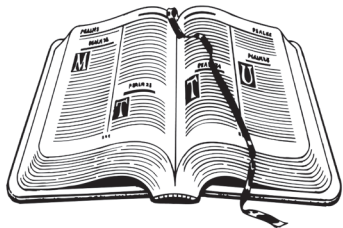
Marcie Page, Bill DeHaan, Charles Boerema.

JANUARY 1

Tory Abel, John Wenger, Alice Hesche, Carolyn Yonker, Amanita Fahrni.

Eat. Shop. Explore.
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area churches



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Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries

SUNDAY WORSHIP..... 9:30 AM (Nursery provided)

LIFE GROUPS..... 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)

Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM

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9 AM - Traditional • 11 AM - Contemporary

Kid's Crew 11:15 AM

Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

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Friday: 8 am - Noon
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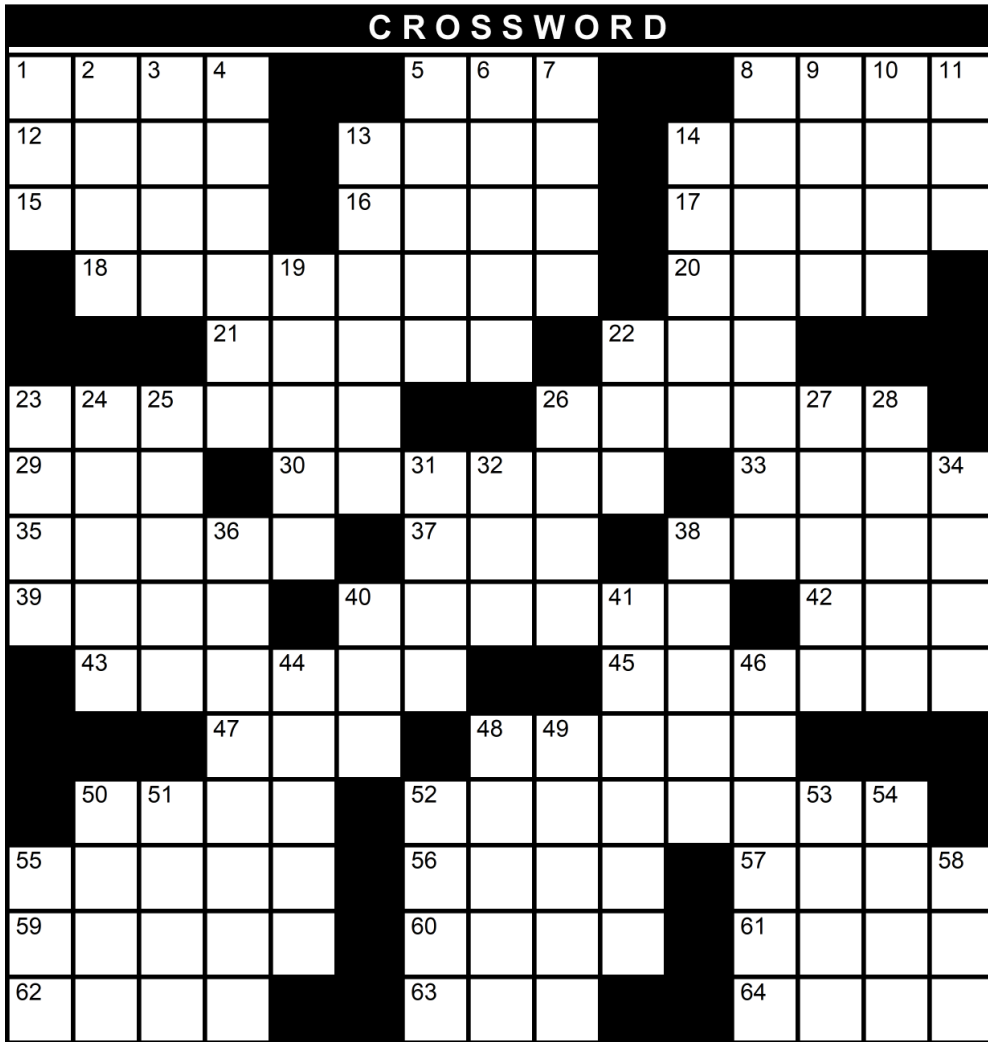
Not good w/any other offer! Good on initial presentation

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

**THEME:
WINTER FUN**

ACROSS

- 1. Most populous continent
 - 5. Mayan language
 - 8. *Bumpy winter transport
 - 12. Spiritual leader
 - 13. Ledger entry
 - 14. In a cold manner
 - 15. Deodorant's target
 - 16. African chieftain
 - 17. Asiatic wild dog
 - 18. *Used in fun winter fights
 - 20. Overnight lodgings
 - 21. *Whoville's _____ beast
 - 22. Tropical constrictor
 - 23. E.B. White's Little
 - 26. What siren does
 - 29. Not a thing
 - 30. Bear the expenses of
 - 33. Between larva and adult
 - 35. In a fitting way
 - 37. Neighbor of Ger.
 - 38. Up and about
 - 39. Unadulterated
 - 40. Excessive protection
 - 42. Middle-earth creature
 - 43. No balance due
 - 45. *Winter Gathering spot
 - 47. Resident uncle?
 - 48. Diarist Anne
 - 50. *Christmas pudding raisin
 - 52. *Done with #8
- Across
- 55. "Fahrenheit 9/11" filmmaker
 - 56. *"The stump of a _____ he held tight in his teeth..."
 - 57. Pout
 - 59. Machu Picchu mountains
 - 60. Snaky swimmers



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- 61. Wild swine
 - 62. Words from Wordsworth
 - 63. Kind of humor
 - 64. Southern stew staple
- DOWN**
- 1. Gone by
 - 2. Wash froth
 - 3. Fe

- 4. Light display
- 5. Cass Elliot and Michelle Phillips
- 6. Like a crooked kilt?
- 7. Lime-rich soil
- 8. *Hot chocolate add-on
- 9. One with biggest share
- 10. Olden-day elbow-related measurement, pl.
- 11. Do after tie
- 13. Formal discussion
- 14. "Bite the bullet," e.g.
- 19. Verbose
- 22. Beyoncé, a.k.a. Queen _____
- 23. Finger move
- 24. *Angler's accessory
- 25. U in UV
- 26. Uber alternative
- 27. Your own teacher

- 28. Sudden stream
- 31. Box office failure
- 32. *Hot Buttered _____
- 34. St. Louis monument
- 36. Time for relaxation, pl.
- 38. Change, as in U.S. Constitution
- 40. "_____'s the word"
- 41. Grey's fifty
- 44. Female sirs
- 46. Hands on hips
- 48. Marketing give-away
- 49. Email option
- 50. *Hockey turf
- 51. Ore deposit
- 52. Expel
- 53. E-reader brand
- 54. _____ gum on a list of ingredients
- 55. Zedong of China
- 58. Major time period

Puzzle solutions on page 8

Support the Local Businesses Who Help Support Our Community!

Online POLL QUESTION

Do you think the "Trump Shutdown" was a good strategic move by the president?



- Yes. Building a wall to keep immigrants out of the US is important enough to warrant using any tactics to get it done.

- No. The government has an obligation to provide services to its citizens; withholding those services should never be used as a bargaining chip in a political fight.

- No idea, I was too busy with the holidays to follow this story.

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	4				5	8	7	
	5	3	8				4	
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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.

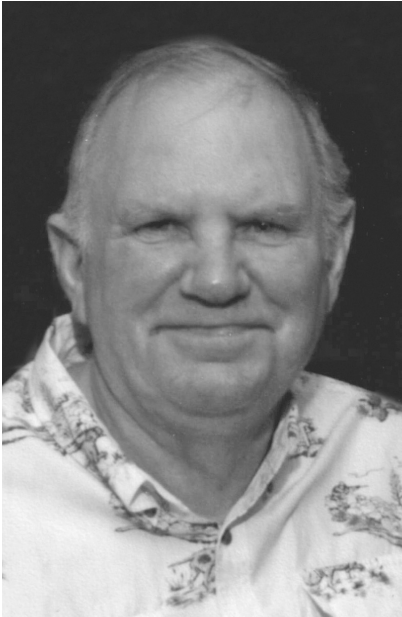


THANKS
for supporting local business!

obituaries

VANDERMARK

Gary A. VanderMark, age 68, of Alto, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 25, 2018. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 26 years, Bonnie; children, Gary Jr. (Chasity), Robin (Jeff) Kyburz, Michelle (Tony) Stepek, David (Brittany) VanderMark; grandchildren, Courtney VanderMark, Bailey VanderMark, Josh Kyburz, Haley Kyburz, Nate Kyburz, Gage Stepek, Pierce VanderMark; sisters and brothers, Dennis (Denise) VanderMark, Laura (Jeff) Fauver; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Mike (Mari) Brower, Tom Brower; many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gerritt and Mary VanderMark. Gary was a hardworking man and retired after many years from Woodland Paving. He loved racing, ice fishing, his dogs, and especially enjoyed time with his grandchildren. According to his wishes, cremation has taken place. A private burial will take place at St. Patrick's Cemetery. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to Caledonia Township Fire Department. Condolences may be sent online at www.mkdfuneralhome.com.



Caring for children

During the holiday season, most of us, regardless of our beliefs, focus on the children we love. Children are our future — we share our knowledge and talent with them — we pass on our values to them knowing they will share those gifts. Social Security safeguards children all year long, but we'd like to take this opportunity to share information about our programs that provide direct support to children.

In 2017, Social Security distributed an average of \$2.6 billion each month to benefit about 4.2 million children because one or both of their parents are disabled, retired, or deceased. Those dollars help to provide the necessities of life for family members and help make it possible for those children to complete high school. When a working parent becomes disabled or dies, Social Security benefits help stabilize the family's financial future.

Children with disabilities are among our most vulnerable citizens. Social Security is dedicated to helping those with qualifying disabilities and their families through the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. To qualify for SSI:

- o The child must have a physical or mental condition, or a combination of conditions, resulting in "marked and severe functional limitations." This means that the condition(s) must severely limit your child's activities;
- o The child's condition(s) must be

resources than are allowed, then the child or children will not qualify for SSI. You can read more about children's benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf.

Social Security also covers many chronic illnesses and conditions. Compassionate Allowances

compassionateallowances/conditions.htm.

Visit www.ssa.gov/people/kids to learn more about all we do to care for children. Social Security is with you and your children throughout your life's journey, securing today and tomorrow. If you know a family who needs our help,



severe, last for at least 12 months, or be expected to result in death; and

- o The child must not be working and earning more than the Substantial Gainful Activity limit (\$1,180 a month in 2018 and \$1,220 in 2019).

If the parents of the child or children have more

are a way to quickly identify diseases and other medical conditions that, by definition, meet Social Security's standards for disability benefits. Thousands of children receive benefits because they have one of the conditions on the list at www.socialsecurity.gov/

please share these resources with them.

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.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

A	S	I	A		M	A	M		S	L	E	D		
G	U	R	U		D	A	T	A		I	C	I	L	Y
O	D	O	R		E	M	I	R		D	H	O	L	E
	S	N	O	W	B	A	L	L		I	N	N	S	
		R	O	A	S	T			B	O	A			
S	T	U	A	R	T				T	E	M	P	T	S
N	I	L		D	E	F	R	A	Y		P	U	P	A
A	P	T	L	Y		L	U	X		A	S	T	I	R
P	U	R	E		M	O	M	I	S	M		O	R	C
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		S	A	M			F	R	A	N	K			
	P	L	U	M		S	L	E	D	D	I	N	G	
M	O	O	R	E		P	I	P	E		M	O	U	E
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O	D	E	S			W	R	Y			O	K	R	A

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

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QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - (new), \$248/set. Thick & plush. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. TFN

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555.

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REACH OVER 100,000 AREA HOMES - with our Marketplace! One call & one payment, only \$40! Includes 20 words & 1 black & white photo. Only items for sale please. The ad runs in the Lowell Buyer's Guide & News, Hastings Reminder, Marshall Advisor/Chronicle & Battle Creek Shopper News. Call 897-9555 or stop by 105 N. Broadway for more info.

wanted

FREON R12 WANTED: CERTIFIED BUYER will PAY CASH for R12 cylinders or cases of cans. (312) 291-9169; www.refrigerantfinders.com (MICH)

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HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. **FREE All Vets Coffee Hour** at the center the 3rd Thursday of each month. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303. TFN EOW

WHISTLE STOP MINI STORAGE - 12661 Vergennes, N. of Lowell. 5x10; 10x10; 10x20; 10x30; 12x40. Fenced lighted, key code entry. Call for more information, 897-8872.

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SCANNING SERVICE - Do you need something scanned & emailed? The Buyers Guide/Lowell Ledger now offers this service! Mon. - Thurs., 8 - 5 p.m. & Fri., 8 - noon. Phone 897-9555 with any questions.

TWO BROTHERS AUTO SERVICE - 5400 Ivan Rd., Saranac, 642-9180. Dave Traver, head mechanic, formerly of McCaul's Auto Service. 30 years experience, state certified, licensed & insured. Mon. - Fri., 8 am - 5 pm.

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Community Calendar January

AND ONGOING EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are on a space available basis & **ARE NOT GUARANTEED**. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not accept ANY Garage or sales (including fundraisers) as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway.

