

Lowellian competes in ESPN's X-Games

Country music legends

AMERICA'S "NO. 1" COUNTRY ENTERTAINER!

BUCK "THE TIGER" OWENS and his BUCKAROOS

SUN., SEPT. 3—2 BIG SHOWS, 2 & 6 P. M.
Also Charley Hall and the Jokers, Eddie and the Bluebeards, WJW's Western Gentlemen, Ray Shirley

Children Under 12 FREE—Picnic Area

MELODY RANCH PARK
4 Miles off I-94, Hartford, Mich.

pages 8 - 9

Power outages

Lowell
Light & Power

page 3

Social media



page 4



LHS sports
pages 10-11

50¢



by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lifelong Lowell resident Danny Baird competed in ESPN's "Winter X Games 23" extreme sports competition in Aspen, CO recently.

Baird competed in the Adaptive and Para Snow BikeCross competition on Saturday, Jan. 26, which was broadcast worldwide on ESPN, ESPN2, ABC and YouTube.

"Oh, it was awesome. But really, I was so nervous," Baird said. "It was very cool, but I was just a little anxious. It was all crazy and I was smiling the whole time."

Baird finished sixth out of eight in his race.

"I'm a quadriplegic, I don't have any muscle below my armpits," Baird said. "Everybody else that I raced was a paraplegic. They have core muscles, ab muscles, they can sit up, they don't just fall over. I was in fourth place, then I fell. My shifter button is on my handlebars. When my hands get cold, they lock up and I can't hit those buttons. That was half my problem during the race, I was stuck in one gear. I've just got to train more all year, go to the gym and get more muscle. I beat Blair Morgan, though. If you've

Baird on his trip to the X-Games in Aspen, CO. He came in sixth out of eight competitors in his event. He attended the X-Games with his fiancée, Sheena Noah, his father, Dave Baird, and friends Brandon Murray and John Todd. More pictures on page 7. Photos submitted by Danny Baird.

Baird, Continued, Page 7

School board serenaded at meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education had their regular monthly meeting at 7 pm on Monday, Feb. 11. The meeting lasted 51 minutes and was attended by about 12 local residents.

Jodie Seese from Lowell Community Wellness gave a presentation about Lowell Wellness Camp, a four week afterschool program, in partnership with Grand Valley State University, that debuted at Cherry Creek Elementary last fall. Seese said the camp's goal is to teach students about "moving more, eating better and smiling often" in fun, engaging ways. The program was designed using data gleaned from the 2015 "LoWellness" survey. There are plans to expand the camp, which was very popular with the kids.

"This program was well-received by parents," Seese said. "When we describe to parents that we want to find a way to reinforce what they're doing at home about making better choices with food and [having] less screen time, they're all about it."

The board approved \$346,409.50 to SEHI Computer Products, Inc., a Rochester Hills firm, to complete the "E-Rate" rewiring project. The project was originally scheduled for last year, but an HP-compliant vendor could not be found. The work will be done over the summer and paid for out of next year's budget.

"This project would basically replace some of our connection devices that are out in the cabinets in each of the buildings," said superintendent Greg Pratt. "Those are the switches

that would connect to the end user. We would also not only replace the switches and the cabinetry there, but some of the fiber would have to be upgraded within the building. [...] An extensive amount of material would need to be purchased. Those switches are quite expensive. They're at end of life across the district. That's one of our concerns, if those switches go down."

The board accepted gifts of playground equipment and school supplies from the Gemmell family, Lowell Women's Club and Joshua McCracken of Greenridge Realty.

The school board's next regular meeting will be in the Runciman Building, 300 High St., at 7 pm on Monday, March 11. Their next work session meeting will be in the same location at 6 pm on Monday, Feb. 25.



Megan Meadows and McKenna Grody sang a lovely rendition of "Feed the Birds" from the upcoming production of "Mary Poppins." Tickets go on sale Feb. 20 for the performances at the Lowell Performing Arts Center at Lowell High School March 3 through 16.

Still undetermined if 13 snow days must be made up

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Students in the Lowell school district have had 13 snow days so far this year.

According to state law, districts are allowed to cancel six days due to conditions beyond their control including storms, fires, epidemics, power outages, water or sewer failure and so forth. Schools can request three more days from the state superintendent. Last year, 200 of these requests were approved and 10 were denied.

Districts are required to provide a minimum of 1,098 hours of instruction per year during at least 180 days. If they do not, the district may not receive the full allotment of state school aid funding.

“It may be too early to tell with this particular situation,” said Lowell Area Schools superintendent Greg Pratt. “I would also point out that there is a considerable amount of winter left. This has been an extremely difficult winter with unprecedented weather. I would hope that we would see some relief from the legislature as the snow days pile up.”

Pratt explained the process for how the district determines if a snow day is declared.

“I, along with the transportation staff, carefully watch weather conditions during the winter,” Pratt wrote in an email to the Ledger. “Just like you, we learn about approaching weather and road conditions from television, Internet and radar. We communicate with state and county officials when appropriate. In the event that weather alerts or predictions are issued, our transportation staff begins to make preparations and monitors forecasts. Our director of transportation and as many as three other staff members, test morning road conditions of our bus routes beginning at 4 am throughout our 140 square mile district. In addition, consideration is given to the time snow or ice starts, the amount, temperature and wind chill, as well as the condition of the most hazardous bus routes in our district. Based on the recommendations from



Lowell students have enjoyed 13 snow days so far this school year.

district staff, and all of the aforementioned information, I then make the final decision. I will consistently err on the side of safety; the alternative is not an option. I would ask parents to keep in mind that,

even if it looks clear on your street, dangerous conditions may exist in other parts of our district.”

One state senator suggested wiping the slate clean and forgiving all snow days.

“Whenever the governor calls for a state of emergency, I think those days should automatically be waived,” said state Sen. Jim Ananich, D-Flint, in an interview with a local TV station last

Wednesday. “This year, because of just how drastic the weather’s been, I think we should just forgive all the days.”

Experts release ‘Planetary Health Diet’

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

According to the Planetary Health Diet report, nutritional guidelines published last month by EAT, a Stockholm-based nonprofit seeking to improve the food system in the medical journal Lancet.

A panel of nutrition, agriculture and environmental experts took three years of scientific study to determine that a “Great Food Transformation” is required by 2050 in order to significantly reduce environmental disasters and health problems.

They say that the most red meat people should eat is the equivalent of a hamburger a week, you should consume fewer than four eggs each week and limit yourself

to one serving of dairy or less per day. They say that a plant-based diet is ideal, with plenty of whole grains, beans, fruits and vegetables. The report also says to limit consumption of added sugars, refined grains such as white rice and starches like potatoes and cassava.

“Relative to average global consumption patterns, everyone should eat half as much red meat and sugar, and twice as many nuts, fruits, vegetables and legumes,” the report says. “Per person, this means about less than half an ounce of red meat per day, or one serving of red meat (one quarter-pound hamburger) per week. The targets are similarly stringent for other animal products,

recommending less than one ounce of white meat (such as chicken), one ounce of fish, one-quarter of an egg, and 9 ounces of milk per day. [...] Plant-based foods cause fewer adverse environmental effects than animal products by every metric. We estimated that changes in food production practices could reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions in 2050 by 10 percent, whereas increased consumption of plant-based diets could reduce emissions by 80 percent [...] So we could help limit the climate and pollution mess by scaling back meat and dairy and scaling up grains, legumes, and nuts.”

The report says that excessive consumption of red meat causes health problems, plus producing red meat takes up land

and releases methane, a greenhouse gas. A report by the United Nations said that livestock is responsible for about 15 percent of the world’s climate-warming gas emissions.

“Civilisation is in crisis,” said Richard Horton and Tamara Lucas, editors of the Lancet, in an editorial. “We can no longer feed our population a healthy diet while balancing planetary resources. If we can eat in a way that works for our planet as well as our bodies, the natural balance will be restored.”

The full title of the report is “Food in the Anthropocene: The EAT-Lancet Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems.” You can read it online at thelancet.com/commissions/EAT.



Source: EAT-Lancet Commission

1. **Nuts** - 50g a day
2. **Beans**, chickpeas, lentils and other legumes - 75g a day
3. **Fish** - 28g a day
4. **Eggs** - 13g a day
5. **Meat** - 14g a day of red meat and 29g a day of chicken
6. **Carbs** - whole grains like bread and rice 232g a day and 50g a day of starchy vegetables
7. **Dairy** - 250g - the equivalent of one glass of milk
8. **Vegetables** -(300g) and fruit (200g)

WINDOWS/SIDING
DOORS/INSULATION/GUTTERS
SAVE **50% OFF**
HEATING/COOLING BILLS
GUARANTEED!!!

