

Adams Family at LowellArts



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Kevin Zeoli



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Congratulations to the Lowell Red Arrows on their sixth state wrestling championship!



Carol Briggs, many others honored at annual Chamber of Commerce awards

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce held their annual “gathering of the membership” awards banquet at Deer Run Golf Club on Thursday, Feb. 21. Liz Baker, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, hosted the event. Following dinner, attendees viewed the “Discover Lowell” ad campaign produced by Eric Dimmick.

The Non-Profit Spotlight, Most Promising New Business, Best Business to Watch, Business Appreciation Award and the Person of the Year Awards were then given out. Newest Lowell city council member Cliff Yankovich and local realtor Rick Seese shared time as MCs for this portion of the event.

The first award given out for the Non-Profit Spotlight was to Alpha Family Center of Lowell. Yankovich described the family center as, “provid[ing] practical real-world services and counseling to women, couples, and families who are dealing with the reality of pregnancy. From medical



There was a big crowd at Deer Run Golf Club for the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce’s annual awards banquet.

services like pregnancy testing and ultrasounds to offering the opportunity for a young mother to continue and potentially complete her education or even learn English if need be. [...] They help families and children up to the age of five in many many ways.”

Christa Wetzel, the executive director of Alpha Family Center of Lowell, attended the event and received the award. She thanked the community of

Lowell and the many people who volunteer and donate to Alpha Women’s Center. She also used the time to briefly discuss the center’s new location opening in Lake Odessa.

“We are starting another center in Lake Odessa, so you might not see me as much in town because we are splitting my time a little bit there,” Wetzel said. “We’ve been doing some exciting things, and the word is getting out, so be looking

for that new center in a city close by.”

Next, Rick Seese gave the Best Business to Watch award to “Lowell’s First Look,” an online news blog.

The following award went to Walnut Grove Excavating for Most Promising New Business. Husband and wife, Travis and Stacy Gemmell, accepted the award.

“Walnut Grove Excavating began their business in 2017 and they literally hit the ground running,” said Seese. “They do it all, driveways, dig foundations, install sewer lines, but their specialty is septic systems, especially complicated septic systems that most excavators really don’t want to do. They also pump septic tanks and do septic system inspections for real estate sales.”

Seese went on to describe some of his personal experiences with the company.

“I personally experienced their service on a complicated septic system installation,” said Seese. “Travis quoted it quickly, competitively, and with confidence. It was

a very tricky job. I visited the site towards the end of the day, and he was finishing up. He was sculpturing the entire backyard, and he was smiling and having fun doing it at the same time.”

Yankovich gave out the next Business Appreciation Award to Mike Larkin, owner of Larkin’s Fine Food and Cocktails. The chamber’s criteria for the award included outstanding service, community investment, employment opportunit[ies] and volunteer service to the greater Lowell community. Yankovich highlighted the many sports teams Larkin’s has supported, along with the money they have raised for non-profits through their annual chili cook-off.

“Larkin’s has been doing the annual chili cook-off for 17 years and they’ve raised over 45,000 bucks to help other people,” Yankovich said. “Pretty good stuff, Larkin’s. [...] Plus the cook-off has provided Everett Beck, Mark Todd and Alan Rumbaugh an excuse to

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Adams Family to play LowellArts House Concert

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Adams Family - Jerry Adams, Cindy Kropf, Brian Adams and Dale Kropf - are one of Lowell's most popular hometown bands. They will play a special, intimate show at LowellArts, 223 W. Main, on Saturday, March 9.

Members of the Adams Family have a long history on Lowell's music scene, the group includes veterans of Lowell groups the Shilohs, Scragg Zoster, Alive & Well and others more obscure.

"We all have grown up doing music," said Cindy Kropf. "Jerry has done it since he was 15, my husband Dale and I had a high school band, music's been in our life for a long time. Alive & Well plays once in a while, but the Adams Family is what we consistently do."

They're well-known for their intricate vocal harmonies and for their crowd-pleasing repertoire, which includes folk, doo wop and classic rock songs from the 50s and 60s.

"A couple examples of songs we do are 'Breaking Up Is Hard to Do' and 'Cara Mia,' how about that," Kropf said. "When Brian sings 'Cara Mia,' it brings the house down! It's a really difficult song to sing, and he sings it really high, so that's one that people love. A lot of the stuff we do, the main thing that we focus on is three-part harmony with Brian, Jerry and I. 'One Fine Day' is one I do, Jerry sings a lot of the folk music that we do, we might do a couple Beatles songs. We



Cindy Kropf (above) and her brother Jerry Adams (below) of the Adams Family performing at the Lowell Showboat on July 13, 2018.



focus on covering songs by bands that have a lot of vocal harmonies in their songs. Vocally, our renditions are pretty close to the originals,

we try to replicate pretty closely what's on the record, but we keep it very acoustic, meaning there's no drums, it's just two guitars and a bass. We try to focus on songs that, although they may have had drums and other sounds on the original, they would sound fine without drums."

The Adams Family really is a family band. Jerry and Cindy are brother and sister, Cindy is married to Dale and Jerry's son Brian (Cindy and Dale's nephew) completes the group.

"I think there is something about family members singing together," Adams

said. "Our voices seem to mesh very well, our vibrato even matches. When Jerry and Brian sing together, it's like two of the same, you know? I think there's something extra special about it. We have personal ties to each other, more than the music. The Adams Family started about 20 years ago. Alive & Well wasn't really playing and my brother Jerry moved back to Michigan from Florida. His son Brian was around and we all kind of missed doing music. We started off working on folk music like Peter, Paul & Mary. Jerry

kind of started that whole ball of wax in Lowell, he had a folk group called the Shilohs when he was in high school, so I grew up listening to all that folk music. Peter, Paul & Mary, obviously, have three voices, so they were a huge influence. Anyway, I just remember us getting together around 2006 and saying, 'Why don't we work on some folk music?' We had more fun rehearsing than anything! We were messing around, Brian started playing a 50s, 60s sort of doo wop thing. We worked out the harmonies, and that's how we incorporated that genre along with folk. Now we do a little more of that than just the folk like when we started out."

Kropf said that she attends many of the LowellArts House Concerts and has been impressed by the diversity of music they bring to town, everything from bluegrass to noise rock.

"I've performed at LowellArts and I've gone to

quite a few of the concerts, I think it's a great, intimate environment," Kropf said. "Audiences are there to have a lot of fun and they're very responsive. I think the people that play there really have a good time. It's nice for musicians to come to a venue like that and have people sitting there listening and really hearing, compared like in a bar when people are talking through your songs and it's harder to make a connection with the audience. This is more like a concert, and I think the musicians really enjoy that. They have all different types of music, too. I'm glad that Lowell is supporting this."

The Adams Family already has a full schedule for 2019, and they're also recording a CD of gospel songs.

"We don't do a lot in the winter, but we play a lot in the summer," Kropf said. "We're lucky to be able to do this, and we have a lot of fun with it. If it wasn't fun I wouldn't do it!"



Tickets to this LowellArts House Concert are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door that night. For more information about the band, visit theadamsfamilyband.com or find them on social media. For more information about LowellArts, visit lowellartsmi.org, call 616-897-8545 or stop by the gallery during business hours.

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Chamber awards, continued



Carol Briggs thanked the community for the Person of the Year award.

dress funny, party all day and feed people chili.”

“I appreciate this award,” said Mike Larkin, upon accepting the award. “It’s because of you people that this community is so strong. Thank you.”

Yankovich and Seese both introduced the Person of the Year Award, which was

given to Carol Briggs.

“[Briggs helps and volunteers at] First United Methodist Church, the Ronald McDonald House, the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, America Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, Lowell Area Schools, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Clark Retirement Home, and the

city of Lowell’s flood relief program,” Yankovich said as he surveyed some of the many ways Briggs helps the Lowell community.

Yankovich described some of the praise that the chamber received during the nomination and award process and Seese highlighted a personal

experience he had with Briggs when she helped him proofread articles he wrote for the newspaper.

“According to the people at the Methodist Church, Carol has given her time and talent in just about every manner possible,” Yankovich said. “From singing in the choir to spearheading the food pantry that eventually grew into what we call FROM these days. Carol’s taught in the church preschool, she’s served as the secretary, she’s reached out to the less fortunate in Lowell [and the] West Michigan region and has even taken mission trips to foreign countries.”

“[She is] a very special person to everyone that knows [her],” Seese concluded. “No matter what has ever been asked of [Carol Briggs], [she] has always graciously accepted the task, the challenge, the chore, the project, the workload, the assignment, the burden, or goal. [She] always accepts with a smile. In my mind, there has not really been



Chamber director Liz Baker hosted the event.

anyone that I know of that has helped in so many ways for so many organizations throughout the time that [she] volunteers.”

“As in the case of any person who is perceived as being helpful or successful in the support of these projects or events organized in Lowell, he or she cannot stand alone,” Briggs said as she accepted the award. “There are so many other persons whose noteworthy efforts helped to bring about results and invaluable help and create good time and events. Whether it be in business or community, the same rules apply: it never only is one person who is involved in achieving a good outcome. It takes a myriad of people. When working with the church, or FROM, or the chamber, or one of our many community organizations, a person who has his or her

fingers in many pots must have a motive. And my personal motive is to help our Lowell community be vibrant, inviting and fun for those who live here.”