FAMILY CRAFT DAY - Jan. 3, 1-4 pm. Families will be making luminaries. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146 and Clarksville Area Library, 165 N. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY - meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, fellowship hall, 12051 84th St., corner of Alden Nash. Call Sue at 868-6219 or www.womenforsobriety.org

CELEBRATE RECOVERY - a Christ-centred, Biblically-based 12 step program for people with hurts, hang-ups and habits. Meets every Thursday from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Impact, 1069 Lincoln Lake Ave, Lowell. Open to all who are 18 years or older. Fourth Thursday of each month is Chip Night when we celebrate a meal together starting at 6 pm.

BOWNETOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY - meets the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Historical Museum at 84th/Alden Nash.

NEEDLERS - Meet the second & fourth Wednesday of the month from 5 to 8 pm at Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE - third Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post.

V.F.W. POST #8303 - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116 Alden Nash S.E.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Clay VanderWarf, 616-485-3429 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

VERGENNES CLUB MEETS - at 1 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month March thru Nov. Meeting at Schneider Manor Community Room. Program & refreshments. Guests welcome.

AMERICAN LEGION #152 MEETING - fourth Monday of the month, 7 pm. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash, Lowell.

TECH HELP - Thursdays by appointment from 1-3 p.m. Help with internet searching, computer basics, Facebook, ereaders, library downloadable books, etc. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372 - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. in the activity room at Schneider Manor, Lowell.

CUB SCOUT PACK 3188 - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

LOWELL LIONS CLUB - meets third Tuesday at noon at Lowell City Hall.

KNITTING GROUP - Tuesdays 10 a.m. - noon. Meets at the Village Hall. Beginning to advanced knitters welcome. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - Open Radio Room Thursdays, 7 pm at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St. E. General meeting 3rd Thursday. www.w8lrc.org 145.27 MHz.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES TREASURE'S THRIFT SHOP HOURS - Tues - Fri. 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 - 2 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Resource Center, 897-8260.

VETERANS POTLUCK - second Sunday of month, 2 pm. Bring a friend. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash, Lowell.

TECH HELP - Wednesdays by appointment from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Help with internet searching, computer basics, Facebook, ereaders, library downloadable books, etc. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

ALPHA FAMILY CENTER OF LOWELL - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. & Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Diapers, formula, clothing & free ultrasounds & pregnancy testing available. www.afclowell.org

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed., 12 - 8 p.m.; Thurs., 1-6 p.m.; Fri. 9:30-6 p.m. Info., call 784-2007.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. 784-2007.

LOWELL ARTS GALLERY HOURS - Tues. - Fri., 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat., 10-5 p.m. 225 W. Main St., Lowell. Visit www.lowellartsmi.org or call 897-8545.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM - open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday: 1-4 p.m. Families: \$10; individual \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members free. 897-7688.

THE LOWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 300 High St., Lowell.

FLAT RIVER WATERSHED

COUNCIL - Meets 3rd Monday of each month at the Main Street Inn in Lowell at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit our web page at flatriverwatershed.org

BABY PANTRY OF LOWELL - (formerly St. Mary's Pregnancy Center) is now located inside Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) at 11535 Fulton St. E. We are open Monday **5:30-7:30 p.m.** & Thursday **2-4:30 p.m.** to serve pregnant women & families of small children in need of diapers, wipes & other baby supplies. We are non-denominational & serve families in the Lowell area. For more information, call Michele at 616-322-5957.

FREE ALL VETS COFFEE HOUR - Third Thurs. of each month. at Keiser's.

STORYTIME - Thursdays, 10 a.m. with Ms. Sheila at Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

MOTHERS WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD - sons/daughters serving in the military. We are meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For more info call Sally 616-761-2042.

LOWELL AREA PRAYER & HEALING ROOMS - located in the FROM building, 11535 Fulton Street, most Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Christian Scripture based. No cost or fees, no appointment necessary, confidentiality respected.

ALTOLIONS CLUB - Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Keiser's Kitchen.

CIVIL AIR PATROL - Meets the second & fourth Tues. of the month, 6 p.m., Benz Aviation Building at Ionia Airport, teen/adult programs available, Call Shawna, 616-430-1348 or visit online http://mi222.miwg-cap.org

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION FOR FROM - 1st. Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m. and 3rd Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. FROM, 11535 Fulton St. E. Call for more information 897-8260.

New development, continued

reported smelling smoke in the vicinity earlier, but had found nothing to alarm them, so the fire gained considerable headway before being discovered. [...] Everybody will be happy to know that the old bell, which has been calling children to school for nearly 70 years was undamaged by the fire, so that it can still ring forth its old familiar peal through future years. All of the school's typewriters, about 18 in number, were carried to safety, although some were damaged. The old gag about the kids being overjoyed at seeing the schoolhouse burn down has been proved wrong. Their sorrow is real. [...] At least one high school girl turned out in pajamas, slippers and hair curlers to watch the excitement, and had

within a few weeks of the fire, although not in the same classrooms. High school students took an early spring break and resumed learning on Feb. 21, 1945.

According to the Jan. 25, 1945 Lowell Ledger, "The board of education lost no time in getting into action, meetings being held early Sunday afternoon, followed by meetings on Monday and Tuesday. Members of the board are C.H. Runciman, F.F. Coons, H.L. Weekes, Frank L. Stephens and D.A. Wingeier. The loss of our high school is not the first catastrophe that Lowell citizens have had to face. In the past there have been fires and floods and bridges washed away, but, undaunted, our citizens met their problems and

architect and state inspectors will be able to determine whether the remaining classrooms could be made ready for occupancy in a comparatively short time. [...] Mr. Runciman stated that arrangements would be made so that high school students would be able to complete their courses with full credit. The school year will close early in June as originally scheduled."

By June of 1945, a construction plan was in place; superintendent Walter W. Gumser wrote an article for the Ledger explaining the plan.

"The board of education, through its many deliberations in the matter of the settlements for insurance, was convinced that there was no question about the advisability of reconditioning what



A fire inspector surveys the damage to a sixth grade classroom. Photo by Leonard Studios, Lowell, courtesy of Flora Jean Beachum.

her picture taken by some camera fan, a stranger. Musical instruments valued at over \$1,000 were carried from the burning building by Orval Jessup, music instructor, one of the first to reach the scene. Band uniforms were at the homes of the individual members, so consequently escaped damage. Students rescued the emblematic spade and school trophies which lined the halls. Framed pictures of all the old high school grads hung around the walls of the senior session room and were lost. Byrd Beachum, head of the shop department, suffered a personal loss that cannot be measured in dollars and cents, losing many years accumulation of drawings, blueprints and other valuable papers, also many personally-owned tools. A sixth grader was observed with an armful of books, and when asked if he ran into the fire to save his books, he replied, "Heck, no! I brought these from home to throw in."

All effected students were back in classrooms

moved forward in spite of everything. They will do so again. [...] In addressing the board of trade Tuesday, C.H. Runciman, president of the board of education [...] stated that classes will be held in the grade building beginning next Monday for pupils in grades 6, 7 and 8. Spring vacation will be held next week for high school pupils, and during this period it is hoped that the

remained of the high school building for classroom purposes," Gumser wrote. "The costs of replacing the structure would have been prohibitive. Considered from all angles there seemed to be no alternative between razing what remained of the high school and putting it back into use as soon as possible. This was based not only upon financial reasons but because the arrangement



Lowell Ledger, Jan. 25, 1945: "The destruction inside the 30-year-old building can best be understood by this picture showing the roof as it collapsed on the rear of the high school session room." Photo by Leonard Studios, Lowell, courtesy of Flora Jean Beachum.



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The floor plan for one of the new condos. Image copyright r.o.i. Design.

would make it possible to take care of the children in a fairly satisfactory manner in property belonging to the district. To have planned otherwise might have meant the use of temporary quarters in churches and other places for years instead of months. As the

rooms became available in the high school building the grades were brought back to their own quarters, and for the past several weeks only the children in the kindergarten and sixth grade have lacked accommodations in the school buildings. With the exception of painting and cleaning, the reconditioning of the high school building will be completed within a short time, and it is hoped that the structure will be ready for public inspection during the summer months. With the resumption of school in September all of the grades will be back in their own quarters and most of the high school classes will be held in the reconstructed building. The work has entailed the expenditure of thousands of dollars - perhaps one half of the money received through insurance. What remains of the structure will be in better condition than ever before. New wiring throughout

the building was found to be necessary; heating and plumbing facilities had to be altered and replaced; some windows, floors and equipment had to be replaced; most of the walls and ceilings had to be replastered or refinished and the interior walls now exposed to the elements will have to be covered."

Within three years, the building was repaired, improved and reopened. It was used as Lowell Junior High until it was finally demolished in the 1970s. Now there is a large field of grass where the historic school used to be. The property was last used by Lowell Area Schools in 2010. They sold the property for \$350,000 in May 2014. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2019 with completion estimated for summer. For more information, visit riverviewflats.com or call 616-512-3450.

National news headlines of 2018

Jan. 20: People gather in Los Angeles, which was the start of the #metoomovement



Feb. 9: U.S. Vice President attends the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics



Lady Michelle attend the unveiling of their portraits.

April 27: History was made when Kim Jong Un became the first North Korean leader to cross into South Korean territory since 1953.



before marrying Prince Harry.



Jan. 24: Former Doctor of USA gymnastics, along with Michigan State, Larry Nassar, sentenced up to 175 years in jail.



in Pyeongchang South Korea.



Feb. 28: Visitors pay their respects to the Rev. Billy Graham who passed away at the age of 99.



April 4: A woman in Memphis, Tenn. holds a poster of Martin Luther King Jr. on the 50th anniversary of King's assassination.



May 10: Three Americans released by North Korea are welcomed at Andrews Air Base. President Trump welcomes Kim Dong-Chul, Kim Hak-Song along with Kim Sang-duk.



May 25: Harvey Weinstein turns himself in to the police department.



Jan. 30: President Donald Trump gives his first State of the Union Address.



Feb. 14: Students evacuate Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School after shooting in school killing 17 people in Parkland, Florida.



March 13: President Donald Trump arrives in San Diego to view border wall prototypes.



April 10: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg testifies before Congress for data scandal.



May 15: People play golf on Hawaii's Big Island as ash plumes from the Kilavea volcano rises.

May 19: Lava from the Kilavea volcano approaches homes.



June 6: Tornado tears through the Wyoming countryside.



June 9: President Trump meets with leaders at the G7 summit in Quebec.



Feb. 6: Elon Musk of Tesla sends his roadster into space.

Feb. 12: Former U.S. President Barack Obama and former First

March 14: Physicist and best selling author Dr. Steven Hawking dies at the age of 76.



April 21: Former presidents and first ladies attend the funeral of Barbara Bush.



May 19: Megan Markle walks down the aisle



2019

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HAPPY NEW YEAR
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March 27: U.S. Border Patrol apprehends undocumented

National, continued

June 18: An iceberg floats away in Greenland. Greenland is warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet, researchers explain.

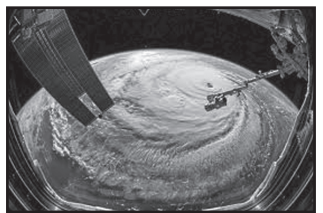
June 21: First Lady sports jacket that reads, "I really don't care. Do u?"



Aug. 8: A plane drops fire retardant behind homes as the Holy Fire burns in California. More than 14k fire fighters battling the catastrophic wildfire.



Aug. 29: Cindy McCain, the wife of U.S. Senator John McCain lays her head on her husband's casket.



Sept. 12: Tweeted photo from space station with caption, "it's chilling even from space."



Sept. 25: Bill Cosby is taken away after he receives sentence of three to 10 years.



Oct. 5: First trip abroad as First Lady Melania Trump pets baby elephant.



Oct. 8: Brett Kavanaugh takes the judicial oath from Anthony Kennedy.



Oct.: Hurricane Michael devastates Florida, including towns like Mexico Beach.



Oct. 26: Cesar Sayoc, 56, was arrested after sending at least 16 mail bombs to several targets.



Nov. 6: Election Day comes with a rainbow over the capitol.



Nov. 7: White House staffer reaches for microphone from CNN reporter Jim Acosta.



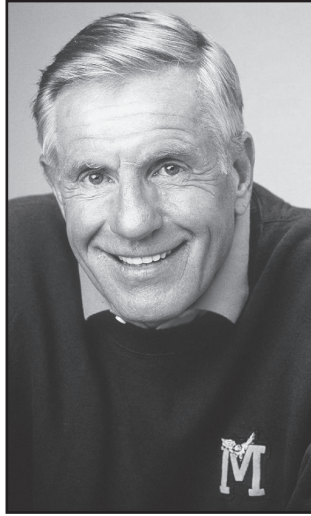
Nov. 12: Ousted as U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions exercises around U.S. Capitol.



Dec. 3: Sully, the service dog of former President George H.W. Bush, lies in front of Bush's casket.



