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the lowell COCIC

wednesday • april • 13 • 2011

vol. 40 issue 27

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music teacher honored



page 3

puzzling painting



page 8

local artists on display







page 9



Emotions run high at the school board meeting

District needs to cut \$3 million as layoffs begin

by Shelly MacNaughton

Passionate pleas for keeping a beloved principal on staff were heard at Monday night's school board meeting. Districts across the state are facing very tough budget cuts and the heartfelt emotions heard Monday night are just the beginning of this process. As Governor Snyder proposes reallocating funding meant for K-12 schools into colleges and universities; school districts are being forced to make drastic cuts. Lowell will need to cut three million from it's budget in the next year.

The first of Lowell's cuts are coming through the pipelines now, two district

Shelli Otten, principal of Cherry Creek and athletic director Barry Hobrla received notice before the

layoffs due to the impending budget crisis.

"We are looking at three million dollars in cuts. April first date in their When 86 percent of our

... "we have to make cuts that are ultimately going to hurt people and hurt kids."

> Mark Lessens School board president

contract clause. Teachers do not need to be given notice before April 1; districts are able to notify them later in the process. Had these administrators not been given notice before April 1, the district would be required to pay them for the next year even if they had to cut their

budget is people, we have to make cuts that are ultimately going to hurt people and hurt kids," said Mark Lessens, president of the board.

"We, as a board, feel very passionate about this issue, the money in the school aid fund should be left for K-12 schools. Our school district, will continue to meet and communicate with our legislators. We need people in our district to contact legislature. Please be vigilant that our school aid fund goes into our schools," said Pat Nugent, treasurer of the board.

The latest issue of the district newsletter, called Directions, has just been mailed to local addresses. Included in the directions newsletter is the name and contact information for Senator Dave Hildenbrand, Representative Lisa Posthumus Lyons and Representative Ken Yonkers. "The district feels that the Governor's proposal violates the original intent of administrators have received position. Administrators opinion is that this is a raid Proposal A enacted in 1994. notice of possible layoff. received notice of possible on the fund that we, as a This violation and proposal

should outrage us all," said Greg Pratt, superintendent.

Summer Moore, student council representative to the board, reported on various activities taking place at the high school. Recently the annual Collage concert was held and included performances from the band, orchestra and choir. Seniors have submitted local scholarship applications. Another successful blood drive was held with over 100 pints of blood collected. Exit 52, the color guard, received first place at state. Student council is also beginning to work on their upcoming prom with a masquerade

> School board meeting, continued, page 2

Texas Hold'em poker tournament at Larkin's Other Place will raise funds for local charities

by Emma Palova

The first time, the Texas Hold'em poker tournament held at Larkin's Other Place raised \$1,153 for the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

Manager Terry Risner runs the ongoing event and owner Mike Larkin is seeking other charities that can benefit from the poker tournament.

The charity only needs

The winner of the first poker game won \$640.

"It's a good fundraising event," said Larkin. "It went well and the players were happy."

The tournament last week benefited Rockford High School baseball.

This next two weeks it will benefit Godwin Heights' senior parents.

The poker tournaments

moratorium on issuing playing licenses in new locations.

"We are looking for charities for fundraising events," said Larkin.

Larkins' Other Place

will be hosting a Texas Hold'em poker tournament on Girls' Night Out. This tournament begins at 8:00 pm. Each 'Girls' Night Out' player will receive \$5,000 in poker chips.

For more information you can go to www. rezspokeroom.com or call Larkin's Other Place at 1-616-291-9250.



Mike Larkin inside the game room at Larkin's Other Place.

"We are looking for charities for fundraising events"

Mike Larkin

two people at the event to collect the money, according to Larkin.

The poker room is outfitted with seven tables and 10 people, or more, can play at the table.

Larkin said he has a license from the state for the poker tournaments, however individual charities also have to apply for licenses.

"We want to use the facility, plus there is no place on the east side of the county to play poker," he said.

Other than tournaments, guests can play cash games. run Wednesday through Friday beginning at 7 pm and on Saturdays starting at 3 pm. The entry fee is \$20 or \$40 on Fridays and Saturdays.

The cash tables are open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, from 5 pm to 2 am and Saturday from 2 pm to 2 am.

Also on Saturdays, a mini tournament begins at 3:00 pm and a bigger tournament begins at 7:00

The state had a

And \$1,000 will go

One rotarian will be

The majority of items

The event will be

towards the eradication of

matching all funds for the

international water projects.

will be bid in a silent auction

process. There are also a

limited number of items

held at the Grand Volute

Ballroom in Lowell.

Tickets are \$50 each. The

registration deadline is April

15. For more registration

information visit www.

auctioned live.

sharing the vision

It was once said that a politician is known by The Governor's proposal the promises he keeps. violates the original intent Unfortunately, it will come of Proposal A enacted in as no great surprise to most 1994. This violation and of you that over the past two proposal should outrage us years, Lansing has NOT all. How can our legislators kept their promises to our students. Frankly, I am more kids, and to the communities than frustrated that Lansing who have supported them? I has broken its promise implore you, please contact and, at this juncture, plans to your state representatives raid the school aid fund of and senators and express Michigan, forcing schools to them what the proposed to make cuts of a magnitude budget cuts will mean for that we have never seen. It Lowell Area Schools. We is devastating to think about need our legislators to find the Governor's current a solution that will work budget plan and how it will affect our kids. Lansing Our students and those can and should keep their who give their spirit and promise of funding K-12 talents to educate them education - and if they deserve better than broken don't, we need to hold promises.

them accountable. endure my explanation of hired as your superintendent the complexities of school five years ago, Lowell funding for one reason Area Schools has enforced alone. We need your help, budget cuts annually. Last The Governor has proposed vear alone, I recommended. a \$900 million RAID on and the Board of Education **fund** affecting your student, cuts. We have implemented my student...our students. layoffs, program cuts, The Governor is proposing consolidation, outsourcing, a shift of money from K-12 retirement buyouts, education to community colleges and universities. union leadership, we have Simply put, money was set aside for K-12 public contract costs. The Governor education through Proposal A as agreed upon by voters. our entire staff has shared proposal suggests robbing a voluntary pay freeze for K-12 schools to support the past two years. Not only colleges and universities, have we made significant

tendent Greg Pratt diverting \$470 per student from Lowell Area Schools. allow this to happen to our for K-12 public education. I think it is important for

I must ask you to you to know that since I was aid approved, \$2.37 million in more. Together collaborated to speaks of "shared sacrifice"; the Governor's the sacrifice, as have I with

preserve financial resources the legislature to finalize and secure funding through a budget, I have begun grant opportunities. For to take steps, along with six years our district has toward identifying specific avoided costs in the amount of \$3.6 million through our approval in order to survive energy conservation efforts the cuts that may be imposed and was an award recipient by the legislature. At this for being the #1 school for point these are initial plans, energy conservation in the but I am compelled to say Midwest! Over the past five that jobs, small class sizes, years, we have sought and and special programming secured \$1.1 million in grant will all be in jeopardy. I tell funds that go directly to the you this now so that you classroom from the Lowell can be prepared. Let's be Education Foundation, The fair. We'll make sacrifices, Wege Foundation and the but Lansing is going too far Grand Rapids Community with this proposal. They Foundation. I proudly and need to keep the promise unequivocally report to you of Proposal A. Please write that Lowell Area Schools your legislators, state has been a good steward of representatives, and senators your tax dollars! In spite and hold them accountable of the attack on public for the above-mentioned education funding that broken promises. Tell them resulted in reductions in to STOP THE RAID on the staff and revenue. Lowell State School Aid Fund!! The Area Schools continues students across the state and to be ranked in the upper in Lowell deserve our help. echelon of public schools in

also worked very hard to for Governor Snyder and the administrative team, recommendations for Board

This year, the proceeds

Rotary is partnering with Friends of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (FOVC) to drill wells which will provide clean drinking water to eight villages serving over 350,000 people in Shanto,

Haiti Project, rotarians will travel

to Haiti in Feb. 2012 to install up to 100 water filters more remote family homes. Funds

lowelrotary.org.

meeting, continued theme. Prom will be held said Bearup. "Our plan is for at The Pinnacle Center in our counselors to share this

School board

curriculum director, offered results from the ACT Explore test taken by the eighth graders. "This is the initial test in looking at the eighth graders' college readiness skills. In every category, Lowell students scored above the national average. I think it is important to see if our kids are in fact on track with their

college readiness skills,"

data regarding results with individual students; students will then bring home parent reports for review," said Dan Vander Meulen, middle school principal.

"Thank you, everyone, for coming tonight. We have tough decisions ahead of us. Please take time and go to our legislators that work for us and demand that they stop the raid on the school aid fund," said Superintendent

main

street

CLAY WORKSHOP

Adults and children can spend a fun couple of hours creating sculpture together in a clay workshop open to all ages and creative levels. Offered at Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Educaion Center, April 16 at 11 am or 1 pm or at Lowell Area Arts Council, April 30 at 11 am or 1 pm. To sign up or for more information call 897-7842, e-mail info@lowellartscouncil.org or see www. lowellartscouncil.org

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Come out to the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center and help celebrate all Mother Nature has provided us on Sat., April 16. Give back to the earth by removing invasive species and making your own rain barrel. 8:45-11 am, garlic mustard pull; 11 am and 1 pm, clay bird sculpture workshop; 12 pm and 2 pm, rain barrel workshop. Call Meggan Johnson, 987-1002, for more information and to register.

MUSEUM OFFERS STORM PROGRAM

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will present Storms and Tornados of the Lowell Area, a program by meteorologist George Lessens. His program will discuss the many floods, snowstorms, hailstorms, windstorms, electric storms and tornados which have impacted our area. To have your weather questions answered, be at the Lowell Township Hall on May 3, at 7:30 pm. For more information contact Linda Barnes 897-7688.

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations. The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, vard sales and the like, will not appear in

Rotary auction set for end of April

Lowell Rotary Club Lowell pavilion structure project, which may be will hold their ninth Lowell matched through grants, and Rotary Club Auction on rotarians will help to build Friday, April 29. The auction the actual structure. is held every other year.

will be split to benefit four projects: well drilling in Shanto, Ethiopia, "Hands On" clean water for Haiti Project, Lowell Pavilion Structure, and the eradication

For the "Hands On"

will go

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Lowell orchestra director receives recognition

Orchestra

wednesday • april •13 • 2011

"She's a wonderful age setting in grades six to Greg Pratt. "She's a great example. Wendy's positive. tireless work has created an award-winning orchestra Schools where there had been none previously.

24 students to over 200. also voluntarily created and maintained a weekly after school. This across the stage.

confidence she leads the students to higher levels. she simply explains that

play after a few minutes of looking at a piece of music. She handed out a new

M. Staal, Bachelor of Sci-

ence; Rebecca L. Thomp-

son, Bachelor of Science.

the year award for Kent For a child to be part of Tenney raised her hands and Tenney has these skills Afterwards, Mozart.