SAVE 10% OFF WITH THIS COUPON

897-7300 allweathersealinc.com

319 E. Main Lowell

All-Weather Seal

Not good w/any other offer/ Good on initial presentation

Yep we cover Life



FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

Terry Abel
311 E Main Street, Lowell
(616) 421-4542
FarmBureauInsurance.com

the lowell ledger

(USPS 453-830)
Published weekly for \$25 a year for zipcodes beginning with 493 or 495; \$36 a year any other zip code.
Deadline for display advertising is Friday at Noon
Deadline for classified advertising is Monday at 5 pm

Jon Jacobs Publisher/Editor
Tim McAllister Reporter/Editor
Tammy Janowiak Classified/Accounting/Sales
Jon Jacobs Advertising Sales

(616) 897-9261
email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
www.thelowellledger.com

Light & Power only loses energy for about an hour

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

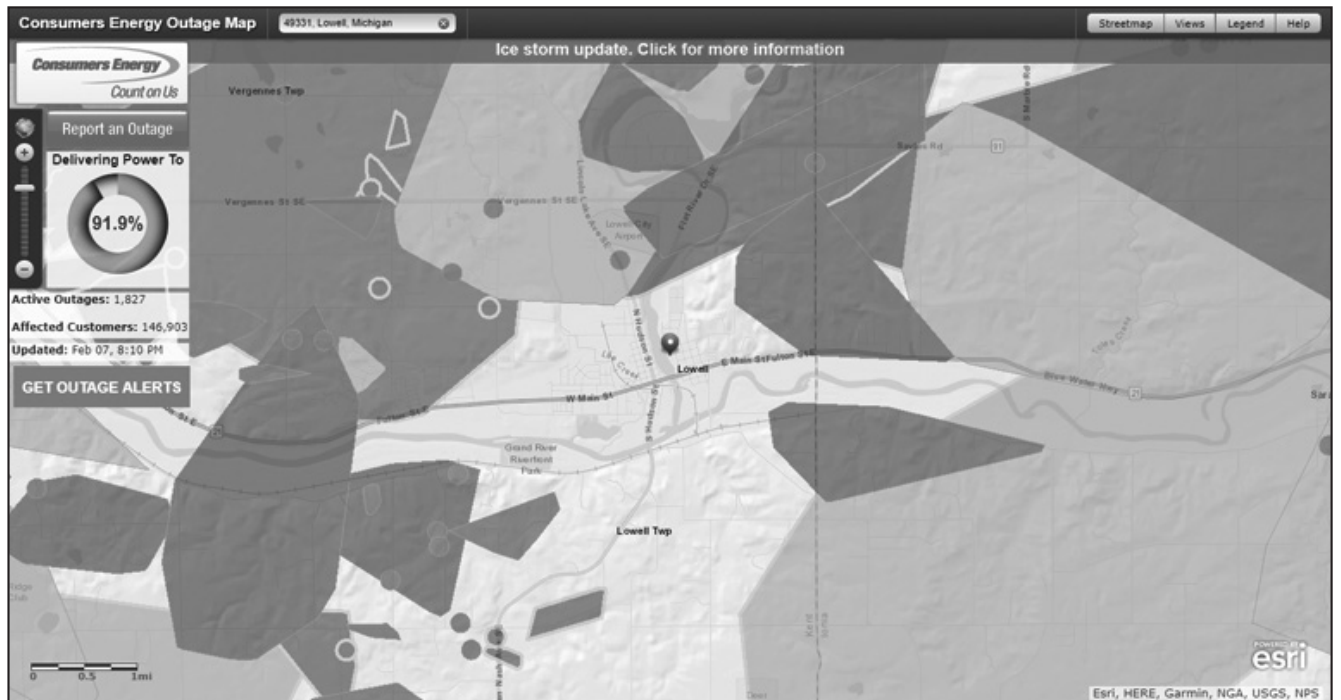
Some Consumers Energy customers are still without power after last week's snow and ice storms. Lowell Light & Power customers, however, only had one outage that lasted about an hour.

"We had one outage that impacted one service for 60 minutes on Feb. 6 and 14 outages that impacted 739 services on Feb. 7," said L&P general manager Steve Donkersloot. "As of Feb. 11 at 3:20 pm, we have not had any other weather-related power outages since Jan. 24. The average outage of the 15 listed above was 141 minutes; the median outage of the 15 listed above was 49 minutes. More than 50 percent of services that were impacted were without power for 49 minutes or less. On Feb. 7, 587 of the 739 services were restored by 1 pm, meaning 152 services

were still without power at this time. By 5:15 pm, 40 services were without power. By 7:18 pm, only five services were without power. Crews finished restoring all power by 9:16 pm on Feb. 7."

In order to keep the outage down to an hour, L&P staff got a little outside help.

"It truly is a complete team effort," Donkersloot said. "The distribution department is responsible for the physical restoration of power out in the field, including the replacement and/or installation of new infrastructure such as poles, transformers, cable/wire, fuses, etc. The office staff answers calls, monitors our metering platform, communicates and relays important information to the distribution department and updates the public with outage status information.



Screenshot of Consumers Energy's outage map from 8:10 pm on Thursday, Feb. 7. Some areas surrounding Lowell were without power for days, but Lowell Light & Power customers were hardly effected.

Because of the severity of the ice storm, we enlisted the help of a three-man crew from the Zeeland board of public works and a two-man crew from the Holland board

of public works through our Michigan Municipal Electric Association mutual aid agreement. This helped expediate the restoration of power."

If one observes a fallen power line, even if it appears inert, the wisest thing to do is to keep your distance. Donkersloot said that L&P customers should remove themselves from the area and call for help.

"When there is an outage, there is little, if anything, our customers can do to help our crews physically resolve the situation or restore power," Donkersloot said. "To do so would be unsafe, and safety is our number one priority. Instead, we encourage customers to stay away from downed lines, check for outage updates on our Facebook page or by

calling our office staff, and remain patient with our staff as they are doing everything in their power to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. Please, please, please stay away from downed power lines. They can be very dangerous. It's always best to call our office staff at 616-897-8402 where we can then dispatch one of our crews to investigate the situation."



Early Tuesday morning there was a huge traffic jam on an unplowed Alden Nash as people waited to attend classes or drop their students off at Lowell High School.

**BETTER HEALTH STARTS HERE AT
FAMILY DENTISTRY OF LOWELL**

7AM and Friday appointments available

We provide state-of-the-art dentistry along with the health care extras that set us apart, such as blood pressure screenings, salivary testing and nutritional counseling.

Experience better health through dentistry.

Family Dentistry of Lowell
147 North Center Street, Lowell
616-897-4835
www.familydentistryoflowell.com

Audi Wilson, D.D.S. | Jennifer Byrd, D.D.S.

West Michigan Youth Ballet Presents

Cinderella

Saturday, March 23
1:00 and 4:30 pm
Cinderella Tea at 11:30!

DeVos Center
for Arts
and Worship

Tickets online
at wmyb.org

business directory

FRY DADDYS
 608 West Main Street
 Lowell, MI 49331
897-FISH FISH SHRIMP
 WING DINES
 CHICKEN STRIPS
DAILY SPECIALS
 CLOSED SUNDAY
 OPEN MONDAYS 4-8 PM
 MONDAY SPECIAL:
 POLLOCK BASKET \$4.99!!!
 Best Fish In Town!!!

Rich's Service Co.
 In-Home Appliance Repair
 Dryer Vent
 Cleaning
 INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
 WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS
 GARBAGE DISPOSALS • STOVES • DISHWASHERS
 209 E. Main St. RICH CURTIS
 Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686

KIRK COLLINS
 Owner
Howboat
 AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.
 Auto Value
 1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI
 (616) 897-9231
 HOURS: MON - FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3

897-4123
Arctic Inc.
 Heating & Cooling
 • Heating & air-conditioning • Wall hung boilers & water heaters
 • Geo Thermal systems • Radiant floor heat • Snow melt systems
 • Whole house generators • Duct work • Humidifiers
 SALES, SERVICE AND INSTALLATION, UPGRADES, NEW HOMES
 www.HeatingCoolingOnline.com

BILL WHEELER
 Certified Public
 Accountant
 W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN
 103 Riverside Dr.
 Lowell, Michigan 49331
616-897-7711

**YOUR AD
 HERE**
 CALL
 897-9261
 TO ADVERTISE

sharing the vision



LAS Superintendent Greg Pratt

Another Michigan winter!

With snow-covered roads, cold temperatures, and icy commutes, I bet you have asked yourself, “Who makes the decision about closing school?” “Where do they get their information?” and, “What determines the decision?” I’m sure to many parents, the decision making process for closing school due to inclement weather is a mystery, and to our students it’s magical. I must admit that if snow or freezing rain never interrupted our school day again, I would not be disappointed. This unprecedented cold weather, icy conditions and extreme changes in weather patterns have made this winter an extremely difficult season. I will tell you that making the decision about closing or delaying school for inclement weather is one of my least favorite responsibilities as your superintendent.

Let me assure the Lowell community that the physical safety, emotional well-being, and a strong academic environment for all students is and will always be the primary concern for the Lowell Area Schools. To minimize the frustration that parents may experience as it relates to school cancellations, I thought it might be helpful to share how the decision to delay or close school is made in the event of inclement weather.

I, along with the transportation staff, carefully watch weather conditions during the winter. Just like you, we learn about approaching weather and road conditions from television, internet and radar. We communicate with state and county officials when appropriate. In the event that weather alerts or predictions are issued, our

transportation staff begins to make preparations and monitors forecasts. Our Director of Transportation and as many as three other staff members, test morning road conditions of our bus routes beginning at 4:00 a.m. throughout our 140 square mile district. In addition, consideration is given to the time snow or ice starts, the amount, temperature and wind-chill, as well as the condition of the most hazardous bus routes in our district. Based on the recommendations from district staff, and all of the aforementioned information, I then make the final decision. I will consistently err on the side of safety; the alternative is not an option. I would ask parents to keep in mind that, even if it looks clear on your street, dangerous conditions may exist in other parts of our district.

We are confident in our procedures and protocol for safety and understand the magnitude of keeping our most precious commodity, our students, safe. Thank you for your flexibility, resilience and support during this very difficult winter season!

Facebook: Is it really a necessary evil?

by Tim McAllister
 lead reporter

Social media is nearly ubiquitous nowadays, especially Facebook. According to a 2018 Pew Research Center study, 68 percent of adults in the US have a Facebook account, up from 54 percent in 2012. More women (74 percent) than men (62 percent) use Facebook. About 43 percent of US adults report they receive some portion of their news from Facebook.

For most people, Facebook is simply a method of keeping an eye on relatives, friends, acquaintances and others we’ve come across in our travels. The product has been criticized for its addictive qualities, the negative effects it can have on some users’ mental health, accusations of data mining, privacy breaches, surveillance and a lot more nefarious business.