Notable deaths of 2018



Jan. 5
Jerry Van Dyke, 86, American actor and comedian ("My Mother the Car," "The Dick Van Dyke Show," "Coach")

Jan. 15
Dolores O'Riordan, 46, Irish singer and guitarist, The Cranberries

Jan. 22
Ursula K. Le Guin, 88, American science fiction writer ("A Wizard of Earthsea," "The Left

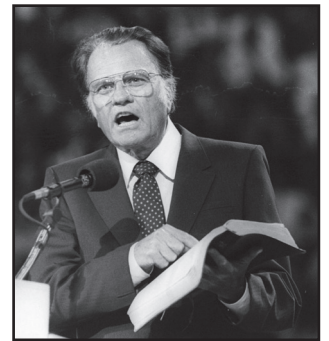
Hand of Darkness," "The Dispossessed")

Jan. 24
Mark E. Smith, 60, English singer and songwriter, The Fall



Feb. 4
John Mahoney, 77, English-American actor ("Frasier," "In the Line of Fire," "Say Anything")

Feb. 11
Vic Damone, 89, American pop singer ("On the Street Where You Live," "You're Breaking My Heart")



Feb. 21
Billy Graham, 99, American evangelist and Southern Baptist minister

Feb. 22
Nanette Fabray, 97, American actress and singer ("High Button Shoes," "Caesar's Hour," "One Day at a Time"), Tony (1949) and Emmy Award-winner (1956, 1957)

March 3
David Ogden Stiers, 75, American actor ("M*A*S*H," "Beauty and the Beast," "The Dead Zone")

April 1
Steven Bochco, 74, American television producer and writer ("Hill Street Blues," "L.A. Law," "NYPD Blue"), 10-time Emmy winner

April 13
Art Bell, 72, American author ("The Coming Global Superstorm") and radio host ("Coast to Coast AM," "Art Bell's Dark Matter")

April 13
Miloš Forman, 86, Czech-American film director ("One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Amadeus," "The People vs. Larry Flynt"), Oscar winner (1976, 1985)

The Time Is Near... *Happy New Year!*

As we count down to 2019, we'd like to share our thanks and best wishes with everyone who has been a part of our year. We've really enjoyed spending time with you, and we hope the next 12 months bring you countless reasons to celebrate!



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Notable deaths of 2018, continued



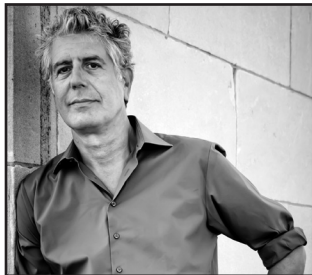
May 14
Tom Wolfe, 88, American author (“The Bonfire of the Vanities,” “The Right Stuff,” “The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test”) and journalist

May 22
Philip Roth, 85, American writer (“Goodbye, Columbus,” “American Pastoral,” “The Human Stain”), Pulitzer Prize winner (1998)

May 26
Alan Bean, 86, American astronaut (Apollo 12, Skylab 3), fourth person to walk on the Moon

June 3
Jerry Hopkins, 82, American journalist (Rolling Stone) and biographer (Elvis Presley, Jim Morrison)

June 5
Kate Spade, 55, American fashion designer



June 8
Anthony Bourdain, 61, American chef, author and television host (“No Reservations,” “Parts Unknown,” “The Layover”), four-time Emmy winner

June 13
D.J. Fontana, 87, Elvis Presley’s original drummer, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member



April 15
R. Lee Ermey, 74, American actor (“Full Metal Jacket,” “Toy Story,” “The Texas Chainsaw Massacre”) and military drill instructor

April 17
Barbara Bush, 92, American political matriarch, First Lady (1989–1993) and Second Lady (1981–1989), complications from COPD and heart failure.

April 20
Avicii, 28, Swedish electronic musician, DJ and record producer (“Wake Me Up,” “Hey Brother,” “Levels”)

April 21
Verne Troyer, 49, American actor (“Austin Powers,” “The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus,” “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone”)

April 23
Bob Dorough, 94, American pianist, singer and composer (“Schoolhouse Rock”)



May 13
Margot Kidder, 69, Canadian-American actress (“Superman,” “The Amityville Horror,” “Black Christmas”) and activist

June 15
Matt “Guitar” Murphy, 88, American guitarist, The Blues Brothers

June 19
Koko, 46, American-bred Western lowland gorilla

June 27
Joe Jackson, 89, American band manager (The Jackson 5), patriarch of the Jackson family

June 28
Harlan Ellison, 84, American writer (“A Boy and His Dog,” “I Have No Mouth and I Must Scream,” “Repent, Harlequin! Said the Ticktockman”) and screenwriter

June 28
Rob Hiaasen, 59, American journalist murdered at work during the Capital Gazette shooting

July 8
Tab Hunter, 86, American actor (“Damn Yankees,” “Grease 2”) and singer (“Young Love”)

July 18
Adrian Cronauer, 79, American disc jockey (AFN), subject of “Good Morning, Vietnam”

Aug. 4
Lorrie Collins, 76, American rockabilly singer, The Collins Kids



Aug. 5
Charlotte Rae, 92, American actress (“The Facts of Life,” “Diff’rent Strokes,” “101 Dalmatians”)

Aug. 7
Stan Mikita, 78, Slovak-born Canadian Hall of Fame ice hockey player (Chicago Blackhawks, St.

Catharines Teepees), NHL champion (1961)



Aug. 16
Aretha Franklin, 76, American Hall of Fame singer (“Respect,” “Chain of Fools,” “A Natural Woman”), pianist and songwriter, 18-time Grammy winner

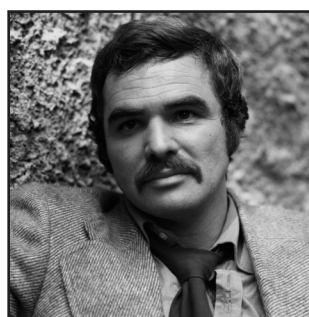
Aug. 21
Barbara Harris, 83, American actress (“The Apple Tree,” “Freaky Friday,” “Nashville”), Tony winner (1967), co-founder of The Second City

Aug. 26
Neil Simon, 91, American playwright (“Biloxi Blues,” “The Odd Couple”) and screenwriter (“The Goodbye Girl”), Tony winner (1965, 1985, 1991)

Sept. 4
Bill Daily, 91, American actor (“I Dream of Jeannie,” “The Bob Newhart Show”) and game show panelist (“Match Game”)

Sept. 6
Richard DeVos, 92, American businessman (Amway) and sports team owner (Orlando Magic)

Sept. 6
Will Jordan, 91, American comedian and actor best known for his Ed Sullivan impression



Sept. 6
Burt Reynolds, 82, American actor (“Smokey and the Bandit,” “Cannonball Run,” “Deliverance”), Emmy winner (1991)

Sept. 7
Mac Miller, 26, American rapper, musician (“Goosebumpz”) and record producer

Sept. 16
Big Jay McNeely, 91, American R&B saxophonist

Sept. 23
Gary Kurtz, 78, American film producer (“American Graffiti,” “Star Wars,” “The Dark Crystal”)

Sept. 27
Marty Balin, 76, American Hall of Fame rock singer and musician, Jefferson Airplane/Jefferson Starship

Sept. 29
Otis Rush, 83, American Hall of Fame blues guitarist and singer (“All Your Love,” “I Can’t Quit You Baby,” “Double Trouble”)

Oct. 1
Charles Aznavour, 94, French-Armenian singer (“La Bohème,” “She”), lyricist and actor (“Shoot the Piano Player”)

Oct. 2
Jamal Khashoggi, 59, Saudi Arabian journalist murdered by order of Saudi Arabian royal family

Oct. 6
Scott Wilson, 76, American actor (“The Walking Dead,” “In Cold Blood,” “The Ninth Configuration”)

Oct. 13
William Coors, 102, American brewer, Coors Brewing Company

Oct. 24
Tony Joe White, 75, American singer-songwriter (“Polk Salad Annie,” “Rainy Night in Georgia”)

Oct. 31
Willie McCovey, 80, American Hall of Fame baseball player

Nov. 12
Stan Lee, 95, American comic book writer and publisher, Marvel Comics

Nov. 13
Katherine MacGregor, 93, American actress (Mrs. Oleson on “Little House on the Prairie”)

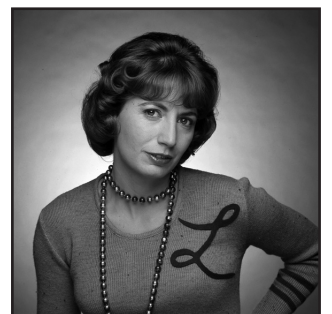
Nov. 15
Roy Clark, 85, American Hall of Fame country singer and television host (“Hee Haw”)

Nov. 16
William Goldman, 87, American author (“The Princess Bride”) and screenwriter (“Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid,” “All the President’s Men”), Oscar winner (1970, 1977)

Nov. 26
Bernardo Bertolucci, 77, Italian film director (“Last Tango in Paris,” “The Last Emperor”), Oscar winner (1988)

Nov. 30
George H. W. Bush, 94, US President (1989–1993), Vice President (1981–1989), Director of Central Intelligence (1976–1977)

Dec. 6
Pete Shelley, 63, English musician and songwriter, the Buzzcocks



Dec. 17
Penny Marshall, 75, American actress (“Laverne & Shirley”) and director (“Big,” “A League of Their Own”)

the **ledger**

YEAR IN REVIEW

2018

Notable sports and entertainment events of 2018



Jan. 7: Oprah Winfrey accepts the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the Golden Globes.



Feb. 20: Canadian ice dancers Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir became most decorated figure skaters in Olympic history with Gold medals.

June 8: Gifted chef, Anthony Bourdain, found dead in his hotel room in France.



Sept: Tom Hanks tweeted this photo of upcoming movie as Fred Rogers.



Oct. 24: NBC host Megyn Kelly apologizes for her Halloween remark.

Oct. 28: Boston Red Sox celebrate World Series defeating Dodgers in five games.



Jan. 8: Alabama wins National College Football Championship over Georgia.



Feb. 22: U.S. women's hockey team wins gold over Canada, 3-2.



June 12: Golden State wins NBA finals over Cleveland.



Sept. 8: Serena Williams argues with umpire at US Open Final. Calls umpire "thief" and lost 6-2 6-4 to Naomi Osaka.



Sept 23: Tiger Woods celebrates after winning tour championship. His last win was 2013.



Feb 4: Teenager Ryan McKenna snaps a selfie with Justin Timberlake during Super Bowl halftime.



April 2: Villanova outlasted Michigan to win men's National Basketball Championship.



July 18: Giant statue of actor Jeff Goldblum was unveiled in London.

Oct. 11: Rapper Kanye West meets with President

Oct. 28: Matt Damon and Jimmy Kimmel attend World Series.

Nov. 10: "Saturday Night Live" cast member Pete Davidson apologizes to former Navy Seal Dan Crenshaw.



May 5: Mike Smith rides Justify to victory during the Kentucky Derby.



July 26: Roseanne Barr's show "Roseanne" was cancelled after Twitter rant.

Trump, along with former football legend Jim Brown.

Feb. 4: The Eagles defeated New England 41-33 for the first Super Bowl title in franchise history.



June 7: Washington Capitals win first Stanley Cup.

Feb 9: Opening ceremony for winter Olympics took place in Pyeongchang, South Korea.



Lowell Ledger 2018 Year in Review



Jan. 24: Lowell city council votes not to allow proposed medical marijuana provisioning center

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 16. As part of the meeting, the council had their final public hearing on medical marijuana and then voted 5-0 not to allow a proposed medical marijuana provisioning center to locate in town.

Four citizens, out of the 17 that attended, spoke at the podium during the public hearing.

Local resident and former Lowell mayor James Hodges expressed his support for medical marijuana businesses.

"I believe that the benefits far outweigh the negatives on this one," Hodges said. "Lowell is a better place because we care about each other, our friends, our neighbors and our family. This is about compassion and doing the right thing for our community."

Lowell dentist Dr. Jim Reagan said he was worried that Lowell could get a bad reputation if the city allowed a medical marijuana business.

"If we do [approve this], I think the Lowell Showboat could be called the 'Robert E. Weed' and we could replace the smokestacks with a couple of reefers," Reagan said. "I don't think it's a good idea. There are other

options for cancer people."

Jan. 31: Equine grant

The Barn for Equine Learning, a horse therapy non-profit at 3203 Timpon Ave. SE, was devastated by a fire set by an arsonist last April. The fire killed 13 horses and totally destroyed the facility. They are now one of five finalists competing for a \$15,000 "Do Good & Do Beautiful" grant from a skin and hair care products company. The grant is for non-profit organizations



owned by women that focus on environmental matters, animal welfare or female empowerment.

"We have earmarked that \$15,000 to go toward a part-time volunteer coordinator for the Barn," said Barn for Equine Learning founder and executive director Kat Welton. "The barn and its services are in very high demand. We offer a really good, valuable service to people, but we want to make sure we're maximizing our volunteers, making sure people are plugged in and know about our community barn time and all of the great things that we do out here. A volunteer coordinator would help with that."

Welton said that, thanks to copious donations and hard work, they are about halfway finished rebuilding the facility after the fire. At the barn, they work with at-risk youth, kids in residential care, young adults and even offer couples therapy.

Feb. 7: Assistant city manager

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Feb. 5. Late in the meeting, city manager Michael Burns said that public works director Rich LaBombard will be promoted to assistant city manager effective immediately.

Burns said he was promoting LaBombard because LaBombard pitched

in and took on many of Burns's day-do-day city manager duties when Burns was otherwise occupied spending what he estimated to be 70 percent of his time as city manager dealing with public relations issues.

"Rich's abilities and capabilities are very strong," Burns said. "He is an excellent administrator. [...] I am elevating Rich to the position of assistant city manager. He will still be doing everything he does as public works administrator, that's not changing, but he is going to be taking a more global approach to the management of this organization."