> had tuned them twice back concert was just last week. Tenney is aware of union stage, but these things will It was evident that Tenney's issues and is supportive. She Last year at the pre- create a cohesive orchestra. at many community events: replacement for Tenney.

The students counted popular teacher at Lowell and Lansing Symphony it out, with Tenney leading Middle School. Herrespectful Orchestras. Tenney has been them, paying attention to the manner with students has a conductor at Interlochen emphasis and the quietness built an environment where Arts Camp, Blue Lake Fine of the parts of the music. teenagers feel safe to take Arts Camp, St. Cecilia Youth Eager eyes follow Tenney Students' fingers were risks in learning. Building Orchestras and the Grand dancing across the necks an orchestra can only be Rapids Youth Symphony.

of their instruments as they accomplished by someone worked through the tempo. with After just three minutes, to out came the most amazing

Tenney received the most work in the Grand Rapids

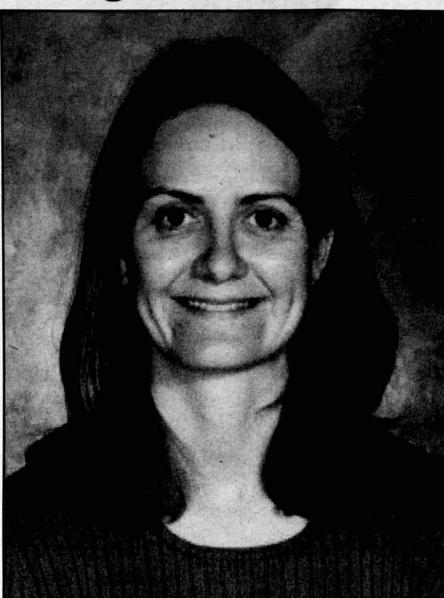
top high school students Currently, Tenney is to assist her with younger the winter weather plays home with her new daughter, student's classes and havoc on instruments. They Hannah. The pre-festival teaching lessons. Wendy leadership and high standards demonstrates great teaching Two fine gentlemen have parades, Lowell Education taken over these past few Foundation dinners, Fiddle weeks working with all levels Club and string quartets of orchestra, but there is no With her time built around

At the student elections, squeezes in her professional

Bachelor of Science Nurs-

ing, cum laude; Megan A.

Stubbs, Bachelor of Sci-



college news

earned degrees from Grand Valley State University in December 2010.

Grand Valley is dedicated to providing a rich learning environment for students, offering a wide range of majors and handson research opportunities. Highly credentialed and responsive faculty and individual advisors and mentors promote a liberal arts emphasis that teaches students critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Students who graduated at the conclusion of the fall 2010 semester in December include:

Bryan T. Avery, Master of Science Accounting; Tara M. Baker, Bachelor of Science; Alicia A. Clark, Bachelor of Arts; Anthony Joseph Koehler, Master of Business Administration; Anna M. Lane, Bachelor of Arts; Geoffrey J. Miller, Master of Science Engineering; Meredith E. Osborne, Bachelor of Science, magna cum laude; Jacob E. Paszkowski, Bachelor of Science; Jessica L. Postma, Bachelor of Science; Benjamin D. Rasmussen, Bachelor of Science; Chelsea R. Shekmer Hintz-

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ence; Clayton D. Rossman, Master of Science Accounten, Bachelor of Arts; Rachel ing; Denise P. Stepanovich,

Pennell, Bachelor of Sci-

AUCTION Alto: Dana F. Bailey, Bachelor of Business Administration; Ryan V. Hargreaves, Bachelor of Science; Aaron S. Orellana. Bachelor of Science; Andrew S. VanderVeen, Bachelor of Fine Arts.

Lowell: Janelle C. Beaudry, Bachelor of Science; Joshua C. Hettinga, Bachelor of Business Administration; Brooke E. Holt, Master of Education; Katy J. Hyatt. Master of Arts; Ryan J. Kalman, Bachelor of Science; Andrea L. Koster, Bachelor of Science, cum laude; Joshua J. Miller, Bachelor of Arts; Shelly K. Odell, Master of Education; Cheree L.

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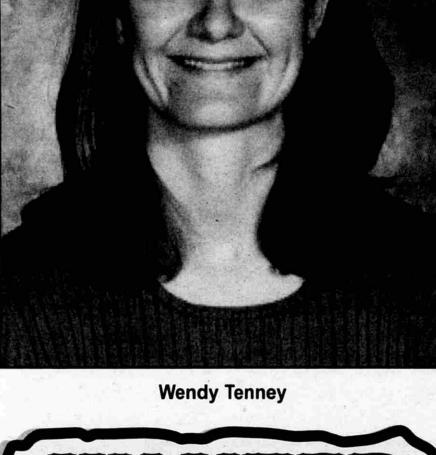
Pacific Intercultural Exchange (PIE), a non-profit Government designated program is looking for host families to share their home with Foreign exchange students for the September 2011 to June 2012 High School year. Now is the time to select your student from many who are waiting for a host family. You will be able to communicate with your student by e-mail, telephone, and mail and know each other before their arrival in August. The students are 15 to 18 years of age and will attend the High School in your community.

The students will come from Germany, Venezuela, Hong Kong, Brazil, South Korea, Norway, Thailand, China, Denmark, Russia, Netherlands, Georgia and most countries in Europe, Asia, South America, and Mexico. The students are from 48 countries.

The host family is responsible for board, room and guidance. The students have their own medical insurance and spending money. There is no typical host family. Empty nesters, single parents, large families, retired parents may apply. Your local PIE representative will help you to match a student for your family. There are students that are into sports of all kinds, music, the arts, like animals, etc. They all want to learn about our culture and share their own with a host family.

If you are interested in being a host family or have questions please call your Regional Manager Trish Blundy at 616-527-0012 or 1-800-382-7439.

Patricia Blundy - Pacific Intercultural Exchange Regional Manager 3321 Copper Rd., Ionia, MI 48846 Tel. 1-800-382-7439 • Fax 616-527-1021 • E-mail - pblundy@iserv.net



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CITY OF LOWELL **PUBLIC NOTICE**

LAST DATE TO FILE **NOMINATING PETITIONS TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2011** 4:00 P.M.

City of Lowell registered residents of the City interested in seeking election to the Lowell City Council to fill any of the three (3) two to four year term vacancies occurring must obtain nominating petition forms for circulation and return no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 Petition forms are available between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday from the Lowell City Clerk, Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell.



Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

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Dave Emmette

The time to start saving is now

With the tax deadline out. Deferred fixed annuiof April 15 just around the corner, many people start to look at their financial situation and wonder, "Will I be financially able to retire when I want to?"

Obviously the answer is different for every person. Unfortunately, most of us know that we have not been saving enough money to adequately fund the retirement we envision. Regardless of your age, one of the keys of a guaranteed interest rate,

Given today's volatile ditions and how long until stock market, many people the CD matures. Typicalare looking at low risk sav- ly, the shorter the period of ings options like Certificates of Deposit (CD's) and An-rate. There is no guaranteed nuities. Both can be a good foundation for a retirement Adding additional funds to two options: a non-qualified bank CD and an individufixed annuity. Since it is tax season, est rate and a current inter-

ties accumulate earnings on a tax-deferred basis. So interested is not treated as taxable income until they are withdrawn. This can give you some control as to when you pay taxes.

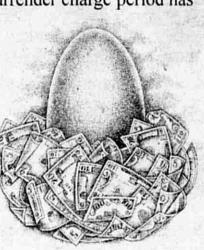
To gain additional tax benefits, both CD's and Annuities can be established as either a Traditional IRA or

A CD will give you saving is to start, and start of which the amount depends on the market contime, the lower the interest minimum for renewal rates. your CD is not allowed, so vou have to open an additional account every time vou want to make a deposhave two interest rates: a

what the account is paying penalty, generally 10 pernow, and will never go lower than the guaranteed rate. You may add funds to your account on a systematic basis (monthly) and as money becomes available (tax refund).

If you need access to the funds in a CD prior to the maturity date, you may have to pay an interest penalty. Deferred fixed annuities provide you with access to funds, but withdrawals during the first several years are usually subject to surrender charges. Most companies will allow limited access to your funds without if they are made prior to age

cent of your accounts value 10 percent penalty tax. can be withdrawn per vear without penalty. After the surrender charge period has



expired (usually 10 years), you can withdraw money with no penalties, but withdrawals may be taxed, and

Dave Stegehuis

Morel mushrooms pop-

59 1/2, may be subject to a

Weigh the advantages and disadvantages of CD's, Annuities and other forms of savings/retirement vehicles and seek the advice of a tax professional to ensure you follow any applicable regulations. Commit yourself to getting a savings plan established soon. You don't want to complete your tax forms ing what to do to save for retirement. It is also important to keep in mind some on your home and auto for

having other policies with

them which may include retirement plans. So ask your agent about products they offer that can also provide additional savings.

wednesday • april • 13 • 2011

Do you have an insurance question you would like to see discussed in the future? Send me an e-mail with your topic and I will address it at dave@theaicgroup.com

Information provided one year from now, wonder- is general in nature and not intended for your individual situation. Refer to your policy or agent for specific companies offer discounts coverage, limitations or ex-

outdoors

nature's garden

Another growing sea- shine, dormant plants begin son is at hand. Gardeners are making plans as they eaother vegetable garden. After preparing the soil comes planting, watering, weeding, Our nomadic ancestors made it. Deferred fixed annuities their living by hunting and gathering. If you lack the take time and learn to identime and ambition to tend a tify edible fungi as some are garden, then consider going let's start there. Earnings on est rate. The guaranteed rate back to gathering your own CD's are taxable in the year is the lowest interest rate fruits, nuts, and vegetables. other delicacy found early dents and visitors. Red and little adventure.

gerly anticipate planting an- up where soil and weather conditions are favorable. These tasty mushrooms are the most sought after wild and hopefully harvesting a food in Michigan. Festivals crop. There is considerable in Mesick and Boyne City time and effort involved in celebrate the morel mushproducing fresh vegetables. room. There are other kinds of mushrooms in the woods.

if you don't take the money account. The current rate is warms under spring sun- Asparagus that has grown

therefore it is advisable to

to maturity can be spotted growing above surrounding foliage. If it is too late to pick, note the location and but require some labor to return later as new shoots extract from the outer shell. will come up in the area.

When the days become warmer and nights remain cool, sap will run in the maple trees. At just the right time the trees are tapped, sap is collected, and boiled down to make maple syrup.

eral kinds of berries ripen. Low bush blueberries are gions of the state. Thimbleberries grow in the Upper ral growing foods can pro-Peninsula and thimbleberry Wild asparagus is an- jam is enjoyed by both resi- the added bonus of finding a the interest is earned, even you will ever have with the As snow melts and the soil in the new growing season. black raspberries are wide-

Some folks join the squirrels and gather nuts. Walnuts are quite plentiful

There is a veritable supermarket out there for those who make an effort to become educated about wild foods. Consult a good field guide or do some on-line research to become familiar with plants that are safe and As summer passes, sev- desirable table fare.