Last week, Facebook banned four ethnic armed Myanmar-based groups, the Arakan Army, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, the Kachin Independence Army and the Ta’ang National Liberation Army, from its site because they are “dangerous organizations.”

According to a Facebook press release, “There is clear evidence that these organizations have been responsible for attacks against civilians and have engaged in violence in Myanmar, and we want to prevent them from using our services to further inflame tensions on the ground.

In an effort to prevent and disrupt offline harm, we do not allow organizations or individuals that proclaim a violent mission or engage in violence to have a presence on Facebook.”

According to a Feb. 7 article in The Guardian, 20 million of the 53 million population of Myanmar are on Facebook. Culturally, they consider Facebook “the Internet” and don’t look at much outside of it. According to The Guardian, in 2017, Facebook “was used by Buddhist extremists to inflame hatred and violence against the Rohingya minority. Even as the Myanmar military, known as the Tatmadaw, was carrying out a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya, Facebook designated a Rohingya insurgent group, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, as a dangerous organization, while taking no action against the Tatmadaw. It took until August 2018 – a year after 25,000 Rohingya were killed by Myanmar’s army and allied Buddhist militias and 700,000 Rohingya were forced to flee the country – for Facebook to ban Tatmadaw leaders from its platform.”

In his new book “Zucked,” early Facebook investor Roger McNamee calls the company “a catastrophe.”

“The business model depends on advertising, which in turn depends on manipulating the attention of users so they see

more ads,” McNamee writes in the book. “One of the best ways to manipulate attention is to appeal to outrage and fear, emotions that increase engagement.”

“Facebook and Google designed their products to create habits that for many people become an addiction,” McNamee said during an interview with CNN Business on Monday, Feb. 4. “They manipulate attention for profit and enable bad actors to manipulate some users in ways that harm them and others.”

Last week, Stanford University and New York University released the results of a new study that indicated people who quit Facebook for a month felt happier. According to an article on Phys.org,

“Researchers studied 2,844 people who reported spending an hour on Facebook each day. They randomly assigned half the subjects to deactivate their accounts for 4 weeks, and paid them about EUR 90 for their efforts. The researchers monitored the accounts to spot any cheaters and sent SMSs to see how they were feeling during the abstinence. [...] Deactivation caused small but significant improvements in well-being, and in particular on self-reported happiness, life satisfaction, depression, and anxiety. Effects on subjective well-being as measured by responses to brief daily text messages are positive but not significant.”

NEWSPAPERS Outperform Direct Mail in Michigan

Newspapers are the preferred source of coupons over direct mail.

82% of consumers use coupons received through newspaper inserts¹

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

Michiganians depend on newspapers for advertising inserts²

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

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 flyer²

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

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



viewpoint

to the editor

To the Editor:

I am writing this on February 8, the 109th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America in 1910.

I was fortunate to grow up in Lowell from 1945 to 1960, and be involved in Cub Scout pack 3102, Boy Scout troop 102, and Explorer post 2102.

One of my best childhood memories was when I became a Cub Scout

in 1950 and wore my official uniform to school in second grade during Scout Week in February. My blue-and-gold Cub Scout outfit was purchased used, with old-style knee-length knickers and long socks. I was so proud!

Many remarkable Lowell adults volunteered as scout leaders in those post-World War II years. Several did not have sons of their own, but believed

in community service and the importance of youth programs.

Almost every boy in town joined Cub Scout "pack" 3102, split into 10 or 12 "dens" of 8 to 10 boys, each led by a "den mother." She organized weekly after-school "den meetings" in her home, assisted by an older Boy Scout "den chief." Boys worked together on rank advancement, "arrowpoint electives" and small fundraising projects.

Cubmaster Charles Hill led the monthly pack 3102 meetings at City Hall. February was the annual

Blue and Gold Banquet, a family potluck filling the old high school gym on Monroe Street.

Troop 102 scoutmaster "Gouldie" Rivette (a World War II pilot) was much loved by all the boys for his jovial, spirited and principled leadership during our weekly troop meetings, fall and spring camporees, and regional scout expositions and special events in Grand Rapids at Houseman Field, the old Civic Center downtown, or the former Stadium Arena. Lowell was always proudly represented by its Boy Scouts and leaders of Troop 102.

Other key adult scout leaders were Rev. Phillip Glotfelty, Jim Drooger, Al Dalstra, Lyle Covert and Eddie Laux. Many others were active behind the scenes.

When I became a Boy Scout in late 1952, Troop 102 was still meeting at City Hall upstairs or at the Methodist Church gym. We held community-wide paper drives, collecting old newspapers by the semi-truck load to raise funds.

But the adult leaders had a bold vision and a plan: for a Scout Cabin at the end of North Washington Street, on the banks of the Flat River.

Material donations by local businesses, and many hours of volunteer labor, including by the boys themselves, culminated in the uniquely-Lowell "scout cabin" which serves to this day, some 66 years later.

So here's a big historical shout-out, and a hearty thank-you, to those adult leaders of so long ago, whose Scouting legacy continues to make Lowell such a wonderful family community.

Bob Thaler
LHS Class of 1960
Bay City



125 years ago Lowell Ledger February 17, 1894

In the Superior Court Wednesday the jury in the case of Mary A. Boles against the Valley City Desk company, for damages for the death of her husband who was killed in the elevator shaft, rendered a verdict of \$200 and costs for the plaintiff. It is probable the case will be appealed by the plaintiff, for while the verdict holds the company liable for the death of her husband, she believes \$200 a small compensation for his loss.

Gov. Rich has taken another step in the matter of the salaries scandal. He had already asked for the resignations of Secretary of State Jochim, State Treasurer Hambitzer and Land Commissioner Berry—members of the state board of canvassers—and not receiving them the governor has filed charges against them as follows: "Gentlemen: Public charges have been made and have come to my knowledge that gross errors were made in the canvass of the returns of votes at the election held in the state in the first Monday in April, A. D. 1893, for and against the adoption of joint resolution No. 10, approved March 9, 1898, proposing an amendment to section 1 of article 9 of the constitution of the state, relative to the salaries of state officers, by which it was made to appear that such amendment had been approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, whereas it is alleged that

by a true and correct canvass of the returns of such votes the said amendment was defeated.

100 years The Lowell Ledger February 13, 1919

A very successful lunch service is being conducted at the Lowell High School by Miss Edith Fair, Domestic Science teacher, and her Cooking class pupils, with some assistance by other students. Now in its fourth week the enterprise is already an established feature of our school work, and one that is not adding to the taxpayer's burden, for it has proven self-supporting, costing the individual pupil but a trifle. It is aimed to give the student a wholesome lunch with a hot drink and a varied menu is planned, costing the pupil about 10¢ per luncheon. The self-service cafe plan is followed and the prices may be judged by the following examples: Cocoa 1¢, peanut butter sandwich 2¢, baked beans 5¢, creamed potatoes 4¢, soup and crackers 5¢, spaghetti and tomato sauce 4¢, cookies 1¢.

State Highway Commissioner Rogers is planning on pushing work on the Saranac-Lowell state reward road early in the spring. As soon as the stretch from Portland-Orange town line is built so as to connect with the state reward road already running into Ionia from Orange the Saranac-Lowell piece will be the only ordinary dirt road between Portland and Grand Rapids. With this completed the Grand Rapids trip is likely to be a popular drive for Portland autoists.

John Hilliker, a veteran of the Civil war, died Wednesday night at the Holcomb sanitarium, aged 89 years. Uncle John, as he was familiarly known, had been in ill health for several years: and until recently had been at the Soldiers Home for some time: but the Lowell attachments were strong, and he came back to be with his old friends here, spending the last several months of his life with Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Shear and going to the sanitarium but a few days before his death.

75 years The Lowell Ledger February 17, 1944

The Newell Manufacturing Company has been awarded a contract for E-ze screen door latches to be used by the U. S. government in 2,200 special prefabricated homes being erected in Portland, Ore. for war workers. The E-ze latch was chosen from

samples submitted by various manufacturers all over the country, the government choosing to pay a higher price to the Lowell company because of its superior product.

Citizens of the Lowell community, up to Tuesday night, Feb. 15, had purchased the magnificent total of \$383,125 worth of Fourth War Loan Bonds. The above amount consists of \$51,925 E Bonds sold by the bank and \$8,000 in E bonds and stamps sold at the post office, and a total of \$323,200 of Certificates of Indebtedness and "F" and "G" bonds.

50 years The Lowell Ledger February 13, 1969

A massive crush of applicants for state auto license tags appears imminent as the deadline for purchasing

Looking back, continued, page 12

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes letters to the editor from readers, but there are a few conditions that must be met before they will be published.

The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per month.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced.

HEALTH

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



happy birthday



- dry skin

Dry, itchy skin is a common condition this time of year. As the weather gets colder, the air gets drier and your skin becomes dry and itchy. Humidifying your home can help to keep your skin moist. You can either get a stand-alone portable humidifier or have one added on to your furnace.

Excessive hand washing and bathing can also cause your skin to become dry. Limiting the number of times you wash your hands can help. Using a waterless hand sanitizer is just as effective at killing germs, but won't dry your skin as much. Limiting the time you spend in the shower or tub can also help. People with dry skin should consider bathing every other day in the winter. Taking quick, luke-warm showers will also help to minimize the drying effects of hot water.

Mild, hypo-allergenic soaps are less drying than scented and colored soaps.

Moisturizers are an important part of treating dry skin. They should be used two to four times daily. A moisturizer should also be hypo-allergenic. They work best when they are applied to the skin right after bathing or hand washing. If a hypo-allergenic cream or lotion moisturizer does not seem to be helping, other over-the-counter treatments can be tried. A one percent hydrocortisone cream is available over-the-counter and could be used for up to one week. Another option is a 12 percent lactic acid based lotion which may help some severe forms of dry skin. If none of these treatments seem to help, see your health care provider for an evaluation.