Feb. 21: Annual Winter Gathering celebrates community leaders

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce (LACC) held their annual Winter Gathering last Thursday evening, Feb. 15, at Deer Run Golf Course. The event was emceed by Rick Seese and Cliff Yankovich. Musical entertainment was provided by local favorite the Easy Idle Band. Guests mingled and a prayer from retired pastor Roger LaWarre was offered prior to the dinner, which preceded the night's main event, the presentation of LACC awards.

The 2018 Chamber Awards went to Addorio Technologies co-owner Betsy Davidson for the Person of the Year, Greenridge Realty for the Business Appreciation Award, GlessBoards and Painted Turtle Hard Cider for Best Business to Watch, Mi Hometown Furnishings for Most Promising New Business and LowellArts for Non-Profit Spotlight. Brick



Awards went to Arrowhead Golf Course, Big Boiler Brewing, Curtis Laundry and Dry Cleaners, Poultry Management Systems and Ronda Auto Centers.

Authority, Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Relay For Life of Lowell, just to name a few. Davidson was named the chamber MVP in 2008. Addorio



At the event, emcee Yankovich listed Davidson's innumerable community accomplishments, which include working with the LACC, Lowell Rotary, Lowell Area Recreational

Technologies plays a large role in the cyber business community of Lowell and sponsors many events and organizations.

"I am very humbled, grateful and honored to be



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here,” Davidson said.

Feb. 28: Floodwaters threaten Lowell's homes and businesses

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. Blocks of homes south of Main, to homes on Bowes Rd. and the fairgrounds sustained most of the water damage.

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.

On Friday, Feb. 23, 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.

“Our biggest concern at this time is over-taxation of the wastewater treatment plant,” Burns said at the Friday press conference. “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.”

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.

Feb. 28: Red Arrows are state wrestling champions

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.

This was Lowell's 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.

The MHSAA individual state finals will be held all day Friday and Saturday at Ford Field in Detroit.



March 7: Ledger editor resigns

Editor Jeanne Boss is resigning from the Ledger after 27 years at the 125-year-old newspaper.

Boss worked at several jobs before getting her start in the newspaper business, all the while honing her photography and graphic

design skills.

“I'm not a journalist, I'm a photographer and a graphic designer who became an editor,” Boss said.

Eventually she was hired to work for a newspaper in Rockford and after leaving there, started working at the Ledger.

“I really just fell into it here,” Boss said. “I saw a help wanted ad for a typesetter and graphic design person, so I applied.”

Boss said she has enjoyed working in Lowell but she has a long list of things she's looking forward to doing. Soon she will be found sailing around the Great Lakes on the Tiny Island (her 33 foot sloop), doing yoga, painting, working on writing projects, doing some limited freelance design work and most of all hanging out with her husband, children and grandchildren.

March 7: Lowell/Caledonia hockey crowned regional champs

Winning battles over Kalamazoo United, East Kentwood and Dewitt/St. Johns the Lowell/Caledonia varsity hockey team earned the regional title and a bid into the Division I state

Arena in Plymouth.

March 14: Final “The Little Mermaid” shows this weekend

Lowell High School opened their annual spring musical, “The Little Mermaid,” last Friday evening to a record-breaking crowd for the classic Hans Christian Andersen tale.

Ariel, the flame-haired mermaid star of the production, was played by Eden Nethercott. Nethercott will graduate from LHS with a healthy theater resume that includes roles in “Hairspray,” “Peter Pan,” “Legally Blonde,” “A Wrinkle in Time” and “Christmas in the Land of Oz.”

Her male counterpart was played by fellow senior and

with Flounder's shyness and Sebastian's boisterous demeanor.

Other standout performances included senior Quinne Duhr as the goofy seagull Scuttle; junior Kohl Goldsmith as Chef Louis and King Triton played by senior Kenny Stump.

Nearly 80 students participated in the production of this musical, including members of the orchestra pit comprised of students, professional musicians and director Tim Haan. The dances were choreographed by Rochelle Miller, costuming was led by Linne Bunn who also helped with props and the production was directed by Amanita Fahrni.



stage veteran Ryan Noffke. He charmed as the soon-to-be king driven to follow his own path to the sea as a sailor.

Aiding Ariel on her adventures were her best friends, Flounder and Sebastian, played by juniors Ivan Reynolds and Savanna Dempsey, respectively. The two lit up the stage each time they appeared

March 21: Nine Red Arrows named all-conference athletes

Lowell High School recently announced their winter OK White all-conference athletes as named by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. More than 20 Red Arrows participating in six different sports received the honor. The wrestling team had the



quarter final competition for the second year in a row.

The team will return to the Summit Sports and Ice Complex in Dimondale this Wednesday to compete in the state quarterfinals against Brighton. The winner will advance to the state semifinals and finals that take place Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the USA Hockey

the lowell ledger

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most honorees with nine being named to the list, including freshman Doak Dean, sophomores, Austin Boone, Nick Korhorn and Bryce McCune; and seniors Channing Perry, David Kruse, Tyler Lynch and Keigan Yuhas. The girls basketball team had the

the 22nd annual Lowell Community Expo at Lowell High School. Thousands wandered around entering drawings, chatting, sampling products and collecting coupons, toys and other promos at over 150 booths from local businesses, churches, schools and other



school and high school jazz bands, the Easy Idle Band, Cheater B's Band, pianist Deborah Kay and a martial arts demonstration. The Hall of Adventure featured bowling, archery and a large climbing apparatus from Ninjas on the Move. To close the Expo at 2 pm there

reunite to rerecord a classic
Lowell's legendary 60s rockers, the Headhunters, got together last month and rerecorded one of their classic songs, 'Times We Share.'

The Headhunters were, along with the Plague and the Shaggs, Lowell's answer



Studios in Sparta, where their 1968 release on Fenton Records was recorded. Since breaking up in 1968, band members have reunited on two previous occasions; first in 1993 and then last summer for their 50th high school reunion. Last month, MacNaughton, DeWitt and Speerstra reunited again in MacNaughton's home studio with the goal of making a more professional sounding recording than the one they made in the '60s.

"As kind of a party, we got together last month in my home studio and recorded it," MacNaughton said. "I'm kind of happy with it. I used a lot of my studio trickery to do it. I took a lot of time to put the pieces together, put the fills in the right places and things like that."

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. Over his three decades with the team, Cooper made friends with many Tiger legends, including Kaline, Horton, Alan Trammell, Kirk Gibson and Jim Leyland.

April 25: Kent County Youth Fair kicks off "Raising Barns, Building Youth" fundraiser

The Kent County Youth Fair had a kickoff celebration for their "Raising Barns, Building Youth" campaign at Deer Run Golf Club, 13955 Cascade SE, on Monday, April 23. The KCYF honored those who donated time and money to the new fairgrounds project and unveiled the plans. Deer Run Golf Club is the site where the new fairgrounds are planned to open in 2020.

Fair president Jon Bieneman said that plans to move the fair from the current 225 S. Hudson location date back to the 1970s.

Fair director John Schut talked about the fair's Raising Barns, Building Youth campaign to raise money to break ground and begin building barns and facilities at Deer Run, a project that is projected to cost about \$13 million to complete.



second most all-conference winners with juniors, Regan Coxon and Emily DePew; and senior Cassie Dean. Senior Mitchell O'Gorman was the lone representative for boys basketball. Both male and female varsity bowlers made the cut, including senior and sophomore brothers Carson and Collin Clark; senior Laura Lachowski and sophomore Emma Blakie. Named from the varsity competitive cheer team, sophomores ShiLeigh Shepard and Kyra Snyder. Completing the list are junior gymnast Corah Miller and senior ice hockey all-star Austin Whaley.

March 28: Thousands attend 22nd annual Lowell Expo at LHS

Saturday, March 24, was

organizations. Expo opened at 9 am with the national anthem sung by Gwendolyn Hackett. Throughout the day, entertainment on stage in the gym included the middle



was an "Expo Olympics" game show hosted by Cliff Yankovich and announced by Al Eckman. Contestants competed in silly games for over \$1,000 in prizes. The games included pot the flower, the tire change challenge, pop-a-putt and others.

"It was busier today than last year," said Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce volunteer Jantina Wasciuk. It was her 15th year volunteering at Expo. "What could be better than sitting here giving away prizes?"

"The weather is perfect for Expo. It's too cold to do anything outside, but it's nice and sunny," said Sue Raimer, an independent Mary Kay beauty consultant from Saranac.

March 28: Headhunters

to the Beatles back in the '60s.

They made a name for themselves playing at dances, battle of the band competitions, weddings, basements and garages. For most of their time together the Headhunters consisted of Terry DeWitt on rhythm guitar, Dick Nowak on drums, Tom Speerstra on lead guitar, Jim Hagen on horns, Roger MacNaughton on piano and Tim McLaughlin on bass. Marty Gostnell played drums with them sometimes, and Dick Lee, a classmate, was their manager. The highlight of their career was when they acted as the backing band for the Vogues' performance on the Lowell Showboat. Eventually their success led them to Dave Kalmbach's Great Lakes

April 4: Lowell resident honored by Tigers for 28 years of service

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 so cool," Cooper said. "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,

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“Phase one and two, there’s a price tag of about \$7 million,” Schut said. “We’ve raised just shy of \$3 million.”

“This is a big idea,” said Dick Posthumus, governor Rick Snyder’s chief of staff. “To get there takes the grand vision that the leaders of the fair board and others have had. It takes people who are willing to work and support that [vision] and that’s why we’re here tonight.”

May 2: Mobile studio debuts at WRWW open house

The radio station at Lowell High School had an open house to celebrate National High School Radio Day on Wednesday, April 25. The open house included the debut of WRWW’s new mobile broadcasting studio.



“We plan to get it out in the community a lot, especially this summer,” said station manager Al Eckman. “Our plans include bringing it to all of the Sizzlin’ Summer Concerts and to the Kent County Youth Fair. The remote studio is enclosed, so it doesn’t matter if the weather is bad. It should work out really well for us. We’ll be all over town.”



A high school with a radio station is very rare. Currently about 180 high schools in the US have radio stations, three of them in Michigan.

May 9: Biodigester is put to rest in joint meeting

Lowell city council and the Lowell Light & Power board put the biodigester to rest in a joint meeting at city

hall at 5:30 pm on Monday, May 7. Litehouse will now use the 625 Chatham St. facility to pretreat the water used in the company’s food manufacturing processes before it hits the city’s wastewater system.

After a closed session of more than an hour, the city council and the Lowell Light & Power board returned to council chambers and each body passed separate resolutions, effective Tuesday, May 8, that terminated the lease agreement, option agreement, transportation agreement and purchase power agreement with Lowell Energy AD and waived the city’s, Lowell Light & Power’s or LEAD’s right to pursue litigation against each other. LEAD also has to pay any

outstanding utility bills owed at the facility.

“Litehouse would agree to lease some space at 625 Chatham, significantly less space than was leased to LEAD, for the pretreatment of its process water,” said Lowell city attorney Dick Wendt. “It would agree to acquire the lift station and be responsible for maintenance and

operation of the lift station and also be responsible for the maintenance and operation of the pipeline between Litehouse and 625 Chatham.”

A delegation from Litehouse attended the meeting, including president and CEO Jim Frank, vice president of manufacturing Rob Tyrrell and Lowell



plant manager Susan Serne. Frank said that over the last 17 months Litehouse has trucked an average of 67,000 gallons of water to Muskegon each day for treatment and disposal. That’s 170 trucks



of water a month on average.

Carl Hipwell, an engineer from the Boise, ID office of TO Engineers, said the company will use an aerobic process instead of the anaerobic process LEAD used to pretreat the water used in Litehouse’s food production. This will not create any detectable odors.

It will take six to eight weeks to complete the work that will make the facility operational. The company plans to invite neighbors to tour the building soon.

May 9: City council discusses future of Lowell Showboat

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting on Monday, May 7. The meeting began at 7:30 pm, delayed half an hour after the joint meeting with the Lowell Light & Power board went longer than planned.

The council voted to give a \$20,000 retainer to the interior designer for the new Lowell Showboat. These funds will keep them on the project through Dec. 31, 2019.

“The showboat replacement project is progressing more rapidly in recent weeks, and engineering and design is underway on the new structure,” said Lowell city manager Michael Burns. “With numerous technical

questions regarding interior fit and finish, the city requested the professional services of Hearthstone Design Studio of Grand Rapids to serve as the interior designer of the showboat

replacement project. Owner Shannon Parnofiello will work directly with the city’s project manager, showboat work group and engineers to develop a plan for the finish components of the new structure.”

May 23: Astronaut Roger B. Chaffee honored & memorialized by Lowell resident

Lowell resident David Thompson was the chairman of a group responsible for placing a seven foot tall bronze statue of astronaut Roger B. Chaffee in front of the Grand Rapids Children’s Museum.

A special unveiling ceremony took place at the corner of Fulton and Sheldon in Grand Rapids



on Saturday, May 19. There was a large crowd despite the chill and drizzle. The ceremony included speeches from Thompson, Chaffee’s widow Martha Horn Chaffee, Skylab 3 and Space Shuttle astronaut Jack Lousma and

performances by the US Navy Sea Chanters. The city of Grand Rapids declared it “Roger B. Chaffee Day” and a proclamation to that effect was read aloud by Lowell High School senior Jon Berklich.

Retired US Navy commander Dave Thompson of Lowell was the event’s chairman and led the statue project with Dan Pfeiffer and Bud Vierson of the Michigan Military Preservation Society and the Lowell American Legion Post # 152. Thompson was a classmate of Chaffee at Central High School.

