

Lowell Senior Neighbors



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50¢



Lowell's 40-year-old showboat demolished

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

After months of discussion and preparation, Lowell's iconic showboat was finally torn down on Thursday, Feb. 28.

The demolition, completed by a crew of workers from Earthworm Dozing and Excavating, a Lowell-based company, began just after 9 am and left only what is frozen to the Flat River until spring.

"I think it's going good, I don't think we'll have a problem," said Earthworm Dozing and Excavating owner Dave Gonyon during a break halfway through the destruction. "We got the scary part, the top level, done already. We didn't want to damage the paddle wheel or the fence. We're trying to keep the fence intact! We're just taking the boat down to the deck today. Once the river and everything melts, we'll pump the water out, float it over to the boat launch, drag it on shore, cut it up and haul it away. It's got pontoons and steel framing, so nothing is going to go quickly that day, but that's okay, we'll be fine."

The demolition was attended by a small crowd of Lowellians and city leaders, plus camera crews from several local television stations.

"It's a bittersweet day, for sure," said Lowell city manager Michael Burns. "We're working on it [a new showboat]. Maybe we'll have something by December, or next spring. We're working on that right now."

"I think it's just bittersweet," said Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. "While it's so sad to see this boat go, we have a new boat coming. We're rebirthing. We're repurposing. In the long run, while it's sad to watch this happen today, we know there's another one coming to replace it."

"It's sad in a way, it's an era gone by, but I'm happy because we're going to have something new in its place for the community," said Carolyn Jane Blough, widow of the showboat's 1979 builder, Ivan Blough. "The showboat is one of the things

that brought our community together, and I think it helps keep us together.

Many of the nicer-looking chunks of the showboat were salvaged and will be sold or auctioned at a later date to raise some the funds necessary to build a new showboat. The rest was chomped up by a machine, plopped into a dump truck and hauled to a landfill, load after load.

"[This part] is just like a giant claw game," Gonyon said. "I'm going to keep the claw out in front of me, munch it up as small as I can, put it in the truck and get it out of here. The smaller the pieces, the more we can haul away at one time. We've had four truck loads go already, and there are at least four more to go, maybe more. Then we've got clean-up, we want everything to look nice when we're done."

The Lowell Showboat has been closed to the public

Turn to page 10 to see photos from every stage of the demolition!



Carolyn Jane Blough and her daughter Melinda D'Agostino attended the demolition on Thursday, Feb. 28. Ivan Blough, Carolyn's late husband and Melinda's late father, was the original builder of the Lowell Showboat in 1979.

Lowell Area Schools seeks \$52 million bond

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell Area Schools superintendent Greg Pratt announced last week that the district will ask voters for a \$52,095,000 bond on May 7, 2019. The bond will pay for sorely-needed improvements to schools throughout the district.

"The board and district administration are committed to maintaining our facilities in good condition for thousands of students and community members that use our schools on a daily basis," Pratt said in a letter mailed to voters in the Lowell school district. "No millage increase is expected; therefore, the current millage rate will remain the same without the bond funds, the district would have to shift general fund dollars from precious programs and extra-curricular opportunities to address necessary infrastructure repairs."

The letter said that money would go to Alto Elementary for "additional classrooms, secure vestibule off the playground, replace mechanical units, provide corridor ventilation and air conditioning, enclose three classrooms near the media center, computer and technology replacements;" to Bushnell Elementary to "replace mechanical units, replace public address system, replace boilers, ventilation, air conditioning, computer and technology replacements;" to Cherry Creek Elementary to "replace exterior doors, upgrade office cooling system, replace public address system, roof replacement, computer and technology replacements;" to Murray Lake Elementary to "replace low voltage lighting systems, replace public address system, new parent drop-off, computer and

technology replacements, for additions and renovations at the middle school including "additional two story wing to building, renovation to existing building, replace existing metal panel fascia, exterior doors and windows, new air conditioning system, replace air handling units, replace asphalt on tennis courts, computer and technology replacements;" to the high school for athletic improvements including "multi-purpose soccer/lacrosse field (new press box and restrooms), new dugouts and press box at ball fields, replace tennis courts, improve drainage at practice/track field, new batting cages, fencing at softball/baseball field" and at the Runciman Building to "remove stage in gym, install new flooring, computer and technology replacements."

Infrastructure needs at all schools would cost \$5.86 million, Alto classrooms would cost \$3.8 million, athletic improvements would cost \$5.15 million, middle school additions and renovations would cost \$34.185 million, and technology and furnishings would cost \$3.1 million, for a total budget of \$52,095,000.

City council meeting report

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, March 4. The meeting lasted 26 minutes and was attended by 15 citizens.



Dennis Kent from the LCTV fund board told the council who got grants this year.

As the meeting began, Lowell mayor Michael DeVore read a brief statement about the Unity School condo development. His statement and that subject are covered starting on page 9 of this newspaper.

The council voted to accept the recommendations of the LCTV board about

what grants to give out this year. The city of Lowell will receive \$4,000 for LCTV fund administration expenses and \$50,000 for public restrooms as part of the showboat restoration project, the Englehardt Library will receive \$4,500 for their reading garden, Flat River Outreach Ministries will receive \$13,760.93 to update their security system, Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes will receive \$2,000 for their "Relevant Business Education for Lowell Youth" program, LowellArts will receive \$6,000 for facility rental and performances, the Lowell Area Historical Museum will receive \$3,000 for an exhibit gallery renovation and new exhibit, Lowell Charter Township will receive \$20,000 for their Grand River Riverfront Park North project and the Lowell YMCA will receive \$1,110 for "Energize Lowell." The

Council, continued, page 2

Council, cont.



Lowell police chief Steve Bukala asked for \$1,500 plus \$600 annually to join the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

total LCTV endowment this year was \$104,370.93.

The council set a public hearing at their next meeting on March 18 to discuss a Michigan Department of Natural Resources trail improvement trust fund grant. According to a city memorandum, “the proposed improvements include the installation of new, paved, non-motorized trails, pedestrian bridges, picnic shelters and signage. This project will go through the Lowell community and 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 online at lowellmi.gov.”

The council voted to spend \$1,500 up front and then \$600 annually on an accreditation program for Lowell police officers.

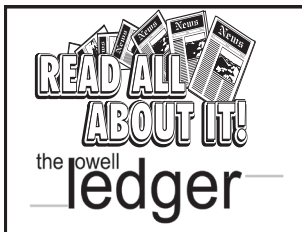
“Accreditation is a time-proven way of helping law enforcement agencies calculate and improve their overall performance,” said Lowell police chief Steve Bukala. “The foundation of accreditation lies in the adoption of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives while ensuring transparency and accountability. Participating agencies conduct a thorough self-analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these

objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of trained assessors verifies that the applicable standards have been successfully implemented. Accreditation status represents a significant professional achievement. Accreditation acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective while reflecting community values and guarding the quality of life.”

The council tabled a discussion of social media archiving until it can be determined whether or not the city would still be able to access past posts if they ever decided to terminate their contract with the potential vendor, ArchiveSocial.

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

The council’s next regular meeting will be at 7 pm on Monday, March 18. 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, April. 6.



Litehouse Foods continues to upgrade Chatham St. facility

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Last October, Litehouse Foods announced that they would begin using the former biodigester on Chatham St. to pretreat their used water before sending it to Lowell’s wastewater system. The project didn’t work out exactly as planned, so Litehouse has postponed their plans until further improvements can be made at the facility.

“After reaching an agreement with the city of Lowell to pretreat our process water at the Chatham facility, Litehouse embarked on another round of due diligence to ensure the solutions we chose to implement were based on best practices in the area,” said Chris Blanford, director of consumer marketing and communications for Litehouse Foods, in an email to the Ledger. “After visiting a number of other local private treatment facilities, Litehouse identified a number of incremental opportunities we could leverage to improve the pretreating of our process water including indoor truck filling and containment as well as a covering on the treatment tank. Based on the identification of these incremental enhancements, we have postponed the pretreatment of process water at the Chatham location until these additional solutions can be implemented.”

Litehouse was forced to press pause because their output was pushing what Lowell’s system could handle.

“[For] approximately the first six months of their pretreatment operation, the effluent they will send to the plant will contain a biochemical oxygen demand, otherwise known as BOD, of up to 4,500 mg per liter per day,” said Lowell city manager Michael Burns

at the Nov. 5, 2018 city council meeting. “Our current sewer use ordinance restricts an IPP user to load 2,500 mg per liter of BOD per day. In addition, the permittee has a requirement of no more than 800 pounds per day of BOD they can submit to the plant. Going above these amounts places them into the fine category of our current ordinance and will violate our national pollutant discharge elimination system permit, or NDPEs permit. This could force a revocation of Litehouse’s IPP permit. If you recall, this is the action that stopped the biodigester from operating. In this scenario, Litehouse would be able to meet the 800 pound requirement per day, but not the 2,500 mg per liter per day requirement. Our system can handle this in the short term, if closely monitored, while Litehouse continues their upgrades. However, the city would be in violation of the ordinance and the NDPEs permit because of our standards if we allowed it.”

“The volume and the load coming into the plant is going to be pushing it up towards the maximum of what the plant can handle,” Lowell city councilor Marty Chambers said at the Nov. 5, 2018 meeting. “If the townships allow more development to come in and a processor somewhat similar goes into Lowell Twp or Vergennes Twp, that forces a plant expansion because the system just won’t be able to handle the extra volume.”



Litehouse said that, unlike the stinky biodigester that used to be there, their activities will not create a stench or noise.

“Litehouse is committed to rolling out a solution that provides a comfortable living environment for those near the Chatham facility and we are committed to taking the time necessary to ensure it is done correctly,” Blanford said. “In the interim, the process water from our business operations is currently being managed via a pipeline to the Chatham facility where water storage and truck filling is currently taking place. All of the gases from process water storage and truck filling are passed through a carbon filter system which has eliminated all noticeable odors associated with storage and hauling.

With a permanent pumping system now in place, the truck filling process is nearly silent. Once we are fully pretreating our process water at the Chatham location, all truck filling will occur inside the facility. In addition, the biodigester previously used at the facility has been completely decommissioned and out-of-use since June of 2018. As we continue to work through the process of pretreating our own process water at the Chatham facility we maintain a strong partnership with the city of Lowell to ensure adherence to all appropriate city permits and processes. Litehouse is actively working with the Lowell/Suez waste treatment facility on sampling requirements and we are excited to continue moving this project forward.”

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Senior Neighbors provides food, fun, special events

by Mark Weaver
contributing reporter

“The best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.” Andy Rooney.

Please read that again.

The Ledger spent a recent morning at Lowell Senior Neighbors with the intention of interviewing one of the special volunteers who offers their time to feed, entertain,

promoting independent living for people who are 60 years and older by providing essential services that help seniors remain independent into their later years,” it says. “We focus heavily on health and wellness programming as we work to aggressively pursue our mission of enhancing the lives of seniors.”

local needs.

Many Lowell retirees experience loneliness and crave the opportunity to socialize and build friendships. Lowell Senior Neighbors offers its members daily activities and special events such as summer concerts, monthly birthday bashes, playing cards, bingo, knitting, reading clubs, bible study and delicious lunches. Transportation is also offered to and from the center and also to doctor appointments or other needed destinations.

Lowell Senior Neighbors has served the greater Lowell community since 1977, first on Main St., later moving to their current location at 6314 S. Hudson across from the fire Station. It is open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 am until 2 pm and serves 15 to 25 people each day. More could be served, but the current facility limits growth. According to coordinator Terra Bieneman, the dream is a “multigenerational community center” where more programming and engagement with the greater community could happen.

Lowell Senior Neighbors has three paid part-time staff: coordinator Terra Bieneman, nutrition aide Carol Schwierking and bus driver Don Schneider. These three are supported by a few regularly visiting volunteers and over thirty others that help when they can.

One special volunteer is Teresa Potts. An Ohio native, Teresa and her husband have lived in Lowell 36 years. Teresa worked for the city of East Grand Rapids for 18 years. After leaving her position there, she began to volunteer at Senior Neighbors and continued to do so during her part-time summer job with the city of Wyoming. She has now volunteered at Lowell Senior Neighbors for three years. She doesn’t really remember how she came upon Lowell



Teresa Potts hosting a bingo game.



Lowell Senior Neighbors volunteers Louise Hillman and Barb Briggs with center coordinator Terra Bieneman.

engage with and learn from some of the elderly of Lowell and surrounding area. That task was accomplished, but much, much more was experienced.

