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food fight 2011



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egg hunt winners



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Sunny Girls Night Out enjoys steady turnout

by Emma Palova

Champagne, strawberries and chocolate fountains. And this year there was even dancing in the streets offered by Soft on the Feet Entertainment with owner/instructor Brad Smith.

Yes, line dancing on the sidewalk in front of Dovetail and Journeys Time Antiques on Main Street.

That is what this year's Girls Night Out (GNO) was

all about. The participating merchants who offered food, chocolate, strawberries, beverages and entertainment were the busiest.

The only nice day in a stretch of gloomy cold weather brought women of all ages out to downtown Lowell last week during the spring shopping event.

With this year's theme "These shoes are made for



Cheryl Pratt of Happy Bums.



Michelle Emaus serves sangria to guests at the Flat River Cottage.

shopping," participating merchants did embellish their wares with shoes of all sorts.

One prom black shoe at the Lowell Area Historical Museum even had a rose embroidered on the back on top of the heel. The Victorian dining room offered a beautiful spread with the traditional cheese ball, chocolates and roast beef wraps.

The most visited shops were the ones that had food, chocolate and beverages. Dave Emmette of AIC Insurance can attest to that. It was hard to move around inside the office.

The counter held glasses of sparkling wine and champagne with strawberries and plenty of chocolate Rochers wrapped in golden

paper. Music blasted from the windows.

"We always have fun," said Emmette.

Flat River Cottage with antiques and nostalgic items enjoyed a steady stream of visitors. Michelle Emaus was serving sangria spiked with rum and she was handing out recipes for it.

GNO, continued,
page 9

Council to interview four candidates for manager post

by Emma Palova

The city council will interview the following four candidates for the manager position, this Saturday, in this order. The interviews are open to the public. Each candidate will be interviewed for approximately 55 minutes using the same set of questions. One question will be outside the box to determine the candidate's ability to navigate in an unknown field.

Starting out at 10 am will be Ionia County administrator Mark Howe. His accomplishments include the transfer of financial operations into the newly created finance department and managing the Ionia County Airport toward self-sufficiency.

Howe also facilitated the creation of the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority for developing and maintaining a 125-mile trail network.

Cameron Van Wynn-garden is currently the assistant city manager in Greenville, who oversees all planning and zoning operations for the city, grant writing and administration as well as economic development efforts.

Matthew Butts is the assistant city manager in Grandville. His duties include assisting the manager in developing the annual budget, writing and administering grants.

City manager search,
continued, page 3

Spring Into The Past tour invites to explore Civil War

by Emma Palova

The ninth annual Spring into the Past tour, organized by the Tri Museum Network, will take place this weekend from 11 am to 5 pm.

"This is a promotional event to raise awareness and generate interest in some of West Michigan's finest small museums," said Pat Allchin, director of the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

This year, 21 area historical societies will be participating in the spring event. Since the year 2011 marks the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the museums will have displays with artifacts and information about soldiers who served in the war between the northern and the southern states.