The past Persons of the Year since 1986 were Chris Van Antwerp, King Doyle, Dr. Orville McKay, Ivan Blough, George and Dode Dey, Dr. Robert Reagan, Al Eckman, Ray Quada, Priscillia Lussmyer, Mayor Jim Maatman, Bob Pfaller, Jim Reagan, Marsha Wilcox, John Timpson, Dr. Donald Gerard, Dr. Roger LaWarre, Bert Bleke, Judy Straub, Luanne Kaeb, Jim Doyle, Jim White, Kraig and Jody Haybarker, Ray and Barbara Zandstra, Marj Harding, Betty Yeiter, John Stencel, Dave and Jan Thompson, Joy Smith, Perry and Teresa Beachum, Noel Dean, Greg Canfield, Rick Seese, Greg Pratt and Betsy Davidson.

WWC pancake breakfast, March 9

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The annual Maple Syrup Day event will take place at the Wittenbach Wege Center on Saturday, March 9, from 9 am until 1 pm. The event, a benefit for WWC Community Programming, includes a pancake breakfast with maple syrup, maple butter, sausage, orange juice and coffee. Money raised will help the WWC continue to host special events like the popular luminary hike.

“As the snow begins to melt, the sap slowly starts to rise in the sugar maple trees,” said WWC director Courtney Cheers in a press release. “Maple syrup season is truly one of the first signs of spring, and what better way to celebrate the coming of spring?”

In addition to food, they will also have

demonstrations by the Lowell Historical Museum and WWC naturalists along the WWC trails. There is a \$5 suggested donation to participate in the trail hike and demonstrations.

“Travel the trails of the WWC and go back in time [to] learn how maple sap was harvested and processed by both Native Americans and early settlers,” Cheers said.

The breakfast costs \$5 for adults, \$3 for K-12 kids and is free for the pre-kindergarten set. For more information, contact Courtney Cheers at ccheers@lowellschools.com or 616-987-2565.

At right: volunteers flipping pancakes at last year’s WWC pancake breakfast.



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~ Helen Thomas (1920-2013)

the lowell ledger

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Today is the 51st day of 2019 and the 62nd day of winter.



Opera singer Marian Anderson (born on this date in 1897) performing at the Lincoln Memorial on April 9, 1939. [Time Magazine photo]

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1837, a group of costumed students paraded down the streets of New Orleans in celebration of Mardi Gras, creating the city's trademark festival.

In 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, limiting presidents to two terms. In 1973, Native American activists and members of the American Indian Movement occupied the village of Wounded Knee on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, beginning a standoff with federal marshals that lasted until May 8.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), poet; Hugo Black (1886-1971), U.S. Supreme Court justice; Marian Anderson (1897-1993), singer; John Steinbeck (1902-1968), author; Joanne Woodward (1930-), actress; Elizabeth Taylor (1932-2011), actress; Ralph Nader (1934-), consumer

activist; James Worthy (1961-), basketball player; Donal Logue (1966-), actor; Tony Gonzalez (1976-), football player; Chelsea Clinton (1980-), journalist; Josh Groban (1981-), singer-songwriter; Kate Mara (1983-), actress.

TODAY'S FACT: In 1939, first lady Eleanor Roosevelt resigned from the Daughters of the American Revolution when it barred African-American singer Marian Anderson from performing at Constitution Hall. Anderson performed at the Lincoln Memorial instead.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1992, 16-year-old Tiger Woods competed in the Nissan Los Angeles Open, becoming the youngest participant in a PGA event in more than 30 years.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "There ain't no sin and there ain't no virtue. There's just stuff people do." -- John Steinbeck, "The Grapes of Wrath"

TODAY'S NUMBER: 1,325 -- receptions made by tight end Tony Gonzalez in his 17-year NFL career, second only to Hall of Fame wide receiver Jerry Rice's all-time record of 1,549.

TODAY'S MOON: Between last quarter moon (Feb. 26) and new moon (March 6).

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:

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More adults in Michigan read a newspaper than local magazines.¹



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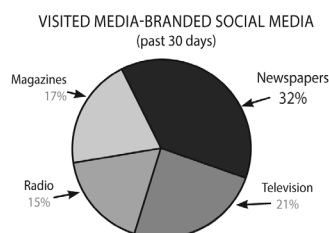
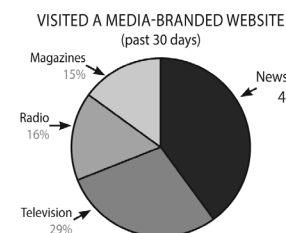
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of adults often purchase products and services as the result of a magazine ad.⁴

Newspapers are the most trusted media source.²

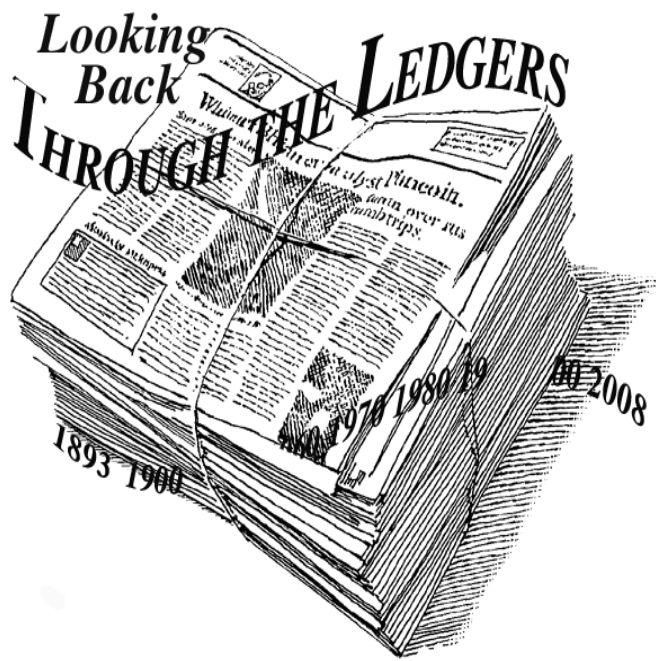
Adults, across all generations, identify newspapers as their most trusted source of news and information – ahead of magazines.

Digital media users rely on newspaper-branded websites and social media, over magazine-branded properties, for local market news.⁴



Sources: (1) Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved. (2) Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; (3) NAA; (4) AMG/Parade Local Knowledge Survey

viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger March 3, 1894

On Monday evening, Feb. 26, at ten o'clock, just as a majority of Lowell people were going to bed the clanging of the fire alarm drove all thought of slumber from every mind. A crowd was soon on the streets following the fire department to the pleasant home of D. G. Look, the upper portion of which was soon wrapped in flames. Mr. Look's mother had retired for the night and Mrs. Look, Jr., was sitting up with her sick baby, when she noticed a smell of smoke and stepping into the kitchen door found that apartment full of smoke. She ran out into the street and gave the alarm, (which was carried to the village by Irve Young), and then hurried back and wrapping baby up carried it to a neighbor's house. By this time the fire which originated no one knows how had a good start and the firemen had a hard task before them when they arrived on the spot.

Charley Holcomb got on another drunk last Friday night and stole about \$18 of cash from his father and skipped. He has since written from Owosso wanting to come back but he is afraid of prosecution he wrote to see whether or not it would be safe. Charley is bound to go to ruin unless he breaks off with a short stop and it is too bad too, for he is a bright, smart boy, otherwise than his foolish, simple habit of drinking and when he gets drunk he seems to have a great penchant for appropriating other people's property to his own use.

100 years The Lowell Ledger February 27, 1919

Cliff Hatch and Archie Lewis have been awarded the contract from the Michigan State Highway for the erection of a reinforced concrete bridge to replace the old bridge two miles north of town, Work to begin as soon as the weather will permit.

Kent county's apportionment of the automobile license fees collected by the state in 1918 amounts to \$70,144.94, according to the report received from Lansing Monday by County Clerk Hill. This is an increase of approximately \$10,000 over the previous year. In 1916, Kent county possessed 9,086 passenger and commercial cars. Michigan is the seventh state on the list of registrations. In 1912 this state had only one automobile for every 72 persons, but in 1918 the proportion increased to one for every 12 persons and is now the fifth state in the proportion which considers the number of persons and automobiles, being tied with Minnesota.

The sawmill that has been doing business for

Henry Wester in the old McGinnis woods west of Bowne Center, completed its task and moved to parts unknown last Saturday.

75 years The Lowell Ledger March 2, 1944

The King Milling Company has been making preparations for months towards starting the erection of a brand new flour mill to take the place of the one destroyed by fire on March 7, 1943, entailing a loss of many thousands of dollars. The actual work of constructing the new building is scheduled to start in the very near future. The destruction of the old mill was a loss that has been felt by the entire community for many miles around. All will rejoice over the news that Lowell is to have a new modern mill, and the King Milling Company deserves great credit for its enterprise. The Ledger plans to give more details regarding the mill, in an early issue.

Six members of the C. H. Runciman Co. staff were at Blodgett hospital, Grand Rapids, last Friday night for the purpose of donating blood to the blood bank.

The gasoline situation is going to get worse before it gets better. That is the conclusion of those officials who have access to national records of supply and the constantly increasing demand of the military and naval forces. One year ago it was estimated that the armed forces were using 1 per cent of the nation's output. That has been constantly increasing and before the summer is over it is believed that armed forces will be taking 40 per cent.