First, a little about the structure of Senior Neighbors, its mission, who the passionate staff are and what they do.

Senior Neighbors’ tagline is “No Longer Alone.” These three words viscerally describe what Senior Neighbors is all about. Its mission statement puts some meat on the bones of that tagline.

“We are dedicated to

There are five Senior Neighbors centers in Kent County. Facilities in Lowell, Grand Rapids, Grandville, Sparta and Walker collectively serve over 4,000 older adults. The Senior Neighbors central office in Grand Rapids offers each of its five Kent County centers specialized services and assistance in case management, healthy aging, home maintenance and more. Each center crafts its own agenda and programming that supports and promotes social, physical and economic self-sufficiency according to

Senior Neighbors, but when asked why she decided to volunteer there rather than at any of the other places that do good for the community, she replied with a chuckle. “I like old people,” Potts said. “There has always been a ‘little old man’ somewhere in my life, grandpa, neighbors.”

Simple as that. Teresa volunteers a couple of days a week serving lunch, helping with the dishes, chatting with the members and serving on the advisory board that acts as the eyes and ears of the members and ensures that all members needs are recognized and served. Once a month, Teresa channels Alex Trebek and hosts Jeopardy games for the members. Nobody wins thousands of dollars, but they all leave with a smile on their face and maybe a little prize in their pocket.

“These people make me feel young,” Potts said, and her presence certainly makes the members feel the same way. “They’re my people here.” She helps with lunch every day she volunteers. “It makes me feel good that I can help them get a

healthy, filling meal,” Potts said.

For most of the members, Senior Neighbors’ lunches are their biggest meal of the day, and it’s usually something that they probably wouldn’t be able to prepare at home. The February menu includes roast pork with gravy and sweet potatoes, lasagna, meatloaf, grilled chicken breast, and fiesta lime chicken. Wow!

“Volunteering doesn’t take much of a commitment,” Potts said. “Just show up, serve them coffee, talk with them and listen. That’s all.”

We all should follow Teresa’s lead.

Barb Briggs has ten grandchildren.

“I was born and raised in Lowell and still live here,” Briggs said. “Eighty-one years.”

She’s knitting a baby blanket assuming there’ll be a great grandchild on the way someday.

“I come here because it’s a social time,” Briggs said. “I enjoy coming here. Wednesday is bible study. Today is knitting. We have music. We play cards. The volunteers are very helpful.

Teresa brings in her crafts to show everyone.”

Louise Hillman makes hats for the Santa Claus girls. She moved here from Goddard, KS with her son who is a pediatric cardiologist at Spectrum Health. They live in Ada.

“They gave me some kind of award for me making my hats. I knit with the group on Thursdays,” Hillman said.

Barb and Louise visit Lowell Senior Neighbors from one to three days a week. They also go to the knitting group at Laurels of Kent.

“So many of them have no one to visit,” said Briggs.

From across the room, Peggy Covert summed up how the members feel about the volunteers: “Friendliness. They make you feel so welcome.”

And no longer alone.

For more information on Senior Neighbors, visit seniorneighbors.org. For information about the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center, visit seniorneighbors.org/centers/lowell, or email Terra Bieneman at tbieneman@seniorneighbors.org or call 616-897-5949.

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Proceeds to be dedicated to Flat River Outreach Ministries, Lowell Baby Panty, Archdiocese for the Military Services and Vacation Bible School. There will be a special bake sale during the dinner sponsored by the Council of Catholic Women of St. Mary’s Church

Additional sale of frozen pasty’s (\$5 each) will also be held at the dinner provided by Viki’s Bridge Street Pasty Shop in Saranac.

business directory

23rd annual Lowell Expo is Saturday, March 23

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

This year's Lowell Expo, an event where over 150 local businesses and organizations will show off their wares, hand out samples and perform demonstrations of their services, is taking place on Saturday, March 23, 2019. The Lowell Expo is your chance to explore a ton of local businesses without having to drive all over town.

"The Expo is a great place where local businesses can come and talk to folks in the community about what they have to offer and what they can bring the table," said Josh Bruwer, one of the people in charge of organizing the Lowell Expo. "Sometimes folks will just come to the Expo because it's something to do on a Saturday, and they'll stumble upon a service that they're in need of. It's a great way for them to get some questions answered, and if they've got a lot of things going on there's a lot of folks they can meet up with and talk to there. It's a great way to see a lot of local vendors all in one place. It's a way to get a lot done in a short period of time all in one place."

"There are so many different avenues to explore there, not just local stores and restaurants," said Martha Davis, owner of Lowell clothing store Tap House Bo. "Anything from picking a church to finding clubs and other groups. There are so many nooks and crannies in Lowell, you just don't know what's out there until you actually attend the Expo."

"There will be right around 160 booths this year, including J&K Roadside Service, the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce,

Lowell Area Schools, Adventures by Lori, Arrowhead Golf Course, PFCU, Snow Avenue Greenhouse and Midwest Properties," Bruwer said.

Out of work or unhappy with your job? There are even job opportunities at the Lowell Expo.

"If you're out looking for a job, come out to the Expo," Baker said. "There are opportunities to talk to people who are hiring. They're looking for people to fill positions."

Looking to buy or sell your house? You can take care of that at the Lowell Expo.

"Right now the housing market in Lowell is booming," Baker said. "The inventory here is extremely low, but people want to buy. They've got buyers, but there are no homes to buy. If you're thinking of putting your home up for sale, there will be a lot of realtors at the Expo that you can talk to about that."

There will be so much going on at the Lowell Expo, one little article simply can't contain it all. Among its many delights, the Lowell Expo will include live music, haircuts, a fashion show, free massages, free blood pressure checks, tons of free candy and snacks, a blood drive and various demonstrations and samples.

"There will be entertainment throughout the day on the stage," Bruwer said. "Each hour of entertainment is sponsored by one of the businesses."

The afternoon game show, complete with props, hosts, announcers and prizes, is the part of the Expo that many look forward to the most.

"The game show will

be back," Bruwer said. "It is one of the most popular activities with the Expo. In years past, we have tried to come up with a unique theme for it but we decided it will be a part of the Expo regardless of the theme so from now it, it will be called the Showboat Showdown."

If you missed out on the Expo last year, you definitely won't want to miss it this year.

"It's always an exciting time of year and we're looking forward to another great year," Bruwer said. "I think this is going to be the biggest and best Expo to date."

"Everyone's welcome and it's free to anyone who wants to come," said Larry Milkulski, one of the original creators of the Expo. "If you just moved here or you've lived in the area for years, it doesn't matter. It's well worth your time to go through it. You'll learn something new."

"Last year we had right around 160 vendors and between 5,000 and 6,000 people going through the Expo," Bruwer said. "It's fun to see the different vendors and the entertainment acts. They get to see what's new and upcoming, a lot of vendors have special offers and giveaways. It's a great way for residents and non-residents alike to be able to know what's going on in our community. It really captures what our community is all about while highlighting businesses, organizations and folks that help move our community forward."

The Lowell Expo will take place at Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes SE, on Saturday, March 23, 2019 from 9 am until 3 pm.

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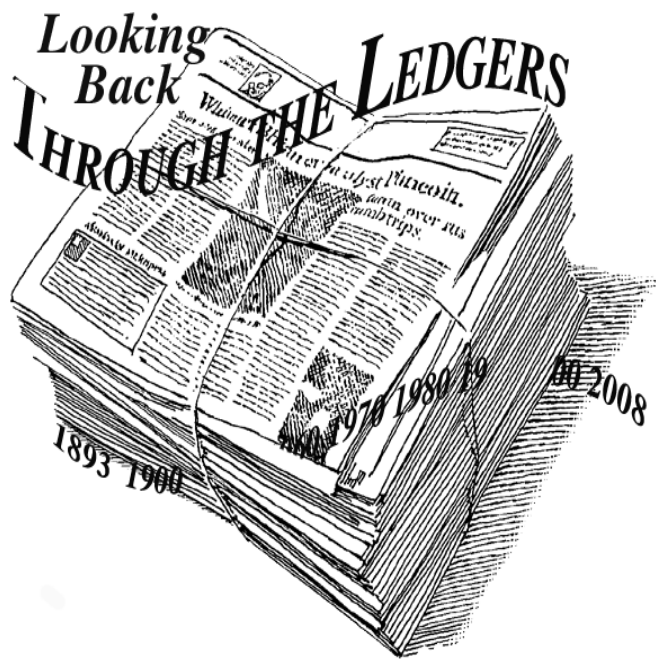
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viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger March 10, 1894

Barney Scalley indulged in the flowing bowl Monday and became so enthusiastic that Justice Hicks assessed him \$10 and costs, Tuesday morning. That same evening, the village marshal again gathered him in for the same offense. Upon his promise to leave town immediately, and upon other representations, he was released on suspended sentence.

A fellow giving the name of Wm. Clough and claiming to be an upholsterer and feather bed renovator, made this town a visit recently and after running board and printing bills skipped out without cashing up. He is probably working the same game elsewhere. Beware of him.

Abraham Lockman who many of our older people will remember as the village blacksmith here in early days, - father of Mrs. Nelson Hinds, died at his home five miles east of Remus, a few days ago.

100 years The Lowell Ledger March 6, 1919

Mrs. Fred Wieland had the misfortune to cut the palm of one of her hands with the butcher knife while taking some candy out of a dish Sunday. The knife cut into an artery causing the blood to flow so profusely that they were unable to stop it until Dr. Rigterink was called and dressed the wound. The hand is doing nicely at present but is very sore.

We will have to call on the police to correct the doings of that unruly truck that is going through the country pulling down people's telephone wires. That happened at the Methodist parsonage last week after dark. If the preacher did not think of spooks, it surely made him feel spooky.

The blizzard which swept over western Michigan early a year ago last January was an act of God, and therefore damages to a carload of beer which was frozen during the traffic tieup cannot be collected, according to the ruling of Judge McDonald in dismissing the case brought by the Furniture City Brewing Company against the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway Company.

75 years The Lowell Ledger March 9, 1944

Governor Harry F Kelly has issued a proclamation declaring March 12 to March 18 will be Michigan Potato Week. Michigan's 8,000,000 bushels of quality potatoes will be on parade to many kitchens during

this week and for several weeks to come. This year's crop is not only of especially good quality but with the cooperation of handlers, merchants and farmers, a plentiful supply is available to consumers all over the state. Of the 23,000,000 bushels produced last year on the 250,000 acres, part of this important crop has been shipped to neighboring and distant states. At the present time 4,902 car loads have been sent to eleven states.

One of Lowell's oldest houses is in the process of being torn down to make way for progress. The structure, situated directly north of the Lowell Public Library, was in former years referred to as "the grout house," made of stone and mortar. Its recent owner, F. J. McMahon, sold the land to the Bell Telephone Company, whose plans for its use have been postponed until after the war. The house was purchased by Lawrence Bieri, who is dismantling it and will rebuild near the pond on land he bought from Consumers Power Company.

50 years The Lowell Ledger March 6, 1969

Kennedy half-dollars may have an eagle on the back, but they should normally be of the "non-flying" variety. However, owner Cary Stiff discovered Friday night that \$7 to \$8 worth of the coins had taken wing from an electronic change-maker in Cary's store in Lowell. "Should it appear that they would like to fly back to our store...their friends at Cary's would be pleased," said the proprietor.

Four persons were injured in two separate automobile accidents in this area over the weekend. Failure to see flashing railroad signal lights resulted in a car-train collision on Saturday afternoon. Patricia Marie Melton, 20, of 3659 Kent Dr., NE, driving her car south on Whitneyville Road near 52nd Street, attempted to stop after hearing the train's whistle too late to avoid hitting the engine.

The 1969 edition of the famous Lowell Showboat will come down the river July 21 through 26 bearing a full cargo of entertainment and starring Mr. TV himself, Milton Berle. Arriving in Lowell with Berle will be a full company of professional entertainers to be joined by the interlocutor, the Showboat chorus and the endman, all from this locality.

25 years The Lowell Ledger March 9, 1994

Helen McMahon, 84, of Lowell, failed to yield right-of-way at Main and Hudson Street Feb. 24 and subsequently was involved in an accident that injured McMahon and her passenger, Ester Arehart, 83, also of Lowell. The accident occurred when their car collided with a pickup truck driven by Wayne Zuidewind, 41, of Wyoming, MI. Zuidewind was also injured.