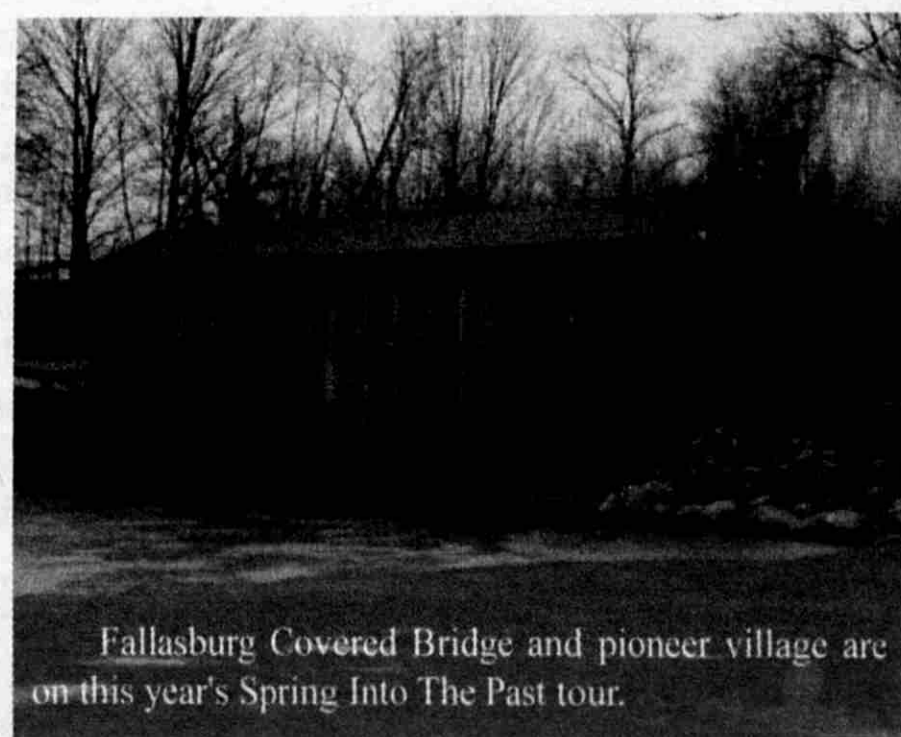
Lowell Area Historical Museum will have on display Civil War artifacts such as a hat, a look alike uniform, a sewing machine and other artifacts.

"We anticipate a good turnout," said Luanne Kaeb, program and education director for the museum.

The annual event started in Lowell as a brainchild of former director Judy Straub. It has grown over the years from two museums participating to an entire network.

"More museums want to join in," said Kaeb. "We usually get an excellent turnout from out of town and locally."

Charlton Park will have an extensive display of artifacts from uniforms to rifles to pictures. Bowne Town-



Fallsburg Covered Bridge and pioneer village are on this year's Spring Into The Past tour.

Spring Into The Past,
continued, page 2

Spring Into The Past, continued

ship Historical Society will have information on the 100-plus men and boys who left their homes and went off to fight in the war.

Blanchard House in Ionia will have old-fashioned games inside and outdoors.

"Each time you visit a museum you will be trans-

ported back to a place where your ancestors were planting the seeds that would take root and transform our communities into places we call home today," said Allchin.

There will be a raffle drawing on Sunday at 5 pm at the Lowell museum. First prize is \$500 cash, second

prize is an appetizer reception for 20 catered by the Flat River Grill and third prize is a gift certificate for one night at the Main Street Inn plus \$50 in Lowell bucks. The tickets are \$2 a piece or six tickets for \$10.

"Stop by and pick up a brochure," said Kaeb.