FEBRUARY 13

Deb Heydenburg, Emily Gerard, Jodi Kennedy, Alyssa Ellis-Roach, Thomas Alberts Jr.

FEBRUARY 16

Matthew Schuitema, Tracey Main.

FEBRUARY 14

Heather Claypool, Carol Leyman, Gerri Ellison, Scott Treglia, Lori Rice.

FEBRUARY 17

Chris Hodges, Justin Stanford, Stephanie Ellison, Reatha Johnson, Lynda Horsley, Deb Tulecki.

FEBRUARY 18

Richard Claypool, Courtney Phillips, Missy Crandall Nikodemski.

FEBRUARY 15

Jim VanDyke, DeeAnn Merriman, Deanne Newell, Marcus Kline, Adam Confer.

FEBRUARY 19

Jerrica Foss, Bruce Baird, Betty Newhouse.



At Your Local Library

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

Movies with Mary

Join our resident film expert for a Saturday matinee at the library. View and discuss classic films from her vast collection. Sat., Feb. 23, at 1 pm. *It Happened One Night*.

Englehardt Library Cookbook Club

Join us for an informal discussion about cookbooks and sample delectable examples, potluck style. Stop by the branch for more details. Mon., Feb 25 at 6:30 - The Pioneer Woman Cooks: Come and Get It!, Ree Drummond

Alma College has released the dean's list for those students who achieved outstanding academic performance during the 2018 fall term. Students who achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits, at least eight of which are evaluative grades, are named to the dean's list. The following are local students who received this honor: Jillian Fidler, of Lowell, is studying general studies and is a graduate of Lowell High School; Luke Jones, of Alto, is studying general studies and is a graduate of Caledonia High School; Marcus Malling, of Lowell, is studying mathematics/business administration and is a graduate of Lowell High School.

Olivia Richmond of Lowell, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2018 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Richmond is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Emily Johnson, a native of Alto, has been named to the University of Iowa's dean's list for the fall 2018 semester. Approximately 5,800 students were named to the UI dean's list for the 2018 fall semester.

A total of 12,332 students enrolled during the 2018 fall term at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 or above or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's).

The UA dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or to undergraduate students who take less than a full course load. Local students on the list include: Maria Blough, president's list; Adrienne Rife, dean's list; Austin Rife, president's list; Christine Ringel, president's list; and Garret Taylor, dean's list, all of Lowell.

Aurora University congratulates the more than 1,200 undergraduate students who earned dean's list honors for the fall 2018 semester. The dean's list recognizes students who have earned a 3.6 GPA or higher. Students recognized with high honors have earned a perfect 4.0. Students included on the Dean's List completed a minimum of 12 semester hours for a letter grade in the term. Zachary Tykocki, of Alto, is one of the honored students.

LOOK OUT...

There's a teenager in the Martin-Riddle house!

Happy 13th Jason Martin!

Love,
Dad, Amy, Ethan & family

CANADIAN RIVER CRUISING

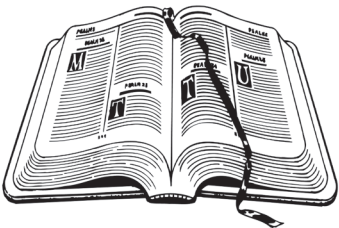
4, 5, 6, 7 night cruises on the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers aboard the nostalgic replica steamboat CANADIAN EMPRESS

Quebec City, Ottawa, Kingston departures...Call now for your 2019 brochure

www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com 1-800-267-7868

253 Ontario St., Suite 200 Kingston, ON K7L 2Z4 TIC0 #2168740

area churches



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

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

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

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
897-7060
Rev. Dr. Paul Mpindi PHD
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM
Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM
Nursery available at both services
Barrier-Free

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

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

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
865 Lincoln Lake SE • 616.897.5906

Pastor Jon Propper
Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
Lowell's Open Table - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM
Serving meals and providing fellowship to the greater Lowell community

OPEN AND AFFIRMING
www.lowellucc.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
Pastor Andrew Bolkom • Pastor of Discipleship
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**

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
discover. grow. share
621 E. Main Street
897-5938
www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance

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

WE SHIP UPS

Don't Trust Your Package To Just Anyone!

We've Been Shipping UPS for over 15 Years

The Buyers Guide
105 N. Broadway
Lowell • 897-9555

Danny Baird, Continued



Photos submitted by Danny Baird.

ever watched snowmobiles, that guy dominated the pro circuit all through the 90s, but then he broke his back.”

A dirt bike enthusiast since age three, an accident left him paralyzed from the armpits down. Not the type of guy who’s going to let a minor thing like a spinal injury get in his way, Baird became the first quadriplegic to compete in motocross. He needs a lot of snow to practice, even more than the recent polar vortex can provide. He usually practices up north, but before the games he had a chance to spend a few days training in the Rocky Mountains.

“I’ve got more confidence in my motorcycle because I ride it all the time,” Baird said. “It’s hard to get practice on a snow bike when we don’t ever have any snow. Even last week when we had that real bad snowstorm, I got out riding and I was still hitting rocks and stuff. You’ve got to go way up north. I go to my friend John Todd’s cabin up in Paradise, MI. I got to go ride up in the mountains before the games for a couple days. I went the week beforehand and explored the mountains of Wyoming a little. It was crazy. I had never been out there before. It was really

mind-blowing. I’ve seen mountains on the east coast, but the mountains out west don’t even compare. They’re so big, they go all the way up to the clouds. It’s so beautiful out there. We had a very good time. We were there nine days. We went the Friday before it started and left the following Saturday. I wanted to stay later, but everybody had to work on Monday! We’ll plan it better next year.”

To compete in Adaptive and Para Snow BikeCross, you need a very special machine.

“They go pretty fast. It’s slower than a motorcycle because snow doesn’t offer as much traction as dirt,” Baird said. “You start out

with a normal motorcycle. Us adaptive guys don’t have use of all our bodies. We all need to do something for brakes, so we all have hand brakes on our bikes and our shifters are moved up onto the handlebars. Then finally they all have leg cages around them so when we fall over we don’t get hurt. For the snow bike kit, you take the tires off, you put a ski on the front and a track kit on the back, like a snowmobile, and that makes it a snow bike.”

To keep track of Baird’s activities, follow him on Facebook, subscribe to DannyBaird79 on YouTube or follow RagingCrip99 on Instagram.



BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE 2019

The Board of Review of Bowne Township will meet in the Township Office Building located at 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto, Michigan on:

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019 1:00 P.M.
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019
9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON
& 1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019
1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

&
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

(EVENING hours are by appointment ONLY)

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING THE TAX ROLL AND HEARING ALL CLAIMS, YOU MAY APPEAL YOUR ASSESSED VALUATION ONE (1) OF TWO (2) WAYS: BY LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE BOWNE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR AND RECEIVED BY HIM PRIOR TO MARCH 8, 2019 OR BY APPEARING IN PERSON ON ONE OF THE DATES THE BOARD OF REVIEW MEETS.

THE TENTATIVE REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT MULTIPLIER REQUIRED BY PA 165 OF 1971 ARE:

AGRICULTURAL RATIO	50.58	MULTIPLIER	0.9885
COMMERCIAL RATIO	48.90	MULTIPLIER	1.0224
INDUSTRIAL RATIO	46.52	MULTIPLIER	1.0748
RESIDENTIAL RATIO	47.90	MULTIPLIER	1.0438

DENNIS MCKELVEY - ASSESSOR
RANDY WILCOX - SUPERVISOR
TOWNSHIP OF BOWNE
COUNTY OF KENT

the lowell ledger

Like us on facebook

11:59 PM Logout

facebook

The Lowell Ledger

- Stories
- Photos
- Comments
- Information

More of Wilma Wondergem's country music photos

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Retired Michigan Bell operator Wilma Wondergem, a lifelong Grand Rapids resident, spent a sizable portion of her youth attending as many country music concerts as she could afford, befriending some of the stars, taking lots of pictures and collecting autographs. Today she has a nice little collection of memorabilia and unique, unpublished photos of country music legends.

Not all of Wondergem's backstage friendships were as well-documented as the ones she had with Johnny Cash and Hank Williams, covered in recent editions of the Lowell Ledger. Some of the singers Wondergem photographed were big names, some were more obscure. She was never interested enough in female singers to photograph any, despite witnessing early performances by musicians like Patsy Cline, Kitty Wells and Wanda Jackson many, many times. Wondergem was even in the audience the night Loretta Lynn made her debut at the Grand Ole Opry. There were also a lot of singers she only photographed once or twice. This week we present a selection of her pictures and memories of those artists.



Above, Ernest Tubb and Ray Price performing on the "Midnight Jamboree" radio show at Ernest Tubb's Record Shop, Nashville, July 1952. Tubb's biggest hit song was called "Walking the Floor Over You." He was the first person to record the holiday standard "Blue Christmas" and also did many duets with Loretta Lynn. He died in 1984. Price was known for his smooth baritone voice. His hits included "Crazy Arms" and "Heartaches by the Number." He died in 2013, age 87.

"Ernest was okay, but he used to stand in the corner and spit! He used to spit a lot. I think he had trouble with his throat or something, he was always coughing, but he was friendly."



A heart condition kept him out of the service during World War II, so "Gentleman Jim" Reeves (above, performing at Buck Lake Ranch in Indiana) became first a DJ, then a singer. An experienced airplane pilot, he died in a plane crash in 1964, age 40.