City residents will incur a water rate increase beginning June 15 to help cover the increased costs of operating, maintaining and improving the water system. The rates will increase from \$1.20 to \$1.50 per thousand gallons on the commodity charge and for residential users, the readiness-to-serve charge will increase from \$12 to \$15.75 per month.

Citing a decrease in community involvement, the Lowell Township Board has decided to forgo this year's annual meeting. The meeting is designed to give those interested, a say in what happens in the township. However, following last year's turn-out of two citizens, the board said it will not pass a resolution asking for the meeting.

outdoors

freedom

Dave Stegehuis

Michigan has more public land than any state east of the Mississippi River. Visitors come from afar to take advantage of the outdoor recreational opportunities here. Many residents may not be aware of this and miss a chance to easily improve their quality of life. Traveling around the state, especially the northern lower and upper peninsula, gives one a sense of freedom to get out and explore the countryside unfolding through the windshield.

Huron-Manistee National forest covers over one million acres in the lower peninsula while Hiawatha on the east side of the U.P. occupies another one million acres and Ottawa National forest takes up close to another million acres to the west. There is close to four million acres of state forests in northern lower Michigan and the U.P. State wildlife areas provide another 340,000 acres of huntable wildlife habitat and is also open for other recreational pursuits. The landscape is so diverse it allows for all kinds of outdoor recreation.

Over a hundred state parks and 138 state forest campgrounds accommodate those who wish to camp. As you travel around the state, notice the number of RV's parked in yards and storage

facilities. There is a good reason for the popularity of camping in Michigan.

In addition to camping, there are 1,300 miles of cycle trails, 6,500 miles of snowmobile trails, miles of hiking and cross-country ski trails as well as trails and roads open to O.R.V. traffic.

Eleven thousand inland lakes and 36,000 miles of rivers and streams put all residents close to water. Harbors, marinas, and 1,300 public boat launches make it convenient to access the water for fishing as well as numerous boating activities. Great lakes beaches dot over 3,000 miles of coastline. Alaska is the only other state with more coastline.

The vast natural resources in Michigan are aggressively managed by government agencies from federal to local jurisdictions. Private citizen groups and organizations play an important role in protecting and improving our natural resources.

When we live with an abundance of something we tend to take it for granted and don't appreciate our good fortune. The next time you feel stressed or confined, remember the elbow room out there and the opportunities waiting for you to explore and enjoy quality time outdoors.

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.

happy birthday



MARCH 6
Pat Covell, Darlene Waldron.

MARCH 10
Daniel Miller, Randy Kuiper.

MARCH 7
Carrie Metternick, Marshal Mooney, Michael Barnes, Shirley Canfield.

MARCH 11
Pat Ball, Renee Nugent, Larry Martin, Kim Barnes.

MARCH 8
Amber Rittersdorf, DJ Main, Charles Drake, Colleen Lally.

MARCH 12
David Baird, Lisa Homrich, Laura Horsley, Julie Idema, Kathy Fyan.

MARCH 9
Bob Vezino, Marsha Stephens, Mark Richmond, Pam Cebleak.

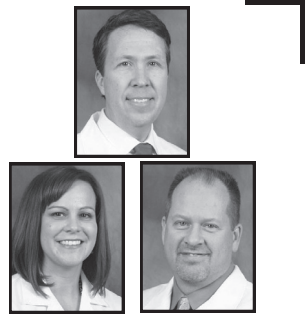


Age is a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it don't matter.

- Satchel Paige

HEALTH

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



- medical information

The World Wide Web is full of helpful information on medical topics. Some of it is relevant, realistic and from a reliable source, while some of it is not. You must use caution when searching for medical information to make sure it comes from a reputable, doctor recommended site. Information obtained from the web can be useful to further understand a condition you may have been diagnosed with but it should never be used to self-diagnose your condition. The following is a list of physician recommended websites with credible, patient-friendly information.

The American Academy of Family Practice® has a website at www.familydoctor.org which contains hundreds of general health-related topics. These topics apply to patients ranging from infants to the elderly.

The American Academy of Pediatrics® has a website at www.aap.org

which contains information on several pediatric topics. Their site also has good information on pediatric development and milestones.

Uptodate® is a web-based information service that many health care providers subscribe to for a fee. It provides health care providers with the latest medical information on how to treat conditions. They also have free, patient-oriented information at www.patients.uptodate.com, which applies to patients young and old.

The Center for Disease Control is a government-sponsored organization which has a site at www.cdc.gov. This site has excellent information about many different contagious and noncontagious diseases and their prevention.

Once you have researched your medical topic, you should discuss your concerns and questions with your health care provider to be sure it is treated properly.

Northern Michigan University announces the Dean's List for the Fall 2018 semester. Natalie Pytlak, of Ada, qualified with a grade point average of 4.00. The following students qualified with a grade point average of 3.50-3.99: Megan Khodl and Spencer Smolen, both of Ada; Olivia Brenner and Collin McGee, both of Lowell.

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh officials have announced students who qualified for the university Dean's List and Honor Roll in fall 2018 across all three campuses (Oshkosh, Fond du Lac and Fox Valley). Emily Jacobs, of Alto, Oshkosh campus, was placed on the Honor Roll. To qualify for the honor roll on the UW Oshkosh campus, a student must take at least 12 credits and earn a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.3 (out of a possible 4.0). Those with a GPA of 3.75 or better qualify for the Dean's List.

Grand Valley State University announces the names of students who were placed on the Dean's List for the Fall 2018 semester concluding in December. The list includes those students who have maintained a 3.5 grade point average and been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. The honor is noted on the students' official records.

Local students honored for the fall semester include: **Ada:** Zachary J. Aboufadel, Charles J. Anderson, Navjot S. Azad, Keaghan R. Bacon, Madeline T. Becker, Michael R. Bova, Hannah G. Clark, Karissa K. Cloud, Kathryn E. Coash, Brendon J. Dalm, Sarah G. Davis, Mary I. Derwent, Jacob P. DeVries, Molly C. Dlugos, Olivia J. Domine, Jack K. Doyle, Kathryn E. Farmer, Alexander A. Figueroa, Natalie E. Fischer, Bryce N. Gerondale, David S. Harrison, Fischer S. Holt, Marion L. Jamet, Bisam M. Javaid, Rebecca V Karl, Robert M. Killeen, Tyler J. Knape, Sydney C. Liverance, Matthew P. Lozicki, Kayeleigh N. Lubbers, Cameron R. McClary, Kelly M. McDonagh, Jessilyn A. Mckim, Samuel A. McKim, Ryan T. Merrill, Sage A. Moore, Cody J. Nisenbaum, Quin E. Olney, Macie L. Pasciak, Amrutha R. Patil, Ashley J. Perschbacher, Stephen J. Prefontaine, Ruth I. Rapeyko, Catherine A. Reynolds, Emma R. Rupperecht, Avery C. Sena, Trevor D. Sherman, Nehareka Singh, William D. Smeda, Thompson H. Southwell, Sara E. Stoner, Drake D. Strehl, Cassidy J. Terhorst, Jacob W. Theisen, Benjamin D. Townsend, Nabeel O. Vali, Hayden R. Vanermen, Joseph A. VanSlooten, Karmyn H. VonEhr, Grace L. Vroegindewey, Owen J. Whalen, and Kellen J. Wright.

Alto: Ellery R. Alexander, Candice O. Baker, Carly C. Byam, Christine I. Byam, Sarah M. DeVries, Anderson J. Hudson, Laura E. Oesch, Katherine H. Pavey, Holly A. Savage, Jacqueline R. Schmeihil, Theodore J. Schultz, Kaitlyn M. Schweda, Edina Sokolovic, Samuel A. Thomet, Casey S. Thorn, Eva F. Van Artsen, Jessica K. VanderSloot, Reuben P. Wattenhofer, Peter J. Williamson, Thomas J. Williamson, and Alexi L. Wolf.

Lowell: James P. Barnard, Delaney R. Bierlein, Lauren R. Browning, Joshua C. Buechler, Mackenzie M. Bush, Casey R. Cahoon, Mckenna M. Creighton, Bailey A. Cummings, Robert A. Dubisky, Quinne A. Duhr, Jonah M. Epema, Katelyn E. Flier, Darby L. Fuller, Eric J. Gable, Emma M. Heffron, Katie L. Holzhueter, Daniel H. Johnson, Abigail J. Kastanek, Amanda J. Kooy, Lauren M. Penninga, Natalie K. Price, Andrew P. Struckmeyer, Catherine M. Stump, Kelly L. VanderZiel, Rebecca R. Weaver, and Meaghan E. Zech.

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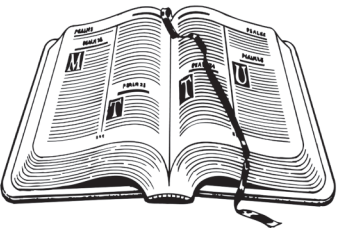
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Sunday School..... 9:15 AM

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Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
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Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm
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Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries

SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
LIFE GROUPS..... 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

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LaughFest comedian Upton at Larkin's, March 15

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Seattle-based comedian Brad Upton will perform at Larkin's as part of Gilda's Club LaughFest on Friday, March 15.

Upton has been doing stand up comedy for over 30 years, ever since he quit his job as a fourth grade teacher. He has won the Las Vegas Comedy Festival, released CDs and DVDs and toured the world with acts like Johnny Mathis, Joan Rivers, Smokey Robinson, George Jones and Rita Rudner.

Upton said he's never been to Lowell before, but he has spent a great deal of time exploring West Michigan.

"A few years ago I drove over the Mackinac Bridge, then I drove all the way down along the West Coast of Michigan along the lake," Upton said. "I went, 'Wow! I had no idea that it was that nice!' It was beautiful. I drove all the way down to the Indiana state line. I've also been to Grand Rapids and Battle Creek, but never Lowell."

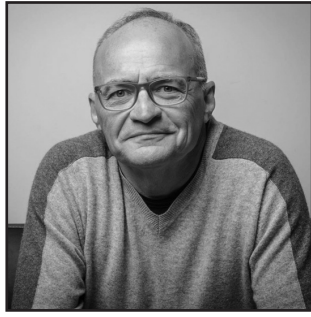
Upton, a LaughFest veteran, said he's been involved with the Gilda's Club in Seattle since before it started.

"My wife was diagnosed with kidney cancer and given a 50 percent chance to live when we were holding our day-old, first-born son," Upton said. "She lived, obviously, she was on the good side of the 50 percent and we had another child. To do anything involved with Gilda's Club, man, that's an honor. They do great work and when I first heard about it, I did a lot of shows here in Seattle for Gilda's Club for a number of years. I did LaughFest about four years ago, so when they contacted me this year I said, 'You don't have to ask twice, I'm on my way!' I'm really, really pleased to be coming back a second time."

Upton said his comedy is mostly observational humor about various random topics,

"just my life and things I observe in everyday life." He got into comedy as a kid staying up late to watch his favorite stand ups on the Tonight Show.

"I just really liked watching comedians on TV when I was a kid," Upton said. "I thought it was cool that these guys didn't do anything other than just stand there and talk. That's how they entertained, with nothing but a microphone, and I just thought it was really cool. So I guess, maybe you start envisioning yourself doing that, but you don't really think you can or will! When you're a kid, that's not a real thing, to be a comedian, yet here I am. You just have to keep getting on stage. I liked those old guys back on the Tonight Show like George Goebels and Jonathan Winters. Then in the 70s, it was Robert Klein, David Steinberg and Kelly Monteith, they were guys I used to always like. They used to be on the Tonight Show a lot in the 70s, and at that age, those are the guys that I liked watching. That style of articulate, intellectual comedy appealed to me. I don't know if I'm an intellectual comic or not, but those guys appealed to me. Selecting a 'favorite of all time' is a tough question because comedy is subjective. It's different for everybody. But George Carlin, the volume of material that he turned out in his career was just stunning. He did 14 one hour specials for HBO and he did over 100 appearances on the Tonight Show, and those are five or six minutes each, so that's 500 or 600 minutes, which is 10 hours! He put out a one hour special several years in a row. That volume of material was just incredible, just stunning to me, as a comedian. He was the first comedian I ever saw live, too. I was 15 years old and it was at the Paramount Theater



"Joan Rivers always used to take a single shot of vodka before she went on stage."