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along main street

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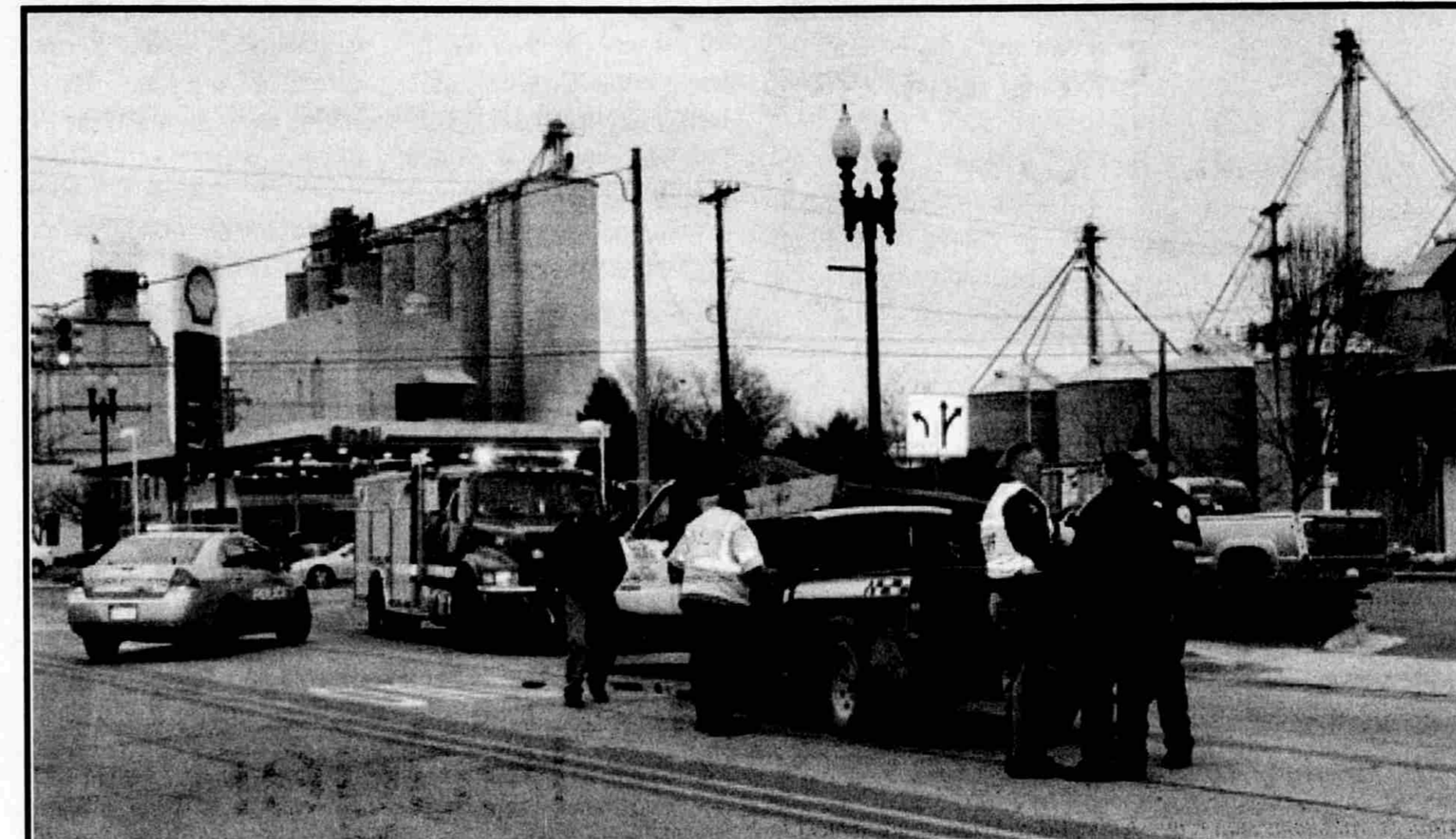
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The final candidate will have an education, credit and criminal record check.



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The suspect's name is being withheld pending arraignment.

elect BERT BLEKE

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elect
BERT BLEKE

FOR GRCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES ★

Crowing roosters draw neighbor complaints

by Emma Palova

Big Kenny and John Rich, named after the country stars, start crowing early in the morning around 5 am and they go on for about an hour.

“Well they’re roosters, they crow,” said Russ Stoffers.

Hisson, Forrest Stoffers, a ninth-grade student of Lowell High School, got the birds for a 4-H project to show them at this year’s fair. The Stoffers live in a rural residential area on more

than five acres of property in Lowell Township. They built a chicken coop for \$800 for the two roosters that will be relocated into a chicken hutch behind the house due to neighborly complaints.

Just recently, nearby neighbors complained, about the roosters crowing, to the township. Even the Kent County Sheriff’s deputies came to Stoffers’ residence to inspect the matter.

“I think it’s silly,” said Lowell Township supervisor Jerry Hale.

Stoffers said the township matched the complaint against a dog barking ordinance due to lack of specific rules.

“They found a paragraph that did side with the neighbors that found excessive noise between the

hours of 10 pm and 7 am,” he said.

The Stoffers were then put on notice with the township to find resolution within 10 days or to be fined. So, the birds will be moved behind the house.

“I would like to go on the record to say that Lowell Township has been very easy to deal with on this issue. They are willing to go the extra mile and work out some resolve,” said Stoffers.

However, the entire deal leaves Forrest angry that his birds are being picked on.

“I want to show them,” he said. “They’re older birds, they’re afraid.”