50 years The Lowell Ledger February 27, 1969

Quick thinking by employees of Lowell Light and Power was credited today for averting a possible tragedy on the Flat River. Five men working in the plant rescued a pair of 14-year-old students who fell through the ice on the river last Thursday afternoon. The boys, Keith Johnson and William Frazier, were attempting to cross the ice when it capsized within a few yards of the shore, immediately in front of the power company.

Officials of the Lowell Area School District today are analyzing projected figures that could play a major role in resolving the district's financial problems. Twice rejected by voters is appeals for additional operating millage, the board is seeking approval for an extra seven-mill operating levy for one year in a special election scheduled for March 17.

Lowell and Prescott, located about 15 miles north of Standish, have been paired for Mayors Exchange Day during Michigan Week, it was announced by the Greater Michigan Foundation. Other area communities listed in the pairings include Belding-Portland, Saranac-Camden and Kentwood-Sterling Heights.

25 years The Lowell Ledger March 2, 1994

Lowell City Airport got approval from the Lowell City Council to sell 4.07 acres of the airport property. The Council set a minimum bid of \$28,000 for the land that sits off of Vergennes Road. The request was made so that the proceeds could be used to assist in paving the main runway.

Robert McGrew was the lone voice to speak out against the special assessment some residents were to incur for the installation of new water mains for parts of Alden Nash and Gee Drive. However, he won't be the lone resident to benefit from his timely words of

concern. Nine residences, including McGrew's, (Six located on Gee Drive and three on Alden Nash) will enjoy substantial assessment reductions.

If you're a public school in the state of Michigan, 1994 will not be unlike 1993, will be a year of business and finance. Business and finance issues highlighted the Lowell School Board's evaluation of Lowell Superintendent Fritz Esch. Lowell Board of Education President Ray Quada Said the evaluation was completed in a timely, fair constructive manner. "The comments in the evaluation will serve as the basis for the board's goal-setting session in 1994," he said.



75 districts ask for extra days amid 'unprecedented' cancellations

A fifth of the state's public school districts or charter schools have asked the state to forgive three extra missed days on top of the six allowable days given each year.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), through Thursday, had received 175 such requests for what are called "snow day waivers," and has approved 77 of those requests, with no denials as of yet, MDE spokesperson Bill Disessa said.

The state reported having a total of 545 traditional districts and 295 charter schools in the 2017-2018 school year, for a total of 840. MDE didn't

immediately have snow day waiver request totals for previous school years.

Districts get six days of forgivable time every year. With the state superintendent's approval of a snow day waiver, districts can get three more on top of that, for a total of nine possible days off without penalty. After that, districts need to start making up time, or they could lose state aid.

But a new twist this year for districts to consider were the state emergencies declared by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

"I understand the state

Capitol Press report 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

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FEBRUARY 27

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FEBRUARY 28

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MARCH 1

Barak Brown, Jill Callihan, Laura Christiansen.

MARCH 2

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

MARCH 3

Sarah Newell.

MARCH 4

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

MARCH 5

Don Silvis, Michael Nearing, Brandy Washburn.



At Your Local Library

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

Minecraft

Get your Minecraft fix and show off your world-building skills. The library has a limited number of computers and licenses for Minecraft. First come, first served. No registration required. If you are able, bring a laptop with Wi-Fi capabilities and Minecraft installed and join us! Mon., March 4 at 4:30 pm.

Night Owls Book Discussion

The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barberry. Wed., March 6 at 6:30 pm

Bookworms Book Discussion

The Great Alone, Kristin Hannah. Tues., March 12 at 10 am.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN The Probate Court for the County of Kent

In the matter of **JESSIE WHITE** Guardianship File No. 19-204,744-GA Conservatorship File No. 19-204743-CA

Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian, Appointment of a Conservator.

Dated: February 25, 2019

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 204-8332

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including her nieces and nephews, and any other unknown relatives and heirs, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on March 20, 2019, at 3:00 P.M. at Kent Co. Probate

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC Attys. for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001) 3425 Kelly St. Hudsonville, MI 49426 Phone (616) 633-0196

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN The Probate Court for the County of Kent

In the matter of **Shirley Shamel** Guardianship File No. 19-204,842-GA

Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

Dated: February 19, 2019

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including her son, Jim Shamel, and any other unknown relatives and heirs, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on March 13, 2019, at 1:30 P.M. at Kent Co. Probate

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 558-7608

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC Attys. for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001) 3425 Kelly St. Hudsonville, MI 49426 (616) 633-0196

- death rates in the US

A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association last year looked at death rates and causes of death in the United States between 1969 and 2013.

The overall death rate has declined by more than 40 percent since 1969. These rates are standardized by age and adjusted because the U.S. population is getting older. Another way to look at the data is to view the trends in premature deaths. Between 1969 and 2013 the years of potential life lost decreased by more than 50 percent. The death rate for men is higher than women. The leading causes for men were heart disease, cancer and unintentional injuries. The leading causes for women were cancer, heart disease and COPD.

The leading causes of death in 2013 overall, in order, are heart disease, cancer, COPD, unintentional injuries,

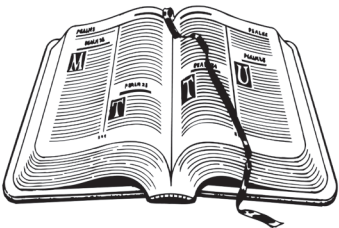
stroke, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, influenza or pneumonia, kidney disease, and suicide.

We've made significant progress over the past several years in improving overall health and reducing overall death rates. Preventative deaths have been significantly reduced by controlling risk factors, such as high blood pressure, smoking and high cholesterol. Unfortunately, obesity related death rates have declined more slowly in recent years indicating that the obesity epidemic is a serious problem in the United States.

In the U.S., we are becoming healthier and living longer because of the decrease in years lost to preventable disease. As our population ages we need to continue our efforts to control obesity, smoking, high blood pressure and elevated cholesterol.

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area churches



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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
Ryan Landt
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
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Lowell's Open Table - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM
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CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES

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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**

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

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Council Chat

By the Lowell City Council



A report from the new guy. I would like to talk about the importance of communication and address a couple of concerns that came my way at the Coffee With Council on Saturday February 2.

In our little business, communication is key. We do a lot of jewelry repair at our store and almost any time we have a problem it can be traced back to a glitch in communication. Usually I failed to ask the right question or get enough information when I took the piece in for repair. This is certainly

to King and Lafayette Streets any longer.

First and foremost, we would never even think of giving away public access to the Riverwalk or the Flat River. Secondly, what is being considered is a swap of land. In exchange for seven additional feet along the front of the proposed condos, the developers are going to give the City a piece of the property they own. The reason they want a total of twelve feet is to facilitate patios for the ground floor condos. (Note: they own five feet in front of the bus garage building now,

questions – if we don't know the answer, we will find out for you.

Cliff Yankovich

Hello readers! This month, I'd like to talk to you about Winter Storm 2019. As you may have noticed, we really hit the winter jackpot. Ice, snow, freezing rain, wind, the whole show. I enjoyed it, but I'm not sure many echo that sentiment. What we can all agree on, is how much we benefit from living here. We benefit every single day, but we really shine through



not unique to our business, but we are all bombarded with so much informational input these days it can be very easy to misunderstand someone or even completely miss their point.

I was really pleased that four people stopped in to talk with us on February 2nd. Reminder, some or all of the City Council are at the Lowell Chamber of Commerce the first Saturday of the month from 8 am to 10 am. We would love to meet and talk with you about our favorite town.

Anyway, one of the gentlemen who came in was very concerned about the amount of Riverwalk Property the City Council was going to "give away" to the developers of Riverview Flats, the condominium project going in along the river.

He told me that he and a number of his friends were under the impression that the Council was considering giving away a big part of the Riverwalk. He thought people might not be able to walk along the Flat from Main Street

the additional seven feet will result in twelve feet for patios.) The piece they are offering to the City is almost twice as big as what they are asking for; about 3,300 square feet compared to 1,800 square feet.

This led to the second question from another citizen: "Why don't they just shift the new building back seven feet?" This was a perfectly logical question and a possible solution to the need for a swap of land. I had no answer (remember, I am the new guy!).

I am very happy to report that the reason the developers can't just start their building seven feet east is because they are going to utilize the existing building when constructing the condos. The re-purposing of the old building and making use of it instead of tearing it down is a win-win. It adds an element of history to the condos and any time something can be re-used instead of hauled to the land fill makes me do a happy dance.

Please bring us more

adversity. Our police and fire departments worked extra hard through these conditions to keep us all safe. The DPW was out in force making sure we could see the roads and continue to enjoy the level of services that we've all come to expect. Light and Power made sure very few of us had to reset our alarm clocks or burn flashlight batteries while some of the Consumers customers fared a much more difficult fate. I think we sometimes take for granted how great we really do have it here. We benefit from the hard work and dedication of so many employees and sometimes a "thank you" just isn't enough. So let's celebrate them. Not just during the tough Michigan season, but all year round. It doesn't get better than we have it here and that's just another reason there is no place else that I'd rather live.

**Respectfully,
Mike DeVore
Mayor, City of Lowell**

Michigan attorney general joins wall lawsuit

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Michigan joined 15 other states in a lawsuit on Monday, Feb. 18 seeking an injunction from the court to stop President Trump from declaring a national emergency in order to access the money he needs to build his border wall. Under Proclamation 9844, the president intends to redirect \$8 billion in previously-agreed-upon expenditures to build a border wall. Washington DC newspaper Roll Call reported over a third of these funds have already been spent by the Department of Defense.