“Roger was a classmate, a teammate, a good friend and a great, great guy,” Thompson said. “After we went to college and graduated, we both ended up flying in the Navy. He flew a lot farther than I did,

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obviously!”
Sculptor J. Brett Grill, a Grand Rapids native, also designed the statue of Gerald R. Ford outside of the Ford Presidential Museum and the statue of Jay Van Andel in front of the Van Andel Arena.
“The statue is incredible, absolutely incredible,” Thompson said.

state titles, record-breaking musical productions, service learning projects, excellence in extracurricular and innumerable academic accomplishments. Pallo urged the students to take the spirit of the Lowell community with them into their futures.

“The character and determination that has been instilled in all of you is something that will set you apart from others,” Pallo said. “Lowell is unlike any other place on earth. The support and kindness that is granted to every member of the community is something to cherish and replicate

address the audience.

“I hope that the future brings all of you the success and the happiness you deserve,” Dean said. “I look forward to meeting up with you ten years from now and sharing all the great things we have accomplished.”

“If there is anything that school has really taught me, it is how little I know,” Roest said. “We start learning the moment we are brought into this world and we don’t stop learning until we leave it, yet there is a whole universe of information we will never know or ever realize we are missing. I don’t have the answers. I just have questions. Questions that I hope to one day answer. The one thing that I do know is that the questions are worth asking and the answers are worth finding. So I encourage each of you to go out into the world and have the curiosity to ask questions and the courage to seek answers.”

May 30: Girls softball team seals conference championship with perfect 12-0 record

The first place Red Arrow varsity softball team sealed their second consecutive conference championship with a perfect 12-0 league record and an impressive overall record of 20-3.

June 6: Ladies claim the Division I district softball championship

Lowell varsity softball added another trophy to their season collection last Saturday at the Michigan High School Athletic

everywhere you go. Being a Red Arrow means you are strong and can meet challenges on and persevere. Take your Red Arrow character with you wherever you go and you will stand out in any crowd.”

Next, honoring the remarkable 56 summa cum laude graduates, Pallo finished with the introduction of the class salutatorian Darby Dean and valedictorian Brianna Roest, who each took the stage to

Roger’s widow Martha Horn Chaffee could be seen wiping away tears at various times throughout the event.

“You don’t know what this means to me and my family,” Horn Chaffee said. “[For] 51 years Roger has been remembered and now he’ll be remembered for centuries.”

May 23: Varsity girls bring home OK White title

Accomplishing a feat last achieved before a majority of the athletes were born, the Lowell girls varsity track and field team exited the OK White conference meet with the school’s first title in a decade and a half.

Coach Paul Judd said that great kids, great parents and great partners in coaching add additional support as they direct the student athletes toward success on and off the field.

“Our kids work hard and that is what coaches are most pleased with,” Judd said. “Yes, we want to win, but watching the kids embrace the journey and overcoming fears and obstacles is priceless.”

May 30: 140th LHS commencement ceremony at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

Lowell principal Amy Pallo began ceremonies recognizing some of the many accomplishments of the 267 member graduating class which included five athletic



Rams. Producing two no hitters while racking up their own runs the team pummeled the Rams in the district semifinals in the 3-0 win. This win propelled the Arrows to the finals round against the Northview Wildcats where the Lady Arrows continued winning, this time 8-0, earning them a shot at the regional title.

The team will vie for that title at Grand Haven High School this Saturday, June 9, at noon where they will face the Caledonia Scots in the regional semifinal.

June 20: Local WWII veteran awarded Bronze Star

Lowell World War II veteran Glenn Marks was presented with a Bronze Star in a special ceremony at Evergreen Missionary Church, 10501 Settlewood Dr. SE on Thursday, June 14. VFW post commander Herm Weststrate contacted the office of US Rep. Justin Amash, who authorized the Bronze Star two weeks ago.

During the war, Marks was an army medic on the front

Association Division I conference championship, District Championship.

After completing a perfect 12-0 OK White season and garnering the

the Red Arrows began their postseason last week Saturday hosted by local heavy hitter the Rockford

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back to the first building. The commander there said to take the first two guys out since we had opened up the road. So we took them to the aid station.”

June 20: Bowne Township fire chief retires

For the past two and a half decades, recently retired

agree.

According to Dougherty, who joined the force as a fresh faced 18 year old back in 1992, he was a man simply doing his job. His trail of service began with an invitation from then-chief Jerry Posthumus to help out at a fundraising pancake supper. He started attending



Bowne Township fire chief Phil Dougherty has been there for his community. He answered calls day and night. He rescued, resuscitated, educated and comforted. He served alongside his fellow firemen as a brother. He championed causes important to those he served. He reflected the heart of a hero, though he would not

firehouse meetings soon thereafter and before long was learning to become an EMT.

After a decade as a fireman, Dougherty was promoted to the chief position on June 1, 2009.

June 27: Roaring 20s party to celebrate FROM's 20th anniversary



Flat River Outreach Ministries celebrated their 20th anniversary of serving the Lowell area community by throwing a Roaring 20s party at Witt's Inn & Cafe. The evening included the announcement that FROM plans to build some low income housing on Main St. The charity purchased two houses next door to each other and plan to create multiple dwellings on the site. FROM plans to launch a capital campaign later this year to raise the money necessary to complete this ambitious project.

Party attendees enjoyed delicious dinner and dessert from Miss P's Catering, got silly in the photo booth, heard live music from Lowell music legend Roger MacNaughton, competed in FROM trivia contests and got to bid on various items in a silent auction. Many partygoers dressed up in



1920s fashions, surprising the organizers, who did not expect that many Lowellians would participate in that particular aspect of the event. For extra atmosphere, a vintage automobile was parked outside of the party.

“That car is a 1930 Ford Roadster, a two-door coupe, modified street rod with a Chevy 350 engine, owned by John Sterly,” said Carol Briggs.

June 27: New Alto Bowne fire chief

Rick Vriesenga is the new chief of the Alto and Bowne Township fire department.

A veteran of the Michigan Army National Guard, Vriesenga has spent decades working in the life-saving

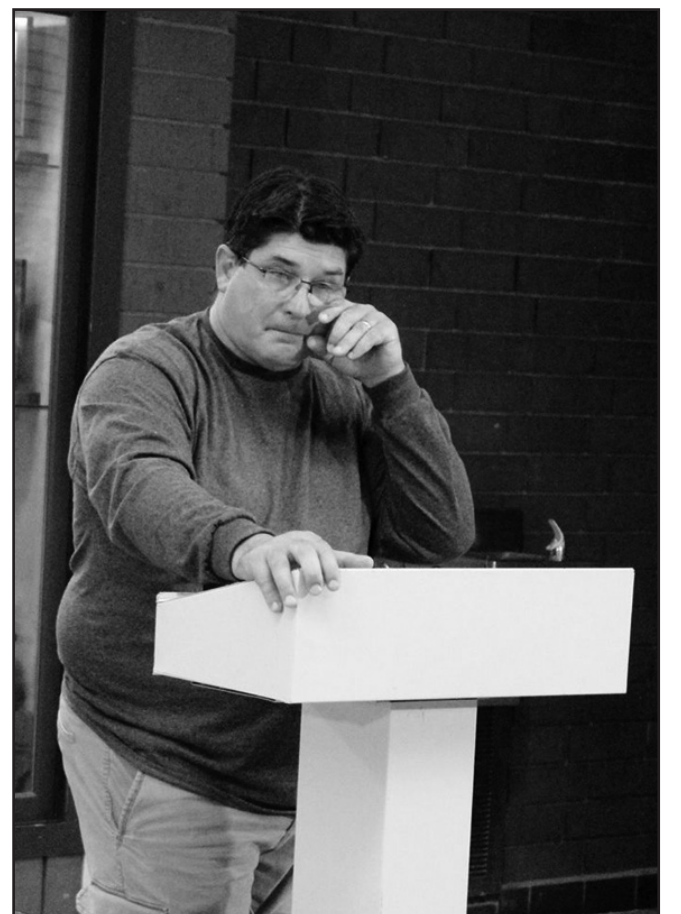
business as paramedic, firefighter and instructor. He has spent most of his career as a firefighter at Gerald R. Ford Airport in Cascade Township and has lived in Alto with his wife Julie since 2001.

July 4: LHS football coach Noel Dean retiring after 22 years

LHS football coach Noel Dean made a surprise half hour retirement announcement last week at Lowell High School.

“I am not leaving Lowell,” Dean said. “I am a Red Arrow. I am just not going to be the head football coach anymore.”

Dean cited financial



lines in Germany. Marks' unit was positioned close to war zones where they would receive wounded soldiers directly from the battlefield. The incident that earned him a Bronze Star occurred during “Operation Queen,” the Allies' successful attempt between Nov. 16 and Dec. 16, 1944 to capture the Rur River in Germany. At one point during the fighting, Marks insisted on searching the area for wounded men even though the road ahead had not been searched for Nazi mines.

“We were called to pick up patients, the wounded,” Marks said. “We came to the road going down to the dam where the wounded were.

The jeep driver stopped and said, ‘I’m not going down there, it hasn’t been cleared of mines.’ I argued with him for about 15 minutes or so, finally I said, ‘We’re going down, I’ll walk ahead of the jeep.’ We made it down and got to the first building. There were two wounded there, but the officer said there were two more guys wounded worse than them, he said to go down to the next building to see if we could get those guys. I led the other three guys and we started down. We got partway down and shots rang out. We all dove for the ditch. One of the guys said, ‘Go ahead, you fool, get yourself killed if you want to, I’m going back,’ so the other guys broke and went



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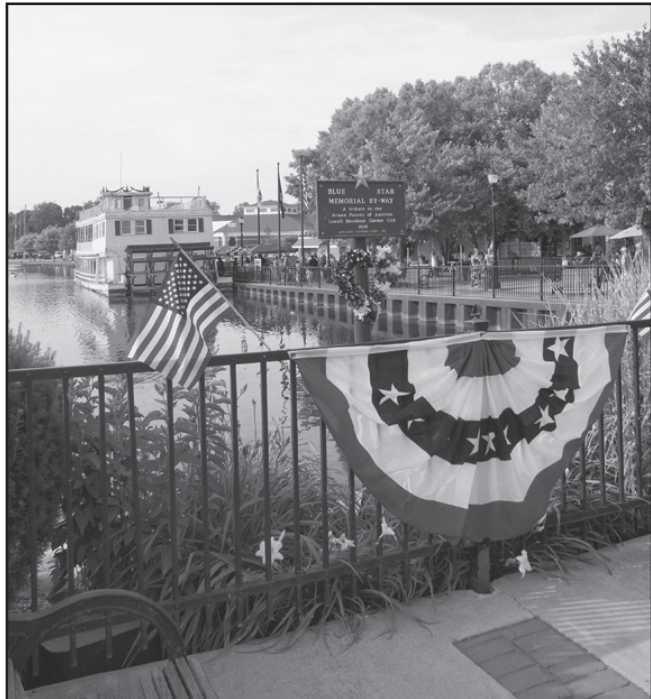


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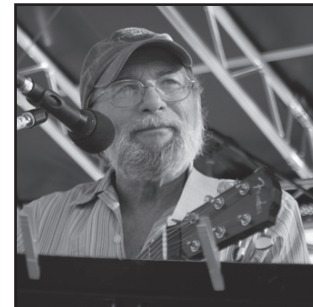
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a discount!' But they said, 'Go to this website and pick out what you want.' To go to that level to help someone else out, it restored our faith in humans. This was over the top generous, just so great."



July 25: Free herbs and vegetables at 'Help Yourself Garden'

There are free fresh herbs and vegetables available to anybody who wants to pick them in the "Help Yourself Garden" at the corner of Grove and Main. The smorgasbord in the garden right now includes eggplant, tomatoes, bell peppers, jalapeño peppers, habanero peppers, dill, two different

types of thyme, catnip, cilantro, Swiss chard, fennel, rosemary, sage, parsley, chive, tarragon, eggplant, collard greens, spearmint, savory, Greek oregano, Italian oregano and plenty more.

It all started last year when Laura Huth-Rhoades and Tom Rhoades moved to Lowell from Champaign/

reasons and a new opportunity for his decision.

Dean led the Lowell football team to their first playoff appearance just one season after his 1996 arrival and logged 19 consecutive bids. During his tenure, his players earned ten league titles, 11 district titles, eight regional titles and three state championships and their scholastic success earned them a total of 11 Academic All-State awards. After 25 consecutive winning seasons, Dean ends his career as the winningest coach in Lowell's history, with a win/loss record of 219-41. He exits with a pile of personal accolades as well, including 16 MHSFCA Regional Coach of the Year awards, three State Coach of the Year honors and an induction into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Dean's greatest legacy is probably the immensely successful Pink Arrow Pride event that has earned more than \$1.8 million to support those facing a cancer journey.

July 18: Thousands enjoyed sunshine, music, food and more at Riverwalk Festival

Thousands of people attended the 2018 Riverwalk Festival last week, enjoying sunshine, music, food, an appearance from Batman, a parade and much more. The used book sale was swarmed with people buying stacks of inexpensive reading material. There were brisk sales of raffle tickets, tote bags and t-shirts at the Chamber of Commerce booth. There were vendors lining the Riverwalk selling hundreds of different products like crafts, food and art. There were even a couple local authors selling their books.

The biggest highlight of any Riverwalk Festival is the live music. This year they had rhythm and blues from the Soul Syndicate, folk and pop from the Addams Family and classic rock from Lowell legends Alive and Well.