-Brad Upton
[Facebook photo]

in Seattle. I got to meet him a couple times several years later, that was a big thrill. And I've been on the stage there at the Paramount where I first saw a live comedian. For me to walk out on stage and do stand up in the place where I first saw a comedian do stand up, that was a pretty big moment for me."

Over his 30 plus years in showbiz, Upton has encountered many stars during backstage moments. He shared a couple interesting anecdotes.

"Joan Rivers always used to take a single shot of vodka before she went on stage," Upton said. "That was in her rider, to have a little pint of vodka, and she'd do a little shot before she went out. If you take a shot of vodka, you'll only feel it for like 10 or 15 minutes, I don't know, but she'd always take that shot before she'd go out. I've worked with the Smothers Brothers a number of times. They got into a big argument in a narrow hallway when I was standing right between them. They were getting after each other... This was uncomfortable! The argument was... they wore tuxedos. Tommy would put his tuxedo on about 20 minutes before the show and he's pace around and pace around and pace around. Dick would put on his tuxedo too, except for his pants. He would only put his pants on right before they went on. Tom just told him to put his pants on, Dick said, 'You know I don't put my pants on!' then they just got into about getting ready for the show while I was in the hallway standing between

them. It was uncomfortable to watch them fighting as brothers do. Tommy told me one time that they went to a marriage counselor at one time in their career. They'd been fighting and not getting along and Tom said, 'We're like a married couple, but we can't break up,' so they went to a marriage counselor. He said it was the best thing they ever did and it saved their career! They learned to talk things out, to get it all out and in the open."

Upton's longest-running entertainment relationship has been his decade as the opening act for Johnny Mathis. Upton is one of two comedians who split Mathis' tour dates.

"I've been working with Johnny Mathis for the past 11 years," Upton said. "I just worked with him last week and I'll work with him again in about three weeks. I love Johnny Mathis, I've always been a fan of his. Eventually

he needed a comic, so I did a show, it went great and I've been with him for 11 plus years. He is the nicest man in the world. He can still sing, it's unbelievable how good he can sing."

He has also had encounters with former students from his first career as a fourth grade teacher and track coach.

"I've had my ex students come to my shows, and I'm Facebook friends with a number of them," Upton said. "It's always funny because, as a kid, you look at your teacher as some kind of straight, wonderful role model in your life, then years later you see him in a nightclub and he's telling sex jokes, and it's like, 'Oh my god!' That's kind of fun. I recognize most of them once they tell me who they are. I remember their parents, I remember their siblings, what kind of student they were, what their strengths were as a student, I can remember all of those things. I tell them that I was much younger than they are now when I was their teacher, the look on their face! I was only in my 20s when I was teaching school, and they're in their 40s now. When you're a kid, the teacher is old no matter what."

The strategy he used to win the Las Vegas Comedy Festival was to extract 32 minutes of his finest work from over 30 years in comedy.

"I think there were about 180 comics in it, and we were doing a different eight minute set every night for different judges, four nights in a row," Upton said. "Most comics in a competition will get the eight minutes they want to do and they'll do it four nights in a row. I did four different eight minute sets and I never repeated a joke throughout the competition. By the end, all the different judges that had been watching all the different comics went, 'This guy didn't repeat a joke all week!' Instead of doing the same act every night, I did a different set every night. They all worked well and they were all put together well. I think I got rewarded for the fact that I didn't repeat anything all week. I've been doing it a long time, so I was able to put together a lot of different sets."

Upton will perform at Larkin's on Friday, March 15 with shows at 7 pm and 9 pm. For more information or to buy tickets, visit laughfestgr.org.

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

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Iconic “Mary Poppins” lands on stage of Lowell Arts Performing Center this weekend

by Emma Palova

With all eyes on Disney’s “Mary Poppins Returns,” a sequel to the 1964 “Mary Poppins” musical, the choice of this piece was natural for Lowell High School director Amanita Fahrni.

“It’s a good classical musical that people love, it’s iconic,” she said. “It brings back the message of family in today’s technologically driven world.”

All generations can relate to the epic tale of the fly-in magical nanny with an umbrella, who fixed the family of the disgruntled banker, Mr. Banks. With the historical setting of the story in London of 1910, came certain challenges, such as different accents and prop details.

McKenna Grody as Mary Poppins has studied and mastered her accent, her poise, and her body language.

“Her voice is natural and one that won’t be forgotten,” Fahrni said.

For Gwen Hackett as Miss Andrew, the singing part was easy. However, it took some time to connect with the acting part.

“I worked very hard to connect with my character,” said Hackett during the Saturday dress rehearsal. I am a strong singer, but I had to work on my acting.”

Other characters like Mr. and Mrs. Banks go through a complete transformation during the performance. Played by Savanna Dempsey and Zane Goldsmith, both roles were extremely challenging, according to Fahrni.

“The students connected well with the characters,” said Fahrni. “Mr. & Mrs. Banks go through a huge change in the show. Savanna and Zane had to dig deep into their characters.”



Mary Poppins, cast and crew. Photo courtesy of Lowell Area Schools.

“They both grow with the help of Mary Poppins,” she said. “When choosing Savanna and Zane for these roles, we knew that they

were strong actors and that they would be able to develop these characters-which they have.”

Kohl Goldsmith as the street artist Bert was a natural fit for the musical.

“Building his character came slightly more natural than others, he’s already joyful,” Fahrni said.

The chemistry between the Banks’ children Jane and Michael, played by Anna Doyle and Sierra Hieshetter, is amazing.

“They have found the perfect balance of being the ‘bratty’ children before Mary Poppins brings some magic to the Banks

home, but the audience will still love them for their innocence,” said Fahrni.

The students have been rehearsing since the Christmas break including the 15 snow days. Prior to the opening of “Mary Poppins” on Friday, the students will be rehearsing 4.5 hours a day including the flying rehearsals.

“The flying is fun,” said Fahrni. “It’s a lot of teamwork.”

The teamwork was evident during the Saturday all-day rehearsal, when the cast got their hair done.

Station Salon owner Nancy DeBoer with

hairstylist Lynn Mitchell have been doing the hair for the musicals for the last eight years.

“I got involved when my son was in the theatre program,” DeBoer said. “It’s a fun, creative outlet for what we do. I have fond memories of musicals while helping backstage.”

Both DeBoer and Mitchell will continue their involvement with the performing arts program.

“I like the chaos,” Mitchell said.

Whether a creative outlet or a piece of nostalgia, the classic musical promises to deliver a magical time.

“I grew up on this, it’s my favorite musical,” said student Emma Organek.

This is Fahrni’s second year directing at the Lowell High School Performance Center.

“I am proud of the hard work and dedication that the actors, the crew members and the pit have exhibited,” Fahrni said. “They all make the show happen.”

The performance dates are: March 8, 9, 15 & 16 at 7 pm. On March 10 at 2 pm.

Tickets are \$10 online at <http://seatyourself.biz> Or \$12 at the door.



Station Salon owner Nancy DeBoer with Emma Organek.

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.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Pauline M. Parent, died Nov. 2, 2018.

at 7449 Kettle Lake Dr. SE, Alto, MI 49302-9731 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Richard J. Parent Jr., personal representative, or to both the probate court

November 20, 2018

Richard J. Parent Jr.
7449 Kettle Lake Dr. SE
Alto, MI 49302-9731
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Estate of PAULINE M. PARENT. Date of birth: May 6, 1931.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

Unity School condo development plans may be over

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell city council and the board of Lowell Light & Power got together for a two-hour joint special closed meeting at Lowell city hall, 301 E. Main, at 6

the closed session meeting was to come to an agreement on the property swap and to deal with some underground power lines that Lowell Light & Power installed

"It feels a little bit like the city council is not negotiating in good faith." - Jerry Zandstra

pm on Thursday, Feb. 28. Because of issues relating to underground power lines, the meeting apparently marked the end of the Unity School condo development project.

According to the agenda, the entire meeting was to be devoted to a closed session "to consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained."

"I just have a question on why all this needs to be in closed session," said city councilor Greg Canfield before the Feb. 28 closed session began. "For transparency purposes, can some of this potentially be discussed in open session?"

"It depends on the direction that the conversation goes," said city attorney Dick Wendt. "Obviously, after you have your discussion in closed session, at some point in an open session, if you take some action, you would have to take that action in an open session. Based on the information, Greg, that I know, I think it would be in the community's best interest to have a closed session discussion."

At that point, the closed session began. After about two hours, they re-opened the meeting but then immediately adjourned it, taking no action. The Ledger asked Light & Power board chair Perry Beachum and city manager Michael Burns for their comments as each left the meeting, but they both declined.

According to the Unity developers, the reason for

at the Unity site in 2014 without getting an easement. Cutting off these lines would cut off power, cable TV, phone and Internet service to 20 blocks on the east side of Lowell.

"Last Monday they went into a closed session and they authorized Mike to negotiate with us," said Jerry Zandstra, one of the Unity condo developers. "They gave him some ranges and some parameters and we have spent the last week and a half coming to an agreement. The idea was that they would meet in a closed session and they would have their discussion. We felt [we were] within the parameters that they had established. As far as we understood it, we were negotiating down to closing costs. Title and insurance payments, who was paying for what, we came to agreement on all that. And then they went into closed session. I was fully anticipating that, being within their parameters, this would go through, then on Monday [March 4] they would vote on the resolution that they had created last night, it would sit for 20 days, they would vote again and all of it would be solved."

Zandstra said he was shocked to find out that the council had decided not to support the Unity condo development project. "I got a call from Mike [Burns] right after their two-hour meeting," Zandstra said. "He said, 'It was a closed session so I can't really tell you what happened, but there

will be no resolution coming on Monday.' I said, 'So, what happens next, are we meeting tomorrow?' Todd [Schaal, Zandstra's partner in the Unity development], Mike and I have a standing meeting every Friday. He said, 'No, I don't see any need to.' I have no idea what happened in that meeting. They gave Mike parameters and we were inside those parameters for negotiating. And then we were told, 'No. We're not going to agree to the parameters that we, ourselves, set up.' It feels a little bit like the city council is not negotiating in good faith. They have come so far with no resolution to this, which means, I guess, we have our marching orders.

"If their power lines were not trespassing on our property, we'd be in the middle of our project right now. Hammers would be swinging." - Jerry Zandstra

This project really requires that seven feet. That's all we're really asking for to make the condos work. The city council cannot figure out how to resolve their power line issue, and we've told them there's lots of ways to resolve that, we're happy to resolve that. If their power lines were not trespassing on our property, we'd be in the middle of our project right now. Hammers would be swinging. [...] If they've ended the discussion, then they've ended the project."

Lowell mayor Michael DeVore said that Zandstra's characterization of the council's decision-making process was incorrect.

"This narrative about us being unwilling to negotiate couldn't be further from the truth," DeVore said. "They brought us a proposal which was well outside the realm of what we agreed to. We had one caveat in that, that's what the all the closed sessions were about. What we were allowed to negotiate, what we were willing to spend, that's why we couldn't do it in public, you don't want the people you're negotiating with to know. I'm not a fan of closed sessions. I don't like them. I don't like how it looks to people when you kick them out of here. We try not to do them. But you can't be talking prices and parameters when everybody can hear. Nobody here was

unwilling to negotiate. Their counter proposal was a \$1.53 million invoice to the city [in lieu of a real proposal]. The parameters were never, ever discussed until that offer came through. We did not set parameters. We discussed some negotiating tactics in a closed session, we gave Mike [Burns] a ballpark idea, he took it back to them. There were no parameters. There was an idea of what would be acceptable and there was an idea of what would not be acceptable. There was not a 'box' that Mike was instructed to stay in."

"The city council asked us for a global solution," Zandstra said. "Not just the

seven foot swap, but the south property and a whole bunch of other things. We said, 'Great!' We kind of wanted to take them one at a time, but if it's a global solution

'We would like this seven feet,' and they said, 'Well, we're not going to give that to you until we get these power lines resolved.' We said, 'Great, let's negotiate

"This narrative about us being unwilling to negotiate couldn't be further from the truth." - Michael DeVore

you want, and you've authorized Mike [Burns] to do it, then we'll be happy to do that. We thought that we were negotiating in good faith, I thought that Mike was negotiating in good faith and that we had the solution that was acceptable to everybody. That's the reason they've been kind of holding the seven feet hostage, over getting a resolution on this south property that has power lines. We said to them all along we're happy to resolve that, there are lots of ways to resolve that. [...] And I suspect that they were not aware that power lines went through there [or] they just never thought about it. Mike Burns is new and Steve Donkersloot was not heading up Lowell Light & Power at that time. We said to them,

and get to a workable solution for you and for us,' and we did."