Dana Nessel, Michigan's attorney general, said the declaration of a national emergency by the president was an unconstitutional act.

"I see it as my job as attorney general to make certain that the people of our state are protected against unconstitutional acts by the president," Nessel said during a press conference on Tuesday, Feb. 19. "We're in this very strange set of circumstances right now where I don't think the President of the United States cares very much about the Constitution."



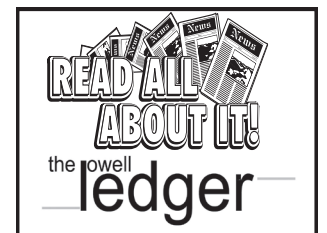
Michigan attorney general Dana Nessel. [image from dana2018.com]

"If the president is essentially stealing money that's been allocated to go to the various states for various purposes but no longer will, we're being harmed, our people are being harmed," California attorney general Xavier Becerra said during an interview on CNN on Monday, Feb. 18.

According to a press release from her office, Nessel said the purpose of the lawsuit is to "protect revenue, natural resources and economic interests" from the president's "flagrant disregard of fundamental

separation of powers."

The other states in the lawsuit are California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Virginia.



Public Notice City of Lowell

2019 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The City of Lowell Board of Review for 2019 will be held at the Lowell City Hall, 301 E Main St SE, on the following dates:

Organizational Meeting: Tuesday, March 5th, 11:00 am

Appeal Hearings:

Monday, **March 11th**, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Tuesday, **March 12th**, 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm

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

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

By City Charter, 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:

Commercial.....	51.51.....	0.9706
Residential.....	46.86.....	1.0670
Industrial.....	44.78.....	1.1165
Personal Property.....	50.00.....	1.0000

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

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

Contact: Michael Burns – City Manager, ph. 616.897.8457

City council discusses development, showboat, etc.

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Tuesday, Feb. 4, delayed one day because of President's Day on Monday. The meeting lasted 59 minutes and was attended by 10 citizens.

The council discussed the potential Unity School condominium development. At their last meeting, the council talked about a land swap with the developers, who want to trade a 3,216 square foot piece of land that they own adjacent to Riverside Park for a 1,842 square foot portion of land that is currently part of Riverside Park.

"Since our last meeting we've learned some things about what we need to do for the next step," said Lowell city manager Michael Burns. "We learned during the last two weeks... the parks and recreation master plan was never approved through the planning commission, meaning it doesn't need to follow the Planning Enabling Act requirements. Also, the rec plan, according to my understanding, was never approved by the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources], correct?"

"It was submitted to the DNR as part of getting a

trust fund grant," said city attorney Dick Wendt.

"We've met all of the requirements for [the] DNR, on our end, for them to consider the land conversion, the transfers of property," Burns said. "That being said, the next step at this point would be at our next council meeting we will present a resolution to the council that will do two things. The first thing it will do is to make amendments to the parks and recreation master plan, basically identifying the land transfer. The second action would be to approve the land conversion, basically the transfer of property. Both of these things still need to be contingent with and approved by the DNR. That ultimately has to happen in order for the transition to occur. There's a number of items that need to be submitted to the DNR that both the city and Unity Schools Developers LLC are working on, but once that resolution is presented at the next council meeting, it will just be presented. It has to sit for 20 days per charter, and after the 20 day period, the council could decide whether or not they want to vote and wait for DNR to possibly approve it or they can just wait until DNR approves it. Those are your options.

That's where we're at, at this point. We learned a lot from this process. Dealing with this project has been very tricky because of the land grant requirements and even the provisions in the city charter. It doesn't look like it's been the cleanest type of project, but these are all necessary steps."

"I believe, Mike, you've worked with the developers a little bit about possibly purchasing the south [parcel of land], have we proposed that to them, that option?" asked councilor Greg Canfield.

"That hasn't been proposed," Burns replied. "I don't have the authority to propose that. I've had discussions with them about future options, that's about all I've done."

"I very much support this project, but I feel we need to address the issues of access to the boat ramp and turnaround there," Canfield said. "Jerry Zandstra [along with Todd Schaal, one of the Unity condo developers] had mentioned to me when I met with him that he felt the city should have just bought the south parcel when it was for sale at a separate price, and the proposal that I took to Mike, and I believe you

submitted that to them, in theory, was that we could get an option to purchase that at that price that it was listed at, but I won't be able to support this until we clean up all the loose ends on this."

"I'm in the same camp," said councilor Cliff Yankovich. "I think, as this process has gone along, we've seen a lot of things that were left undone, and I don't think we should continue to leave things undone. I don't think they have any intention of blocking access to the river, but I would just like to see that spelled out. It's a pretty big deal. Honestly, if we could purchase the south piece, that would solve all the problems, wouldn't it?"

"Right, or either just get an option that would give us three years to purchase it," Canfield said. "[That] was what I felt was a good compromise."

Later, the council went into a closed session, "at the request of the city manager to discuss the purchase of property." They came back to an open session and voted 5-0 to do something.

"The city council [went] into a closed session to discuss the purchase of property," Burns said in an email to the Ledger. "I cannot legally discuss what occurred in closed session. However when we entered into open session, I was directed by the city council 5-0 to take the action discussed in closed session. [...] Purchase of property is one of the provisions in the [Open Meetings Act] statute which you can enter into closed session for."

The Ledger made a FOIA request to find out exactly what the council directed Burns to do.

This request was "denied in part" by police chief Steve Bukala in an email to the Ledger on Monday, Feb. 25.

"Your request is denied in part," Bukala's email said. "The public body is not entitled to what is discussed in a closed session, however the direction of the city council coming out of closed session AND directing the city manager to do occurs out of open session to complete the vote. That is all that is required for the open meetings act. We are not going to keep Brandon here for an undetermined amount of time to turn the camera back on to record a vote when the city clerk has the vote in the minutes. When the city council has their next regularly scheduled meeting on March 4, 2019, the minutes will be reviewed and approved by the city council and the vote will be on those minutes and those minutes will be placed on the website. Again items discussed in

closed session will not be on the minutes because it is closed session, however the vote of the council in open session will be on those minutes. I hope this answers your FOIA request. If you need information sooner, I suggest you wait at the end of the hallway until the closed sessions are complete and stick around for the open session vote. If you disagree with my denial, you have the right to appeal this decision."

Next, the council discussed demolition of the Lowell Showboat. Earthworm Dozing and Excavating, a Lowell company, was the lowest bidder at \$6,000 and got the contract.

"The Department of Public Works requested quotes from five firms to demolish and remove the entire showboat structure and pontoons from its location on the Flat River," said assistant city manager Rich LaBombard. "That's our proposal, is to just have them work onshore and pluck it out of the river. We want to do it while it's frozen so that we don't have to worry about anything going down the dam."

The council voted 5-0 to give an industrial facility tax credit to King Milling, 149 S. Broadway, to help complete a \$6 million, 41,000 square foot warehouse and packing facility on the former Michigan Wire site.

"Industrial facility tax credits are abatements of 50 percent of real and personal property taxes on the new investment," Burns said. "Since the state of Michigan will have completely phased out the personal property tax on all property in 2023, the impact to the applicant is mostly the real property on the new expansion. King Milling has received IFTCs in the past. During my tenure, we have provided IFTCs to Litehouse and Big Boiler Brewing. [...] King Milling meets the legal requirements to be considered for an industrial facility tax credit. This project revenue would be captured by the Downtown Development Authority and would not have a negative impact to the tax base. However, the DDA would only capture 50 percent of the new taxable value of this project, except for school taxes, during this abatement period."

The council voted to switch from HUB International to BHS, the city's property and liability broker, who will now administer the city's healthcare plan as well. Two representatives from BHS attended the meeting.

"After meeting several times with BHS, I feel we receive more value from them than we receive currently," Burns said. "[Services they will provide]

include human resource consulting, where we can use them as a resource to assist us with HR-related issues such as recruiting and hiring, policies and procedures, performance management and record-keeping requirements. Additionally, they will provide us with an onboarding benefit administration system that we do not currently have. [...] By the city switching to BHS, this will allow the city to have all of our insurances administered by one firm. This, to me, makes administering our insurances more streamlined by having one firm, rather than multiple."

The council voted to approve the 2020 budget calendar. After it's prepared by department directors, the city manager and the city treasurer, the 2020 budget is scheduled to be presented to the council on Monday, April 15. After a work session and a public hearing, the finalized 2020 budget is scheduled to be approved by the council on Monday, May 20. Fiscal year 2020 is scheduled to begin on July 1.

"While it is obviously important to engage with the council and the general public regarding the proposed budget, I will be holding another annual all day budget session on Saturday, April 27," Burns said. "Department directors will be presenting their budget line item by line item on that day. The public hearing for the budget... will be held on Monday, May 20, 2019. The council can approve the budget that evening, or if we need to make changes, we can do so."

The council voted 5-0 to approve a \$497,553.80 installment purchase agreement between Lowell Light & Power, Solar Turbines Inc and Macatawa Bank. The money will be used to purchase a new control panel for the Solar combustion turbine engine, to replace the 1988 model it has now. The council also voted to terminate a 1927 "joint pole use" agreement between the city and "Michigan Bell Telephone," currently AT&T.