"Riverwalk Festival is always a great time," said Alive and Well keyboardist

Roger MacNaughton. "We're back in our hometown and we love it. We played a few times this summer already, so that helps. We're just having fun."

July 25: Stolen kayaks replaced by kind-hearted manufacturer

When the Jannenga family of Lowell woke up on Wednesday, July 11, they found their five kayaks and accompanying trailer were gone, stolen in the middle of the night by thieves.

The loss hit the Jannenga children [Nora, Nolan and James] especially hard because the three had

pooled their birthday and First Communion money to buy the kayaks. The police department told the

Jannengas to appeal to social media for clues and to find out if anybody had seen or heard anything about the kayaks.

The story went viral and eventually made its way to the original manufacturer of the kayaks, Hemisphere Design Works in Muskegon. They donated five brand new kayaks and a trailer to the family on Friday, July 20.

"This company contacted my wife on Facebook and said they'd like to help us out," said Nate Jannenga. "We were thinking, 'Oh cool,



2019

We're filled with gratitude for the support and friendship this community has shown us in 2018, and we look forward to sharing more good times with all of you in 2019. We hope the coming year brings you nothing but the best to you and yours. Thank you for your patronage and your trust in us.

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Urbana, IL. The couple purchased and renovated a house in downtown Lowell and have now recently completed their pet project: a free public vegetable garden.

tremendous," Laura Huth-Rhoades said. "Tom and I felt so welcomed by the community, which we were very grateful for. Learning that our philosophy on community engagement

is compatible with the philosophy of community engagement here in our new town. [The garden] quickly got more popular than I'd ever dreamed. It's a good problem to have, to be sure.

I hope we can keep up with demand."

Aug. 1: Lowell High principal Pallo resigns

After 15 years of guiding Red Arrows toward their futures, Lowell High School principal Amy Pallo has left her position after submitting a resignation letter last week. She will become the principal at another high school.

Pallo has been with Lowell Area Schools since 2003 when she was the first to head up the freshman center.

"I have held that role for six years and have enjoyed every minute of it," Pallo said. "This [new] position allows me to live and work in the same community, which I am really excited about. I have learned so much through my time as the LHS principal and I feel ready for a new challenge."



Aug. 1: New LHS football coach

Justin Miller is also the head of the school's 'Health and Physical Athletics' department and has been the varsity baseball coach for the last 14 seasons.

"Noel Dean and I taught and worked together for 13 years," Miller said. "From him I learned about the importance of evolving as times change and not doing the same thing every year just because it's comfortable. We had great synergy with all of our different athletic programs while Noel was here, so as coaches in all the different areas, we were taught many times about

things that were working and things that we could apply to our own programs. We always talked to each other; us varsity coaches would kind of just bounce things off each other."

Miller has been coaching since he was a teenager and has earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Grand Valley State University.

Aug. 15: New LHS principal introduced at school board meeting

Lowell Area Schools board of education introduced Stephen Gough, the newly-hired high school principal,

at their regular monthly meeting on Monday, Aug. 13.

"I started at Comstock Park 18 years ago as a middle school social studies [and] English teacher," Gough said in an interview after the meeting. "I then moved into the office as assistant principal at the middle school. I did that for five or six years and then moved over to the high school as athletic director while maintaining some assistant principal duties, then for the last seven years I was the high school principal."

"We feel very fortunate to have Steve aboard," said

2019
Hope it's a blast, from the first day to the last!
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LAS superintendent Greg Pratt. “[There were] more than 30 applicants [so it was] a very rigorous interview process and we appreciate the extra time he gave us.”

Aug. 15: Another great Kent County Youth Fair with many highlights

Another Kent County Youth Fair has come and gone. The fair opened on Monday, Aug. 6 and closed on Sunday, Aug 11.

“It’s just been

another great fair,” said KCYF sponsorship and



entertainment coordinator Bruce Doll. “Every night was free entertainment. Pickin’ Roots were a great band; the Kari Lynch Band knocked it out of the house. Reading for Rides was a great time. They were finally rewarded for all the reading



they’ve done.”

This year was the first time still exhibits were auctioned, raising a total of \$1,710.

“The still exhibit auction went great, we had like 40 projects that got sold,” Doll said. “They made really good money.”

The fair will return to the Lowell fairgrounds next year, but by 2020 it is scheduled to take place at the former site of Deer Run Golf Course. Wherever it’s held, the fair is one of the most positive, rewarding annual events that takes place in the Lowell community.

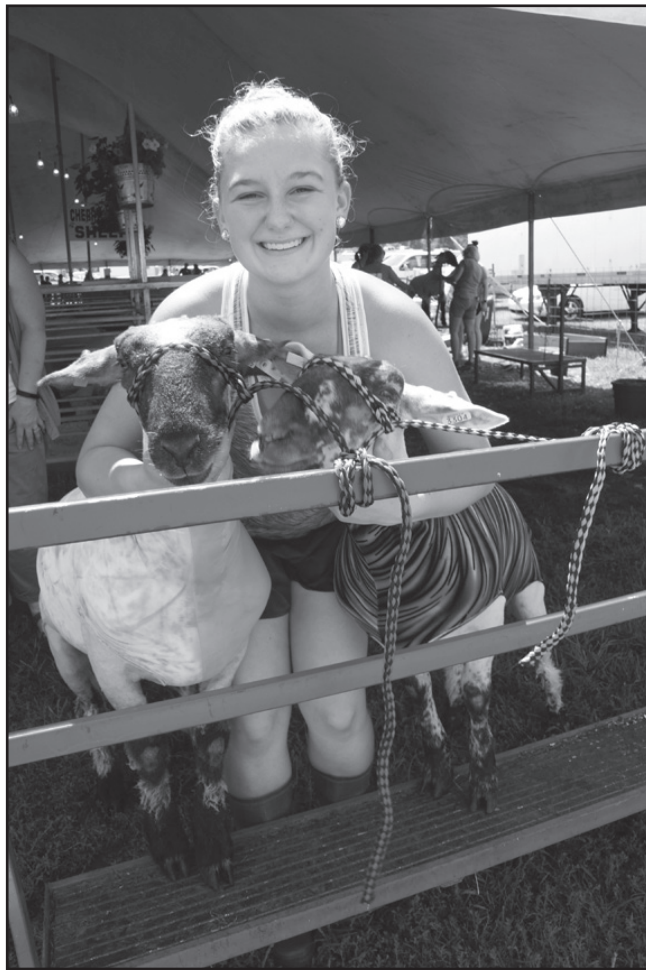
Aug. 22: Museum garden party a fun, successful fundraiser



There was just enough rain to inconvenience the Easy Idle String Band at the Lowell Area Historical Museum’s “Summerfest” garden party fundraiser on Friday, Aug. 17. The few minutes of light drizzle required the band to move their gear

to the porch. Meanwhile, dozens of people enjoyed food, drinks and a stroll through the museum and its grounds. The emphasis was on West Michigan food, drink and entertainment. Beer from both of Lowell’s microbreweries were represented, plus drinks from other locals like Gravel Bottom from Ada, Virtue Cider from Fennville and Brewery Vivant from Grand Rapids. Food choices included snacks from Miss P’s Catering, Larkin’s and more.

“We try to bring some back and change some up each year so we get a variety and it stays fresh,” said museum executive director Lisa Plank. “The rain stopped and we’ve got a great turnout.



Open 8-3 on Sat., Closed Sun., 8-12 on New Year’s Eve, and Closed New Year’s Day.

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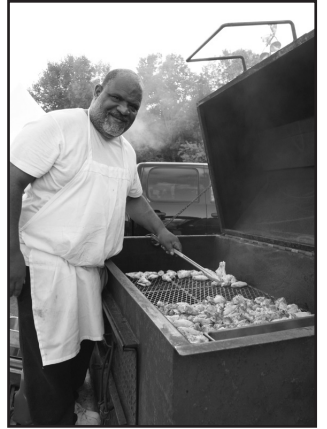
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Mill, Heidi's Farmstand, Keiser's, Flat River Grill, Main Street BBQ, Big Boiler Brewing, and Riverbend Bar & Grill.

Kyle Graham from Michigan Blood presented Wendy Wigger and Daryl Vogel from Gilda's Club with a check for \$1,250, the funds generated at the Pink Arrow Community Day blood drive.



There's great food here and it's a really nice night."

The money generated at the fundraiser will be used for the many fun, interesting and educational programs at the museum.

"I think it was a wonderful event," said Fallsburg Historical Society president Ken Tamke. "The rain stopped miraculously and it turned out to be a great evening."

mammograms and lots more.

The health fair was the first opportunity to purchase the new Pink Arrow t-shirt. The volunteers running the t-shirt booth were swamped all day. Shirt purchases included a free bracelet and a free license plate frame.

"T-shirt sales are going great and it's a good turnout," said Pink Arrow volunteer Angie Blough. "We've already sold hundreds of



masse, they just keep supporting this program so beautifully, we're so thankful."

Restaurant Row was hopping, food vendors included the Ice Cream Cabus, Larkin's, Biggby Coffee, Cannonsburg Grist

"It's just our token of appreciation," Graham said. "Their last blood drive alone saved 275 lives."

"This will help us so much because all of our services are free," Wigger said.

Brian Camacho has only been manager of the

Lowell Verizon store for two months, but he used his newly-acquired position to get a \$5,000 donation to Pink Arrow Pride from his parent company. The check presentation was a last-minute addition to the program on game night.



their Ice Cream Cabus to the event and served free ice cream cones to the first 300 customers.

Sept. 5: 11th annual Pink Arrow Pride event very successful

Lowell's football team was defeated 36-0 in the Pink Arrow game against Rockford on Thursday, Aug. 30, but football is the



Aug. 22: Hundreds enjoy Pink Arrow Health Fair at Riverwalk

A little drizzle did not diminish attendance at the Thursday, Aug. 16 Pink Arrow Health Fair. Hundreds of people enjoyed free lunch, free ice cream, a blood drive,

t-shirts and about 75 percent are personalizing them."

There was free health information, a blood drive and free mammograms in the Spectrum Health "Mammography Mobile."

Tammi and Bruce Wingeier from the Ice Cream Caboose in Alto brought

least important part of the annual charity event. All proceeds raised at the game and surrounding events go to benefit families dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

"I think it's going beautifully tonight," said Pink Arrow Pride organizer Teresa Beachum. "The Lowell crowd is here en



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Sept. 5: Farmstand donated to Help Yourself Garden

The Help Yourself Garden at the corner of Main and Grove recently received a brand new farmstand from local Girl Scouts and furniture makers Glessboards.

furniture making company, so it's a win-win-win-win all around."

The garden has been so popular that Huth-Rhoades plans to expand it next spring to include most of her front yard.

"We're just so blessed to have this here to



Using plans created by the furniture builders, the scouts built the farmstand by hand. "Most of the materials were either donated or salvaged, so it's made of probably 90 percent recycled

accommodate the public's outpouring of produce and support for the rest of the members of the community who want access to fresh vegetables," Huth-Rhoades said.



materials," said Laura Huth-Rhoades, owner of the home where the garden grows. "It was put together by Girl Scouts and coordinated by an award winning local

Sept. 12: Amway co-founder Richard DeVos dies

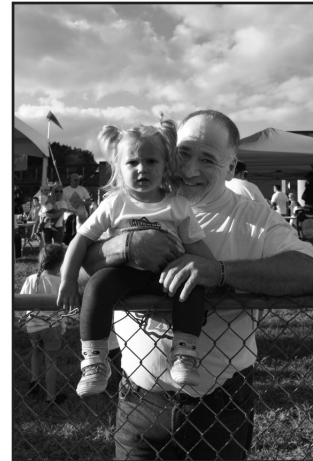
Amway co-founder Richard M. DeVos died at



home of complications from an infection on Thursday, Sept. 6 at the age of 92. Not content to simply run Amway and accumulate vast wealth, DeVos was a major philanthropist, a sports

team owner (the Orlando Magic), a political activist and the author of three books. According to Forbes Magazine, DeVos was worth about \$5.5 billion when he died and was the 379th

richest person in the world. The Richard and Helen DeVos Foundation, established in 1970, has donated millions of dollars to various charitable, religious and political organizations such as



the Inner City Christian Federation, the Literacy Center of West Michigan, the Heritage Foundation, the American Enterprise Institute, the State Policy Network, FreedomWorks, the Federalist Society, the Mackinac Center for Public



Policy, the Media Research Center, the Free Congress Foundation, the Young America's Foundation, the Alliance for Children Everywhere, Prison Fellowship Ministries, the Haggai Institute, the Luis Palau Evangelistic Association, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Focus on the Family, the Foundation for Traditional Values, the Family Research



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Council, the Acton Institute, Bethany Christian Services, Focus on the Family and the ministry of D. James Kennedy.

"I would like to have [people] think I'm a life-enricher," DeVos said in a May 2009 interview with the

Grand Rapids Press. "That I'm a guy who, while I made a lot of money, I spent my life helping other people do better, helping other people accomplish their goals."

In lieu of flowers, the DeVos family has asked that memorial contributions

be made to the Grand Rapids Christian School Association, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church or Prison Fellowship Ministries.

Sept. 12: City orders end to Help Yourself Garden

The Lowell city council had their latest meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 4. Although it was not on the agenda, the meeting was full of people there to complain about the city's recent attempt to close the popular "Help Yourself Garden" at the corner of Main and Grove.