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to the editor

Cleaning up invasive plants

Dear Editor.

It's that time of year the days are getting longer, spring flowers are popping up, trees are budding. Spring is here. Unfortunately, so is the garlic mustard. This non-native, invasive plant continues to spread and to plague our gardens, fields and natural areas. We may not be able to stop it yet but we can control it.

Scientists are working natural biological

Looking

By Shelly MacNaughton

Rapids.

Lowell.

125 Years Ago

The Lowell Journal

April 16, 1886

Smith, the photo man, is making excellent cabinets

Vermontville had a big fire Saturday, destroying

Will Burnett has bought Alex Talbot's freight

100 Years Ago

The Lowell Ledger

April 13, 1911

Wednesday was G.G. Jones' birthday and the

Dale Morgan spent last Sunday with his parents

The Snyder place has been sold to Henry Booth of

75 Years Ago

The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo

April 9, 1936

Station on M-21 at the west village limits and is now

R.A. Wittenbach has leased the Anthony Service article of two years ago.

children all came home in honor of the occasion.

Several in this vicinity are having the pink eye.

transportation equipment and business and makes

a large block owned by Hart and Amber of Grand

His samples on exhibition are sufficient proof.

frequent trips to and from the depot.

controls which hopefully will be available soon. In the meantime, pulling this destructive weed is the best remedy. Sprays can be used if carefully avoiding other vegetation. With consistent efforts my woods is almost completely free of it. There is hope, I would encourage everyone to stay vigilant on your own property, To the Editor. encourage your friends and neighbors, and pull and bag

it whenever you see it in our have additional information parks and woodlands. This year the Wittenbach/ you'd like to learn more for

Wege Center is sponsoring your own efforts. This day if there were any treasures I a garlic mustard pull on will also be filled with fun their property. The public family activities so be sure is invited to help with this to take the whole family for worthy project. If interested a great celebration of Earth you can support their efforts Day. You can also contact on Saturday, April 16. Meet the local Boy Scouts to help at 8:45 am for instructions with their efforts at the Boy and help eradicate it from Scout cabin. that area. They will also

Elementary painting mystery

50 Years Ago

The Lowell Ledger

Lowell resident, was recently honored in that city for

the part she plays in community activities at the age

Mrs. Conolly was born October 4, 1880 in Lowell

Township, the daughter of Florence Jane Scribner and

Thomas Robert Graham. She graduated from Lowell

High School at the age of 15 and taught school for two

Mrs. Conolly writes, "I can remember Segwun when

it was a busy village and the depot was on the south

side of the tracks. The Indians told us children that

Segwun meant, 'Beautiful River.' At one time there

was a church, hotel, stores and a school (called South

How well I remember the band concerts on Island

Park and how they took the walks down in the fall and

put them up again after the spring floods. Also the log

jams coming down the Flat River, the saw mills and the

25 Years Ago

The Grand Valley Ledger

April 16, 1986

What a difference two years can make? In

December of 1983 the Ledger ran a lengthy front page

article which focused on the closing of six Main Street

businesses. Those six, along with three other closed

businesses, brought the total of empty storefronts to

nine. An alarming number in a community of this size.

the past two years, with more scheduled to open their

doors soon. Residents can certainly look to this as a

very positive trend, especially when compared to our

In all, about twenty businesses have opened during

Ward). But as Lowell began to boom, Segwun seemed

this issue.

to fade out

woolen mills."

and graduated the class of in Plainwell to grab a bite 1994. Recently, I was down to eat. I spotted a Salvation in Plainwell.

in Battle Creek; as I was grew up in Lowell returning home I stopped

about garlic mustard if

in charge of the business. He will continue to handle Blue Sunoco gas and oils. Mr. Wittenbach has an announcement to the motoring public elsewhere in

Mrs. Ethel Graham Conolly, Battle Creek, former

couldn't live without.

in my tracks.

As I walked the aisles, I

spotted a picture from across

the store that made me stop

Army and being a sucker for day was half off, so I got it rummaging through people's for nine bucks. iunk. I had to stop in and see This picture is huge,

about four feet square. I'm curious to know how it got there and I know you have several subscribers who attended Bushnell that will remember it. I'm still not It was huge, and bright sure what to do with it, but I couldn't leave it there.

and took me back through I'd love to know who time. It was painted when I was at Bushnell Elementary may recognize themselves School, perhaps in the third in the painting. My aunt, grade. The painting hung in Jean Hoffman, tells me the girl in the corner on the the school for as long as I could remember. I looked at computer is Megan Odell. it everyday as a child and I I recognized my third grade couldn't believe it ended up teacher Mr. Bede, as well as our gym teacher, Mr. Immediately I called Russell. Mrs. Bushnell is in

my mom (Gay Nauta) in the center and our principal Arizona to tell her about it. at the time, Mr. Venoma, is She asked how much they at the top. I think it may be wanted for it and I told her fun to post and see who can it had \$17.99 on it. She told pick out who, and perhaps me to pick it up and we'd someone may know how it figure out what to do with ended up in Battle Creek or

everything in the store that

who maybe had it last. Kind Regards, delight Jim Nauta

Editor's note:

The picture Mr. Nauta is referring to is on page 8. If you have any memories of the painting or can answer any of the questions he's posed, please let us know. You can post your comments on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ lowell ledger) or email The Ledger at ledger@ lowellbuyersguide.com Please put "Bushnell painting" in the subject line.

Facebook

Check us out online ..

www.thelowellledger.com

the lowell der

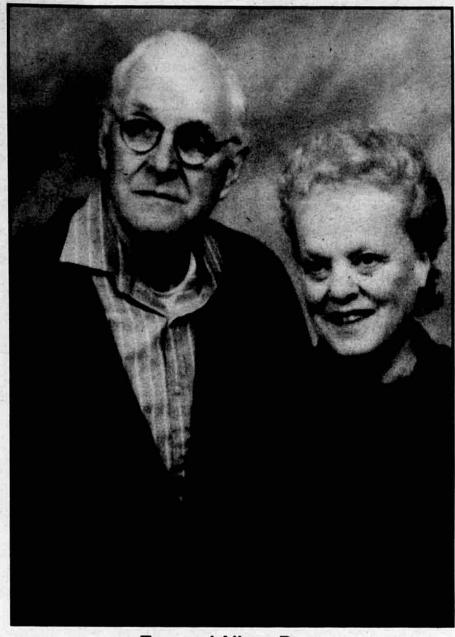
Letters To The Editor:

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher . All letters are subject to editing for length and grammar. Thank you letters, advertising or personal attacks will not be

Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@ lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331. Also, our website, www.lowellbuyersguide.com has a link to submit emails on the left side of the page.

Email Us! ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Landmark anniversaries celebrated



Tom and Aileen Ross Sixty years together as husband and wife was celebrated March 31, 2011 by Tom and Aileen Ross of Lowell.



Jamie and Cheryl Poll A silver wedding anniversary was observed April 12, 2011 by Jamie and Cheryl (Crosby) Poll of Alto. Their children are Amber, Jerry III, Sean and Jacob.

birthday!

APRIL 13

Marv DeVries, Carol Brzezniak, Melissa Quada.

APRIL 14

Phyllis Jones, Dennis Rasch, Joshua Anderson, Nichol Gurney, Bernie

Kathleen Zywicki, Jack Ryder, Jacob Billingsley, Lori Gerard, Steve Kropf, Angie Farrell, Rayce Cole Wade, Stephanie Darby, Kristin Lee.

APRIL 15

Craig Yeiter, Margaret Vezino, Roger Yoder. Charles Behnke, Dennie Ryder, Fred Oesch Jr., Dave Jill Carpenter, Terry Kinsley, Lucille Erickson, Betty Erickson, Candice Bowne, Jace

Eliason.

ALTO UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

Kirby and Harrison

Alto • 616-691-8011

Children's Church......9:30 A.M.

OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS

Pastor Dean Bailey

FIRST BAPTIST

Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org

Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn

Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times

Nursery Provided • Barrier Free

ST. MARY'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Eugene Okoli

402 Amity St. • 897-9820

www.stmary-lowell.com

Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM

Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM

Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM

Saturday confessions: 4-4:45 PM

Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7915

SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 393, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

.9:30 A.M.

.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M

.. Wed. 6:15 P.M.

APRIL 16

Roudabush,

APRIL 17 Elsie Franks, Heather Joe Harris. Gary Pieroni.

Rick Warner, Angela Vezino, Doug Anchors, Jon Kinsey, Jason Borton.

APRIL 19

APRIL 18

Barber, Ruth Karrie Thompson, Lisa Allchin Sharon Bowden, Michelle Billingsley.



caurenes

Boersma, Brenda Stuart,

Ossewaarde.

James Schafer.

LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

201 N. Washington Lowell, MI • 897-8800 Pastor Wes Hershberger Sundays - Christian Education......9:15 a.m. .10:40 a.m. Wednesdays - Kid's Service, Teen's Service, ..7:00 p.m.

Lowell Naz - Where People Matter

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)

3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert Holmes, Pastor **SUNDAYS:** Worship: 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS: Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God ... Loving People!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST **CHURCH OF LOWEL!** 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com

WORSHIP..... 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL......9:30 a.m.

> Rev. Rick Blunt Barrier-free entrance

0305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)

Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org ...Sunday -10:00 A.M. Sunday School... ...Sunday, 9:00 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI .10:00 A. M Morning Worship. Sunday School. .11:20 A.M. .6:00 P.M. Evening Worship. Nursery available at both services

Barrier-Free

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHURCH OF LOWELL

3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Pastor Dr. Mike Conklin Sunday School 10:30 A.M. .Fellowship 11:00 A.M.

897-9863 Nursery & Children Nursery & Children
Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!



In The Service

Army Pvt. Christopher A. Kuzmin and Army National Guard Pfc. Kevin M. Wise have graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia,

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness. and received instruction practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare

S.C.

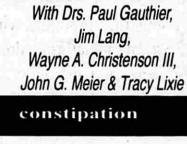
and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Kuzmin graduated in 2007 from Lowell High

Wise graduated in 2009 from Saranac High School, and is the son of Lisa Wise of Saranac.

health

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang, Wayne A. Christenson



or difficulty in bowel movements present for two or more weeks. True constipation is associated with very group if necessary. hard stools.

The most common cause is related to diet. American diets typically lack sufficient amounts of fiber. Poor liquid intake also contributes to the problem. Prune, pear, and apple juice usually will help mild constipation. If this does not work, move on to mineral oil. This to three teaspoons per day. sician.

Constipation is a prob- Never administer this to lem for many toddlers and children less than one year older adults. Loosely de- of age. Enemas are the next fined, constipation is a delay step, and again these should not be used in children less than a year of age. Use glycerin suppositories in this age

If all of the above fails, you should see your physician. Constipation in infants and toddlers can be a frustrating problem, and tends to be multifactorial. Prior to your appointment, bring in a diary of bowel movements and any changes in diet. Bloody diarrhea in a patient with constipation should be should be taken daily, one seen immediately by a phy-



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Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear Earth Talk: Why don't cleaning products have to lis their ingredients, and are these products tested for what they might do to your health?