To watch this meeting and many past city council, board and commission meetings, visit the city of Lowell's YouTube channel.

Lowell city council's next regular meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, March 4. The council will also meet with the public at a "Coffee with the Council" event at Lowell Chamber of Commerce headquarters on the Riverwalk from 8 until 10 am on Saturday, March 2.

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. 616.897.5671

Comic Kevin Zeoli at Larkin's March 9

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Kevin Zeoli is a 23-year veteran of comedy, a regular at the clubs in Las Vegas and has even performed for the troops. He will tell jokes at Larkin's The Other Place, 301 W. Main, on Saturday, March 9.

"The last time I was in Lowell was probably about two years ago, that was at Larkin's," Zeoli said. "They've been wanting me back for a while, but scheduling-wise it hasn't worked out. I'm glad to be coming back, I enjoyed that place. It was fun talking to the locals, they were good people. There are always good, down-to-earth people in our small towns."

Zeoli described his shows as "interactive," which means you can talk to the man on the stage.

"My comedy is very crowd-interactive, I have a lot of fun with the crowd," Zeoli said. "It's very off-the-cuff and very responsive to crowd-interactions. I ask the crowd different questions, which leads to different jokes. It works to get to know some of the people in the crowd and it leads into some jokes that I've got ready to deliver. It's a nice

way to stay personal with the audience. I have friends who have come to a lot of my shows and said that it was different every time. I've heard my shows are very Robin Williams-esque; people have compared me to him quite a bit. Robin Williams was the top comedian for me. And when I was a kid, Don Rickles was my main influence. I watched a lot of Don Rickles and I enjoyed the way he had fun with people. He was great. He didn't really make fun of people, he had fun with them. That makes a world of difference in comedy. I also like Bill Burr, I've worked with him and he's a great guy, Tim Allen and some of the Michigan legends, the guys that broke the mold here and in Detroit. There are some local guys who stay local but who would probably be phenomenal nationwide."

Zeoli used to work in sales at a furniture store. He turned out to be the rare workplace funny guy who was actually funny.

"I used to work at Art Van as a salesperson, I did that for about 10 years," Zeoli said. "People kept telling

me, 'Boy, you're so funny! You keep us laughing!' One day, somebody said they saw a comedian at a comedy club who wasn't half as funny as I was, so I thought, 'Man, I should take this up.' Comedy felt right from the first time I hit the stage. A few years later I was able to leave my job at Art Van and I've been doing this for 23 years, full time probably about 20 years. I tell a lot of new comics that whether you do good or bad, if you have the desire to want to go back up there afterward, then you should be a comic. That is your passion, and you have to take advantage of that passion while you have it. I did it for that reason and I did it out of necessity. I've had to raise my daughter as a single dad since she was 11 years old. I had to find something that would incorporate my presence in her life for large portions of time. If I had to go out of town, she would always stay with my mother. It was never on a school night, I would be home during the week to make sure she went to school and advancing in her studies. Comedy sort of gave me that advantage, and



Zeoli in the 80s during his days as a musician. The band was called "Trinity" after a word they saw printed on the bottom of a brown paper bag.

it gave me tons of material. Not so much now because she's gone off to college, but it certainly was good fodder when we were younger."

Before his comedy career, Zeoli's on-stage experience was as a musician and a singer. That experience, Zeoli said, was how he gained the confidence to take the stage as a comic.

"I started out in a band in high school, so after that, getting up in front of a crowd to do comedy was a

piece of cake," Zeoli said. "At first I was the drummer, but our singer quit on us one night and I was the next best singer so I ended up taking over the singing responsibilities, which are much easier. You don't have to haul and set up a lot of drums, you can just show up and sing. But I had been behind the drums because I couldn't take being in front of a crowd. That switched really quickly when I started singing. When you get that

kind of power, you become a little bit more yourself. That's what I think I am on stage more than anywhere else, myself."

For more information about comedy shows and other events at Larkin's, call 616-897-5977, visit thelarkinsrestaurant.com, drive past the building and read the marquee, find them on social media or stop by for a meal and ask an employee.

Popular city employee stricken by strokes, cancer

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Beloved, long-time city employee and Lowell resident Keith Buhler had a double stroke last week and is in very poor condition at a Grand Rapids hospital. Doctors also found a very advanced cancer in Buhler.

"It was a double whammy," said Lowell sexton Don DeJong, Buhler's supervisor, who has visited Buhler at the hospital. "The cancer is what triggered the strokes. It actually started the night before when he was sitting downstairs, watching TV. He couldn't remember how to work his TV. It must've happened then, but he just thought he was tired and went to bed. Something else happened, and when he got up the next morning, he couldn't stand. He wanted to take a shower, but he couldn't. He was still talking, but he couldn't move his leg and he couldn't stand, so that's when he knew something was wrong. A neighbor came and drove him to the hospital. Right now he's at Mary Free Bed, but they're going to move him to hospice care on Monday."



A former prison guard for several decades until his retirement from that career, Buhler began working part time for the city of Lowell about nine years ago, primarily as a groundskeeper.

"I am so grateful for all the years he's been with us," DeJong said. "Keith was self-reliant, he didn't



[photos by Don DeJong]

need to be supervised all the time. Anything I'd throw at him, he'd say, 'I can take care of that.' He had such a gentle spirit and he had a willingness to get right into whatever we were doing. He was good with woodworking; in fact, he built his own home. He was a problem solver. I could give him the keys and turn him loose and I didn't have to worry about him. He'd work on the mowers, he'd help me replace lights in city hall, many, many things."

"I have always admired Keith's cool and calm demeanor," said assistant city manager Rich

LaBombard. "It's hard to believe he used to work in the prison system, given his laid back personality. But he approaches every task assigned to him with that same calm, collected attitude. Occasionally,

he gets this mischievous twinkle in his eyes when he has something funny to say and he could get a reaction from everyone, followed by a good laugh. His trademark mustache hides his smile a bit, but we all appreciate those humorous moments, because he was really fun to be around. The fact that Keith continued to work for the city but was well into his retirement always impressed me. I know he's in his mid 70s, but he works like he's 30 years younger. I recall telling him that I want to be like him when I get to be his age. He inspires us all with his willingness to keep working and [has] a great work ethic."

"He is a wonderful man and a hard worker," said Nancy Roth, a retired Lowell postal employee who has worked side-by-side with Buhler for the past four years. "I tell him at least once a week that he's my hero. At the age of 75, to out-work people 10, 15 years younger than him, it's impressive. Even last summer, he worked harder than any of us, he could out-shovel any of us. Don [DeJong] relied on him

heavily. Anything they gave him, he tackled."

"All of us at the Department of Public Works are saddened to learn of the sudden change in health of our old friend Keith,"

LaBombard said. "We've been receiving routine updates on his condition and we continue to keep him in our thoughts. We are all struggling to grasp the harsh reality that a complete

recovery isn't likely and he most definitely won't be returning to the department this year. We hope for nothing but the best for him and his family during this difficult time."

Lowell Area Recreation Authority NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) will conduct a public meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lowell City Hall, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331. The purpose of the Public Meeting is to receive input and comments from the public on the proposed application by the LARA to the 2019 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund for a grant for the construction of non-motorized trail improvements.

The proposed improvements include the installation of new paved non-motorized trails, pedestrian bridges, benches, picnic shelters and signage. This project will go through the Lowell community will connect to the existing Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trail network which extends to Belding, Saranac and points beyond. A copy of the proposed trail route is available for viewing at City Hall and on line at <http://www.lowellmi.gov/>.

Following the public comment period, the LARA Board will consider a resolution authorizing submittal of their application, which is due on or before April 1, 2019.

Interested persons may offer comments at the public meeting or submit them in writing prior to the meeting directly to the Lowell Area Recreation Authority at P.O. Box 98, Lowell, Michigan 49331 or by email to betsy@addorio.com

Betsy Davidson, Treasurer

Red Arrow

BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Lady Arrows split two games last week

submitted by WRWW

The Lowell Red Arrows lost to the Rangers of Forest Hills Central last Wednesday, 58 to 37, but were victorious over the Bengals of Ottawa Hills on Friday, 49 to 39. The Lowell/FHC game saw the Rangers jump out to an early lead and never trailed during the contest. Claire Baguley's 24 points and Theryn Hallock's 22 points aided FHC in their 'W'. The Red Arrows were led in scoring by Regan Coxon with 14, followed by Emily Depew with 12.

Playing again two days later, the Red Arrows triumphed over the Bengals of Ottawa Hills. Lowell trailed after the first quarter,

11 to eight, but outscored Ottawa Hills 18 to nine in the second quarter to take a halftime lead, 26 to 20. The Red Arrow's put up another 18 points in the third quarter to the Bengals' eight, to lead 44 to 28 going into the last stanza. That lead was too much for Ottawa Hills to overcome and the Arrows walked off the court with a hard-earned 49 to 39 victory. Leading the offense in scoring, for the Bengals, was Eurasia Green-Boyd with 15 points. Leading the Lowell offense were Coxon and Depew with 18 and 13 points, respectively. The Lady Arrows played Hastings and Cedar Springs this week, and move on to

district playoff action next Monday, March 4, when they play St. Johns, at St Johns, in a game scheduled for 7 pm.

Pictured right: Audrey Conrad takes the ball down the court. Photo courtesy of Justin Scott.