More than 30 citizens attended the meeting, 13 of whom spoke out about the garden. Two citizens made statements against it.

"We have three-year-old and six-year-old little girls," said Grove St. resident Joshua Webb. "There has been increased traffic. [...] We don't know these people. We're just concerned for the safety of our children."

"It's not aesthetically appealing to everyone," said Krystin Ryder.

"[Lowell] is a wonderful place to move to and this

garden adds to that," said Nicole Ranks. "New people are not a scary thing."

"I am very appalled that we have to go through this," said Jessica Miles.

The council did not reply to any of the commenters. When asked to comment further after the meeting, city manager Michael Burns provided a printed statement. The city's position seems to be that the farmstand recently built and donated by local Girl Scouts constitutes an illegal building.

"The location of this garden and the stand it supports have given rise to a number of complaints," the statement read. "The homeowner was allowed to place traditional ground cover in the city-owned right-of-way instead of grass, not establish a community garden. Neighbors have complained about the increase in the number and speed of cars traveling by 906 E. Main each day to view the garden. We have also had complaints about the structure, which is out of character with the residential neighborhood."



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Sept. 19: Increase in attendance for 50th Fallasburg Festival

They couldn't have planned better weather for the 50th annual Fallasburg Arts Festival last weekend. The event took place on

Saturday and Sunday in the bright sunshine with cool breezes and temperatures fluctuating between the high 70s and low 80s. The pleasant weather caused a noticeable increase in attendance.

"We are at capacity. We actually were running out of parking at the covered bridge parking lot and the one here," said LowellArts executive director Lorain Smalligan. "For a while people had to wait for someone to leave in order to get a parking spot. The weather has been helpful. It might be a little on the warm and muggy side, but I think the nice weather brings people out."

"It is going amazingly well today," Susan Stouffer, a volunteer at the Lowell Women's Club food booth. "This is the best year we've had. It's sunny but it's cool. There's a little breeze, it's a little cloudy. It's fairly nice weather." There were 100 artist booths with evidence of just about every type of creative impulse you can imagine, including jewelry, sculptures, ceramics, glass, fiber, mixed media art, woodworking, paintings, drawings, photography, oral arrangements, basketry, print-making and plenty more.

Food vendors were Lowell Women's Club, Lowell First United Methodist Church, First Congregational Church of Lowell, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lowell Historical Museum, Fallasburg Historical Society, Lowell Rotary Club, Alto Lions Club, Lowell Area Fire Department and Lowell Music Boosters. For many of these groups, the food they sell at this festival is one of their major annual fundraisers.

Sept. 19: Discussion of Help Yourself Garden continues at city council meeting

Three citizens spoke during public comment, each about the "Help Yourself Garden" at the corner of Main and Grove, recently ordered by the city to cease operating by the end of the month.

Joshua Webb, a Grove St. neighbor of the garden who spoke out against it at the last council meeting, said he has been bullied on social media ever since going public with his opposition.

"Ever since anybody that's been opposed to it has voiced their opinion, we've been criticized, we've been ridiculed, we've been ostracized from the community," Webb said. "It's the opposite of their intention of bringing the community together. They attacked my religious beliefs, my views, because I said that I go to church and I give there."

Another Grove St.



resident, Sally Hayden, said she felt afraid to speak out against the garden.

"I was and I still am afraid to speak up about this because, like Josh said, just to voice your concerns gets your house described on Facebook, people telling you that they're taking pictures of your house, it's nerve-racking," Hayden said. "I'm still nervous to say that I'm worried about the traffic on my road, which is sad. We've been shamed, like Josh said, on Facebook for worrying about the traffic at our home."

Local resident Paula Mierendorf proposed creating a task force with citizens interested in maintaining the garden, city officials and local residents opposed to independent community gardens.

Oct. 3: Help Yourself Garden is officially closed

The Help Yourself Garden at the corner of Main and Grove has officially ceased to exist.

According to a Sept. 25 letter from Lowell city attorney Dick Wendt to Charissa Huang, the attorney for homeowners Laura Huth-Rhoades and Tom Rhoades, "The owner and occupant of the property, Laura Huth-Rhoades, agreed to remove

the sign whiteboard on the property on September 20, to remove the farmstand on the property no later than October 1 and to no longer operate or provide a

Rhoades from Lowell police chief Steven Bukala dated August 30, 2018."

The Aug. 30 letter from Bukala to Huth-Rhodes referred to by Wendt was



community garden," Wendt's letter said. "In return, I agree, on behalf of the city, to withdraw the letter related to the property to Ms. Huth-

an "order to abate" giving the homeowners 20 days to close the garden.

"The matter pertaining to 906 E. Main is resolved,"



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said Lowell city manager Michael Burns in an email to the Ledger. "The city has nothing further to add at this time."

Tom Rhoades and Laura Huth-Rhoades declined the opportunity to comment but shared that they are considering whether or not to remain living in Lowell.

Oct. 3: Oakwood Cemetery beautification project

There are several large, unattractive piles of dirt, rocks and other debris in the NW corner of Oakwood Cemetery. The piles of dirt and debris are out in the open only a few feet away from the headstones. Local resident Perry Beachum is spearheading an effort to put up a fence to hide this unsightly mess.

"My idea is just to enclose this area with a privacy fence," Beachum said. "I'm thinking of white plastic panels, that would be low-maintenance. The cemetery needs a working area to be able to function, but it doesn't have to be so evident."

The timeline for completion of the Oakwood Cemetery fence project depends on the weather and how quickly they're able to raise the money, but the goal is to have a fence in place before next Memorial Day. The project is estimated to cost between \$4,000 and \$6,000. The suggested donation is \$100, but any amount will be accepted. To donate, make a check out to "City of Lowell, Oakwood fence" and mail it to 924

Riverside Dr., Lowell, MI 49331.

Oct. 17: Vergennes United Methodist Church unveils mural

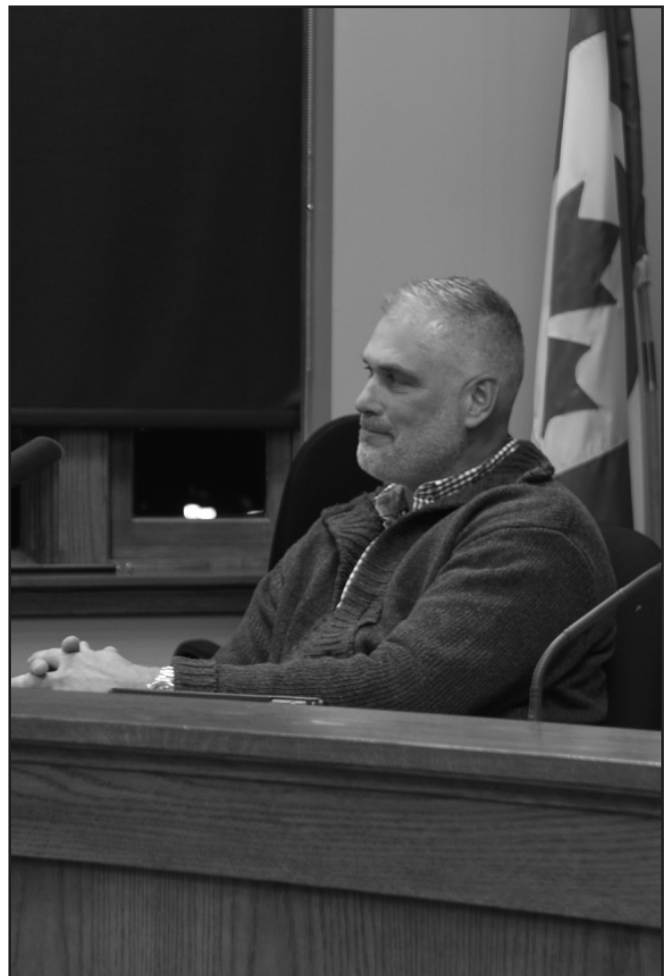
A mural by local artist Gary Eldridge was unveiled on Sunday, Oct. 14 inside of Vergennes United Methodist Church, 10411



and they're captured on the timeline really beautifully."

The congregation was founded in the spring of 1843 when a group of families from around the Vergennes Township area gathered to worship in the log home of Anthony Yerkes, about a mile east of the current location at the NE corner of

Kerrs, McPhersons, Odells, Bieris and Andersons. They have updated and added onto the building over the years and have more updates planned, but the property retains many of the original 19th century features like an ornate tin ceiling. The church was named an official historical site by the state



condominiums, retail space and parking.

"The existing building closest to the Flat River will be developed into 10 condominiums with covered parking to the east and patios and balconies overlooking the river," said project leader Todd Schaal, CEO of the Estes Group. "The

was last used by the school district in 2010. Lowell Area Schools sold the property for \$350,000 in May 2014.

Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2019 with completion estimated for summer.

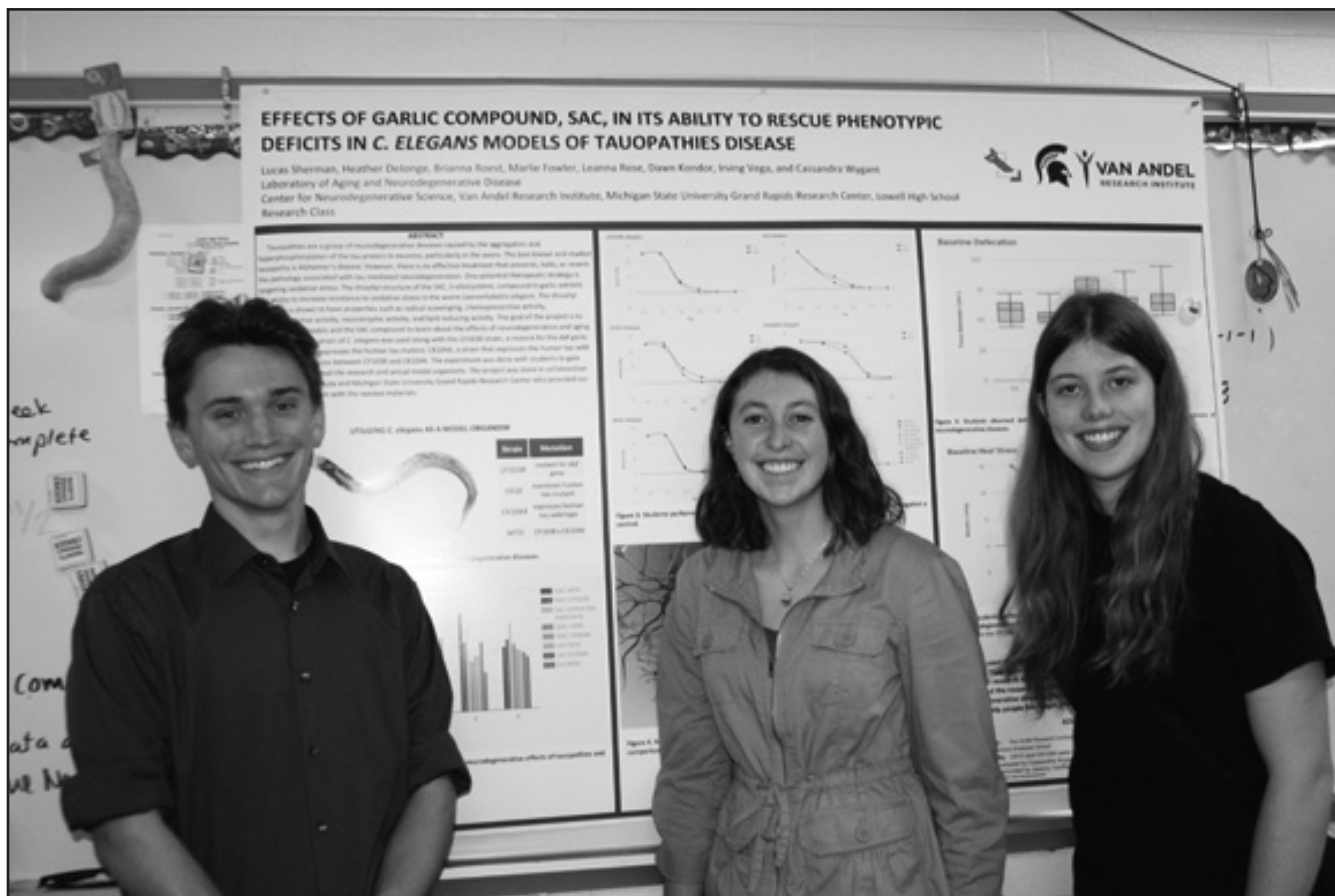
Oct. 24: Varsity volleyball team wins OK White conference

Making their mark on Lowell Athletics history two games prior to the closing of the regular season, the Red Arrow varsity volleyball team clinched the school's first OK White conference championship last week with wins over the Greenville Yellow Jackets and Forest Hills Central Rangers, propelling their season record to a flawless 12-0.

"The girls were extremely excited and proud to have captured the school's first conference title," said head coach Jordan Drake. "They were pumped up to play on Thursday and it was even better because we had a good crowd follow us to Forest Hills Central along with our awesome student section."

Oct. 31: Ghost hunters experience paranormal activity at Fallasburg village

The Saturday night ghost walk organized by the Fallasburg Historical Society in conjunction with the Michigan Paranormal Alliance brought out more than 40 people. They split into four groups and set out to hunt for ghosts at different locations throughout the 1840s pioneer Fallasburg village.



Bailey Dr. The mural is a graphic representation of the church's 175 year history.