"We asked them for a solution to get all of the council involvement done at one time," DeVore said. "We never asked them to develop all three phases right now, be done with it, get your tools and leave. We asked them to get the council's, the city's and the park's involvement ironed out so we all had an understanding, honestly, so we could get out of their way. We never said they had to develop all three or four phases now, be done with it by spring, take your tools, clean up your area and go home. That was never even on the table. We wanted our responsibilities ironed out.

Unity condos continued, page 18

CITY OF LOWELL NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The City of Lowell will conduct a public meeting on Monday, March 18, 2019 at 7:00 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 City 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 and 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 City Council 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 City Hall address.



Sue Ullery
City Clerk
City of Lowell

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Bowne Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2019/2020 at the Historic Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto, MI 49302 on Monday March 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The property tax millage rate of 2.4566 proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

A copy of the proposed 2019/2020 budget will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the township office Wednesday 9-12 & 1-3, Thursday 9-12 & 1-3, Friday 9-12.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

Showboat, continued

The Lowell Showboat has been closed to the public since Jan. 4, 2017 when safety became an issue after it was determined the boat was unsafe for humans. The “Rebuild the Lowell Showboat” committee has been working to get rid of the old showboat and replace it with a shiny new model. It is currently estimated that a new Lowell Showboat will be in place by mid-2020. The showboat project received a \$1.3 million grant from the State of Michigan in December 2018 and a \$1 million grant in August 2017.

This Lowell Showboat was the fifth vessel since the original debuted in 1932. It was designed by Jim Hall and built by Ivan K. Blough in 1979 after a tornado destroyed the 1967-1978 example. The showboat was 89 feet long and was kept afloat by six barges supplied by the Army Corps of Engineers. Its original construction costs were \$66,000. It had cosmetic repairs over the years, but no major renovations.

Celebrities who have performed on the Lowell Showboat over the years include Louis Armstrong, Bob Newhart, Dinah Shore, Milton Berle, Steve Allen, Jayne Meadows, Ray Stevens, the Everly Brothers, Jerry Reed, Pearl Bailey, the Fifth Dimension, Tammy Wynette, Lawrence Welk, Emmylou Harris, B.J. Thomas, the Smothers Brothers, Ricky Skaggs, Utopia, REO Speedwagon, Blue Öyster Cult, the Oak Ridge Boys, Marillion, Stevie Ray Vaughan and Loretta Lynn. The Lowell Showboat was a particular favorite event for President Gerald R. Ford, who attended every performance from 1948 until 1973, the year before he became president. There was a talent contest every year, and many amateur entertainers from the Lowell area were also able to perform on the Showboat.

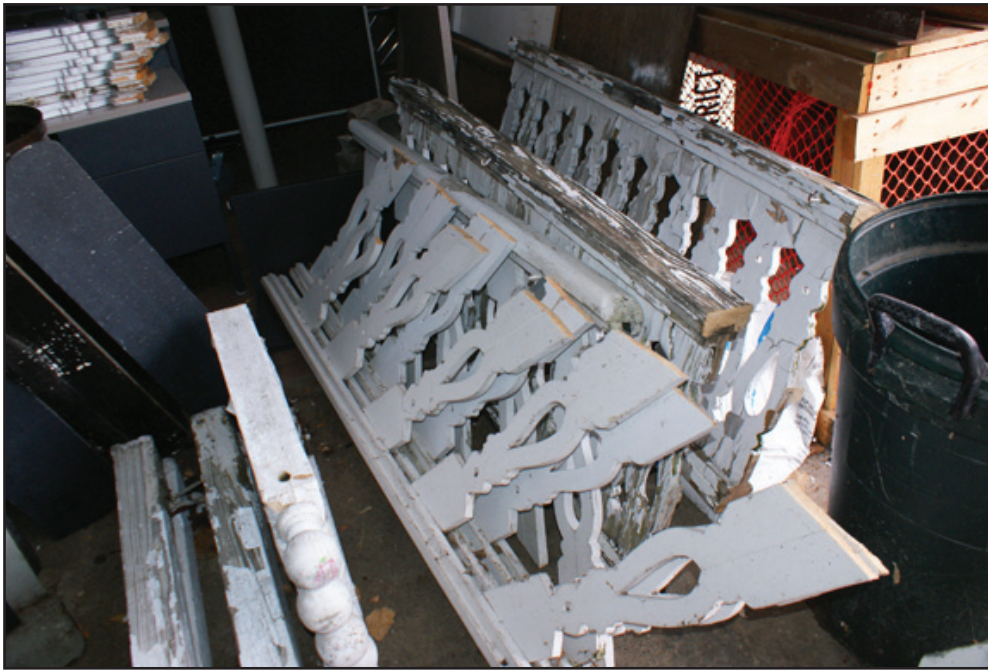
From 1932 to 1997, showboat performances included a minstrel show consisting of a chorus, an interlocutor and endmen. Until Armstrong performed in 1967, the shows included white people in blackface. According to an unproven legend, Armstrong was responsible for the cessation of blackface in Lowell when he refused to appear here unless the practice was permanently ended. Until August 2017, the showboat was named the “Robert E. Lee.” These facts and legends have resulted in accusations of institutional racism over the years. The showboat is currently the main focus of a fascinating exhibit called “West Michigan Minstrel Show:

A History of Blackface” at the Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archives, 87 Monroe Center St NW, Grand Rapids.

“I saw a lot of the shows,” Blough said. “There have been a number of them that I liked, such as Dinah Shore. One of the earliest ones was Doris Day. She was really nice and very personable. She talked to all the kids when they were putting the show together on Sunday night at rehearsal. She always had time for all the kids who came down and watched. She was a great lady.”



Workers removed many of the decorative edge pieces before the main demolition began.



Pieces like this will be sold or auctioned to raise money to complete the new showboat construction.



A machine from Earthworm Excavating takes its first bite of the showboat.





Workers were able to walk directly on the frozen Flat River during the demolition process.



Earthworm Dozing and Excavating owner Dave Gonyon did much of the heavy work himself.



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Red Arrow

- HOCKEY

SPORTS

Regional title string ends at two for LCTK skaters

By Brett Bremer
contributing reporter

Lowell/Caledonia/Thornapple Kellogg junior Domonic Huver cracked his stick across the goal post.

Senior goalkeeper Davis Ziesmer took more than a few seconds to rise up off the ice back onto his skates in his crease.

LCTK early in the second. The Capitals took the lead back with three and a half minutes to go in the second period.

The final three goals of the game all came on a power play. LCTK senior Ethan Green was sent to the box for interference with

in the regional final a year ago at The Summit.

The LCTK line-up included ten seniors this winter, including Brendan Irons who scored his team's opening goal eight minutes into the second period off freshman Owen Carpenter and senior Ethan Green.

a half to figure out they're looking at the same thing, so we're going to get their best effort," LCTK head coach Phil Wendecker said. "We have to match that and more. We have a strong group of seniors in leadership positions and for some of them our last game will be their last game. They

Sophomore Andrew Davis scored LCTK's go-ahead goal 87 seconds into the third period. Irons rolled a soft pass in front of the United net that Davis was able to knock through keeper Parker Remelius. Senior Dallas Hainley also notched an assist on the play.

United lost most of a power play, from a too many men on the ice call against LCTK, when one of its top scoring threats Garrett Warner was whistled for a blow to the head with 12:45 to go in the game. That was the first of nine penalties, including four for unsportsmanlike conduct against United, in the third period.

LCTK capitalized five seconds into the 4-on-4, with sophomore Austin Douma setting up shop in front of the United net and slamming home a pass from Lockhart who'd carried it behind the goal before firing it toward the crease.

LCTK upped its lead to 4-1 with 5:30 to go with Hainley flinging a shot through a crowd in front that found its way by Remelius. Lockhart also assisted on that goal.

It was Hainley's third point of the night. He scored LCTK's opener with 4:19 remaining in the first period. He ripped a shot from the bottom of the right circle that slammed the net neatly behind the far post. Senior Joe Fitzgerald and Huver assisted on that goal.

LCTK controlled the puck for much of that opening period, with United getting very limited

possession in the offensive end. Ziesmer stayed on his toes to thwart a couple of United opportunities that were created by his own teammates' turnovers at the blue line.

"Davis, he didn't get a ton of action, but he did what we needed him to do," Wendecker said.

Ziesmer had 16 saves in the win

A couple of United seniors put a cap on their varsity careers, with Tony Schiurripa finding Topher Strunk for a goal with 1:28 to go in the game. But Strunk was immediately whistled for unsportsmanlike conduct after the goal and United spent the final minute and a half with three guys on the ice and three guys in the penalty box.

"We have had our ups and downs, like any team, but the important thing is we are up at the right time of the year, and right now is the right time of the year," Wendecker said Tuesday. "If we can carry the way we finished tonight into Thursday and as far as we go we have a lot to be excited about."

The Capital City Capitals scored a 7-6 win over Jackson United in the second regional contest of the night Tuesday and followed that up by knocking off the Mid-Michigan Marauders (Holt/Grand Ledge/Portland/Pottsville) in the second regional semifinal Thursday - 7-0.

LCTK got two goals from Lockhart, and one each from Douma, Fridley and Irons in its 5-2 win over the Eastside Stars Thursday in the regional semifinal.

Dallas Hainley assisted on three goals for LCTK. Lockhart, Fridley, Carter Osborn, Douma and Andrew Davis had one assist each and Ian Milton had two.

Douma scored the lone goal of the first period with 2:17 to go before the intermission, and then LCTK added goals by Lockhart and Irons in the second to build a 3-0 lead.

The Stars answered with two power play goals in the first eight minutes of the third period to get within a goal before Fridley sparked the LCTK boys with a goal with 7:21 to go. Lockhart finished off the scoring with 1:12 to play.

Ziesmer had 18 saves in the semifinal against the Stars.



The Lowell/Caledonia varsity hockey team thanks its fans following its 3-2 loss to the Capital City Capitals in the Division 1 Regional Final at The Summit in Dimondale Saturday evening. Capital City scored the game-winning goal with 6.8 seconds on the clock in the third period to keep Lowell/Cal from its third consecutive regional championship.

A few seconds was all that was left of the LCTK varsity hockey season after Capital City Capitals senior Derek Hamp stuffed the game-winning goal by Ziesmer with 6.2 seconds left to play in Saturday evening's Division 1 Regional Final at The Summit in Dimondale.

The Capitals, the DeWitt, St. John's, Lansing Catholic, Mason co-op, earned a spot in the state quarterfinals a 3-2 victory.

LCTK senior Nolan Lockhart, on the left side of the night, deflected in a shot that came from near right point with 5:18 to go in the third period to tie the game at 2-2 on a power play. Teammates Ian Milton and Hunter Fridley, a pair of seniors, were credited with assists on the goal.

The Capitals had held a 2-1 lead for more than 15 minutes of ice time before Lockhart's goal knotted the game.

The two teams were back and forth all evening, with the Capitals jumping ahead 1-0 in the first period only to be answered by

1:52 to go in regulation.

Cameron Van Tighem led the Capitals' attack in the closing minutes, firing a few pucks on net. Tighem blasted a hard shot from low on the left side as the clock ticked under ten seconds to play. Lockhart blasted him, but Hamp snuck in from the corner to grab the rebound just to Ziesmer's right. Hamp swung the puck over to the front of the net and stuck it past the LCTK keeper with a backhand sweep. Ziesmer had made 25 saves to that point.

Hamp threw his arms in the air, then turned and sprinted for his bench - stumbling as he tried to move faster than his skates could carry him. He wound up under a pile of his teammates. After a LCTK time-out and 6.2 seconds, there was another pile of Capitals at the other end of the ice near keeper Ryan Gilmore's net.

It was a scene many of the LCTK boys have been a part of themselves in recent seasons, winners of back-to-back Division 1 Regional titles. LCTK defeated DeWitt/St John's

Blake Parisian scored the opening goal of the game for the Capitals, seven and a half minutes into the contest, with an assist from Max Kuhnert. Parisian succored again with 3:29 to go in the second period to put his team in front 2-1 at the time.

LCTK had 26 shots on goal in the loss.

Relying too much on history will make a team history in the state tournament.