-- Patricia Greenville, Bethel, CT

Since cleaning products aren't food, beverages or drugs meant to be ingested, they aren't regulated, per se, by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. However, makers are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to list ingredients that are active disinfectants or potentially harmful. Otherwise, they usually keep their other ingredients secret, presumably so competitors can't copy their formulas.

But consumer advocate Sloan Barnett, author of Green Goes with Everything, doesn't give manufacturers the benefit of that doubt. "Call me suspicious, but I honestly don't think it's because the recipe is top secret," she says. "If it was, there wouldn't be so many competing products with identical ingredients." Barnett thinks manufacturers don't want to scare off consumers by disclosing how many potentially harmful chemicals are flying under the EPA's radar in their products.

"The government only requires companies to list 'chemicals of known concern' on their labels. The key word here is 'known'," she says. "The fact is that the government has no idea whether most of the chemicals used in everyday cleaning products are safe because it doesn't test them, and it doesn't require manufacturers to test them either."

She adds that the EPA, under the terms of 1976's Toxic Substances Control Act, "can't require chemical companies to prove the safety of their products unless the agency itself can show that the product poses a health risk-which the EPA does not have the resources to do since, according to one estimate, it receives some two thousand new applications for approval every year." She cites a recent study by the non-profit Environmental Working Group, which found that the EPA approved most applications within three weeks even though more than half provided no information on toxicity whatsoever.

Regardless, consumers should be familiar with what warning labels are on cleaning products. "All household cleaners that contain known hazardous chemicals must carry a warning label that spells out potential risks, along with precautionary steps and first-aid instructions," reports Consumer Reports' Greener Choices website.

Some manufacturers are beginning to be more transparent about their ingredients. The Clorox Company, for example, one of the largest manufacturers of cleaning products, now publishes full lists of the ingredients for all of its brands on its corporate responsibility website, CloroxCSR.

com. Many praise Clorox for doing so; others argue that, whether or not ingredients are disclosed, the company-like many others-is still in the business of making products that pose health and environmental hazards.

Generally speaking, if you're looking for safer alternatives, browse the cleaning products sections of natural foods markets such as Whole Foods, which are populated with lesser-known but more green-friendly brands. For doit-yourselfers, the Greener Choices website also lists recipes for eco- and health-friendly homemade household cleaners using ingredients like baking soda, borax, lemon juice and

CONTACTS: Greener Choices, www.greenerchoices. org; Clorox, www.cloroxcsr.com.

Dear EarthTalk: We have an invasion of phragmites in the wetlands bordering our neighborhood. I understand they are a non-native plant that, if left unchecked, will overrun the whole ecosystem. How does one remedy this situation in an eco-friendly way?

-- Jeff Willets, via e-mail

Fast-growing, fast-spreading phragmites (Phragmites australis), which most of us know as common reeds, can present a major problem in freshwater and tidal wetland habitats. This is especially so in eastern U.S. states along the Atlantic coast, but also increasingly across much of the roots." Midwest and parts of the Pacific Northwest and southern Canada. While some sub-species of the plant may actually be native to our continent, it is non-native varieties that run rampant across North American wetlands today, presenting a formidable threat to biodiversity, crowding out other plants that wildlife depend upon for food and shelter.

"In the ecosystem it invades, its dense underground rhizome system actually raises the topography, eliminating the puddles and small pools of water so essential to fish, amphibians, turtles and waterfowl," reports Mike McGrath of Gardens Alive, a leading purveyor of natural garden and agricultural products. Phragmites are also allelopathic, he says, meaning that they secrete a compound which interferes with the growth of many other plants. Phragmites are also the bane of many a waterfront homeowner whose views are blocked by fast spreading, tough-to-eradicate reed communities growing between 12 and 15 feet high.

Plant biologists believe that non-native phragmites have gotten out of control in the U.S. because of their opportunistic nature coupled with the steady stream of freshly disturbed formerly natural terrain being made available to colonize. "When areas are drained for building, dredging takes place to save a beach, or other things are done to previously natural areas, it becomes more dominant than the non-aggressive native sub-species and other coastal plants," says McGrath. And that's why they call them weeds.

According to Washington State's Noxious Weed Control Board, getting rid of phragmites without resorting to hazardous chemicals (that will kill other plants and poison the surrounding environment instead of helping it) takes persistence, patience and proper timing: "If cut just before the end of July, most of the food reserves produced that season are removed with the aerial portion of the plant, reducing the plant's vigor." The board stresses that such a regime "may eliminate a colony if carried out annually for several years" and that "care must be taken to remove cut shoots to prevent re-growth."

"Repeated cutting of the green growth above ground will eventually exhaust the root system," McGrath chimes in. "If the plant is growing in water and you can cut it below the water line and keep the cut area submerged, the root system will suffocate within days...as the plant relies on its stems, living or dead, to convey oxygen down to the

Yet another option is to graze it out. The New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife used sheep, goats and even cattle to control phragmites there, although to be successful the animals needed to graze over affected areas repeatedly, and others have not had as much success with eradication via grazing. Whatever method you choose, hunker down for the long haul and keep up the good fight. You are doing the right thing.

CONTACTS: Gardens Alive, www.gardensalive.com; Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, www. nwcb.wa.gov; New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife, www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/.

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Social Security questions and answers

can't find my card.

don't need to get a card. need a replacement card, you can download and complete the application identity? for a replacement at our website. Then, take or mail Social Security office with

Security card? I want to get If you do get a replacement may adversely affect your

a summer job and my dad card or find the original, you ability to interact with retirement will not affect investment income from a shouldn't carry it with you. Federal and State agencies, your Social Security benefits rental property I own. Does Answer: If you know Keep it in a safe place with employers, and others. This your number, you probably your other important papers. is because your financial, If you find out that you do Question: Can I get a new other records will be under Social Security number your former Social Security if someone has stolen my number. We cannot guarantee

Answer: We do not your problem. routinely assign a new

medical, employment and that a new number will solve

The web address is www. you consider requesting a plan ahead. How will my pay Social Security taxes. new Social Security number. military retirement affect

of Social Security benefits

Question: Do I need a Social socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber. Changing your number my Social Security benefits? Question: I'm retiring early, Answer: Your military at age 62, and I receive at all. You can get both. investment income count as

Generally, there is no offset earnings? Answer: No. We count because of your military only the wages you earn retirement. You will get from a job or your net profit full Social Security benefits if you're self-employed. based on your earnings. Non-work income such The only way your Social as annuities, investment Security benefit might be income, interest, capital the application to your local number to someone whose Question: I just got back reduced is if you also receive gains, and other government identity has been stolen. from an overseas military a government pension based benefits are not counted and the required documentation. Only as a last resort should deployment and I want to on a job in which you did not will not affect your Social Security benefits. Most pensions will not affect your

benefits. However, your benefit may be affected by government pensions earned through work on which you did not pay Social Security tax. You can retire online at www.socialsecurity.gov. For more information, call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Question: I was turned down for disability. Do I need a lawyer to appeal?

Answer: You are fully entitled to hire an attorney if you wish to, but it is not Social Security questions, continued, page 8

Bushnell painting



If you have any memories of the painting or can answer any of the questions posed by Jim Nauta in his letter to the editor, please let us know.

You can post your comments on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/lowell ledger) or email The Ledger at ledger@ lowellbuyersguide.com Please put "Bushnell painting" in the subject line.

One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries.

> - A. A. Milne (1882 - 1956)

Social Security questions, continued

necessary. In fact, you can although there are exceptions file a Social Security appeal Call Social Security at 1-800online without a lawyer. 772-1213 (TTY 1-800-Our online appeal process is 325-0778) and report the convenient and secure. Just go to www.socialsecurity. gov/disability/appeal. If you will be affected. For more prefer, call us at 1-800-772- information, visit our website 1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to schedule an appointment to visit your local Social Security office to appeal.

Question: It's hard for me to get around because of my a Social Security office to Social Security? apply for benefits?

online disability application www.socialsecurity.gov/ Disability Starter Kit at www.socialsecurity.gov/ disability/disability_starter Security office. kits.htm. It will help you prepare for your application. Question: Is it true I can

Security Income (SSI). Our grandfather died recently Will this extra money stop his SSI benefits?

Answer: It all depends income and we will adjust \$2,000 in total resources gov/prescriptionhelp.

inheritance. We will tell you how your brother's eligibility at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question: My dad receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. He soon will be coming to live with my brother. Does he disability. Do I have to go to have to report the move to

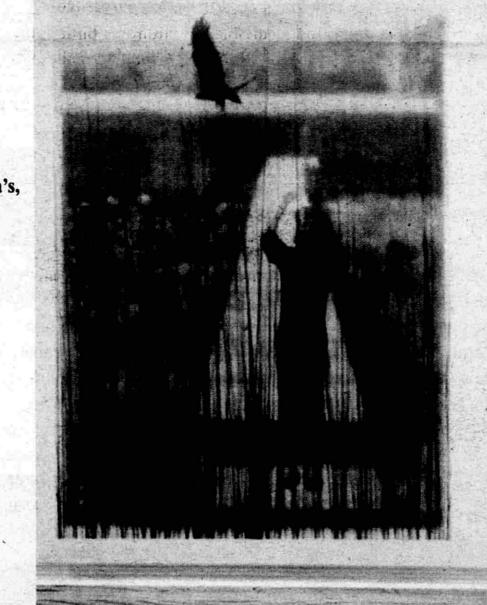
Answer: Yes. He should Answer: Not anymore. report to us within 10 You can prepare and days any change in living submit your Social Security arrangements. The change disability application and could affect his benefit. all the needed forms right Failure to report the change the Internet. Our could result in a penalty being deducted from his SSI benefits. In addition, we need his correct address so we can send correspondence. Please have him call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or he can report the change by mail or in person at a Social

save about \$4,000 per Question: My brother year if I qualify for Social completely Security's Extra Help with the Medicare prescription drug program?

Answer: Yes, if your income and resources meet the requirements, you can save nearly \$4,000 in prescription costs each year. Income limits for 2011 are \$12,640 (or \$25,260 if you are married and living with your spouse), Resource limits are limited to \$16,335 (or You will have to report the \$22,065 if you are married and living with your spouse). his benefit for the month If your income and/or accordingly. If he keeps the resources are just a bit higher, money into the next month, you might be eligible for it then becomes a part of some help with prescription his resources. To get SSI drug costs. To learn more, benefits, he is limited to visit www.socialsecurity.

Patti Sevensma's. Be Free.

Kathleen Mooney's, Constellations.



Lowell area artists among Western Michigan experimental artists to show their work in Washington state

perimental artists will show in Washington state from June 1 through June 30.

wednesday • april •13 • 2011

Featured will be six ex- tors.

perimental artists at the 68 SE Lynch Rd., Shelton, WA 98 gallery with Pat and Anorg drea Mastgrangelo as direc-

For further information go to: www.iseaartexhibit.