"Gary did awesome work," said VUMC pastor Thomas Fifer. "It really captured the story of our church. It was a cool team effort as well. Mac McPherson and a bunch of other people gathered a lot of pictures and artifacts

Bailey and Parnell. The first members of the congregation were the Yerkes family, Charles Collar, Joseph Wright, Mrs. Amos Hodges, Mrs. Anna Van Deusen, and Ebenezer Smith. Rev. Bush preached the first sermon. When the current church building was constructed in 1864, the members of the church were the Fairchilds,

of Michigan in 1978 and a historical marker was placed there in 1986.

Oct. 24: Riverview Flats, waterfront condos & retail project

The former Unity High School building, 320 N. Monroe, is going to be turned into a development called "Riverview Flats" with 10

western views will provide an opportunity to appreciate both the river and the setting sun over the neighborhood and church steeple."

The building was constructed in 1936 through one of FDR's New Deal programs. It was first known as Intermediate School, then Riverside until 1994, when it was renamed Unity High. It



As the one-room Fallsburg schoolhouse dipped into pitch black, ghost hunters from group two heard a distinct “thump, thump, thump” of feet walking by the desks near the windows. Then came a bang from the storage room. Ghost hunter Peggy Kotecki ran out to see if it wasn’t coming from the outside. It wasn’t.

The MPA team members handed out EMF and ghost meters to detect electromagnetic activity indicating that a ghost could be present. If the meter goes above two points, there could be significant activity close by. At one point, the meter went to 2.5 and the red light started flashing.

Nov. 7: City councilor Jeff Phillips steps down

Lowell city councilor Jeff Phillips announced his immediate resignation from the council at their latest regular meeting on Monday, Nov. 5.

“I just recently received a job promotion, and my new job promotion will conflict with the city council, so tonight will be my last council meeting,” Phillips said. “With that, I’d like to thank the city and the council, as I am grateful for the opportunity. I take away much information knowledge and experience.”

“At the next council meeting, the council will have to accept [Phillips’] letter of resignation,” said city manager Michael Burns. “From there, they designate a process. Thirty days after that point, the position needs to be filled.”

Nov. 7: LHS students to present research at Van Andel Institute

Lowell High School seniors Lucas Sherman, Marlie Fowler and Leanna Rose will present the results of their laboratory research on worms at the West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science conference at the Van Andel Institute in Grand Rapids on

Saturday, Nov. 10.

LHS science teacher Heather DeJonge has been leading an advanced biology class at LHS in collaboration with the Van Andel Institute and Michigan State University for the past several years.

Her science research class studies *Caenorhabditis elegans*, tiny worms that live in the dirt. The goal of this research is to find a cure for afflictions such as cancer, neurodegenerative diseases and Alzheimer’s disease.

The trio will be the only high school students presenting research at the advanced scientific conference. Some of the colleges participating in the conference are Central Michigan University, Western Michigan University, University of Michigan, Northwestern University, University of Toledo, Illinois University and the University of Chicago.

Nov. 14: Highest turnout in years for Nov. 6 election

The midterm election on Tuesday, Nov. 6 was one

of the most anticipated for years.

Nationwide, voter turnout was higher than any midterm election since 1970. According to the New York Times, 48.5 percent of eligible voters participated in the election. Kent County had 61.5 percent voter turnout.

Democrat Gretchen Whitmer will be Michigan’s next governor. She beat Republican Bill Schuette 2,205,437 votes to 1,828,865. The county overall went for Whitmer over Scheutte 140,855 to 129,549. Michigan voters passed anti-gerrymandering and pro-voting proposals, and Michigan is the first state in the Midwest to legalize recreational marijuana. The majority of county residents voted “yes” on all three of the statewide proposals as well as the Kent County “ready by five” proposal that will provide \$5.7 million a year for early childhood programs.

The city of Lowell had 57.1 percent voter turnout; 1,703 of the 2,983 registered voters came out, 1,280



stayed home. The city chose Whitmer over Schuette, 815 votes to 795. The race for Secretary of State came out to a tie in Lowell, Mary Treder Lang and Jocelyn Benson each got 799 votes from city residents. The majority of city residents voted in favor of all three

proposals. Proposal one passed in Lowell 984 to 689, it was 1,012 “yes” to 625 “no” for proposal two, 1,135 “yes” to 501 “no” votes for proposal three and 885 voted “yes” while 730 said “no” to the Kent County “ready by five” proposal. In other local races, all four of the Lowell



school board members running for reelection - Gary Blough, Patrick Nugent, James Turner and Danny Stephens Jr. - were re-elected.

Nov. 14: Veterans, students, others honored at banquet

The Lowell American Legion Clark-Ellis Post #152 had their annual Veterans Day banquet on Sunday, Nov. 11. About 75 veterans, their friends and family members enjoyed a dinner catered by Honey Creek Inn in Cannonsburg, it included roast beef, turkey, dressing, green bean casserole and more.



We’re Filled With Gratitude for good folks like you at the New Year and always.

Thanks & Best Wishes!



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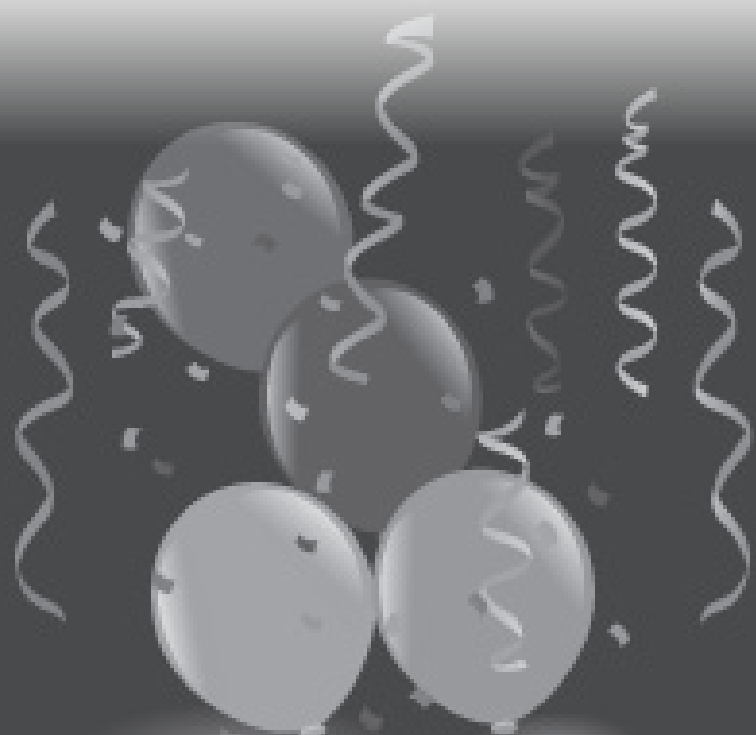
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Four Lowell High School students - Gwendolyn Hackett, Evangeline Hoke, John Russell and Karsten Kirkendall - who attended Boys State and Girls State over the summer spoke about their experiences.

"I learned so much and I met a lot of people," Hoke said. "That really influenced my decision to enlist in the US Navy, which I did a couple weeks ago. I also learned a lot about our local and state governments."

The Lowell Ledger was honored to receive an award from the American Legion at the banquet, "for excellent coverage of veterans' issues and for the story of the dedication of the astronaut Roger B. Chaffee statue."

Nov. 21: Big turnout for 27th Christmas Through Lowell

It was a three-day long shopping extravaganza from the southern and northern outskirts of Lowell to its

busy downtown artery along M-21.

Visitors from far and near flocked to venues in the greater Lowell area during the 27th Annual Christmas Through Lowell tour last weekend. The local eateries were jammed packed throughout the Christmas event.

The participating venues offered gifts and wares as unique as the vendors themselves: Lavender Cold Season Tea, glass



fusion Michigan-shaped clocks, bullet jewelry by the Gunpowder Girl, ghost town paintings, tatted jewelry, anti-bullying books and Lego jewelry by Jennifer Schaffer. Deer Run Christmas on Cascade Road featured a wide selection of gifts, soaps, candles and treats. The Frozen Creek Farms of Belmont, a mainstay of many local events, offered their tasty collections of fruit salsas, jams, just add water soups,

herbal dips and seasoning such as the Louisiana Bayou Cajun Seasoning & Dip Mix. Unique gifts at Deer Run included sticky splat balls, colorful "Unicorn Poop" popcorn by Hubbert's Kettle Corn, knitwear by Shali Kuhns from Lowell, Tealightfuls by Sandy and many more. At the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center on Hudson St., vendors offered candles, handmade totes and sachets of lavender from the Lavender Yard in

Alto. The selection included Lavender Cold Season Tea and Lavender & Oatmeal Face Mask. The Holidays at the Fairgrounds had a variety of crafters such as "Jewelry by Jean" Jean Gertz of Ionia specializing in photo jewelry, "Out of the Barn" with Katie DeVries and many more. At the Lowell Area Historical Museum (LAHM), diverse and unique vendors featured the "Fancy Candle Company" by Janna and Coby Onan of Lowell,



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among others.

Nov. 21: Lowell city council discusses recreational marijuana

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, Nov. 19. About 17 people attended the one hour and 30 minute meeting.

The council spent approximately half an hour discussing what to do about recreational marijuana. They had previously planned to "opt out" and not allow marijuana-related businesses, but the election results demonstrated that the majority of city residents were in favor of it.

"I would like to know what people who voted 'yes' were voting for," said Lowell mayor Michael DeVore. "I don't think a lot of people read the proposal. I think a lot of people saw 'recreational marijuana' and then they clicked 'yes.'"

Three citizens offered their opinions on the subject at the meeting; two were in favor of it and one was against it.

"It may not be your preference, but you were elected to represent the citizens of Lowell and the citizens of Lowell said 'yes' to recreational marijuana. That's what they want," said

Lowell resident Christine Baird.

"The last thing I would like to see in Lowell is for marijuana to be sold," said Lowell resident Joyce Folkersma. "It turns me off.

pm on Wednesday, Nov. 28. At that meeting they will listen to public comments about recreational marijuana and then either vote to opt out or take no action, thus opting in.

meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 28, thus allowing recreational marijuana businesses to set up shop within city limits. The council had a Dec. 6 deadline

the one hour and 15 minute meeting. Of those, 11 voiced their opinions; city clerk Sue Ellery also read letters, phone calls and emails from ten further residents into the

recreational marijuana, so it doesn't make sense for you as representatives of those voters to tell them to go somewhere else to get it."

"You make a statement by putting this restriction that we do want to have caution still with this," said Christa Wetzel, executive director of Alpha Family Center. "[When] we just make it a little too easily accessible, we make a statement that there is no harm whatsoever."

"We really need to respond to the voters," said city councilor Greg Canfield. "It was fairly black and white that a majority do support it."

"Opting in doesn't mean it's going to be on every other corner like a gas station or a pizza place," said mayor Michael DeVore.

Dec. 12: Cliff Yankovich appointed to city council

Chimera Design co-owner Cliff Yankovich was appointed to the Lowell city council on Saturday, Dec. 8. Yankovich takes over the seat vacated by Jeff Phillips on Nov. 6. Phillips left the council because he accepted a job promotion that would have interfered with his governmental duties.

According to his



I really don't want Lowell to be known for selling marijuana."

The council decided to hold a special meeting at 4

Dec. 5: City council allows marijuana stores

Lowell city council took no action at their special

to opt out by passing one of two ordinances that would specifically disallow such businesses.

About 25 people attended

public record.

"It's what the voters want, it's already been decided," said former Lowell resident Gary Stevenson. "Voters want to be able to get



Thank you for a great 2018; best wishes for 2019!



application, Yankovich has lived in Lowell since Sept. 2018, but he has owned and operated his jewelry business in town since 2002.

“I like what goes on in this town and I have done my best to promote it and make the cool things cooler over the last 16 years,” Yankovich said. “I’ve been wanting to get on the city council, but you had to live here. Once I fulfilled that obligation, I decided to give it a shot.”

Yankovich will be sworn in privately sometime before the next regular city council

meeting, which is at 7 pm on Monday, Dec. 17.

Dec 19: Pink Arrow Pride funds distributed to Gilda’s Club

The annual distribution of funds raised during 2018’s Pink Arrow Pride events and t-shirt sales took place during the Gilda’s Club of Lowell holiday social at the Franciscan Life Process Center on Tuesday, Dec. 11. This year they raised a total of \$127,500.

Pink Arrow Pride volunteers Teresa Beachum

and Rev. Ethel Stears presented Gilda’s Club of Lowell with a check for \$72,000. The money from Pink Arrow Pride is the club’s main source of funds every year.

Pink Arrow Pride also donated \$46,000 to Lowell Community Wellness to support families during the grief and terror of a cancer diagnosis, plus \$9,500 split between three scholarships, the Dr. Donald Gerard Scholarship, the Kathy Talus Scholarship and the Lowell Community Wellness

Education Fund.

Dec. 26: Showboat gets another big grant

The Lowell Showboat is getting another big grant from the State of Michigan.

“We received another \$1.3 million to complete the Lowell Showboat” said Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker. “This is just amazing news. One very large thank you to Sen. Dave Hildenbrand for achieving yet another grant.”

Dec. 26: Dr. Paul Gauthier retires

“After I retire, I hope to see many of you ‘around town,’” Gauthier said “I will remain a member of the Lowell Rotary Club, as I have been for 38 years. I will still shop with many of our local merchants, as you can’t beat the local quality and service.”