LCTK opened the postseason with a 4-2 victory over Kalamazoo United in a regional quarterfinal Tuesday and a 5-2 win over the Eastside Stars in the regional semifinals Thursday.

LCTK's back-to-back regional championships and an early-January 6-0 win over the United co-op team, made up of skaters from Kalamazoo Christian, Hackett Catholic Prep and Loy Norrix, were well in the past when the two teams skated into the third period tied 1-1 Tuesday.

"It was reality. You win or you go home. It took the boys a period and

kind of took the reigns and that was that."

"All the seniors, they were on it, especially in the third period."

LCTK scored twice in the first five minutes of the third period, and then battled through the remainder of a penalty filled period for the two-goal victory.



Lowell/Caledonia sophomore Andrew Davis carries the puck around behind the net while avoiding pressure from Kalamazoo United's Jack Kirschensteiner during their Division 1 Regional opener Tuesday (Feb. 26) at The Summit in Dimondale.

Red Arrow

- BASKETBALL

SPORTS

Evenly matched: Arrows lose

submitted by WRWW

Following recognition last Friday of the seniors and their parents, the lady Lowell Red Arrows and the Cedar Springs Red Hawks battled it out, only to see the Red Arrows lose in the final seconds, 37 to 36. Cedar jumped out to a 12 to five first-quarter lead, with Lowell making a comeback in the second quarter to take a half-time lead of 21 to 18. The Red Arrows' Emily Depew put up nine points, followed by Regan Coxon who put up six in the first half.

The second half saw the lead change hands several times before the final buzzer, with Cedar Springs reversing a 47 to 45 loss to Lowell earlier in the season. Leading scorer for the Red Hawks was Brighton Miller with 14 points, followed by Courtney Pienta with nine. The Red Arrows were led in scoring by Depew and Coxon, both with 12. With less than two minutes left in the game, Coxon became the all-time leading female scorer in Lowell history.



Lady Arrow Seniors: Regan Coxon, Emily Depew, Allyson Lange, and Ava Frederickson.

Regan Coxon becomes all-time leading scorer

submitted by WRWW

Regan Coxon, a four-year varsity starter for the Lowell Red Arrows, became the all-time leading scorer during her final regular season game last Thursday. With about two minutes left in the game, she scored two points to make her the second lady to top 1000 points in her career. A few seconds later, she scored again to become the all-time leading female scorer in Lowell history.

The previous record, 1002 points, was accomplished 17 years ago and was held by Leslie Crowley. Following the game, Athletic Director, Dee Crowley presented the game ball to Coxon.

Varsity coach Heath Kent says this about Coxon: "Regan has worked hard to become the player she is today, and the record is testament to her skill and work ethic. More importantly though, is the impact she's had on



Regan Coxon. Photo by Justin Scott

the younger girls in the community who look up to her. It was great to see her taking pictures with so many younger players after she beat the record on Thursday. She's been a great ambassador for our program."

Coxon was voted 'High School Soccer Player of the Year' at the West Michigan Soccer Awards program last Saturday. Last November, she was honored as the Meijer Scholar Athlete of the Week.

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Red Wings defeat Red Arrows

submitted by WRWW

The Lowell Red Arrows saw their season end Monday night at the hands of the St. Johns Red Wings in Michigan High School Athletic Association district playoff action. Lowell was forced to play 'catch-up' the whole game as they were on the short end of the score, 15 to three, at the end of the first quarter. That spread increased as the game progressed. The Red Wings led 26 to 13 at halftime, 44 to 18 at the conclusion of the third quarter, and 49 to 27 at games end. St. Johns was paced by Abby Koneval with 13, Rachel Rustad with 11, and Kerri Miller

with nine. Lowell had seven points, each scored by three players: Regan Coxon, Allyson Lange, and Ava Frederickson. Coxon spent considerable time on the bench, in foul trouble, eventually fouling out early in the fourth quarter. The Red Arrows closed out the season with a 7-13 overall record, 5-8 in the OK White Conference. Playing in their last high school basketball game for the Arrows were seniors; Coxon, Lange, Frederickson, and Emily Depew.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Vergennes Township Board will hold a public hearing for comment on the proposed 2019/2020 budget during a regular meeting of the Board to be held March 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The Board meets at the Vergennes Township Hall located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI 49331.

Copies of the proposed budget are available at the township offices on Mondays & Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Written comments will be accepted if received before 7 pm on March 18th by the Township Clerk. They can be sent to PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331, or by e-mail to clerk@vergennestwp.org.

Heather Hoffman
Vergennes Township Clerk

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2018 WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR CITY OF LOWELL AND LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Is my water safe?

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

Do I need to take special precautions?

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

Where does my water come from?

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

Source water assessment and its availability

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

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural

livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

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

Monitoring and reporting of compliance data violations

Lowell Township Water Department failed to conduct monitoring for disinfection byproducts on time. We are required to sample annually. Due to an oversight, we took the sample 14 days late. Although the

late sample was below the MCL we are uncertain whether or not there may be any adverse health risks associated with this violation. We are making every effort to assure this does not happen again.

Disinfection byproducts include trihalomethanes (THMs) and haloacetic acids (HAAs). Some people who drink water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problem with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Variance and Exemptions

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2018 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 to December 31, 2018. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year,

Additional Information for Lead

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

Water Quality Data Table

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

WATER QUALITY REPORT, CONTINUED

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT, or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products								
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants)								
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) City of Lowell	NA	80	12.0	NA	12.0	2018	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb) Lowell Twp.	NA	80	7.9	NA	7.9	2017	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acid (ppb) City of Lowell	NA	60	1.0	NA	1.0	2018	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Haloacetic Acid (ppb) Lowell Twp.	NA	60	3.14	NA	3.14	2017	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm) City of Lowell	4	4	.423	0.16	0.64	2018	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine (as Cl ₂) (ppm) Lowell Twp.	4	4	.38	.30	.54	2018	No	
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	1.1	1.0	1.2	2018	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.68	0.16	0.8	2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Sodium (optional) (ppm)		MPL	12	9	15	2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Microbiological Contaminants								
Total Coliform (positive samples/month)	0	0	0	NA	NA	2018	No	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal coliform/E. coli - in the distribution system (positive samples)	0	0	0	NA	NA	2018	No	Human and animal fecal waste
A violation occurs when a routine sample and a repeat sample, in any given month, are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal coliform or E. coli positive.								
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	2.7	NA	NA	2013	No	Erosion of natural deposits

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

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

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

For more information please contact:

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

Who to contact: Social Security or Medicare

Sometimes it's confusing to know who to contact and for what. Social Security and Medicare offer related services, so people aren't always certain who does what. This "cheat sheet" can help.

Contact Social Security to:

- See if you're eligible for Medicare;
- Create a *my Social Security* account to do things like request a replacement Medicare card and report a change of address, name, or phone number;
- Sign up for Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance);
- Apply for Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) costs;
- Report a death; and
- Appeal an Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) decision (for people who pay a higher Part B and/or Part D premium if their income is over a certain amount).

Find information on how to do all of this and more at www.socialsecurity.gov and www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/medicare.

Contact Medicare to:

- See what services Medicare covers;
- Get detailed information about Medicare health and prescription drug

plans in your area, including costs and services;

- Choose and enroll in a Medicare health or prescription drug plan that meets your needs;
- Find a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy in your area;
- Find doctors, health care providers, and suppliers who participate in Medicare;
- Get information and forms for filing a Medicare appeal or for letting someone speak with Medicare on your behalf;

Compare the quality of care provided by plans, nursing homes, hospitals, home health agencies, and dialysis facilities; and

- View Medicare publications.

Visit www.medicare.gov for these services.

If you need to find out your claim status, find out deductibles, or get answers to premium payment questions, you can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY: 1-877-486-2048).

Determining who to contact is the first step in getting the answers you need.

Please share these lists with family and friends who need to know more about Social Security and Medicare.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

	H	E	W		P	E	A		T	A	B						
	A	M	A		A	R	B		O	W	E						
G	A	L	O	P		R	A	Y		R	A	D	O	M			
O	N	E	T	I	M	E			S	A	C	K	I	N	G		
P	Y	R	I	T	E	S			S	C	H	E	M	E	D		
							V	I	D	E		A	M	E	N		
N	E	M	E	S	E	S				L	E	S	S	E	E	S	
F	A	A													L	O	A
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C	O	T	E	R	I	E				E	A	R	F	L	A	P	
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							M	M	E		C	H	I		C	O	T
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6	2	3	9	1	7	4	5	8
5	7	8	3	6	4	9	2	1
1	4	9	8	5	2	3	7	6
3	1	6	2	7	5	8	4	9
7	8	5	4	9	1	2	6	3
4	9	2	6	8	3	7	1	5
9	6	1	7	4	8	5	3	2
2	5	7	1	3	9	6	8	4
8	3	4	5	2	6	1	9	7

obituaries

BUHLER

 Keith Gene Buhler, age 76 of Lowell, went to be with his Lord, Tuesday, February 26, 2019. He was preceded in death by his father, Norwood Buhler. Keith is survived by his wife of 50 years, Janice P. Buhler; daughter Gena (Keith Theodore) Buhler; mother, Marguerite Buhler; and brother, Max (Dottie) Buhler. Keith served his country in the US Air Force from 1964-1968. He retired after 30 years of employment from Ionia Correctional Facility. Mass of Christian Burial was Saturday, March 2, at St. Robert of Newminster Catholic Church, Ada. Rev. Leonard Sudlik presided. Memorial contributions may be made to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, 3000 Monroe Ave NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505.



RASCH

Thomas Robert Rasch, age 65 of Lowell, passed away Friday, March 1, 2019. He was preceded in death by his father, Carl Rasch; and his children's mother, Darlene Rasch. Tom is survived by his children, Nicole (Chad) Campbell, Angela (Jeremy) Bowen; mother, Julia Rasch; significant other Pam Leiter; brothers Carl (Roxanne) Rasch Jr., Kenneth (Sally) Rasch, Larry Rasch, Duane (Debbie) Rasch, Ed (Judy) Rasch; sisters Marilyn McDaniel, Diane Rasch, Janice Dollen; and grandchildren Joseph Senneker, Brett Senneker, Kaitlyn Senneker, and Emilee Beimers; and several nieces and nephews. Tom's life-long passion was farming. He had the love of conversation and appreciation for everyone he met. Mass of Christian Burial was Tuesday, March 5, at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Parnell. Rev. Thomas Cavera presided. Interment St. Mary's Miriam Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate mass offerings in Tom's name. Memorial contributions may also be made in Tom's name to the American Cancer Society, 129 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



RICE

Donna Mae Rice, age 84 of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, February 26, 2019. She was preceded in death by her parents, Theodore and Olla Wilson; and sister Ruby Heuss. Donna is survived by her husband of 64 years, Phil; many nieces; nephews; great-nieces; and great-nephews. Donna enjoyed the Senior Center for 20 years; and her flower beds around the house were always beautiful. Memorial service was held Friday, March 1, at Schneider Manor in Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society of West Michigan, 3077 Wilson NW Grand Rapids, MI 49534.



SCHAFER

James "Jamie" Robert Schafer, age 31, of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, March 3, 2019. Jamie was preceded in death by his grandparents, Mary and Jay O'Connor and Robert Schafer; aunt Kathy Schafer; and uncles, Robert M. Schafer and Pat Norden. Jamie is survived his infant son, Kyrin Schafer; parents, James and Kathy Schafer and Michelle Norden; sister, Lacey Norden; brothers, Josh (Chelsea) Davidson and Kaden Schafer; grandparents, Sam and Nila Norden; aunts and uncles; and several cousins. Jamie loved to make people happy and laugh. Visitation will be Tuesday, March 12 from 6-8 PM at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI. A funeral service will be held Wednesday, March 13 at 11 AM at Roth-Gerst Chapel. Rev. Gary Dougherty officiating. Interment St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery, Parnell, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in to the Education fund for Kyrin Schafer.



...
When life's problems seem overwhelming, look around and see what other people are coping with. You may consider yourself fortunate.