The following are the Wieringa and Deidre Wing-Fire and Water Gallery art- elaar.

Also featured is mixed media artist for May, Deidre Wingelaar, from May to June 30 at the Fire and Water Art Gallery located at 219 W. Main Street in down-

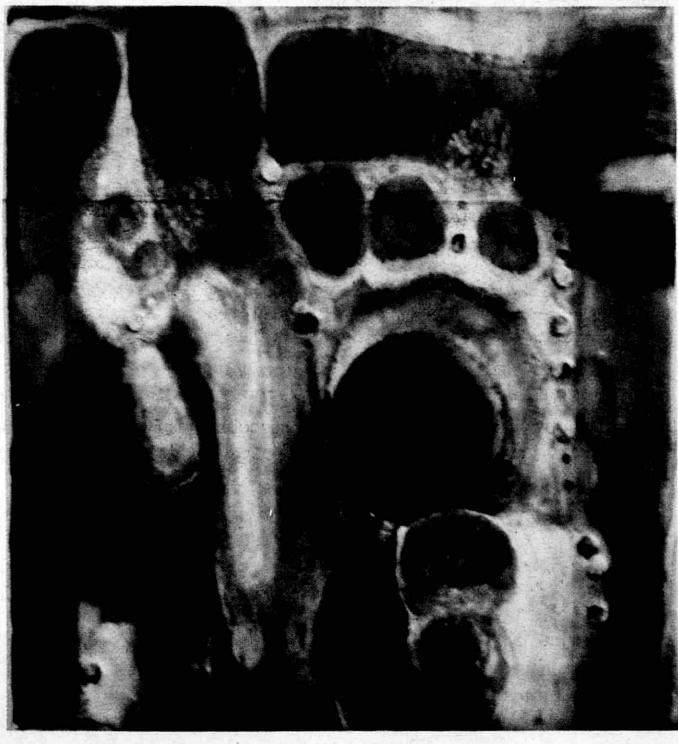
> town Lowell. Wingelaar is an accomplished mixed media artist. She uses and develops her abstract paintings in very unique ways. Wingelaar is the in-house framer. She is happy to help with any framing needs.

Wingelaar will be having a reception at the gallery May 6 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Make sure to wish her a happy birthday too.

For more information call 616-890-1879 Fire and Water ART! Showroom 219 West Main, Lowell MI 49331 or go to: www. fire-and-water-art.

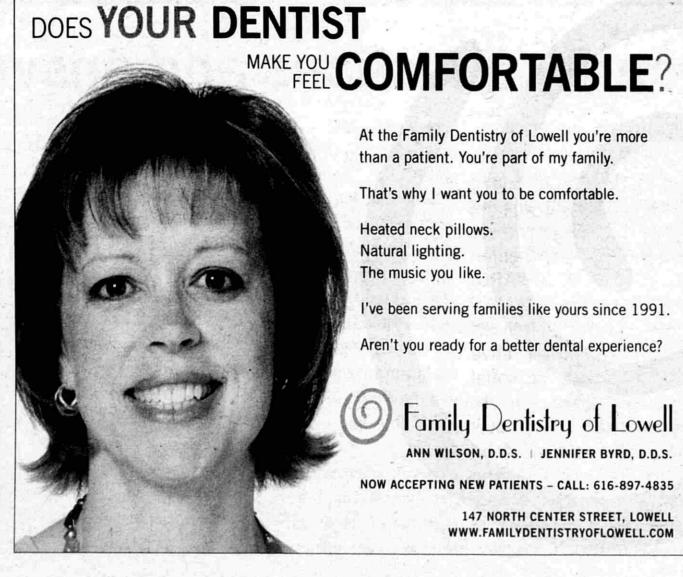


Forest Water, by Marylu Dykstra



Kendra Postma's Kaleidoscope.

Septic Tanks Cleaned Septic Home Sale Pumping **Evaluations** LOWEST Use this coupon for a chance **PRICES** to win 4 tickets to 1-96 Speedway World of Outlaws IN TOWN Sprints on May 21. Travalal's 897-8560





Hall for rent with kitchen **SEATS 150** Located at the fairgrounds

NOTICE CREDITORS: www.kcfg.org Call 897-6050

Rapids, Michigan died February 23, 2011. Creditors

personal representative

or proposed personal

representative, or to

both the probate court

NW, Ste. 2500, Grand

Rapids and the named/

Ottawa Ave.,

personal

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO decedent are notified that all claims against **CREDITORS** the estate will be forever **Decedent's Estate** File No. 11-190022-DE barred unless presented to DONNA HOWARD-

KOTECKI,

proposed

Estate of MARY JANE NESTLE or LILLIAN SUTTER. Date of birth: March 6, 1925.

STATE OF MICHIGAN

PROBATE COURT

COUNTY OF KENT

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

decedent, MARY JANE SUTTER, who lived at Villa Maria, 1305 Walker,

NW, Apt. 3203, Grand representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this

April 5, 2011

John D. Mitus (P-31244) 410 Bridge St., NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-774-4001

Donna Howard-Nestle 5712 N. 6th St. Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Lillian Kotecki 1679 Slater Dorr, MI 49323



Red Arrow SPORTS



Each week. Shane Beach will visit Lowell High School athletes to find out a bit more about each one and get a closer look at the On Sports kids we're all so proud of in the

When did you start playing lacrosse and why?

DC: Started my sophomore year, that's when the team started. I wanted something to do in the spring. A lot of my friends played. I used to watch the boys

Did you fall in love with it after the first practice?

DC: I remember the first practices were just sticks and conditioning so it took me a while but I really liked it. Our first game, we played Rockford and lost by a lot, but we were all just so happy to play a real game after so much preparation and learning.

What kind of player are you on the field?

DC: Probably very aggressive and intimidating. I play defense and like to protect our goalie, so it kind of goes with the territory. One of my main jobs is to protect the goalie.

What are your expectations this season? Goals?

DC: We won our first game so the season is off to a good start. Good defense. Middies (midfielders) came to me and wanted to get the defense down and learn. We have spent a lot of time on defense. We all work together well; we are better as a whole team. It does not matter who is playing; we are playing together well and learning fast. We want to beat better teams this year.

Personally, I got a yellow card in my first game (penalty foul). One of my goals is to not get any more yellow cards the rest of season.

Who will be your strongest challenge this year? Why?

DC: Grand Haven. They have a lot of experience. They have their own girls' lacrosse field and have been playing for a lot of years together. There are a lot of teams on the same level as us. Another good team is East Grand Rapids; they are really fast. We will really need to push to stay with them.

> What are your favorite things about playing lacrosse?

I really like being outside and running around, being productive and having fun. I never really played a sport like lacrosse, so once you start playing you get hooked. Our girls are really close to each other; we have a lot of sleepover's after games. We have a lot of team bonding together; I really enjoy it.

> Do lacrosse players have superstitions or rituals?

Rituals. We do a loud cheer before the game. It's a new cheer this year; I yell it and the other girls chant, kind of like from the 'Remember the Titans' movie. It really gets us pumped up for games. Also, we eat oranges slices at half time of every game.

This Week - Dana Crumback, senior, captain Lowell Varsity Lacrosse



What would happen if you didn't have your orange slices at half time?

I doubt it would ever happen. Our parents are probably talking about it in the stands before the half and if everyone had forgotten, they'd probably run to the store to make sure we got them.

> What other school activities are you involved in?

I am a cheerleader and I cheered in the state championships the last two years. I belong to the National Honor Society and was in the school play and musical the past two years.

What's in your iPod right now?

I like country and a lot of R&B and rap. Also, right now I'm listening to Johnny Cash, Elvis, James Taylor, Bob Dillon and some other oldies. It depends on my mood, I guess.

Favorite athlete or role model?

I have two. I've always been a huge fan of Payton Manning. And Shaquille O'Neil just seems like a really fun guy and down to earth.

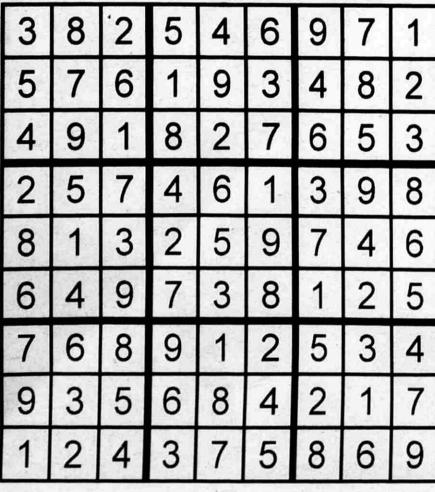
Anything else you'd like people to know?

DC: I will be the first girl from Lowell going into college to play woman's college lacrosse at Siena Heights. Our community needs to know about us. We hope people come out and see a game. Once you see a game, it will be hard not to come to more. We (girls' Lowell lacrosse) became a varsity sport this year. We have so many new faces of all ages and it's just a great thing to play; you need to come see for yourself.

Family? Mom, dad, brothers, sisters or pets?

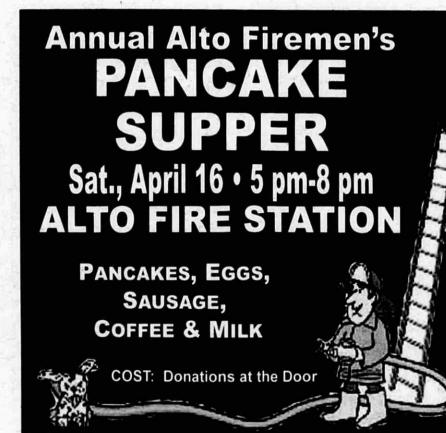
Dad, Tracy; mom, Valerie; and sister, Allison, who lives in Texas. I have a 12-year-old Lab named Charmin, like the toilet paper.

SODUKO SOLUTION









Red Arrow SPORTS

- LACROSSE

wednesday • april •13 • 2011

New varsity lacrosse team gaining popularity

Submitted by Kim Taylor

Lacrosse, a sport that was just recently recognized at Lowell High School as growth here in Lowell. a varsity sport for boys in 2005, has just added girls to that list in 2011.

Heart" campaign with new

Johnson, as she kicked off

leaders of Gift of Life

Michigan and the Michigan

Eye-Bank, pledged strong

new measures to encourage

Michigan residents to sign

up to be organ and tissue

the bottom of the country in

organ donation registrations

Less than one-third of the

state's adult population has

registered with the Michigan

the waiting list for organs,

this is a matter of life and

death." said Johnson. "This

demands a new approach,

a new way of thinking.

We can and will do better.

I would encourage every

Michigan resident to sign up

as a potential donor. You can

save lives. You can make a

a morning news conference

at the Oakland County

SUPER!Center in Pontiac to

kick off Donate Life Month, held in April to promote

organ and tissue donation.