Yes, one of them, during the photo shoot, ran off into the woods flapping

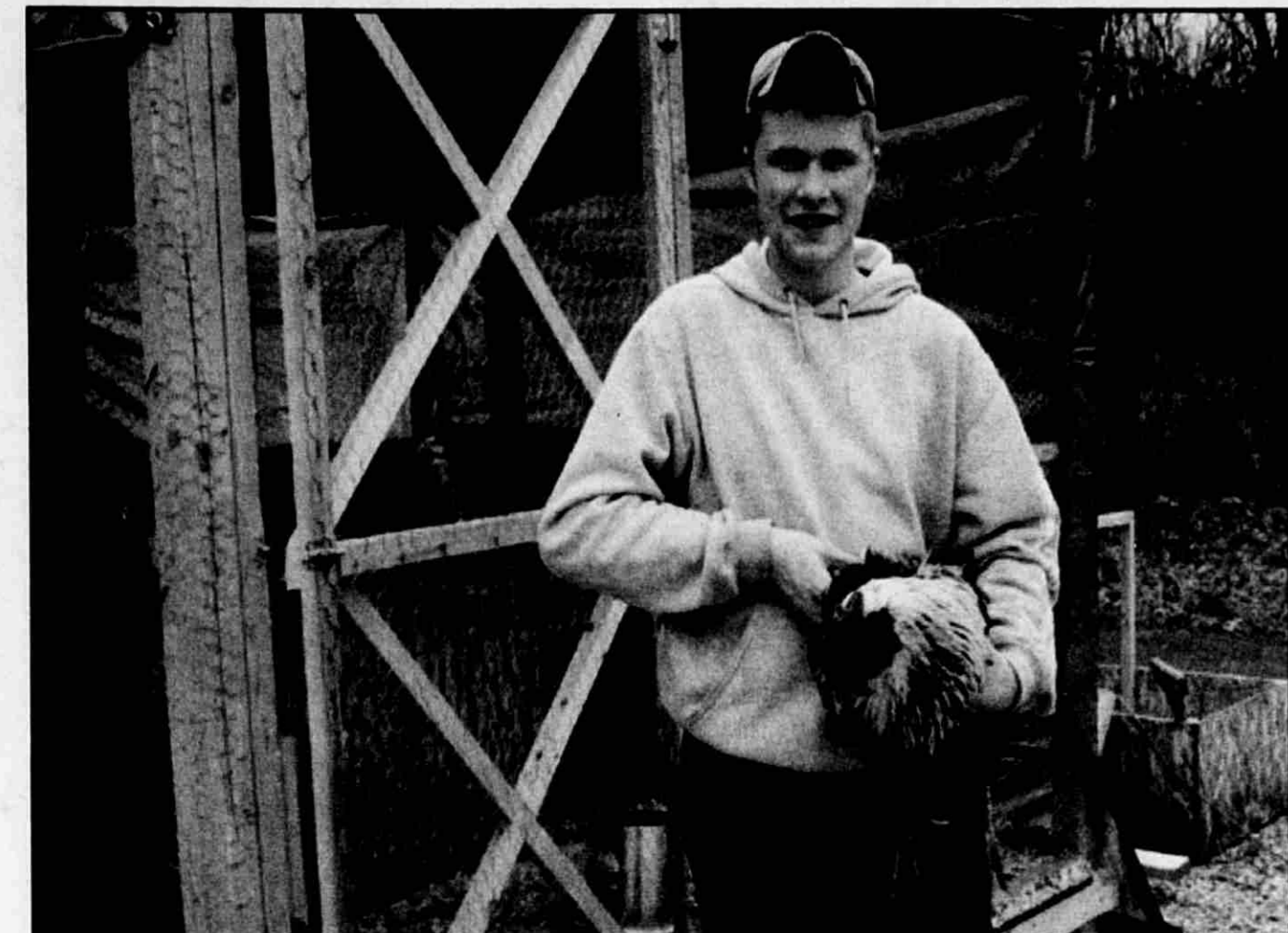
around and Stoffers chased him with a fish net.

Stoffers said he finds the issue very disturbing in one of the last towns in the area that has “Bring your tractor to school day.”

“What kind of messages are we sending to our youth today?” asked Stoffers. “We move to the country to open opportunities like this for our children and city people want to dictate how we live our lives.”

The Stoffers have to comply by May 2 to move the roosters.