— Ann Landers

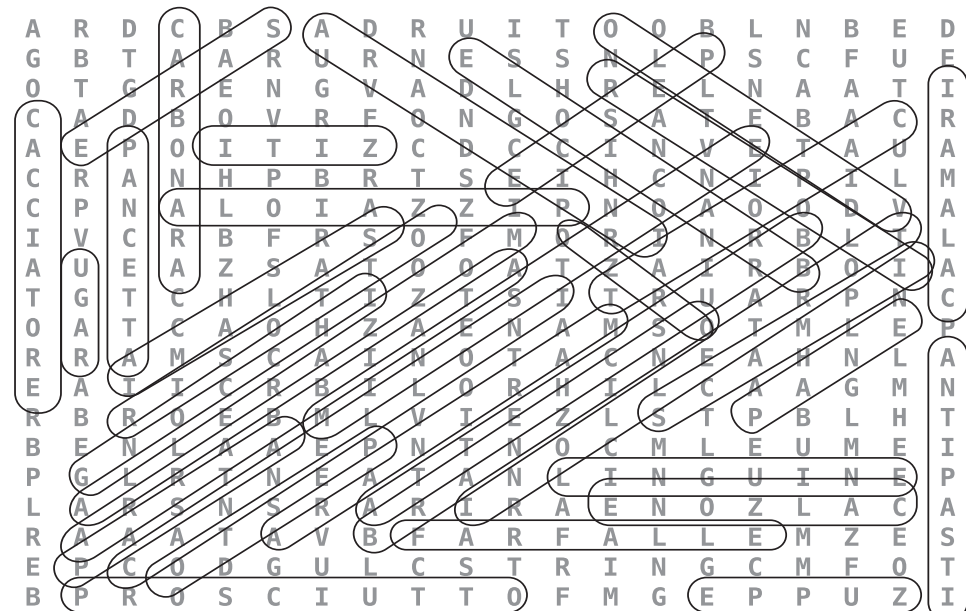
WHEELLOCK

Julia M. (Covey) Wheelock "Aunt Julie", went to her heavenly home quietly in the early morning of March 1, 2019 at the age of 75. The devotion of her family, friends and firm belief in God, supported her in this transition to her ultimate peace. Julie is survived by her husband of 57 years, David Wheelock Sr. of Saranac; son, David (Cheri) Wheelock Jr. of Albuquerque, NM; daughter, Kathy Wheelock-Besson of Saranac and Bill Besson; three grandsons, David Wheelock III of Crestview, FL, Trevor and Bryce Besson of Saranac; great-grandchildren, Piper and Calvin; sister, Phyllis Morse of FL; brother, Ray (Sue) Covey of FL; step-mother, MariJo Covey of GA; sister-in-law, Leona (Clyde) Eckman of MI; stepsisters, Ruth (Lyn) Bradley of MI and Bonnie Auld of GA; sisters-in-law, Harriet (Bruce) Davenport, Anna Niemela, Charlot Perry, and Dorothy (Arnold) Kimball, all of MI; brother-in-law, Dan (Evelyn) Wheelock of MO; and several nieces and nephews. Julie was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Lillian (Sweet/Mathews) Covey; brother, Roy Covey; in-law's, Leo and Lela Wheelock; niece, Tammy Morse; and brother-in-law, Lewis Niemela. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Julie's Life, at 10 am, March 16, at the Pathway's Ebenezer Center, 4960 Portland Rd, Saranac, MI 48881 with an open house style reception to follow from 11 am to 2 pm. The family is grateful for the condolences, but declines flowers; please, send donations to: Winding Creek (church) Camp, 161 Summit Dr., Allegan, MI 49010. <https://windingcreekcamp.org> or Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook SE, Ste. 300, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. <https://faithhospicecare.org>. The family would also like to thank the Sunrise Senior Living Community, the Faith Hospice and Comfort Keepers caregiving teams for their efforts, kindness and compassionate dedication.



WOOD

Anne Therese Wood, age 79, of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, February 27, 2019. Anne was preceded in death by her husband, Jack J. Wood; and her parents, James and Dorothy Goggins. She is survived by her children, Elizabeth (William) McCloskey, Beverley (Martin) Waterman, Laura Wood, Donna (Steven) Bates and Timothy Wood; sisters, Mary Jo Middaugh and Kathleen Rodriguez; brothers, James G. (Marti) Goggins, Michael Goggins and Patrick (Peggy) Goggins; sisters-in-law, Mary Ellen (Al) Kieffer and Judy (Carl) Holt; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Visitation will be Thursday, March 7 from 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM with a Rosary at 7:30 PM at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, March 8 at 11 AM at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 4351 Parnell Ave NE, Ada, MI. Rev. Thomas Cavera presiding. Interment St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Anne's memory to the National Kidney Foundation – Grand Rapids Branch, 1845 Monroe Ave NW, #140, Grand Rapids, MI 49505.



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50¢ each additional sheet

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



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Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - noon
closed Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

CHAPEL HILL MEMORIAL GARDEN - 2 burial plots in section 20D lots 1 & 2. Currently going for \$1395 each. Will consider all offers & possible trade(s). Contact Larry 616-682-4979.

EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND VALUE - Requires less wood & provides more heat. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today! 616-554-8669. SOS Property Maintenance LLC, 6950 Hammond Ave, Caledonia. We are your local sales, service & parts dealer! ^{TFN}

LOG SPLITTER - Three point connection for a tractor. It's used, but works as of last use, \$300. Contact 616-295-1412, please leave a voice mail if interested.

SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-576-0404 Ext.300 (MICH)

2 SNOWMOBILES - 1996 Ski-doo's both under 1950 miles & 2006 covered trailer, for \$2,800; quad, 2007 Manco, 642 miles, \$3,000. Call 616-304-3861.

NEWSPAPER ENDS ROLLS AVAILABLE - Many uses. Usually \$3-\$5 each. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway.

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

Attention: Oxygen Users! Gain freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks and refills! Guaranteed Lowest Prices! Call the Oxygen Concentrator Store: 855-496-0417 (MICH)

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. No refunds if ad is cancelled early. Call 897-9555.

USED TIRES - Call with size, 616-292-7649/616-295-8820. Rob's Auto - thanks. ^{TFN}

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

help wanted

NOW HIRING - - We are taking applications carriers to deliver the Buyers Guide on Saturdays. Must be dependable! Work less than 1 day a week! Get paid weekly, pickup papers at Buyers Guide office. Apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. No phone calls accepted regarding this position.

TRUCK DRIVER POSITIONS - Full-time positions available for truck drivers. Must have Class A CDL & clear driving record. Hauling sand, topsoil & other similar product. Lowboy, dump, flatbed & heavy equipment experience preferred. Progressive pay scale, bonuses & full benefits including health, 401K with match & life insurance. Dental & vision also available. Apply in person at 3175 Segwun Ave., Lowell Mon. - Fri., 8 am - 5 pm or email resume to: info@TimpsonTransport.com or fax to 616-897-5905.

services

HANDY REPAIR SERVICE - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198. ^{TFN}

WORK WANTED - Double D's Bucket Van & Handyman Service. 40' bucket, tree trimming & removal, gutters, window washing, power washing, buildings, barns, homes, decks, etc. Insured. Call Dave Delinsky, 616-212-3008. Free estimates.

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

services

ROOFTOP SNOW & ICE REMOVAL - Avoid costly roof damage from ice backup! Clayton Risner Home Improvement, over 35 years experience. Call 616-870-4733.

EVERYDAY MILITARY DISCOUNT - 10% off any service when showing your military ID. 24-Hour towing, tire change, lock out, jump starts, fuel delivery. J&K Roadside Service, 616-690-0983.

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555 or email to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

services

FAX SERVICE - We send or receive a fax for you! Great Rate - \$1 for the first page & 50¢ for each additional page. Buyers Guide, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9555.

misc

PORK STEAK DINNER - Fri., March 8, 5-7:30 pm and Sunday breakfast, March 10, 8-11 am. Alto American Legion, 6056 Linfield, Alto. Public welcome.

SAVE ON YOUR NEXT PRESCRIPTION! World Health Link. Price Match Guarantee! Prescriptions Required. CIPA Certified. Over 1500 medications available. CALL Today For A Free Price Quote. 1-855-972-1693 Call Now! (MICH)

ATTENTION: U.S. Military Veterans who serviced between 2003 and 2005. Have you been diagnosed with partial or total hearing 2/26/19 loss or tinnitus? You may be entitled to compensation. Contact: Attorney Charles H. Johnson, 1-800-535-5727 (MICH)

misc

LENTEN FISH FRY - Knights of Columbus #7719 at St. Mary's Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell. Fridays March 8 through April 12, 5-7 pm. Dine in or take out. \$8 ages 13 & up, \$4 for children 12 & under or \$25 for families. Cash, check & credit cards accepted. All you can eat menu: baked & fried cod, mac & cheese, fries, cole slaw, applesauce, cornbread, juice & coffee. Proceeds to be dedicated to: FROM, Lowell Baby Pantry, Archdiocese for the Military Services & Vacation Bible School.

for rent

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of housing or residential lots; in the advertising the sale or rental of housing, in the financing of housing. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900. ^{TFN}

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

wanted

I WANT TO BUY - Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer & furniture in good shape. Have cash. 989-584-6818. ^{TFN}

HELP US DELIVER THE PAPER...please DIG OUT around your newspaper tube, mailbox, steps, walkways & porches! Let's all try to HELP EACH OTHER survive the Winter.

Community Calendar

March

AND ONGOING EVENTS

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

GUIDED PAINTING WITH ART OF LIFE - Wed., March 13, 6 pm. Create & take home an acrylic painting with guidance with experienced Art of Life staff. Seating is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 30 minutes before the program begins. Program attendees may save one additional seat prior to the beginning of the program. Participate limited to 25. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE - West Michigan Women in WWI with tea at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE on March 21 at 1 pm. Enjoy tea while learning about the contributions of local women to the World War I effort in West Michigan. Hosted by the Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Friends of the Englehardt Library. 897-7688.

MOVIES WITH MARY - March 23 at 1 pm. Dr. Staglelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964). Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

MATTER OF BALANCE - 8-week program, Thursdays, March 28 - May 16, 1:30 - 3:30 pm. This 8-week program meets 2 hours per week & helps many older adults learn ways to man-

age & conquer their fear of falling, leading to less falls & a more active & engaged lifestyle. In partnership with Senior Neighbors. Reserve spot by calling 616-233-0283. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

TECH SAVY SENIORS - 3rd Wednesday (March 20, April 17, May 15), 1-2 pm. For older people in a digital world, it's easy to become overwhelmed or feel intimidated by all the new technology around us. Join us to discuss current tech topics & gain the kills and confidence to access information & services online. No registration required. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

MINECRAFT - 1st Monday (March 4, April 1, May 6) at 4:30 pm. Get your Minecraft fix & show off your world-building skills. The library has a limited number of computers & licenses for Minecraft. First come, first served. No registration required. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

NIGHT OWLS BOOK DISCUSSION - Wed., March 6 at 6:30 pm The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

BOOKWORMS BOOK DISCUSSION - March 12, 10 am. The Great Alone, Kristin Hannah. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY COOKBOOK CLUB - March 25, 6:30 pm. Appetites: A Cookbook, Anthony Bourdain. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

FAMILY STORYTIME - March 14 - April 25, 10 am. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

TODDLER TIME - Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. March 12 thru May 7. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

KIDS JOKE TIME (LAUGHFEST) - Sat., March 9 at 1 pm. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Unity condos, continued

That's all we asked for and I think that's fair."

At the Monday, March 4 city council meeting, DeVore read a brief prepared statement about the Unity development.

"It is the role of the city council to advocate for the best interests of our residents, business owners and community organizations," DeVore's statement said. "To this end, we often find ourselves working to balance competing interests against a framework of rules and regulations that guide our decisions. That is the case with Riverview Flats. Our city manager has been working with developers Jerry Zandstra and Todd Schaal for the better part of a year to see if we could repurpose the former Unity School into condos. The city has bargained in good faith throughout the course of this project, which comes with some unusual land requirements from the developers. Last week, our council reviewed these requirements and decided it would not be in the best interest of the greater community to allow this project to move forward. This is not only the council's right, it is our obligation to make decisions for the good of the whole community. It was beyond disappointing to see the reactions of Mr. Zandstra and Mr. Schaal, who immediately lashed out in anger over our decision. Like petulant children, they say our community may no longer use property where we have historically held the Riverwalk Festival, Pink Arrow Day and other community-wide celebrations and events. And even though they have only owned this property since

"When the principals of Riverview Flats bought the property at 238 High St. in the fall of 2018, they did so with the full knowledge that city power lines were there." - Steve Donkersloot

November, they have sent us a \$1.53 million invoice for rent on our underground power lines. These tactics are absurd. As a council and a community, we will not be bullied. While we welcome development, it must be development that makes sense for our community, not simply a project that will unfairly line the pockets of a few."