Johnson was joined by

several donor families and

recipients, including Rick

Johnson of Auburn Hills,

whose 8-year-old daughter,

Alexis died in a tragic

playground accident. Her

heart was donated, saving

the life of a young Maryland

boy. The Secretary also

honored Jerry Leismer, of

Waterford, a liver recipient

who volunteers his time

to visit Secretary of State

branch offices to personally

promote organ donor

of State's new "Restart the

As part of the Secretary

registration.

Heart" campaign:

Johnson

Johnson spoke during

difference."

"With 3,000 people on

Organ Donor Registry.

Secretary of State Ruth

organ donor registry

know little about the game, but that hasn't stopped its

Native North Americans who often played

committee to come up with

approaches to promote organ

reminders are being added

to some of the most widely

applications at Secretary of

distributed forms

State offices.

Organ donation

Secretary of State kicks

off donate life month

donation.

measures to boost state's innovative, yet cost-effective

the game as a way to train exciting. It is fast-paced and

Lacrosse originated

State donation leaders in the provided to staff about some

the state as part of an advisory of the most commonly asked

questions regarding organ

Donate life month,

continued, page 14

Activities

have been expanded.

The game may not be played for the same reasons many popular American today, but the action and intensity that is displayed is basketball and hockey. still highly competitive and

full of nonstop action. It is a good mix between

sports such as football.

quickly?

visibility, development of a professional league, the growth at the high school and college level, and the growth of youth programs. Lacrosse is spreading just

From high school to middle school the sport is growing in popularity. promote Donate Life Month

as fast here in Lowell.

introduced with such success last year that this

of a girls' youth league is being started.

If you are interested finding out more about Lowell

lacrosse, please

visit the Lowell lacrosse website WWW.

> lowelllacrosse. You can also join the Lowell

Saturday, April 23 at the Lowell High School for their Quik Stix Invitational (OSI).

There will be games and exhibitions at all levels from elementary to high school. Games start at 1:00

pm and continue throughout the day with a girls' varsity game at 5:30 pm and followed by a boys' varsity game at 7:30 pm. There will also be prizes, raffles, a hot dog toss and Easter eggs for

allweathersealinc.com



MON: Tony's ultimate cheese pizza (Rib BQ on bun also offered at Alto. Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), tossed romaine salad w/lite dressing. pears, milk.

ELEMENTARY

MENU

Week of

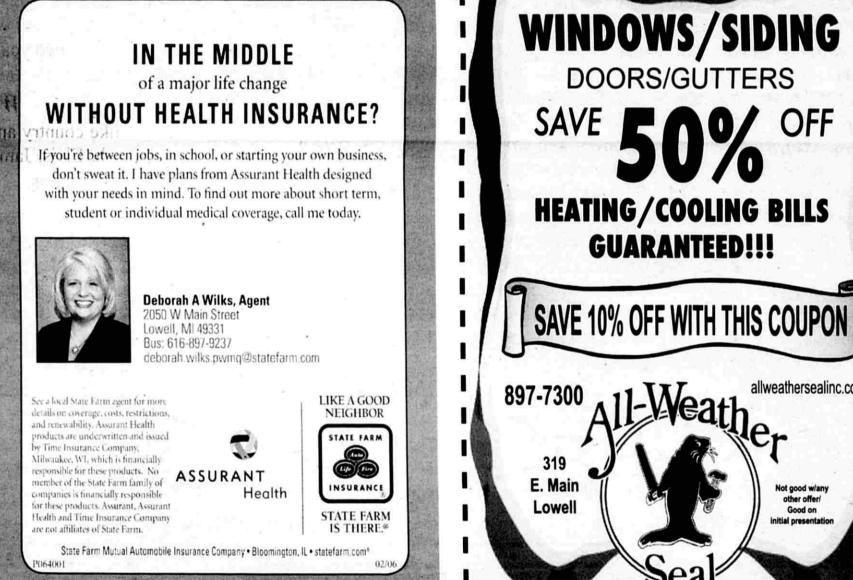
April 18, 2011

TUES: Soft taco w shredded cheese/lettuce (cheese quesadilla w/salsa also offered at Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), refried beans/diced tomatoes. applesauce

WED: Pasta marinara w cheese & Bosco stick (Jr ham/cheese sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake) green beans, pineapple

THURS: Chicken patty on wheat bun (chili w/crackers also offered at Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), oven French fries peaches, milk.

brought together physicians, FRI: Good Friday. No lawmakers and some of the most respected organ





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GORMAN

Sherry (Fox) Gorman, 53, of Ada, and formerly of Owosso, died on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids. Sherry Ilene (Fox) Gorman

born Owosso. September 1957, the fourth child of Wilfred R. Fox and Patricia Ann (Shaffer) Fox. attended St. Paul Grade School. was a graduate Owosso School, and majored in accountingatFerris State University where she earned Bachelor Science degree



business administration in 1980. During the mid-1980's, Sherry became a Certified Public Accountant. On October 13, 1990, Sherry married Mark Gorman in an evening ceremony at St. Paul Church in Owosso. Following college, Sherry consecutively served as staff accountant for Interstate Truck Lines, staff accountant for the Amway Corporation, staff accountant for the C.P.A. firm, Robert McBain and Associates, and Senior Accountant for the C.P.A. firm, Fox & Company. For the last ten grandparents, of Owosso; father-in-law's wife, Mary (Seene) Gorman; five siblings, Shaffer Fox of Owosso, Mary Ann (Fox) (Hank) Mosher of Birch Run, Patrice Marie (Fox) (Mark)

> the owell 897-9261

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Welcome

Lowell Ledger

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April 13 will be 42 years ago I lost my husband, Michael N. Osmolinski. We were married only 11 months. He drowned in the Grand River behind the Dirty Shame Bar. He and his brother had left the bar to try out a new fishing boat his nephew bought. My husband could not swim. I was told he stood up to zip his coat up. He fell over backwards. The water was 32 degrees and the current

We are all brothers and sisters in God's eyes. I did not and do not blame anyone. His brother suffered everyday with the image of watching his hand go down for the last time.

Blame is a very strong word and should be used sparingly. feel it was God's will.

My grandson recently had a similar accident, with a close friend on another river. They were all doing something stupid. Being young adults they did not react properly because of fear. I've witnessed his tears and regret. No one is to blame or a murderer.

We all have free will. Some of us have to forgive and forget. Remember the good times. Live and let live. Holding a grudge just hurts you and keeps you from going on. None of us knows what the future holds.

Roberta Osmolinski

Dillow of Winthrop Harbor, Illinois, Erin (Fox) Freeman of Owosso, and Mark Fox of Owosso; brother-in-laws, Jack (Sharon) Gorman, Wayne Dillon, Molly (Gorman) (Brian) Vogel; twenty-nine nieces and nephews; and one grand-niece. Sherry was predeceased by her father who died in 1986; father-in-law, John (Mary) Gorman of Greenville; and mother-in-law, Janet (Dore) Gorman; sisters- and brothers-in-laws, Barb (Gorman) (Gary) Bailor, Brenda (Gorman) (Jeff) Campbell, Mary Beth (Gorman) (Marlin) Gorey, Scott (Mitzi) Gorman,

Greg (Rhonda) Gorman, Luke Gorman (and his son, Matthew Gorman); and brother, Matthew Gorman Funeral services were held Saturday, April 9, at St. Patrick Church. Burial followed at St. Patrick Cemetery hazard they should be aware

HEDLUND

Ethan Matthew Hedlund, age 14, of Lowell, passed up roadside litter are being away April 9, 2011. He was preceded in death by his urged to watch for potentially grandfather, Christopher Leach; close family friend, toxic debris discarded from Mark Remke; great grandfathers, Albert Hector, Rilev

Sandborn, Floyd Slocum; great grandparents Richard (Lillian) Leach. He is survived by his father, Aaron Hedlund (Jamie

in Ada.



years, Sherry served as Controller of Grand Rapids' Audrey Leach, William (Vicky) Hedlund, Joann Remke; Paul Goebel Group. She also did the bookkeeping great grandparents, Maxine Sandborn, Bess Slocum, and accounting for her husband's company, Gorman Robert (Jean) Hedlund, Kathleen Bibler, Robina Quale-Builders. Sherry was consistently involved in school Leach; uncle, Troy (Jackie) Slocum; aunt, Courtney and church activities that were supportive of her (Andy) Barnhorst; cousins, Troy J. Slocum, Morgan children, and those of friends and others in the Ada Northrup. Ethan enjoyed skateboarding, track and and Lowell areas, and she was a Girl Scout leader. xbox 360. He had a passion for orchestra, playing viola She also served as secretary-treasurer of the Rockford since sixth grade. Ethan was a fun-loving brother whom Business and Professional Women's Club, and was was looked upon with great admiration. His blue eyes a member of the club's Legislation Committee. In and quick wit will be greatly missed. Mass of Christian 1988, she was recipient of the Rockford Business and Burial will be offered Thursday, April 14 1 pm at St. Professional Women's Club's Women of Achievement Robert of Newminster Church, 6477 Ada Drive, Ada. Award. Sherry is survived by her husband, Mark Rev. Leonard Sudlik presiding. Interment St. Mary Gorman, and their fifteen-year-old son, Gabe; thirteen- Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday 2-4 and 6-8 pm year-old daughter, Shannon; mother, Patricia Ann Fox at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to Lowell Wildlife Center, 12494 Vergennes, Lowell, MI 49331.

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Road cleaning beware meth lab waste

improving and groups of volunteers heading out to clean our roadways, there is a new and dangerous of. MDOT and your Sheriff want you to be safe.

Volunteers who clean methamphetamine (meth)

stimulant that can be made using common household chemicals and equipment and common cold remedies containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine (such as Sudafed and Actifed to just name a couple).

Clean-up crews who used to make the drug can be burned or their lungs damaged from inhaling fumes. If you encounter any of the signs of a meth lab, leave the area immediately and call 911 or MDOT. Do not touch anything if you suspect it may be meth lab extremely dangerous and first. may even be booby-trapped.

Entire labs can be found in tool boxes, coolers, or other storage containers. Mobile meth labs are becoming more common. Labs are sometimes run out of car trunks and RVs and discarded on our roadways.

Clues indicating a dumpsite include:

empty bottles attached to a rubber hose; the smell of ammonia:

· coffee filters stained Methisahighlyaddictive red or containing a white

> powder residue; garbage bags with cat litter (can contain deadly gases and are sometimes called "death bags");

> corroded propane tanks; empty or used alcohol products;

> numerous empty cold medicine and diet pill bottles or blister packs; and

> unused matches without striker plates.

Don't try to remove unknown or suspected toxic substances. Notify MDOT or the police of the location of these items immediately.

Meth lab waste is very waste. The waste can be serious. Your safety comes

volunteers -

for sale TWIN BED - Mattress, box spring & frame, (Sealy) \$85 complete. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-

POTTED TREES - Maple Spruce & Pine, \$10 & up 616-761-7588.