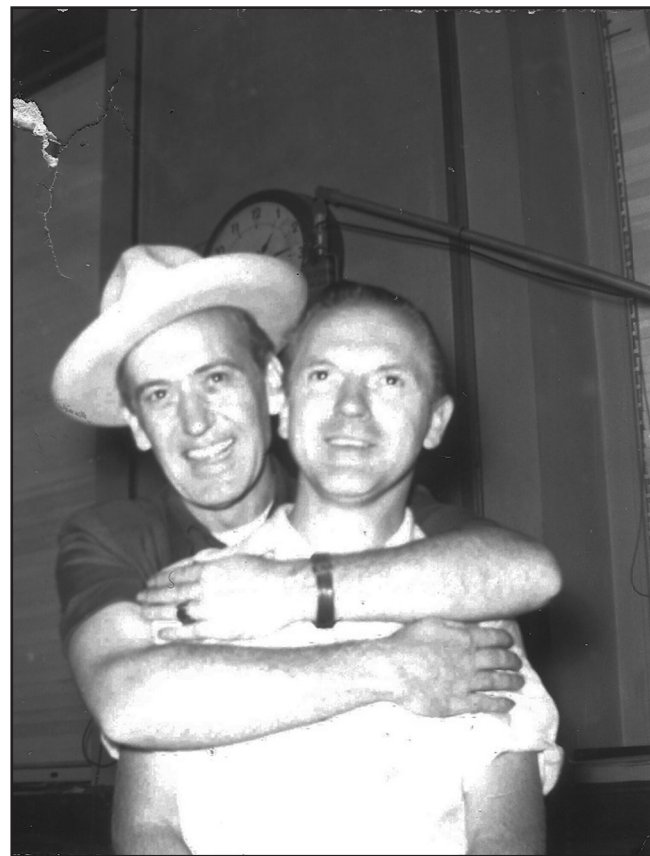
"Jim Reeves was playing at the Civic downtown. One of my friends was going with a member of his band. We were in her car and we were going to this party. I was sitting in the back seat and [my friend] and that guy were in the front seat. We were downtown going down Monroe away from the Civic. We were waiting for a red light at that corner where the bank is. All of a sudden here comes Jim Reeves running down the street. He jumped in the car with us, got in the back seat with me, and we all went to that party!"



Conway Twitty (above, left) in Grand Rapids, Jan. 20, 1967. Twitty had a long career, first as a flashy Elvis-style rockabilly singer in the 1950s. Today, he is probably most remembered for his duets with Loretta Lynn and his random cut-away appearances on the TV show "Family Guy." He died in 1993.



"This guy, his name was Ray Overholt (photo at left, in the middle). He was a country singer, he played a guitar, he was on the radio, and we would go down and see his show quite often. It was on WFUR, which is a religious station now. He got kicked off when they went to just religion and we were so mad! I was about 18 then."



"That's Red Foley [on the left] with Jerry Byrd, who was in his band on steel guitar."

Red Foley sold over a million copies of "Peace in the Valley" in 1951. He hosted country music programs on both radio and television. He died of "respiratory failure" in 1968, age 58. Jerry Byrd played on recordings by a long list of artists, including Hank Williams, Ernest Tubb, Patsy Cline and Red Foley. He gave steel guitar lessons to Jerry Garcia. He died in 2005, age 85.



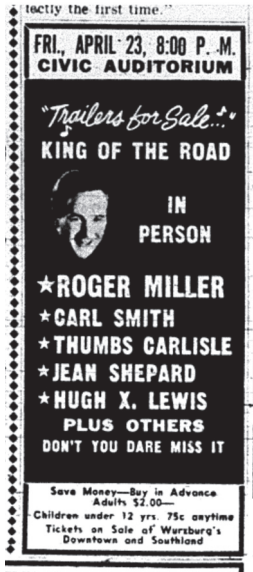
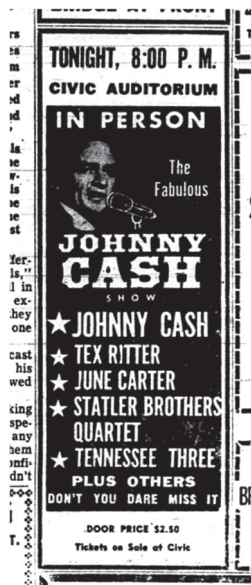
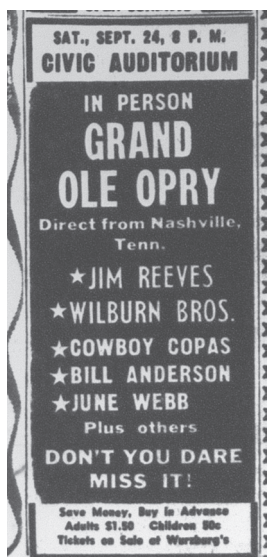
Stonewall Jackson had a massive hit in 1959 with "Waterloo," but that was about it. His last new album came out in 1983, and he still performs live concerts.

"Stonewall Jackson was kind of a jerk. My friend Nora and I were in Nashville for the DJ convention. We had a room in the main hotel where everything was going on. Nora and I went downstairs to eat, and when we came back Stonewall Jackson and some girl were making out in our room! They weren't 'all the way there' yet, but they were definitely in the process!"



The Wilburn Brothers, Teddy and Doyle (above), were from Hardy, AR. They were more well-known for their concerts and television performances than their records. One interesting footnote, they were offered the song "Heartbreak Hotel" before Elvis, but the Wilburns passed on it because they felt it was too morbid. Doyle died in 1982, Teddy followed in 2003.

"My friend Nora liked Teddy Wilburn. I got turned against the Wilburn Brothers because it was all she would talk about. It was 'Teddy this' and 'Teddy that,' she'd go on and on and on. I got so I just didn't even like them anymore!"



Wondergem with Carl Perkins backstage in Grand Rapids. Perkins was most famous for his song "Blue Suede Shoes" and the massive influence his lead guitar playing had on George Harrison of the Beatles. "If there were no Carl Perkins, there would be no Beatles," as Paul McCartney once said in an interview. Perkins died in 1998.



FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 7PM & 9PM

LARKIN'S THE OTHER PLACE

June 2018 Brad went viral around the world when Dry Bar Comedy posted a video of him on Facebook. It had 36 million views in 10 days! Brad Upton was a 4th grade teacher and high school track coach when he stepped on stage for the very first time in September of 1984 and he's never looked back. He quickly rose through the stand-up ranks making numerous television appearances and headlining comedy clubs from coast-to-coast. [CLN](#)

Sponsored by



Underwritten by



GILDA'S LAUGH FEST
seriously funny.

MARCH 7-17, 2019

For tickets to these and other LaughFest shows visit

laughfestgr.org



All proceeds benefit the free cancer, grief and emotional health support programs offered through Gilda's Club Grand Rapids.

Red Arrow

- WRESTLING

SPORTS

Fourteen wrestlers move on to regionals this Saturday

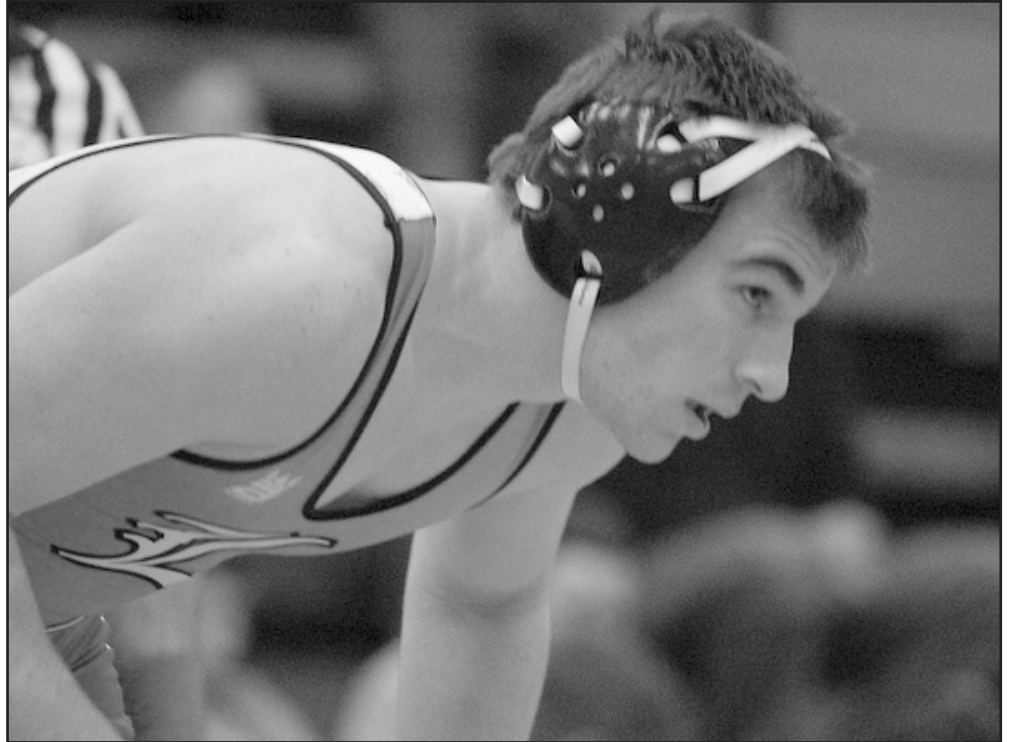
Fourteen Lowell wrestlers competed in this past weekend's individual districts. All of them will be moving on to the individual regionals held in Fremont

on Saturday. Lowell had 11 champions: Derek Mohr, Ramsy Mutschler, Avry Mutschler, Dawson Jankowski, Jacob Hough, Jacob Lee, Tyler Delooff,