The complaining neighbors would not comment on the issue stating they do not want to get involved.



Forrest Stoffers, 14, with one of his roosters.

April is safe digging month

As the busy construction and landscaping season opens, April has been declared safe digging month in Michigan to remind homeowners, do-it-yourselfers, excavators and contractors to dig safely by calling

MISS DIG at 811 when undertaking a project that involves digging.

“April is Safe Digging Month in Michigan” was marked today at the Boji Tower with a group of legislators and state officials,

MISS DIG, Inc., and several utility and pipeline companies. Sen. Mike Nofs (R-Battle Creek), Rep. Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth), Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) chair-

DIG executive director Kathie Fournier as well as representatives from Consumers Energy, DTE Energy and Wolverine Pipe Line Company hosted the event.

Senate and House legislative proclamations recognizing the importance of calling 811 to have underground utilities marked before digging were introduced by Sen. Nofs and Rep. Horn.

“Digging, continued, page 7”



viewpoint

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Consider some “tax-smart” investment moves

April 18 was the deadline for filing your individual tax return. But that wasn’t the only event that occurred this tax season. Although you might not have been aware of it, Tax Freedom Day fell on April 12.

Tax Freedom Day, calculated annually by the Tax Foundation, is the day on which Americans have earned enough money to pay this year’s federal, state and local taxes. Of course, Tax Freedom Day is something of a fiction, because most people pay their taxes throughout the year, via their paychecks. Furthermore, when you pay taxes, you help fund public educa-

tion, the police, the fire department, highways, college scholarships and many other important elements of society. Nonetheless, you may want to use the concept of Tax Freedom Day to look for ways to reduce the taxes associated with your investments.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Fully fund your IRA. For 2011, you generally can contribute up to \$5,000 to a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$6,000 if you’re 50 or older. When you invest in a traditional IRA, your contributions may be tax deductible, depending on your income level, and your earnings can

grow on a tax-deferred basis. With a Roth IRA, your contributions are not deductible, but your earnings can grow tax free, provided you’ve had your account at least five years and you don’t start taking withdrawals until you’re 59-1/2.

• Increase your 401(k) contributions. When you contribute to a 401(k), you can receive two main types of tax benefits. First, you typically put in pre-tax dollars to your 401(k), so the more you contribute, the lower your taxable income. And second, your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis. For 2011, you generally can contribute up to \$16,500 to your 401(k), or \$22,000 if you’re 50 or over. (The same contribution limits apply to 457(b) plans, for state or local government employees, or 403(b) plans, for employees of schools or other tax-exempt organiza-

tions.) So, whenever your salary goes up, you may want to consider boosting your contributions to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

• Invest in a 529 plan. If you have children or grandchildren whom you’d like to help through college, you may want to invest in a 529 plan. Your earnings grow tax-free, provided they are used for qualified higher education expenses, and your contributions may be deductible from your state taxes, depending on your state of residence and the plan in which you choose to participate.

• Be a “buy-and-hold” investor. By holding investments at least one year before selling them, gains on your investment will generally be taxed at a rate of 15 percent. If you sell an appreciated investment you’ve held less than one year, the

tax rate will be the same as your individual tax rate, which could be as high as 35 percent.

• Look for dividends. You can potentially increase your cash flow by purchasing investments that pay dividends. For 2011 and 2012, individual investors also benefit from a maximum tax rate of 15 percent on qualified dividends. If you don’t need the extra cash, you can reinvest the dividends and increase your ownership shares — which is a key to building wealth.

(Keep in mind, though, that companies can decrease or eliminate dividends at any time.)

As mentioned above, Tax Freedom Day is more of an idea than a reality. But by following these tax-smart investment tips, you can potentially gain some benefits for years to come.