2019 BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE

Lowell Charter Township

2910 Alden Nash Ave SE
Lowell, MI 49331

2019 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Lowell Township Board of Review for 2019 will be held at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 9 a.m. = **Organizational Meeting**

Monday, March 11, 2019

9:00 a.m. to 12 noon & 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

&

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2019 assessments. **By board resolution, residents are allowed to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 12, 2019.**

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

Agricultural.....	50.62.....	.9878
Commercial.....	49.84.....	1.0032
Residential.....	46.68.....	1.0711
Industrial.....	49.75.....	1.0050
Personal.....	50.00.....	1.0000

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 days notice.

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

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

Great effort, loss in overtime

submitted by WRWW

The Lowell Red Arrows lost a heartbreaker last Monday to the Panthers of DeWitt, bowing out of the district playoffs and watching their season come to an end, losing 29 to 28 in overtime in a low-scoring, defensive contest. Neither team had 'good looks' at the basket in the first quarter, due to outstanding defensive pressure.

Lowell was paced in scoring by Jordan Dent with nine, and Brett Spanbauer and Gavin Coxon both scoring seven. Although Lowell's Robby Schneider excelled on the court as a ball-handler and defensive player. Head coach, Travis Slinger, was asked for comments following the end of the season. He stated, "I've never coached a team

in the second quarter, with DeWitt holding an 18 to 12 lead going into the locker room at halftime. The Red Arrows pulled within four, 22 to 18 at the end of the third period and rallied in the fourth quarter, to tie the game, 26 to 26 at the end of regulation to send it into overtime. The Panthers, ranked 19th in the state of Michigan in Division



Senior Robby Schneider looking to pass to senior Jordan Dent.

DeWitt's Nate Flannery scored five points in the first period for the Panthers, and they would lead going into the second quarter, five to three. Flannery would finish the game with 12 points to lead all scorers.

Both teams found a few more scoring opportunities

1, escaped the Red Arrow gymnasium with the 29 to 28 victory by outscoring Lowell three to two in the four-minute overtime period.

DeWitt's Isaac Hungerford scored seven for the Panthers, second to his teammate - Flannery.

that was as cohesive and fun to coach as this team. They all always gave 100 percent."

Red Arrow

-SWIM

SPORTS

Wildcats snag share of swim title from CLS

Eight Vikings earn all-conference

by Brett Bremer
contributing reporter

Winners by six points on Saturday at the Community Education and Recreation Center pool in Hastings, the Wayland Union varsity boys' swimming and diving team took the first turn to celebrate with the OK Rainbow Conference Tier II trophy.

The conference co-champions, who were undefeated in league duals and second on Saturday, from Caledonia/Lowell/South Christian took the next turn – posing around the diving boards while their fans snapped photos with cellphones and cameras from the balcony above.

They were all in the pool before long, but it was Delton Kellogg/Thornapple Kellogg/Hastings head coach Tyler Bultema who

treating water between the celebrating Wildcats and Vikings for a bit, before climbing out of the far side of the pool – his own cell

Seth Beat told Bultema as he went to prepare for the awards ceremony with his guys following the conclusion of the 400-yard

seven for the final race of the day, with Ottawa Hills and CLS the top two seeds in finals Saturday, in the middle of the pool.

“The boys did incredible,” CLS head coach Trenten Babcock said. “I knew it was going to be a tight meet going in. Wayland was really good. They did awesome at this meet. I was really pleased to be co-champions with them. I told my boys that they outclassed all of my expectations and I couldn't have asked for a better bunch. They did really well.”

The CLS boys handled the Wildcats in their dual earlier this month, thanks in part to their depth. On Saturday, CLS had eight guys earn All-Conference honors. Wayland had four and Ottawa Hills had five.

The Wildcats had the high-end speed they needed to accumulate first-place points.

Sopjes, a senior, took the 200-yard freestyle in 1:46.13 - meeting the D1 state qualifying time. He also met the D1 state qualifying mark in winning the 100-yard butterfly in 52.04.

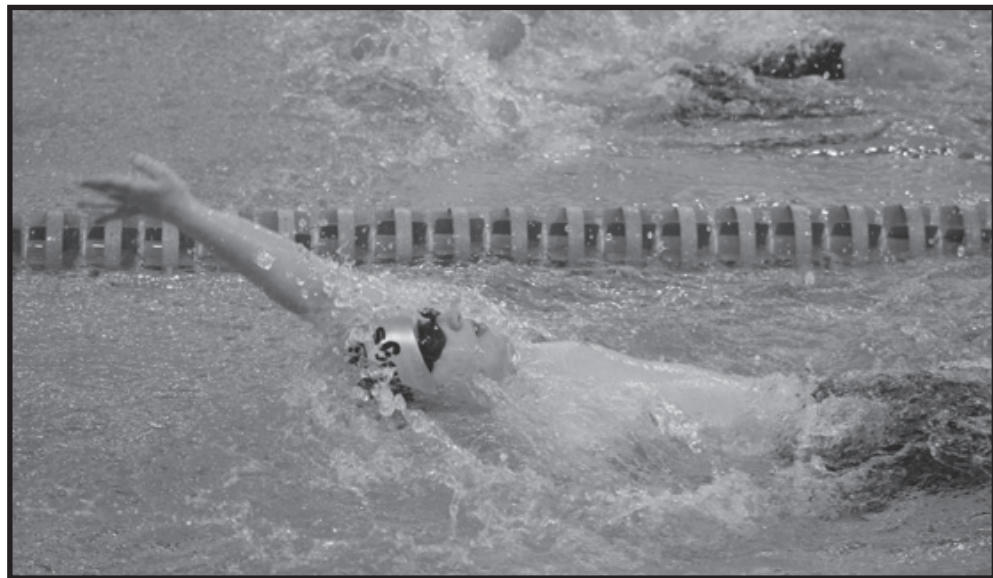
A false start in the 'B' final of that 100-yard butterfly may have been the difference between a Wayland and CLS win Saturday.

Bessinger, another Wayland senior, met the D2 state qualifying time

Swim, continued, page 14



Junior Alexander Pollock races to a fourth-place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke Saturday during the OK Rainbow Conference Tier II Championship. Pollock also won the 50-yard freestyle Saturday and was a part of runner-up finishes in the two relays he competed in.



Freshman Carson Herzog swims to a 12th-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke during the OK Rainbow Conference Tier II Championship in Hastings Saturday.

hit the water first, pushed in to honor his 15th and final season leading the program which has been the regular conference meet host since its inception.

Bultema hung there,

phone and shoes safely stored in the scorekeeping office of Kurt Schaaf in anticipation of such a moment.

“You're coming in with me,” Wayland head coach

freestyle relay in which his guys clinched a share of the conference championship.

Wayland didn't put its best effort forth in the preliminary heats of the 400 free relay Friday in Hastings, putting the Wildcats in lane

The Wayland team of Jordan Sopjes, Caleb Wolf, Cooper Sidebotham and Rory Bessinger couldn't quite keep pace with the Bengal foursome that won the race in 3 minutes 24.27 seconds, but did manage to fend off the CLS team of Zach Burghgraef, Emmet Schmechling, Zach Logan and Ty Dykhouse that placed third in 3:27.84. The CLS boys needed to win, or finish two spots better than Wayland in that final race to clinch an undisputed conference championship. The Wildcats' stopped the clock with Bessinger touching the wall in 3:25.40.

The Wildcats closed out the day with 450 points, ahead of CLS 444, Ottawa Hills 431, Delton Kellogg/Thornapple Kellogg/Hastings 220, Muskegon Mona Shores Co-op 211 and Grand Rapids Union 184.

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

**Regular Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
February 4, 2019**

Motions Approved

1. The purchase of 7.5 Horse Liberty Pump at G/V #7 Pump #1.
2. Resolution 2019-004 to amend the Sewer User Fee for 2019/2020.
3. Resolution 2019-010 to update certain fees and charges with an effective date of April 1, 2019.
4. Salary Resolution 2019-005 for Trustees.
5. Salary Resolution 2019-006 for Supervisor.
6. Salary Resolution 2019-007 for Treasurer.
7. Salary Resolution 2019-008 for Clerk.
8. The amended contract with Infrastructure Alternatives until January of 2022.

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

**Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
February 11, 2019**

Motions Approved

1. Ordinance 2019-001 to grant Consumers Energy local electric business and/or natural gas business in the township of Grattan, Kent county, Michigan, for a period of ten (10) years.
2. Resolution 2019-009 regarding Michigan DNR Canada Goose Roundup for Big Pine Island Lake.
3. 2019-011 Closing of Old Belding Road for Memorial Day Bridge Walk.
4. To award C&R Lawn Services the Lawn mowing contract for 2019/2020.
5. To close public hearing and retire to Closed Session.
6. To re-open the public hearing.

Yep we cover Home



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obituaries

BIEBER

James Ivan Bieber, age 83 of Lowell, was received into heaven Sunday, February 24, 2019. He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years Marianne. James is survived by his children, Dennis Bieber, Perry (Marcia) Bieber; grandchildren Stefany (Brandon) Westbrook, Corrine (Sebastian) Peak; great-grandchildren Kurah Westbrook, Julian Peak; sisters Sue (Edward) Hawthorne, Barb Semon and family; brother Terry Eldridge; stepbrother Dan Eldridge; nieces Brandi Sandoval, Bryn Bashear; and nephew Thilo Wagonhoffer. James proudly served in the US Army for 20 years. He will be greatly missed by many, and remembered always for his generosity and compassion for others. Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:00 a.m. Friday, March 1, with a visitation one hour prior, at St. Mary Church, 402 Amity St SE, Lowell. Interment St. Mary's Cemetery.