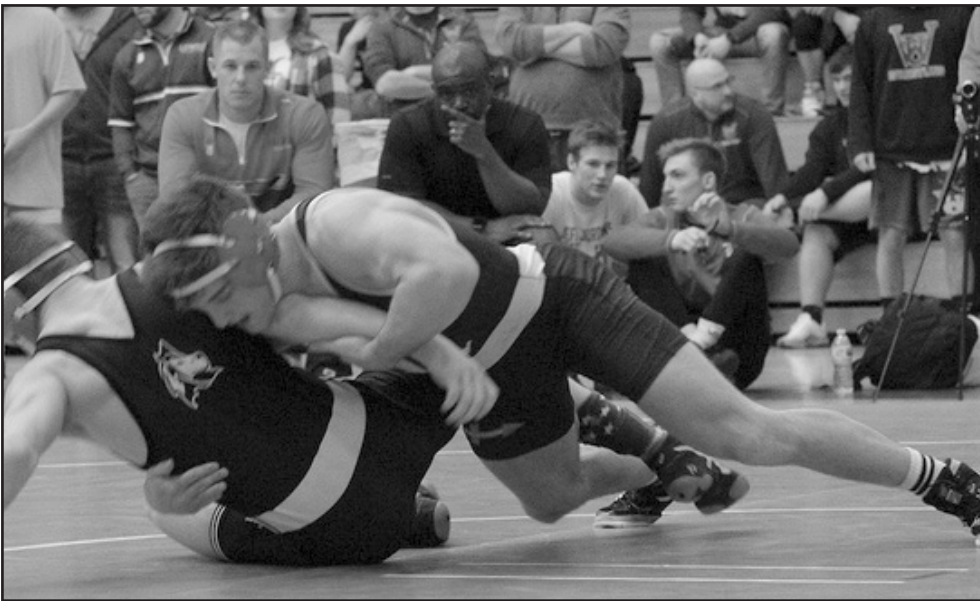
Jeff Leach, James Fotis, Austin Boone and Zeth Strejc. There were also three runner ups: Doak Dean, Nick Korhorn, Will Link.



Ramsy Mutschler going for a pin. Photo provided by Justin Scott.



Jacob Hough sizing up his competition. Photo provided by Justin Scott.



Avry Mutschler takes his opponent to the mat. Photo provided by Justin Scott.

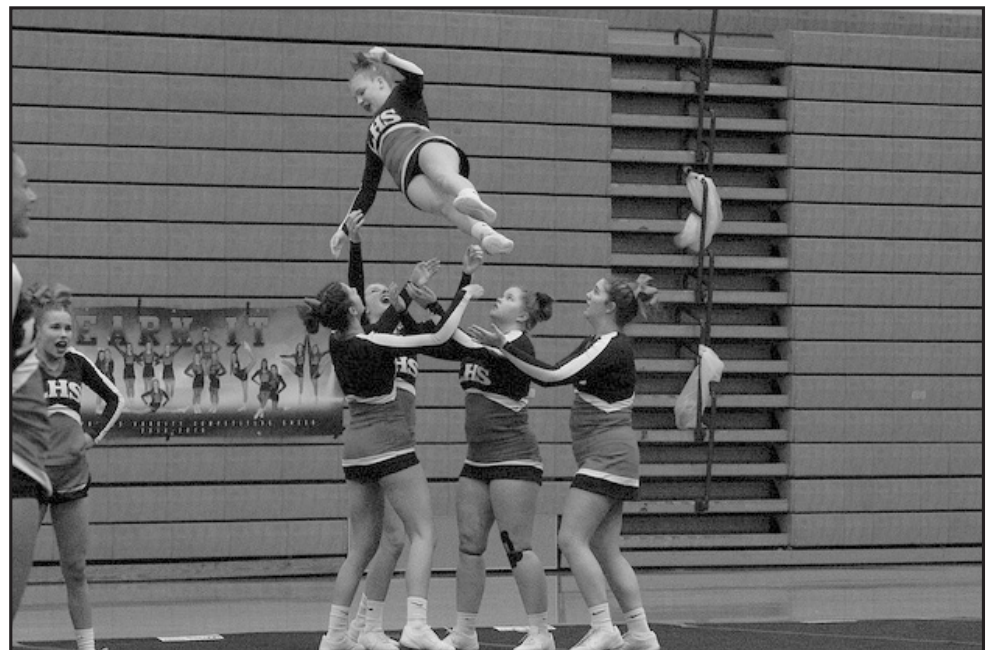
Week in photos - Competitive Cheer



Photos provided by Justin Scott.



Photo provided by Justin Scott.



Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Comeback falls short for the boys varsity basketball team

submitted by WRWW

In a game that had momentum swings and 'runs' to it, the Lowell varsity boys basketball team fell short on their comeback bid last week Tuesday, falling to the Wildcats of Northview, 65 to 59.

The Red Arrows dug themselves into a deep hole at the start of the game by allowing the Wildcats to score 21 points while only notching 10 for themselves. Aiden Walker dropped in 10 points for Northview. Jordan Dent got off to a good start as he scored six against a stingy defense.

The Red Arrows outscored Northview in the second quarter, 10 to 7, to trail at halftime, 28 to 20.

Lowell's Robby Schneider put up 6 points that quarter to go with his 4 points in the first. The Red Arrows continued their comeback in the third quarter aided by Braiden Hamilton's five points. Going into the fourth quarter Lowell trailed by one, 40 to 39. It was a back-and-forth fourth quarter that saw both teams taking and relinquishing the lead. The Red Arrows, playing aggressively, sent the

Wildcats to the free-throw line often and Northview took advantage of those opportunities as they made 13 of 20 while the Red Arrows made four of nine. Steady play the last few minutes of the game allowed the Wildcats to hold off the Arrows for the six-point victory. Northview's Walker finished the game with 18 points, matched by his teammate, Donavan Richardson. Lowell's Schneider, had a very good all-around game, scoring 20 points and handling the ball well offensively.



Robby Schneider taking the ball down the court. Schneider scored 20 points against Northview. Photo provided by Justin Scott.



Senior Jordan Dent takes a shot against Northview last Friday. Photo provided by Justin Scott.

Public Notice Vergennes Township

2019 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Vergennes Township Board of Review for 2019 will be held at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Dr SE, Lowell MI 49331, on the following dates:

- Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 5th, 10:00 am
- Appeal Hearings:
 - Monday, March 11th, 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm
 - Wednesday, March 13th, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Meetings are by Appointment, to schedule, contact:
Township Office @ ph. 616.897.5671**

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests and to equalize the 2019 assessments

By Board Resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 5th, 2019

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2019 are as follows:

Agricultural.....	49.60.....	1.0080
Commercial.....	45.55.....	1.0976
Residential.....	45.80.....	1.0917
Industrial.....	47.01.....	1.0636
Personal Property.....	50.00.....	1.0000

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3 days' notice.

Contact: Tim Wittenbach – Township Supervisor, ph. 616.897.5617

FAXING

1 First sheet
50¢ each
additional sheet

the lowell ledger

105 N. Broadway
897-9261
Mon.-Thurs. 8-5; Fri 8-noon

Put your money where your good neighbor is.

Deborah Wilks, Agent
State Farm Agent
11827 Fulton St E
Lowell, MI 49331
Bus: 616-897-9237

Your financial health is about a lot more than insurance. That's why State Farm Bank® makes it easy to manage your money too, with 24/7 online banking at statefarm.com®. Ask me about Checking accounts, Money Market Savings accounts and more. CALL ME TODAY.

State Farm Bank®

1706475 State Farm Bank, F.S.B., Bloomington, IL MEMBER FDIC

obituaries

AYRISS

Richard Warren Ayriiss Sr., age 82 of Lowell, passed away Thursday, February 7, 2019. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Lillian (Jackson) Ayriiss; sister, Judy Cooper; and brothers-in-law, Don Scanlon and David Scanlon. Richard is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Donna; children, Cynthia (Mark) List, Richard Ayriiss Jr., Michael Ayriiss, Kevin (Angela) Ayriiss; brothers, Arthur Ayriiss, David (Ruth Ann) Ayriiss, Daryl (Sheryl) Ayriiss; sisters, Mary Richardson, Darlene (Richard) Keil; sister-in-law, Marie Tiesma; grandchildren, Hilary (Anthony) Smigiel, Courtney (James) Kibby, Jaden Ayriiss; great-grandchild Greyson Kibby; several nieces and nephews; special friends Bill and Becky Campbell, Ellen and Duane Everest; and his faithful companion, Benji, whom he walked 3 times per day. Richard was a wonderful man who was naturally curious and loved to learn how things work. He enjoyed playing cards, a good doughnut and cup of coffee, and grilling a good meal for family. He had a great love for the outdoors and spent time camping and kayaking. Richard was also an avid cyclist, riding a Trek bike. Funeral will be 11 AM Wednesday, February 13, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331; with a visitation one hour prior to the service. Pastor Bill Hossler officiating. Memorial contributions may be made in Richard's name to the Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired, 456 Cherry St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

RASCH

1932 -- 2019

Richard Frederick "Dick" Rasch, age 86, of Lowell, passed away on February 7, 2019, at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital following a brief illness. Richard was born on September 4, 1932, in Wright Township, Michigan, the son of Oscar W. and Agnes (Zahm) Rasch, both of whom preceded him in death. He attended Wright schools and proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy. Dick married Marilyn A. Weeks on November 18, 1961, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Parnell and enjoyed 57 years of marriage to her. They settled in Vergennes Township and farmed for more than fifty years. Dick also drove milk truck routes as a fill-in driver for the Michigan Milk Producers Association for more than 30 years. He was a member of St. Patrick's, Parnell Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus and was a member of the Flat River Antique Tractor Club, winning many trophies at their meets and competitions. Dick leaves to cherish his memory, his devoted wife, Marilyn; his dear children, Dennis F. Rasch of Belding, Theresa A. (Dan) Rogers of Buffalo, Wyoming, Richard J. (Shawn) Rasch of Orleans and Patrick W. (Cyndi) Rasch of Belding; grandchildren, Joshua (Katie) Kelley, Jared Kelley, Christopher Rasch, Madelyn Rasch and Emma Rasch; siblings, Margaret Miller, Jeannette (Jim) Wahlfeld and Jack Rasch; and a sister-in-law, Julia Rasch; He also leaves several other brothers- and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors and friends. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Carl Rasch. Visitation will take place on Sunday, February 10, 2019 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., with a Rosary Vigil at 7:30 p.m. at Verdun Family Funeral Home, 303 S. Bridge Street, Belding, Michigan. The Funeral Mass will take place at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Parnell on Monday, February 11, at 11:00 a.m., with Rev. Aaron Ferris the Celebrant. The family will also greet visitors at church on Monday for an hour prior to the funeral. Interment at St. Patrick Cemetery will take place when weather permits. Those wishing to express their sympathy are welcomed to consider a memorial contribution in Dick's memory to Spectrum Health Hospice or The "B" Foundation. Envelopes will be available at the services or by contacting the funeral home. For additional information please contact Verdun Family Funeral Home in Belding at (616) 794-1300 or at www.verdunfh.com.