> BOB'S 14TH ANNUAL BIRDHOUSE SALE - nice selection of bluebird, wren & bat houses; also feeders. All cedar, solid construction, best prices around. Bob's Birdhouses, 12279 60th St., Alto. 868-6633.

wednesday • april • 13 • 2011

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200 APPLIANCES - Wash ers, dryers, refrigerators & stoves. Guaranteed. From \$69. Hammond Wholesale 320 W. Main, Carson City, 989-584-1600. Delivery available.

CENTRAL BOILER CLAS-SIC - Outdoor Wood Furnace burns wood up to 72" long. Heats multiple buildings. Sale. Call SOS vour "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, Ml. 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

LOGBED SET - Cedar (complete), \$125. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. Delivery available.

PRICE REDUCED - low down, 2 bedroom single wide mobile on very nice wooded lot. Newer well & septic system. \$58,800. Call Ron at 616-291-1413.

QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - (new), \$250/set. Thick & plush. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600.

1990 REDMAN - 2 bedroom mobile home, stove, fridge, washer, dryer & some furnishings, \$7,500. Home is located in adult senior park in Saranac. Lot rent \$235/month, includes water, sanitary, lawn, snow plowing & refuse, 616-691-

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. Must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555 105 N. Broadway, Lowell Ph. 897-9261

BED & MATTRESS SET queen, Sealy \$95 includes frame. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main, Carson City, 989-584-1600. Delivery available.

1999 OLDSMOBILE SIL HOUETTE VAN - good condition, 140,000 miles, asking \$4,000. Call 269-948-0502.tm

lost

PEACH CONURE PAR-ROT - green w/peach on forehead. Lost in the vicinity of Grand River & Alden Nash. Please call 616-337-6696.

BEDROOM - 1 bath upstairs unit of duplex. w/laundry hook-up, \$645/ mo.; 1 bedroom, 1 bath, w/hardwood floors, utilities included, \$160/wk, Call 616-862-6712.

PRICELESS STOR-AGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of 196. Call for specials 558-2900.

for rent

DUPLEX FOR RENT clean, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. upper unit, includes washer/drver. No smoking, no pets. \$565 plus deposit & utilities, 126 N. Center, 897-8504 or 540-7788.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowel Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private. great location & great rate! www.vfw8303.org. Call John at 299-0486 or 897

LOWELL MOBILE HOME PARK - Under new management. Nice 1, 2 & 3 bedroom trailers for rent. Rent from \$350 - \$550. For info call George at 616-754-0276 or 616-813-8041.TEN

OUTDOOR PARTY CANOPY TENT - for rent. Table and chair package available set up included. Call 446-2048.

free

PLEASENOTE: Adsplaced in this category must be

FREE FIREWOOD - 30 ft pine, 4-6 inch, still standing. West of Alto 3 miles.

wanted

LOOKING FOR PERSON who will lay down new shingles, pay cash. 616-

misc.

AQUA ZUMBA - 6 week

session, Sat., April 23 & 30, May 7, 21 & 28, June 4 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Oak Hill Place, 2991 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, MI 49331. \$30 for full session or \$7 to drop in. Call Nikki Snyder, 616-520-5036, zumbanikki@gmail.com

> ED METHODIST CHURCH - at 3189 Snow Ave. SE. wil serve a family style Turkey & Dressing dinner on Wed., April 13, starting at 5:30 p.m. Adults are \$9, children 6-12 are \$3, and children 5 & under are free. Take out dinners also available.

SNOW UNIT

help wanted

JOB FAIR - Sunrise of Cascade, 3041 Charlevoix Dr. SE. Grand Rapids, MI 49546. April 19, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. LPN's, med techs, caregivers, part time and full time. Experience preferred. 616-942-7200.

NOW HIRING - and training for career positions with West Michigan's leading real estate company. Call Rick Seese, Greenridge Realty, Inc. for a confidential interview. 616-437-2576 or 616-974-4250.TEN

PHOENIX PERSONNEL IS ACCEPTING APPLICA-TIONS - for packaging, assembly & warehouse. Apply at 615 Chatham, Lowell, or online www.phoenixpersonnel.com or call 897-7881 for information.

OWNER OPERATOR Regular scheduled runs to Texas. CDL required. Paid fuel surcharge. 800-334-5142 Fax: 888-876-0870

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN - Seeking qualified individual to support website design content management, social networking, graphic design, and public relations. E-mail by April 15 to: hr@northcountrytrail. org North Country Trail Association, 229 East Main St., Lowell, MI 49331

services

'ledger

TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & AC-COUNTING SERVICE by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-

NEED A DUMP STER? - Dudley's **Dumpsters.** Dumpsters priced to get rid of your trash & save you cash! Garage, attic, household cleanup, roofing, trash, junk etc. 14 to 20 vards available. Call for free estimates. Contact Doug 616-295-6640.TF

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SHIP UPS AT THE LED-**GER OFFICE** - We cannot accept hazardous materials or firearms. Call for a orice quote! We will need weight, zip code & dimensions for a price quote over the phone, 105 N. Broadway. 897-9261. Please note we can no longer accept prepaid packages unless they have ARS or RS on

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DAVID P. LINDEN, CPA TAX PROFESSIONALS - Personal or business. tax preparation & planning, financial consulting, payrolls, Quickbooks. Affordable rates. Your satisfaction guaranteed. See us at 6440 E. Fulton in Ada. Call us a 616-676-9061.

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puterRehab.ws TUTORING/ACADEMIC MENTORING SERVICES - ready to meet your student's needs at The Hammock LLC (Lowell). Call 616-893-5661 to schedule. www.hammocklearning

DAY CARE - I have 2 fulltime openings for summer 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. ages 4-11.

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als or firearms. Call for a price quote! We will need weight, zip code & dimensions for a price quote over the phone, 105 N. Broadway. 897-9261. Please note we can no longer accept they have ARS or RS on

ommunity (alendar

f you are charging admission fourth Tuesdays 5:30 - 7 p.m. A Believers Church, 404 N. Hudson p.m. Schneider Manor Comor an event - it is considered an committed group for adults who St., Lowell. For more information munity Room. advertisement. Coming events have experienced the death of a are ran on a space available basis & ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. RUN. 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 run ANY Garage or Rummage Sales as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: lassifieds@lowellbuyersguide. com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, Al 49331 or in person: 105 N.

ORIGAMI - Each Tuesday, 2-3 p.m. Learn the ancient art of paper folding. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson,

Broadway, Lowell.

ANCER - KIDS & TWEEN TALK GROUP - First & third uesdays, 5:30 - 7 p.m. A comnitted group for children in rst - eighth grade on a cancer journey. Incorporates curriculumased activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

RHYME TIME MUSIC & MOVE-MENT - Fridays, May 6 - May 27, 11 a.m. Move & groove together with action rhymes, songs, games & hands-on musical activities that will help children develop motor, istening & literacy skills. For children ages 6 & under with a caregiver. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell. 616-784-2007.

STORYTIME - April 19 & 26, at 10 a.m. Stories, songs & crafts. Saranac Public Library, 61 N Bridge, Saranac, 642-9146.

LEASENOTE - Coming Events GRIEF - ADULT GROUP - Each FREE ADDICTIONS PROGRAM NEEDLERS - Second & fourth are for non-profit organizations. Tuesday, 2-3 p.m. & second & - every Friday, 7 p.m. at Bible Monday evenings, 5:30 to 8:30 family member or friend. Gilda's

> PAJAMA STORYTIME - April 27 & can't come to the library during the day. Pajama storytime offers an evening of stories & fun. Pajamas optional. For children ages 6 & under with a caregiver. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell. 616-784-2007.

GRIEF - KIDS GROUP - Second

& fourth Tuesdays, 5:30 - 7 p.m. journey. Incorporates curriculumbased activities, dicussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

> EASTER EVENT - April 23, 10:30 a.m. Bookmark hunt for all ages & Easter goody bags for all participants. Saranac Public Library, 61 N. Bridge, Saranac, 642-9146.

ING - Call the clubhouse to schedule your introductory meeting for grief support groups. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

TEEN GROUP - CANCER AND GRIEF - First & third Tuesdays, 5:30 - 7 p.m. A committed group for teens in ninth - twelfth grade on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities & discussion. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

FLAT RIVER WOOD CARVERS meets every Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Lowell Area Chamber

HAD - sons/daughters serving in the military. We are meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every May 25, 6:30 p.m. For families who month. For more info call Sally NOOGIELAND - Tuesdays 5:30 - & West Michigan Diaper by Ev-

MOTHERS WHO HAVE OR HAVE

7 p.m. Supervised play for children kindergarten or younger. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S.

KINGDOM KIDS, CADETS & GEMS - meets every other Wednesday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Calvary CRC, Lowell. Programs at the Ionia Theatre, 9:30 a.m. for preschool - 8th Grade. GEMS for girls meets in the Church building, Cadets & Kingdom Kids meet in the ministry center. Call

LOWELL AREA PRAYER & **HEALING ROOMS** - located in the FROM building, 11535 Fulton Street, most Monday evenings, 6-GRIEF - NEW MEMBER MEET- 8 p.m. Christian Scripture based. necessary, confidentiality re-

> KENT COUNTY NARFE GROUP - for retired & current federal employees meet the 2nd Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton, 1/2 mile west of E. Beltline. Potluck at 12:30 p.m. & meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Call Ed Moore for time, 616-784-6716.

QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - 8731 Riverside Dr., Saranac. Open to the public on day weekends. For more info call 642-9800. www.Qua-Ke-Zik.org

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM - open Tuesday, Saturday & Sunday:1-4 p.m.; Thursday: 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individual \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50;

CLOTH DIAPERS 101 - TOTS erything Birth for a FREE class on modern cloth diapers - these are not your mom's cloth diapers! No pins, no plastic pants, no fuss. Tues., April 12, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m For more information call Lori at

TRAVELOGUE - Thurs., April 14 Iceland is the destination.

KNITTING 101 - April 14, 21 28, 10 a.m. - noon at Saranac Public Library. Beginning class but all levels of knitters welcome to attend. 61 N. Bridge, Saranac

NOOK 101 - April 25, 5:30 p.m Informational session with Brian & Therese Bergy on how to use & navigate the Nook WIFI & 3G-WIFI. Demonstration on how to download books from library's website. Don't forget your Nook if you have one. Saranac Public Library, 61 N. Bridge, Saranac,

GARDENING ORGANICALLY with Victoria Schreur. Tues., April 26, 7 p.m. Get a jumpstart or your gardening plans in an Earthfriendly way. Learn organic tips for growing, harvesting & using your favorite herbs & vegetables For ages 10 to adult. Registration Library, 200 N. Monroe St. Lowell. 616-784-2007.

CROSSWORD



Christopher C. Godbold

you may then be paying too

Mortgage decisions can make a difference in achieving financial goals

If you're purchasing a below your mortgage rate, new home or refinancing your existing one, you've got some mortgage-related decisions to consider. And since your mortgage may well be the biggest financial transaction you ever make and one that can affect your long-term financial goals, such as retirement - you'll want to weigh your options carefully.