The past has no power over the present moment.

- Eckhart Tolle

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Capital press report, continued

of emergency days are completely new," said Don Wotruba, executive director of the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB).

The number of days schools have called off this year has been "unprecedented," said Wendy Zdeb, executive director of the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP).

Zdeb said there's been "some confusion" with how to handle lost days when a state emergency is declared, and whether those days are forgiven or not. Interim State

Superintendent Sheila Alles told districts Whitmer's order didn't require the closure of schools.

Legislation expected to be introduced by Rep. Ben Frederick (R-Owosso) is aimed at cutting schools a break for the days the state declared an emergency. That could give school districts some relief, especially for those beyond the nine allowable days.

According to a report from NBC 25 News, the Frankenmuth school district has experienced 13 snow days and Ovid-Elsie has canceled 14 days. Both districts are now shortening their spring breaks and making Good Friday a half day rather than a full day off.

There are challenges with having to make up time, Zdeb said. Going further into June is not always optimal, as she said some buildings don't have air conditioning. And while some districts may try to cut into existing mid-winter or spring breaks – such as Frankenmuth and Ovid-Elsie – if families have trips planned during those times, that becomes an issue, she said.

Closure decisions fall to the discretion of district superintendents, who have to keep the safety of students and their families as the top priority, said Chris Wigent, executive director of the Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators (MASA).

"It's a very difficult decision. It opens them up and makes them vulnerable to people who disagree, but I think we all agree on student safety being No. 1," Wigent said.

It's difficult because superintendents know the burden that cancellations put on families, Zdeb said. She also noted many students rely on schools for their meals so there's a food security issue there, as well.

Asked if they've heard negative blowback for any closure decisions made this year, school group officials said that hasn't been the case.

"I heard no negative comments in that space," Wotruba said.

School group officials said districts across Michigan are vastly different, sometimes even

when they're next door to each other. Wotruba gave the example of Lansing schools -- which would have mostly paved roads -- and Grand Ledge schools, which are more rural and likely less plowed.

With that in mind, there really aren't best practices or standards for making closure calls. Wigent said superintendents will do everything from looking at the roads to conference-calling with a meteorologist.

While preaching flexibility for schools, school group officials stressed there must still be enough instruction time provided.

"There is a line, a fine line, of how many days should be forgiven, and how many days students need to be in the classroom for instruction," Wigent said. "... We have a very, very heavy lift when it comes to curriculum in this state, and a district losing 10 percent or more of their instructional time does create some problems for the teachers and for the students and their future."

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN The Probate Court for the County of Kent

In the matter of **ADRIAN BROADHEAD** Guardianship File No. 19-204,746-GA Conservatorship File No. 19-204745-CA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including his siblings, and any other unknown relatives and heirs, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on March 13, 2019, at 1:30 P.M. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian, Appointment of a Conservator.

Dated: February 22, 2019

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 558-7608

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC
Attys. for Petitioner
by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001)
3425 Kelly St.
Hudsonville, MI 49426
Phone (616) 633-0196

Staff Member of the Month

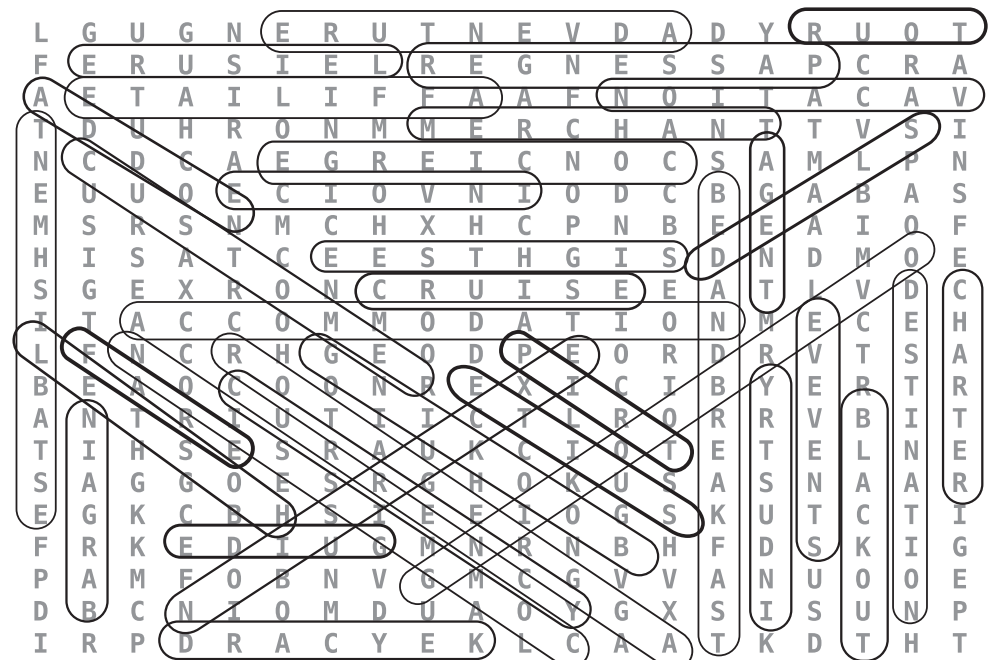
Meagan Baker is the Staff Member of the Month at Murray Lake Elementary.

Amy Pike commented, "Meagan works so diligently with the students she sees for speech. She really spends the time getting to know them and helping them be successful in the classroom. I think she goes above and beyond for her students."

"I love being able to work with the staff and students at Murray Lake. The collaboration and teamwork in the Murray Lake community is wonderful. I am so thankful for the support and encouragement offered by the teachers and staff. I love watching my students progress towards their goals and enjoy being able to establish meaningful relationships with each of them. Murray Lake is a great place to be," commented Baker.



Meagan Baker



Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Swim, continued

in winning the 200-yard individual medley in 2:02.48.

The Wayland foursome of Garrett Kloska, Bessinger, Wolf and Sopjes took the 200-yard freestyle relay as well, hitting the D1 state qualifying mark in 1:30.16. The CLS team of Pollock, Ethan Arendsen, David Bud and Burghgraef was second in that race in 1:32.10.

CLS's lone win came from junior Alexander Pollock who won the 50-yard freestyle in 22.80 seconds.

CLS's Schmebling, Arendsen, Dykhouse, Bud, Logan, Alexander Le and Burghgraef all earned enough points throughout the day to win All-Conference medals. Bud was the CLS team's lone senior this winter.

"Our team is lower-classmen heavy, which is good," Babcock said. "I was very pleased about it. For a team with such youth to go in and come within six points of a team that if you look at it, was close to

half seniors and they did the majority of their scoring, I don't think is anything pleased with that. We had a lot of all-conference picks. Everybody contributed from the bottom on up."

Ottawa Hills senior Dawson Eriksen won the 500-yard freestyle in 5:04.69, a race that saw CLS's Emmet Schmebling second in 5:17.65 and DK/TK/Hastings' Andrew Tuokkola third in 5:30.32. Another Bengal senior, Andrew Deboer, won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:00.83.

Schmebling added a third-place time of 1:54.68 in the 200-yard freestyle, behind Sopjes and Eriksen. His CLS teammate Burghgraef was fourth in 1:54.89. CLS sophomore Arendsen was third in the 200 IM (2:08.50) and the 100 butterfly (55.64). Dykhouse, a freshman, was third in the 100 backstroke (57.15) and in the 100 freestyle (52.61). Bud was right behind him with a fourth place time of 52.78 in the 100 freestyle

and also placed fourth in the 50 freestyle (24.06).

It was Eriksen, Adam Kuzee, Judah Vandyke and Jonathan Hoffman winning the 400-yard relay for the Bengals at the end of the day.

Hoffman, Deboer, Kuzee and Eriksen started the meet by breaking a year-old CLS conference record in the 200-yard medley relay, winning in 1:39.43 (meeting the D1 state cut in the race). That was the lone relay where the CLS boys finished ahead of the Wildcats, with the team of Dykhouse, Pollock, Arendsen and Logan second in 1:04.91 – a D1 state qualifying time.

DK/TK/Hastings senior Alex Fabiano set a conference record and met the D1 state qualifying time in winning the 100-yard freestyle in 48.43 seconds. He later qualified for the D1 state meet in the 100-yard backstroke with his winning time of 53.41 that set a new DK/TK/Hastings record.

Mona Shores' Tommy Cotner won his third



The Caledonia/Lowell/South Christian varsity boys' swimming and diving team celebrates back-to-back OK Rainbow Conference Tier II championships after securing a share of the 2018-19 title by finishing second to Wayland Saturday.

consecutive conference championship in the diving competition, putting up a score of 431.75 points. Ottawa Hills senior Caleb Hekman was the runner-up with 423.10 points.

CLS and DK/TK/Hastings had two divers each among the top ten, who are all regional qualifiers. The

Vikings' Logan Morse was third and Luke Schumaker seventh. DK/TK/Hastings had Blake Sheldon fifth and Gram Price sixth.

Others who scored for the CLS Viking team at the conference meet were James Eardley, David Dykema, Jacob Cremer, Mason Stanley, Aaron Tenelshof,

David Carey, Carson Herzog, Jordan Carlson and Ethan Luurtsema.