RUEDGER

Shirley J. Ruedger, age 89, formerly of Carson City, passed away peacefully on Monday, February 4, 2019. Shirley was born in Carson City and lived there until 2010. She was one of eight children born to Floyd and Pearl McAlvey and the last to pass away. She graduated from Carson City High School in 1948 and went on to work as an administrative assistant for a number of businesses. She was also actively involved in the First Baptist Church of Carson City. Shirley was preceded in death by her husband, Merlin Ruedger; and great-grandson, Cole. She is survived by her six children, Linda, Brenda, Rebecca, Terry, Jeff, Lisa and their spouses; 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. Funeral services will Saturday, February 23 at 2 PM at the Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI with visitation one hour prior. Rev. Michael McAlvey officiating. Interment Carson City Cemetery.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

Looking Back, continued

1969 plates draws near. Worried state officials indicate that sales are lagging at an unexpected rate and expect long lines to develop at all Secretary of State offices in the final days leading up to midnight, February 28.

Poor visibility and slippery roads were cited by State Police from the Ionia County post as the causes of a two-car collision involving two Lowell residents Friday morning. The accident occurred when Donna J. Potter, 26, of Route 2, Lowell, was unable to stop at the intersection of Whites Bridges and Centerline Roads due to slippery road conditions. Poor visibility prevented her from seeing the car driven by Floyd A. Halley, 47, also of Lowell, in time to avoid hitting his car. No personal injuries were sustained but the left front section of Miss Potter's car was damaged as was the front end of Halley's auto.

25 years The Lowell Ledger February 16, 1994

Jim White, director of curriculum and instruction, vowed that a lesson was learned from history and that the Lowell Schools would not repeat the same mistake. White was referring to the district's purchase of Apple II E computers through the use of federal grant money. "We did so, but without the proper staff training so that the computers could be used most effectively," White said. With that history lesson tucked away, the technology committee's three-point recommendation included proper staffing commitments be in place prior to the implementation and installation - specifically of computer labs at the elementary and middle school levels.

After being denied their request to consider I-96 as a public road for road frontage, Todd Verwys has decided to build two homes on land as it is currently zoned. Verwys wants to build two homes on 57 acres of land off Timpson Rd. and I-96. In order to build on the property Verwys will have to split the land into five parcels and build a private road with a cul-de-sac.

Oak Meadow
TREE SERVICE INC.

Your Local Tree Care Experts

- ~ Tree & Shrub Fertilization
- ~ Disease & Insect Control
- ~ Pruning & Tree Removal
- ~ Stump Grinding
- ~ Fully Insured

Call Today!
616-890-2348

MEMBER
TCIA
VOICE OF TREE CARE

MEMBER
ISA

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



Gov. Whitmer on passing of former Congressman John Dingell

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued the following statement on the death of former Congressman John Dingell, the longest-serving Member of Congress in American history.

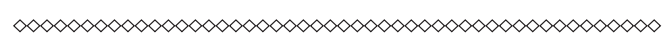
“Today the great State of Michigan said farewell to one of our greatest leaders. John Dingell will forever be remembered as ‘The Dean’ of Congress not simply for the length of his service, but for his unparalleled record of legislative accomplishments. The Congressman’s grit, humility and humor taught us all that we can disagree without being disagreeable, while still finding common ground and working together to get things done. The people of Michigan owe John Dingell so much, from his brave service in World War II, to his leadership as Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and his crucial role in passing some of the most monumental laws of the past century, including the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act. We are a stronger, safer, healthier nation because of Congressman Dingell’s 59 years of service, and his work will continue to improve the lives of Michiganders for generations to come. I extend my deepest and most heartfelt condolences to Congresswoman Debbie Dingell and the entire Dingell family for their loss. In this divisive time, may we all draw wisdom and inspiration from the truly remarkable life of Congressman John Dingell, and may we all continue to learn from his example of selfless public service as we work to build a better future for our state.”



Secretary Benson issues statement on Gov. Whitmer's executive directive on transparency in state government

Michigan Plate at Capitol Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson issued a statement in support of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s executive directive calling on state departments and agencies to embrace the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act.

“A healthy democracy requires an informed and engaged electorate. The best way to restore and maintain confidence among voters is for government to be fully transparent,” Benson said. “The governor’s directive sets the right tone, and I look forward to working with the Legislature on additional measures that can be placed into law.”

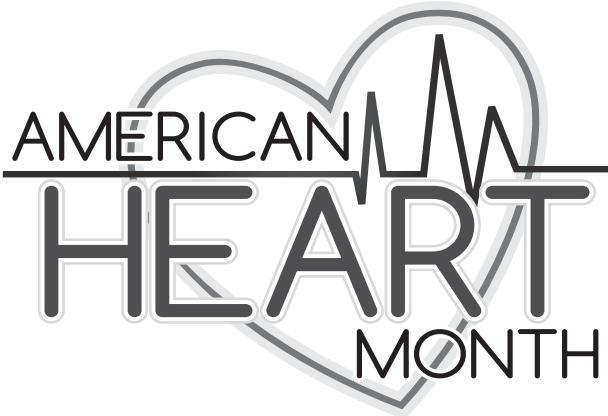


Rep. Calley’s resolution adopted to name February as American Heart Month

State Rep. Julie Calley introduced a resolution on Thursday to name February as American Heart Month and Feb. 1 as Go Red for Women Day in the state of Michigan. The resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives.

“The sobering truth is that cardiovascular diseases are the number one killer of women in the United States,” Calley, of Portland explained. “The uplifting reality is about 80 percent of the cases may be prevented.”

Go Red for Women is the American Heart Association’s



national movement to end heart disease and stroke. Many cardiac events may be prevented through education and lifestyle changes.

“It’s about all women making a commitment to stand together and take charge of their own heart health, as well as the health of those they cannot bear to live without,” added Calley.

In addition to the resolution, Calley participated in an event hosted by the American Heart Association in the Capitol with Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Ruth Johnson and American Heart Association advocate and stroke survivor Donulae Knuckles-Copeland.

Senator Stabenow introduces legislation to lower cost of prescription drugs

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), ranking member on the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health Care, introduced legislation aimed at lowering the cost of prescription drugs. Americans pay – by far – the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. Already this year, prices on more than 1,000 medications have experienced an average price hike of six percent.

“It’s absurd that our own government is prohibited from negotiating lower prescription drug prices for seniors under Medicare and that people across our own Michigan border in Canada pay so much less for their prescriptions,” said Senator Stabenow. “My bills will help put an end to these outrageous practices and Big Pharma’s price gouging of American families.

Pharmaceutical and health product lobbying reached \$216 million last year, more than any other industry. Stabenow is introducing two pieces of legislation that will combat rising prescription drug costs:

- The Empowering Medicare Seniors to Negotiate Drug Prices Act would allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to directly negotiate with drug companies for price discounts of their drugs, which is banned under current law.
- And the Affordable and Safe Prescription Drug Importation Act authorizes the Secretary of Health and



Human Services to issue regulations permitting wholesalers, licensed U.S. pharmacies, and individuals to import safe medications from licensed Canadian sellers that are manufactured at facilities inspected by the Food and Drug Administration. Currently, Americans pay about 40 percent more on prescriptions per person than Canadians do.

This follows Senator Stabenow’s successful effort last year to get her bipartisan Know the Lowest Price Act passed into law - cracking down on outrageous gag clauses that stop pharmacists from telling customers that they could pay less for their prescription if they pay out of pocket.



Michigan receives grants to improve preschool development

A \$5-million-plus competitive federal grant will help improve care, programs, and services for preschoolers statewide, the Michigan Department of Education has announced.

How children up to age five move from home-visiting, child care, and preschool programs is a chief focus of the \$5,058,813 Preschool Development Grant (PDG) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Education Department.

“This grant will serve to move Michigan forward in many areas of its Top 10 in 10 plan, most assuredly within its goal of providing every child access to an aligned, high-quality system from early childhood to postsecondary attainment,” said Interim State Superintendent Sheila Alles. “We recognize the importance of the early years and family engagement as foundational to the best outcomes for every child.”

Michigan is one of 45 states awarded funding through PDG, a \$250-million competitive federal grant designed to improve states’ early childhood landscape by building on existing federal, state, and local early care and learning investments.

The grants focus on three major activities: maximizing parental choice; improving transitions within early care and learning programs and with elementary schools; and improving overall quality of early childhood education programs.

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act authorized the creation of a new national PDG program that fosters connections across early learning programs, and between the early learning and K-12 systems within states.

Under its grant, Michigan will develop a statewide strategic plan for children, birth to age five, based on a needs assessment, with support from the state’s 54 Great Start Collaboratives and 60 Great Start Parent Coalitions.