What types of choices might you face? Here are some of the most important

 Fixed justable? With a fixedrate mortgage, your payment will remain the same throughout the life of your loan. However, if interest rates drop significantly

Registry.

registration.

was Richard Pietroski, CEO

of Gift of Life Michigan, the

heart image to denote those organization.

much for your loan and will have to go through the time, effort and expense of refinancing. With an adjustablerate mortgage (ARM), your initial rate is likely quite low, so you can afford a bigger mortgage. This could be an advantage if you know your income will be rising or you are confident you'll sell your house within the next five years. However, your ARM payment and interest rate can rise substantially, even with caps in place, and these adjustments can affect your cash flow. So, before taking out an ARM, make sure you understand the terms involved and how they will affect you down the road.

Donate life month, continued

year? These aren't the only contribute \$300 a month to mortgage lengths available, that same IRA, earning that common. The advantage of annual return, you'd accua 15-year mortgage is that mulate more than \$350,000 you'll pay it off quicker and, after 30 years, before taxin the process, potentially es. That's a big difference save thousands of dollars and the extra money could in interest. The disadvan- perk up your retirement lifetage, of course, is that you'll style considerably. Keep in likely need to come up with mind, of course, that these much bigger monthly pay- examples don't reflect the ments than if you took out performance of any availa 30-year mortgage. And able investments. Also, you since your mortgage pay- will have to pay taxes when ments will be lower with a you start taking withdrawals 30-year loan, you'll have from a traditional IRA, and more money available each any withdrawals you make month to invest for the fu- before you turn age 59 1/2

Over time, these extra cent penalty. investments can really add Suppose, for example, down payment? The bigyou invested \$100 a ger your down payment, the month to a tax-deferred ve- smaller your monthly payhicle, such as a traditional ments, and the more you IRA, that earned a hypo- may have available to invest thetical seven percent aver- each month. But if you go age annual return. After 30 with a smaller down payyears, you'd end up with a ment, you most likely will little more than \$117,000, initially have more money before you started paying available for other purposes, taxes on withdrawals. But if such as paying down debt your 30-year mortgage freed or purchasing investments.

15-year or 30- up enough cash for you to You'll have to compare the alternatives carefully.

In fact, you'll have to but they are among the most same seven percent average compare the options for each question we've looked at because mortgage issues have an emotional component as well as a financial one, and

sions that fit your situation. So think about your choices today, as they can have a big impact on your life to-

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Fionly you can make the deci-

LMS students of the month

Middle School teachers demonstrate good leadership, good citizenship and good academics in each grade for the Student of the Month award. For the month

of February the following

Every month Lowell students were chosen as LMS Students of the Month graders, Adrienne and Daniel Onan: seventh graders, Marilla Marks and Gabe Steed; and sixth graders, Garret Taylor and Karmen Anderson.



APRIL 6 - APRIL 12

- Japan now ranks its nuclear crisis at the highest possible severity on an international scale - the same as the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.
- Oil prices drop more than three percent putting the price at \$106.22 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Goldman Sachs warns investors that crude is due for a "substantial pullback."
- Baseball's Barry Bonds is being tried on charges he lied to a federal grand jury when he said he never knowingly took steroids. The jury has been deliberating three days so far.
- After serving a 15-month-old toddler an alcoholic drink, Applebee's is retraining its staff. The incident occurred when the child's mother ordered an apple juice and noticed the baby dozing and very sleepy after drinking the
- The country is noting the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Many Americans are noting some similarities between today's issues and the parallels that can be drawn between the

Got an to make?

Wedding, Engagement and Anniversary Announcements* are Free in the Ledger. Birth Announcements without a photo are free;

* Anniversary announcements cannot contain an

EARTH DAY ACROSS

1. Knightly suit 6. Goes with ands and

wednesday • april •13 • 2011

9. Floor cleaner

12. Lift a hefty load 13. Cul de _

_ New Guinea 16. Popular Indian stringed instrument

17. One from Laos 18. Slow and apathetic

19. Lead on or deceive 21. *Third of three environmental Rs

23. South American tuber

24. Past participle of

School" starring Will Ferrell

28. Acoustic repetition 30. Like a gymnast

35. Camera function 37. Any of the genus Cannabis

39. Make a jack-olantern, e.g.

40. Fairytale giant 41. *"Tree" in Latin

44. Can be loud or

43. Hawaiian feast

thickener

47. To the "_

earth" **Protective** embankment

50. Children's alphabet

8

6

8

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52. Golf's start

53. River's muddy deposit

61. *Earth Day founder organization, acr. 64. IRS' threat 2. Interpret writing Stud's companion

65. Hole-in-one of 4. Convex molding Location ingredients

55. Goo Dolls

57. *It's warming?

25 | 26 | 27

69. To collapse from environmental Rs surprise or exhaustion, 6. of Man Yiddish

70. Buddy Holly's industry "Peggy ___"

71. Greek bazaar 72. Preceding month 73. Make a mistake

SODUKO

9

6

5

8

3

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every

row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

7. It oversees airline

6

3

6

73

*National gardening

5. *First of three

DOWN

8. "Four ____ and seven years ago..." 9. "Out of , one" 10. Members of this 74. Like many children

Corinthian 29. His and 31. Tom, as opposed to organization include **Tabby**

32. Forcefulness 33. Avoid, as in taxes Solution, page 10

34. *Second of three environmental Rs Verde National

Iran, Iraq, and Libya

11. Opposite of knit

15. Gobbled up

22. Snake-like fish

24. Pompous rant

McDonald's

14. It's come to denote

something that's easy

20. Medvedev's retreat

25. *UV light absorber

26. Nike's swoosh and

arches.

Park 38. Jumping stick

42. Pink or reddish makeup

45. Artificial substitute 49. Avocado center 51. *"The Omnivore's

Dilemma" author 54. Buying option 56. Tributary of Missouri

River * -and-trade environmental tool 58. Comics character

Little 59. America's best singer?

60. Catcher's gear 61. ____-do-well Double reed woodwind instrument 63. They got revenge in '84' comedy, sing.

66. Mutt 68. Put or place

Solution, page 12

Thank you Chief Hinton for your many years of service to the city of Lowell. You will be missed.

I would have loved to have been able to enjoy the outdoors this weekend but, neighbors not home for a week, left their constantly barking dogs. Why breed them if you can't watch them? I'm not looking forward to summer in Lowell.

Thank you to the honest lady who returned mail to us that was mistakenly delivered to her.

As the warm weather approaches, would a few of the kind merchants, on Main Street, provide dog bowls of water for the tourists and citizens who enjoy their stroll through our friendly town with their dogs? Many tourist towns provide water for pets. It would be one more reason to slow down, shop and enjoy Lowell with man's best friend.

Shame on you Spotlight on Sports for continuing to only recognize the male athletes here in Lowell. We have some very talented female athletes that deserve the same recognition.

When submitting your opinion to Sound Off!, we ask you to follow

Sound Off! is meant to be a way for you to compliment or vent your feelings with civility. A healthy way to get something off your chest or spread a little kindness.

We welcome your comments, with or without signatures, but signing your name to your comment does increase the odds of seeing it in print. Threatening or deliberately cruel comments will not be accepted and, of course, no advertising a product or service please

So basically, submit anything but not everything will make it to print.

The Ledger reserves the right to choose what is printed, and reminds the public that views expressed in Sound Off!, unless otherwise stated, are not the opinions of The Ledger staff or its

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION -

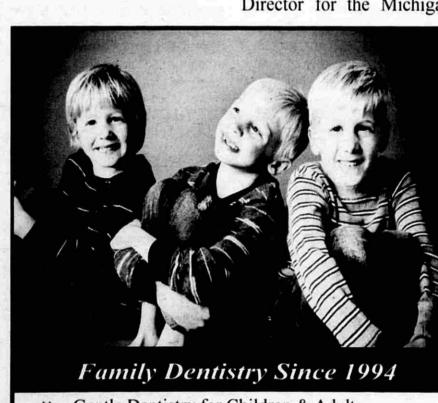
Should Prince William and Kate Middleton sign a prenuptial agreement?

To vote on the current poll question go to: thelowellledger.com

last week's Sound Off poll result:

Do you pay your taxes on time or get an extension?

I refuse to pay. It's unconstitutional •••••• 20% l get a refund ••••••• 20%



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· The newly designed state's federally designated Eye-Bank, said more than license includes a permanent organ and tissue recovery 1,000 Michigan residents Michigan.gov/sos for the had their sight restored branch office locator. "Organ, tissue and last year, thanks to the Organ Donor eye donation begins with compassion of eye donors

the donor registry," said and their families. Michigan Pietroski. "Every person has Secretary of State's Office the power to be a hero by grateful to Secretary Johnson uses social media such documenting their decision and to each Secretary of as Facebook and Twitter to help others through State office staff member to promote organ donor donation. For most, it may for helping our residents be the only opportunity they understand the importance Also speaking at have to save someone's life. of joining the Michigan Monday's news conference What an incredible legacy Organ Donor Registry," Langley said. "Through our

of generosity." Lisa Langley, Executive partnership, we can restore

organ transplant operations were performed. Each organ donor has the potential to save eight lives Donor Registry. and enhance the lives of as

> Efforts to promote organ, tissue and eye donation will continue on Tuesday, April 12 when Secretary of State offices across Michigan open their doors for Secretary of State "Buddy Day." Buddies, who are often organ or tissue recipients or their family members will help answer questions and encourage residents to add their names to the Donor Registry. This

Michigan Eye-Bank, and Lions Club. They will be at Michigan.gov/sos). Sign SUPER!Centers and PLUS offices 9 am to 1 pm, then feed again from 2 pm to 5 pm. Michsos) and Facebook Buddies will be at regular

to 2 pm. To find a branch

office near you, visit www.

Johnson noted that anyone who is interested may also sign up at the "The Eye-Bank is Secretary of State website at www.michigan.gov/sos. Those who sign up will receive a red heart sticker for the front of their license

or state ID card. Director for the Michigan sight to more people every registered donors with a Last year in Michigan, the front of their license. Signing the back of your

effort is coordinated by about organ donation and the Gift of Life Michigan, the Secretary of State's Office,

might be subject to a 10 per-

Larger or smaller

newly designed Michigan driver's license, which began being issued this month, will signify permanent red heart on

driver's license no longer enrolls residents in the Gift of Life Michigan many as 50 patients. There is the state's certified, full-

is no age limit to become a service organ recovery organization. Contact the agency at (800) 482-4881 or www.giftoflifemichigan. org. The Michigan Eye-Bank recovers, evaluates and distributes corneas for transplantation, supports eye and vision research and offerspublicandprofessional education on the importance of eye, organ and tissue donation. To learn more, call (800) 247-7250 or visit www.michiganeyebank.org.

For more information visit its website (www. up for the official Twitter (www.twitter.com/ updates (www.facebook. branch offices from 9 am com/Michigansos).

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