DeVore said he was moved to speak publicly about the issue after the developers sent the city that \$1.5 million "rent" invoice.

"[They lashed out]

"Like petulant children, [Zandstra and Schaal] say our community may no longer use property where we have historically held the Riverwalk Festival, Pink Arrow Day and other community-wide celebrations and events." - Michael DeVore

all weekend, really," DeVore said. "I know they approached [Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director] Liz Baker about not using the park property for the Riverwalk Festival and they sent that invoice to Light & Power almost immediately [it arrived on Friday, March 1]. I don't have the first clue, honestly, where that \$1.5 million number came from. According to the rent invoice, they want \$30,000 for March of 2019, they want \$60,000 each for January and February of 2019, \$360,000 for 12 months of 2018, and they only owned the property for two of those months, \$360,000 for each year back to 2015, and then 2014 just says 'pending.' There is no date on the invoice and no supporting information whatsoever. It looks like it was just typed up the morning they found out."

According to DeVore, the sticking point in negotiations was that the Unity developers were suddenly asking the city to vacate High St., so the council voted against the project at their Feb. 28 closed session meeting.

"I will tell you that if that one caveat was not in that

launch gets a ton of use, it's used for overflow parking for the concerts and stuff like that. Maintaining that boat launch has been the number one caveat since we started this thing. I think condos would be great right there and I think retail would look cool in that old school. That's the worst, blighted property in town. To get that back the way it should look is great, but I'm not willing to give up a city street to do it. The community as a whole loses if we vacate High St. and if we lose that boat launch. If we can't use that property for the Riverwalk Festival, that effects a lot more than just Jerry and Todd and whoever their other investors are. It's not my job to be responsible to three people from Lowell, it's my job to be responsible to all of them. Look at the wording. When I said it's 'a project that will unfairly line the pockets of a few,' I didn't mean that they're not entitled to make money on their development deal. That's not how I meant that to come off. They're absolutely entitled to make money. Nobody is in business to hemorrhage cash. Everybody is in business to make money. They're the only people who benefit from having it the way they want it, the community as a whole does not."

The developers contend that the issue was not High St., it was the power lines.

"The Lowell Light & Power line goes under the river and comes up in our property running east and west and services approximately 20 blocks and most of the east side of the City of Lowell per LL&P," Schaal said. "There is a second LL&P line that runs diagonally through the property which they also do not have an easement for. This was abandoned in 2014 when they did the new one. However, they said they want to re-energize it as the city's electricity demands have grown and the east side needs more power. [L&P general manager] Steve Donkersloot has since said they won't do that as they don't want more issues and that they would run new additional lines around, whatever that means, and he did say that would come

at additional cost. Along the east west power line are fiber optic lines that serve the school and administrative building, also there without an easement. Comcast also has their cable there, also without an easement, claiming they are there having relied on the city. So [there are] three baskets of issues we see: stuff that has been reported, the property next to the library being key too many issues that benefit the city (launch ramp, festivals, concerts, parking, etc.); power lines, fiber optic and cable lines there, none of which have easements or a legal right to be there [and] any claims Comcast may raise against Lowell."

In my mind, the project is dead and it can sit there for another 15 years. We're probably going to bulldoze the buildings and let it sit. If the city council will not work with us, they have left us with no choice. We cannot develop the property because the city won't allow us to. - Jerry Zandstra

"In 2012, Lowell Light & Power had full authorization from Lowell Public Schools, which was the property owner at that time, to install the underground cables," Donkersloot said in an email to the Ledger. "This was done to increase the reliability of LL&P's distribution system, improve the functionality of the Unity School property and enhance the aesthetics of the Riverwalk. When the principals of Riverview Flats bought the property at 238 High St. in the fall of 2018, they did so with the full knowledge that city power lines were there."

"The city uses that property," Zandstra said. "It's just north of the library, the Riverwalk Festival has stuff on it, the Chamber of Commerce uses it, there are lots of good reasons why the city may want to own that property. And the truth is, they could have bought it. It's been sitting there for sale for multiple years. They could have bought it from the schools when it originally went for sale. They could have bought it from the previous owner, and they didn't. It's not our fault. They just didn't."

Zandstra said that the developers were not aware of the underground lines until they were already under contract to purchase the property.

"When we had the property under contract, my partner

and I were out there and we saw boxes on the west end of the south property and boxes on the east end of the south property," Zandstra said. "My partner Todd, who has been in real estate for 35 years, said, 'That's interesting, none of this shows up on the surveys.' I said, 'What do you mean?' He said, 'There's no easement here.' He called the engineering firm back and said, 'Take another look, there's got to be an easement for all this.' First we called Miss Dig and figured out that Comcast is through there, city electric is through there, telephone lines and fiber optic cable goes through there - there's all this stuff

lines were there when they purchased the property in November of 2018."

The developers have not decided whether or not to pursue litigation, and said they were disappointed by how the situation turned out.

"We have instructed our attorney to send notices to LL&P, Lowell Area Schools and Comcast to remove their lines and gear," Schaal said. "These are going out today [Monday, March 4] by email as well as mail to all three parties. We have asked the school superintendent to instruct the students not to park on the property and to remove the rowing scows and equipment from our property. We have been letting them store stuff both inside and outside the school building. That said, as good guys, we made the superintendent aware there is one easement for nine parking spaces at the west end down by the river. We are fielding bids for the demolition of the buildings."

"In my mind, the project is dead and it can sit there for another 15 years," Zandstra said. "We're probably going to bulldoze the buildings and let it sit. If the city council will not work with us, they have left us with no choice. We cannot develop the property because the city won't allow us to. Lowell Light & Power and the city have a big problem."

"That is a joke," DeVore commented to the Ledger. "Can you just put that my response to that was, 'Ha ha!' We have tried and tried and tried, and we were not the ones who stopped trying. They made their choice on Friday morning when they came back with that invoice and they made their choice when they went to Liz Baker and told her they couldn't use that property for Riverwalk Festival. They're trying to drive wedges all over town. [...] We made the right decision, as it turns out, because this is a nightmare."

On the afternoon of Monday, March 4, Zandstra emailed Burns and Wendt to let them know the deal was officially off from their point of view as well, including the landscaping.

"Todd and I (Unity School Investors LLC) have decided to withdraw our request for swapping the [seven feet] of the park land to the west of the bus garage with our property to the west of the school building and south of the bus garage," Zandstra's email said. "Obviously, we are also withdrawing our offer to landscape the park property the city would have received in the swap."

Lowell Light & Power's next regular board meeting will be upstairs at its 127 N. Broadway headquarters at 6 pm on Thursday, March 14.

FUN PAGE

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ITALIAN MENU WORD SEARCH

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

Puzzle solutions on page 15 & 16

ITALIAN MENU WORD SEARCH

ANTIPASTI
ARANCINI
ARRABBIATA
BRACIOLE
BRANZINO
BRUSCHETTA
CACCIATORE

CALAMARI
CALZONE
CANNELLONI
CAPONATA
CARBONARA
FARFALLE
GNOCCHI
LINGUINE
MARINARA
MINISTRONE

MOZZARELLA
ORZO
PANCETTA
PANE
PASTA
PESCE
PESTO
PIZZAIOLA
PROSCIUTTO

RAGU
RAVIOLI
RISOTTO
SALAMI
SARDE
SCAMPI
TORTELLONI
VITELLO
ZITI
ZUPPE

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in California on October 3, 1969. As a child, I was diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia.

But there was no doubt I would become a performer. I have fronted a rock band and also had a successful solo career. A new gig as a talent judge paved the way for romance.

Answer: Gwen Stefani

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to sports.

S S I G W N

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Answer: Swings

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		63					64					65		

CLUES ACROSS

- Chop or cut
- Green veggie
- Bar bill
- Doctors' group
- One who buys and sells securities (slang)
- Be in debt
- Lively ballroom dance
- Singer Charles
- Polish city
- Former
- Dismissing from employment
- Minerals
- Plotted
- Consult
- After a prayer
- Agents of one's downfall
- Leaseholders
- Supervises flying
- Voodoo god
- Alfalfa
- Apply another coat to
- Witnesses
- Jai __, sport
- Ones who proof
- Recant

- Small group with shared interests
- Part of warming headgear
- Woolen cloth
- Snag
- Central American fruit tree
- Woman (French)
- The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
- Type of bed
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Consume
- Japanese freight company (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- Czech monetary unit
- Able to arouse intense feeling
- Elk
- Muscular weaknesses
- Geological time
- Depths of the ocean
- Burns to the ground
- Becomes cognizant of
- Cause to shade
- US political party
- Refers to some of a thing
- Single
- Type of beer
- Ancient Iranian people
- Grocery chain
- Gridiron league
- English river
- __ and cheese
- Peyton's younger brother
- Long time
- High schoolers' test
- Respects
- Organize anew
- Filippo __, Saint
- Intrinsic nature of something
- Cheese dish
- Ancient Greek City
- Patron saint of Ireland
- Produced by moving aircraft or vehicle
- Shock treatment
- __ Jones
- Things
- Having wings
- Panthers' QB Newton
- Third-party access
- Satisfaction

This week in photos Individual State wrestling finals



Lowell's Austin Boone works to turn Melvindale's Devin Spears onto his back during the second period of their Division 2 152-pound championship match Saturday at the Individual State Finals at Ford Field in Detroit. Boone turned Spears and pinned him 57 seconds into their bout. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



Lowell 145-pounder James Fotis (right) battles for position with Kaleb Rosen from New Boston Huron during their match for fifth place at the Division 2 Individual State Finals Saturday at Ford Field in downtown Detroit. Fotis clinched fifth place at their weight class with a 9-2 win. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



Red Arrow 145-pounder Doak Dean (top) looks for advice from his corner as he tries to turn DeWitt's Tyler Brandt during the third period of their match for seventh place at the Division 2 Individual State Finals Saturday at Ford Field in downtown Detroit. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



Red Arrow heavyweight Tyler Delooff holds down Holly's Blake Querio during their Division 2 285-pound consolation semifinal Saturday at the Individual State Finals at Ford Field in Detroit. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

Happy St. Patrick's Day Sunday March 17th

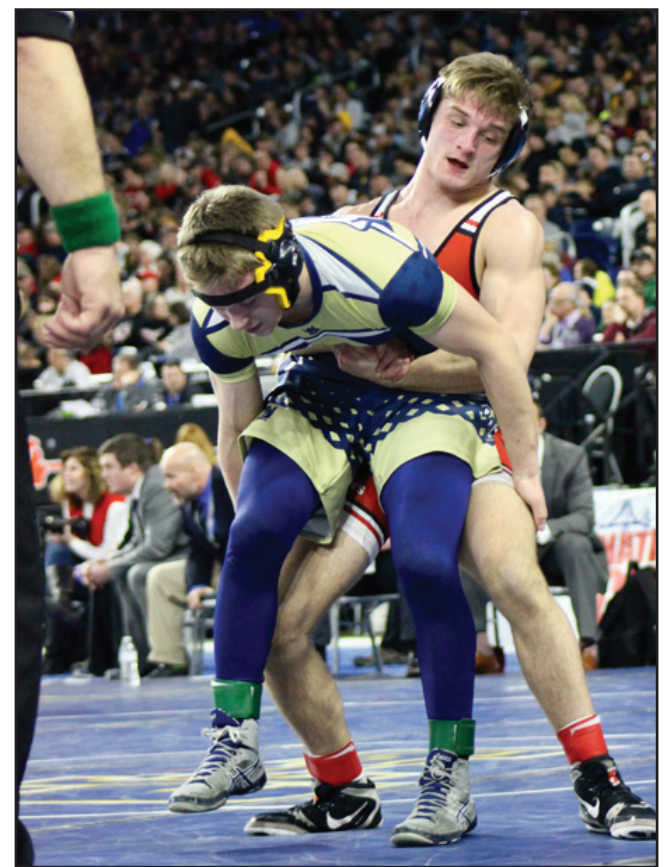
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Lowell's Avry Mutschler works to lift Chelsea's Nick Matusko off the mat in hopes of getting him back down again during the third period of their Division 2 140-pound championship match Saturday at the Individual State Finals at Ford Field in Detroit. Mutschler scored a 5-2 victory in the contest to secure the state title. (Photo by Brett Bremer)