Albert, Outman: Michigan must do more to prevent youth e-cigarette usage

Plan would ban sale of e-cigs to minors, make state a healthier place

State Rep. Thomas Albert and state Sen. Rick Outman today unveiled a plan to ban the sale of e-cigarettes to minors as well as possession by individuals under 18.

“Simply put, the long-term health effects of vaping are endangering our kids,” said Outman, of Six Lakes. “We are trying to keep them out of the hands of our children before this epidemic spirals out of control. We need a common-sense ban against these products, and we can’t sit around and wait any longer.”

Electronic cigarettes are battery-operated devices that deliver nicotine and flavoring without burning tobacco. A heating device vaporizes liquid inside a cartridge, called “vaping.” Many devices are colorful and made to look harmless – including a version that looks just like a computer USB flash drive, making them difficult to detect in schools.

The U.S. Surgeon General recently declared youth e-cigarette usage an “epidemic”. In a 2018 Centers for Disease Control survey, roughly one in five high school students reported using such products – up 78 percent from 2017.

The federal Food and Drug Administration has rules banning the sale of e-cigarettes to those under 18, but there is nothing similar in state law doing so. With the adoption of a state law, law enforcement and schools will have an easier time keeping addictive, unregulated chemicals off campuses. The plan also protects Michigan if federal regulations change, Albert said.

“We owe it to our children to do more to keep e-cigarettes out of their hands,” said Albert, of Lowell. “These hazardous products are marketed to be attractive to our youth, but in reality, they pose a great health risk. Let’s step up, ban these unknown, unregulated chemicals, and do the right thing for the health and safety of our communities.”

A Harvard study reported 39 of 51 examined e-cigarette flavors contained diacetyl, which is commonly associated with “popcorn lung” – the nickname for bronchiolitis obliterans, a condition that damages airways, Outman said.

“I’m hopeful our plan is a key step forward in improving the health of Michigan residents, as well as a means to keep a gateway addiction out of our schools and communities,” Outman said.

Find Out What The Buzz Is All About with a subscription to the lowell ledger
 Call to start your subscription 897-9261

FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

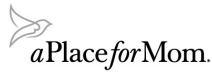
The support you need to find quality
SENIOR LIVING SOLUTIONS

A Place for Mom has helped over one million families find senior living solutions that meet their unique needs.

There's no cost to you!

CALL (855) 439-6734

! We're paid by our partner communities



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

© StatePoint Media

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.

B-BALL WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Puzzle solutions on page 12

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| WORDS | BASKETBALL | KEY | SCORE |
| ADVANCE | CARRY | OFFENSE | SHOOTS |
| AIRBALL | DEFENSE | OUTLET | STRATEGY |
| ALLEY-OOP | DRIBBLING | PASSES | SWISH |
| ASSIST | ELBOW | PLAYER | TEAM |
| BACKBOARD | FLOP | POSSESSION | TECHNIQUE |
| BANK | FOULED | POST | TRAVEL |
| | FREE THROW | PRESS | TURNOVER |
| | HOOP | REBOUND | ZONE |

Guess Who?

I am an actress born in New Jersey on March 8, 1961. Before I was famous, I worked as a sign language interpreter at a hospital. However, drama appealed to me, and I would go on to win an Emmy award.

Answer: Camryn Manheim

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
			23					24						
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41			42		43				
44				45		46				47				
48					49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
57	58	59	60					61			62	63	64	
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to basketball.

A N O E G R

□	□	□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---	---	---

Answer: Orange

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY

ACROSS

- Indian black tea
- Elmer to Bugs
- Glorify
- Head of a mosque
- E.T. transporter
- This was his name-o
- Mental portrait
- Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr.
- French novelist Zola
- *Related to puzzle theme
- Way to absorb
- Lobe locale
- H. H. Munro's pseudonym
- Rap sheet abbr.
- Hungarian bagpipe
- Deeply hidden within self
- Initiation ceremony, e.g.
- Made with stitches
- Venus neighbor
- Crucifix
- Cerberus' domain
- Petri dish filler
- Young hooter
- Fraternity recruitment
- season
- Type of shark

48. ___ Grove, MN

- Corset rod
- Animal's nose
- Number one
- Second solfa syllable, pl.
- *Flowery Valentine's gift
- *Between girlfriend and wife
- Liquid drug container
- Planet ruler in the movies
- *Blast from Harry's past, movie
- Caterpillar hairs
- Easter lead-in
- Human social group
- *Tied upon marriage
- Kith partner
- Wild plums

DOWN

- Gulf V.I.P.
- Clash of heavyweights
- NBA action
- Lake scum
- Dionysus' follower
- Mussolini, with II
- On vacation
- Cuckoo for what puffs?
- *Romantic ride
- Anisette, for short
- Tangerine plus grapefruit
- "Easy ___ it"

15. *Kind of wish

- *Puppy love
- Do biathlon
- Woodworker's byproduct
- *Cupid's ammo
- Native of American Great Plains
- Circular island of coral
- *First word
- Hat-tipper's word
- Donated life-saver
- Interest in a venture
- *Heart ___
- "Harper Valley PTA" star
- Hatchling's home
- Harry Belafonte's daughter
- Tiny tube
- Tiger's launch point
- Leavening agent, pl.
- Smelled offensively
- Angry growl
- Lounge, like in the sun
- A sign
- "___ no good"
- African tea
- Shade-loving plant
- Greek muse of history
- River in Bohemia
- *"Can't take my ___ off you..."
- Hawaiian dish

Your Family Deserves The **BEST** Technology... Value... TV!...

\$59.99 MONTH for 24 months
190 Channels



Upgrade to the Hopper® 3 Smart HD DVR
• Watch and record 16 shows at once
• Get built-in Netflix and YouTube
• Watch TV on your mobile devices
Hopper upgrade fee \$5/mo.



Add High Speed Internet **\$14.95**/mo.
Subject to availability. Restrictions apply. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.

CALL TODAY Save 20%!

1-888-416-7103

Offer ends 11/14/18. Savings with 2 year price guarantee with AT120 starting at \$59.99 compared to everyday price. All offers require credit qualification, 2 year commitment with early termination fee and eAutoPay. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper w/ Sling or Hopper 3 \$5/mo. more. Upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification. Fees apply for additional TVs: Hopper \$15/mo., Joey \$5/mo., Super Joey \$10/mo. All new customers are subject to a one-time, non-refundable processing fee.





This is another installment in the Lowell Ledger's series of feature articles about the many different types of artisans who do business in the Lowell area. Some use the Internet as their storefront, others sell their wares out of a brick and mortar location. All of them are fascinating people and incredibly talented.

If you know of somebody who makes things and sells them, we want to do a story about it! Contact the Lowell Ledger at 616-897-9261 or send a message to ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Lynch's Metal Fabrication

Dream come true for local metal worker

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

Joe Lynch started Lynch's Metal Fabrication in Alto in 2013. They specialize in metal items ranging from stair rails or customized trailers for individuals to production lines of small parts needed for larger companies. The company has existed

with the rest of the economy in 2001. He got a job in a warehouse and eventually shifted to transportation for a local company. He enjoyed the stability of the job, but knew he needed something more.

Much of his inspiration for jumping into the small business world came from different members

Even though he is happy with his decision to focus on the company full time, it has been far from easy. Lynch admits his first year of business was very difficult. He only had one project lined up when he left his day job. Project by project, word spread about the quality of his work, and people were eventually calling him with ideas. In his second year of business, his sales tripled.

Business has picked up, but Lynch is still working as hard as before, if not harder. He recently hired his first full-time employee. Lynch often begins work before 6 am and works until the evening. This past Saturday, he and his new employee put in a full day's work to keep up with the demand.

Part of what has allowed his business to grow was figuring out his niche in the metal market. The first job he got after going full time was making crosses for a local parochial school. He also gets asked to do mailboxes or trailers on an individual basis. He loves doing these more personalized projects, but he also needs to



Joe Lynch, owner of Lynch's Metal Fabrication in Alto.

since 2013, but it was not until 2017 that he began running the company full time.

Lynch loves the work, but it has been a long road to running his own business. He started working with metal in high school.

"I have been doing metal work since, I want to say, 14 years old," Lynch explained. "I started working on my cousin's race car. And ever since then, I took all the machine shops and classes and worked in the die shops in high school as a co-op. Then I worked at a small machine shop, during high school and after."

After graduating from high school, he worked as a machinist until the industry took some heavy hits along

of his family. Lynch's grandfather owned various small businesses after retiring from the post office.

"Right before he passed away he said to me, 'Joe, I wish I would have started a business earlier in life,'" Lynch said.

Joe and his wife have three children and one more on the way. He felt he owed it to his children to lead by example.

He did not want to tell his children that they should follow their dreams while he refused to do so.

"As time goes on, you realize there is more to life than money and stuff," said Lynch. "You have to feel like you are contributing something to this world."

balance this out with the bottom line.

He has found this balance by doing



CNC router used in the shop.

jobs for a variety of companies in need of smaller production lines of metal parts. For many large metal fabricator factories, it is only worth it for them to take on projects that consist of making a large amount of the same item. There is a void even for larger companies that need only a limited amount of metal items for special projects or uses. These include anything from large items like storage racks in semis to smaller steel brackets or braces. He has done work with aviation and food service companies, restaurants and a variety of other businesses from all around the country.

He has a large CNC plasma router that he uses for many of these projects. He also welds and bends metal. He

often works with other companies that have capabilities he does not get the finished product customers expect. His dream is to be able to have all of the different processes he needs under one roof.

Lynch hopes his step into the small business world will be an inspiration to others.

"Follow your heart, follow your dreams, don't give up and just go for it," said Lynch. "I know it's cheesy and a cliché, but I'm telling you that if you don't, you're going to look back on your life and wish that you would've done it."

More information on Lynch's Metal Fabrication can be found on their website, lynchsmetalfab.com, or by calling 616-813-2071.