A handful of CLS swimmers are planning to head to the Feb. 26 Second Shave meet in Holland in hopes of meeting Division I state qualifying times.

LHS announces February Students of the Month

Lowell High School has announced that Danielle Barnes, 12th grade, and Annabelle Johnson, 12th grade, are the Lowell High School February 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 Barnes and Johnson. The students

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

Barnes was nominated by Chaye Klomparsen



Danielle Barnes

and she writes, "Danielle is a student in my Student Leadership class this trimester. This is the first time I have had Danielle as a student and she has truly impressed me! Danielle is a leader and a role model in our class not because she is a senior but because of her maturity and character. Danielle is kind and respectful as well as open-minded and knowledgeable. I love talking about books we have read! In class I encourage the students to

take risks, be open and try new things. Danielle recently took my advice and applied for Mistress of Swirl activities. With the position came the responsibility of addressing the student body and staff at the Swirl assembly. Due to weather interruptions, the role changed to addressing



Annabelle Johnson

the community as well as the basketball game. Danielle handled the change with ease and did an amazing job with little time to prepare. She is a rock star!"

Heather DeJonge nominated Johnson and she writes, "Annabelle Johnson is a quiet, consistent student that completes all her work with great effort and detail in AP Biology. She pays careful attention to detail and seeks to understand curriculum in a meaningful way. Annabelle is polite and a pleasure to have in class, she represents LHS with both pride and respect and is an excellent candidate for Student of the Month. I am surprised she was not on the list as a former recipient."

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Lowell Charter Township is soliciting sealed bids for 3.79 acres of vacant property located at 1562 Cumberland Ave SE parcel number 41-20-05-281-001 and is zoned R-2. The minimum bid for this property is \$37,000.

Sealed Bids will be received by Lowell Charter Township: 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE Lowell, MI 49331 until 10:00 AM Tuesday, March 18, 2019 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

More information is available on the Township Website (www.twp.lowell.mi.us) or by contacting Jerry Hale at 616-897-7600.

Lowell Charter Township reserves the right to accept any bid or reject any or all bids.



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FAR AND AWAY WORD SEARCH

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Puzzle solutions on page 12

WORDS

ACCOMMODATION
ADD-ON
ADVENTURE
AFFILIATE
AGENT
AGGREGATOR
BARGAIN

BED AND BREAKFAST

BLACKOUT
BOOKING
CHARTER
COMMISSION
CONCIERGE
CRUISE
CURRENCY
CUSTOMER
DEALS

DESTINATION

ESTABLISHMENT
EVENTS
EXCURSION
FARE
GUIDE
HOSTEL
INDUSTRY
INVOICE
KEYCARD

LEISURE

MERCHANT
OVERBOOKING
PASSENGER
SIGHTSEE
SUITE
TOUR
TRIP
VACATION

Guess Who?

I am a race car driver born in California on September 17, 1975. I used to be an avid swimmer and played water polo, and I also was a diver. But racing is my true passion. I once won five consecutive Sprint Cup Championships.

Answer: Jimmie Johnson

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		

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to hockey.

R P E L A Y

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Player

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: MARCH MADNESS

ACROSS

- Trunk extension
- Dojo pad
- *Villanova ____ at end of each half in '18 championship
- Away from port
- Windmill blade
- Key material
- Hefty competitor
- European sea eagle
- Walnut ____, MN
- * ____ Sunday
- Smelling tainted, as in meat
- Soft and sticky
- Giant bird of "One Thousand and One Nights"
- * ____-elimination
- Making sounds like Babe
- Beatle wife
- Not absorb, nor repel
- Twelfth month of Jewish year
- Batman to Bruce Wayne
- Elizabeth Gilbert's " ____ Pray Love"
- Cubic meter

- Ghost of Christmas ____
- P in POI
- Make work
- Puffed up
- ____ and effects
- Mont Blanc, e.g.
- Oddball's attempt?
- Tropical tuber
- *Penultimate NCAA round
- Like cornflakes leftovers
- Slavic version of John
- Tangerine plus grapefruit
- Chased up an elm
- Blow off steam
- Tear violently
- Da in Russia
- Before of yore
- Pasturelands

DOWN

- Falls behind
- Archipelago unit
- Square one?
- Good-for-nothing
- Nobel Prize winner Curie
- Bug
- High school student
- Rumpelstiltskin's weaver
- Green-eyed monster
- Tie ____
- Ruled against, as

- President can
- Prod
- *Fill-in-the-blanks
- Pepsi and Coke
- Part of human cage
- Daytime entertainment, pl.
- Spouse's parent
- Neil Diamond's "Beautiful ____"
- Tiny leftovers
- Intestinal obstruction
- N in RN
- Mirths
- *1 or 68, e.g.
- Crew tool
- *Automatic vs. ____
- Creepy one
- *Coach's locker room talk
- Similar to sextant
- Andrew ____ Webber
- *Hang a banner, e.g.
- Abraham Lincoln bill, slangily
- Lacking sense
- Ruptured
- Ice, dark, and middle
- *Twelve's opponent
- Type of molding
- Forearm bone
- Purges
- Slovenly abode

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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

Jay-Tee Products

Lowell couple enjoys their time spent working together

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

Husband and wife team John and Theresa Umlauf started Jay-Tee Products in 2000. They make a variety of metal and woodwork crafts. They began the company after John Umlauf sold the larger machine shop, Superior Machine, that he co-owned.

"[Superior Machine] did a lot of general machining and we did a lot of assemblies for the welding industry," explained John Umlauf. "We did production stamping [and] we did production assembly."

This was where John learned many of the skills he now uses for Jay-Tee Products. He also uses many of the machines from Superior Machine

that parents of student athletes could put in their lawn. They have worked with a variety of schools including Lowell, Forest Hills Eastern, Forest Hills Central, East Grand Rapids, Caledonia and others.

The only craft event they participate in currently is Christmas Through Lowell, which they have been doing for about 10 years. Although they live a few miles outside of downtown on a dirt road, they have had over 700 people visit over the two days they participate in the event. Their venue is popular now, but it had humble beginnings.

"Our first year, they came and approached us to do it in July, so we didn't have that much

successful," Umlauf said. "Downtown is always a madhouse for them. All the restaurants are busy and all the stores are full. It's a great program for Lowell."

Other than Christmas Through Lowell, they rely on word of mouth to spread the word about their products. Some of the people who contact them are interested in items they have already made, while others want something more custom.

"We do a lot of custom work for people," Umlauf explained, "People come up with an idea, and I always tell them, 'Hey, if you've got a piece of something cut out of a newspaper or a magazine or a little sketch you want to make, we can sit down and talk about it' The people that we've dealt with have been fantastic, they're very knowledgeable about what they want, and we have a good way of communicating back and forth. They can see some of the stuff we've built in the past and say, 'Oh, okay, now I understand what that looks like.'"

Besides wire bending, John hand-cuts products



using a plasma cutter when they want their products to have a more rustic look.

"Plasma is real course," Umlauf said. "We do a lot of outdoors stuff for people who want that rustic look [where] It has rough edges."

He also uses some of the connections he developed in the machine industry for help with products. For more detailed cuts, he sends designs over to a friend with a laser cutter. He also has a friend that he works with who does powder coating on items.

Although John and Theresa Umlauf started Jay-Tee Products after John retired from his job, both currently work full time. Theresa Umlauf works in a lab at Spectrum Health and John Umlauf now works as an estimator for a machine shop.

"I am an estimator for a company," Umlauf said. "A job will come in and then I'll put all the pricing together to see if we can make money at making a production part for it. But I also run the shop too, so I am out on the floor with the guys."

John Umlauf is planning on retiring soon from his current job, and he hopes to expand his work with Jay-Tee Products.

"In the future, we will take a more aggressive look at what it is [we'll do]," Umlauf explained.

Even though the Umlaufs hope to expand Jay-Tee Products, they see it ultimately as something that is fun for them to do together.

"I'm not trying to sell a million dollars of products a year," Umlauf said. "It's something her and I can do together that we enjoy. I have built furniture and stuff for people, but the problem with that kind of thing is that you are under the gun 'cause they want it done [quickly]. I am not going to approach it that way. This is just fun. It is just enjoyable to use your mind and develop things."

"It's actually just to have fun," Theresa Umlauf added. "It's something else to do, something to do together as a couple."

For more information on their products, the Umlaufs can be contacted by email at jayu27@hughes.net or by phone at 616-460-1659.



that he keeps in a shop he now owns in Ionia.

The first products they made to sell were simple and practical metal objects for around the house such as plate holders. They sold these at the Riverwalk Festival in downtown Lowell, which was their first craft show. They also sold items regularly at the Fulton Street Artisans Market in Grand Rapids for a few years.

They began making more items as they grew, such as metal signs, wine holders and garden decorations. Around 10 years ago, they started teaming up with local schools to make team logos and helmets

time to prepare for the first Christmas through Lowell in November," Umlauf explained. "It was pretty sparse. We worked really hard to get some stuff, but after that and then every year from then, we have a whole year to prepare for it. It takes quite a bit. We always offer something new every year to see how it goes, and it seems to be a pretty big hit 'cause people will ask and call and say, 'Hey what do you got this year?'"

They love participating in the event and they love the event as a whole.

"The stores downtown are always