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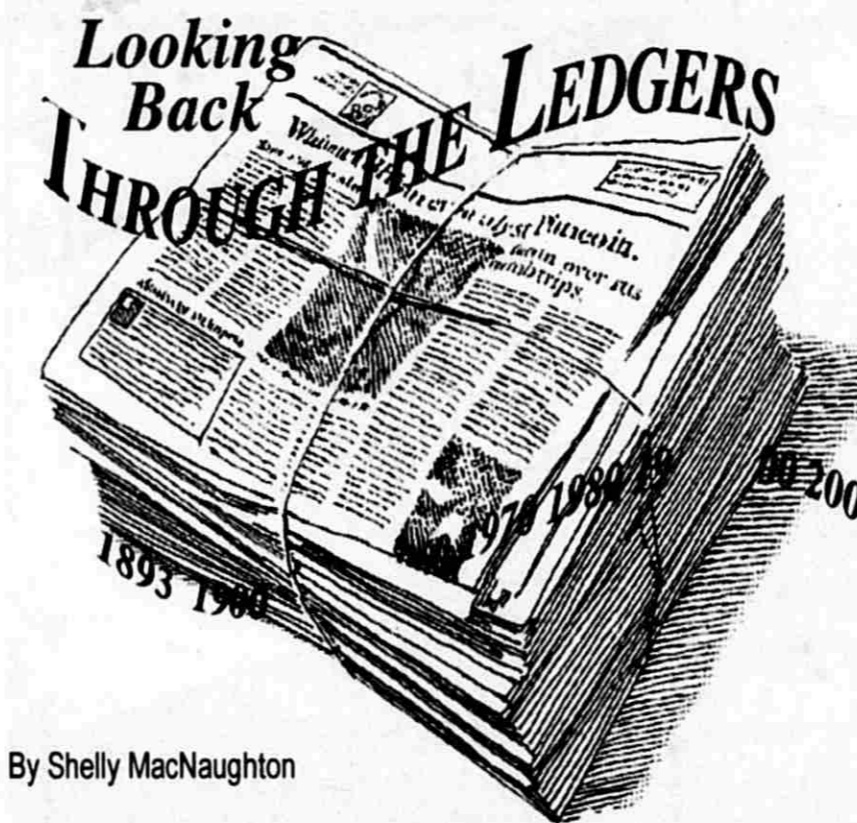
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By Shelly MacNaughton

125 Years Ago The Lowell Journal April 30, 1886

The interior of Rickert’s ice cream establishment has been embellished in good style.

Fire broke out in the boiler room of the Lowell Manufacturing Co’s works, south of Bank block, a few days ago. Its timely discovery and the excellent service of the mill pump prevented a very destructive conflagration. Let it be said right here that those mill pumps are just what we need.

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger April 27, 1911

The seventh grade gave their teacher, Miss Irene Murphy, a surprise party last Friday evening and had a very enjoyable time.

The Mystic Workers will hold a warm sugar social at Maceabee hall Friday evening, April 28, all invited.

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo April 23, 1936

Two girls lead the graduating class of Lowell

High School this year. Catherine Hoover and Lucy Paulinkas having been named valedictorian and salutatorian respectively. Besides being the best of friends, they have much in common. They live in the same neighborhood, about three and one half miles northeast of Lowell; both are Catholics; neither has received any mark lower than a B; although they often had to walk to school, neither has ever been tardy; and both pursued an academic course during their years in high school.

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger May 4, 1961

The editor of The Ledger, at the council meeting on Monday night, pointed out that instead of the city spending \$10,000 for a new street sweeper, Kent County Road Commission would do the job on a contract.

Checking with Leonard E. Kaufman, secretary-manager of the road commission, he said that the county would send a crew of men with a sweeper into the city and do a complete job for \$200 per sweeping. He said that the city would probably need this done about three times a year and pointed out that the interest on \$10,000 would pay this cost, saying nothing about the labor and other equipment involved.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger April 30, 1986

Lowell High School is proud to have Jason Robertson named as a National Merit Corporations’ finalist. He is the first finalist in recent years for the high school. Many students have been named semi-finalist in the nationwide academic competition.

Jason is the son of Gary and Rose Robertson of 36th Street. He is the oldest of three children. His hobbies include all kinds of musical activities and he plays the trombone and bass guitar. He also enjoys creative endeavors of all sorts. During his high school years, Jason has played soccer and tennis.

the lowell ledger

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 printed.

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.

Submitting copy, pictures or advertising to the Ledger?

COPY: If emailed, please paste copy into the body of the email. Attach any pictures separately as jpeg files. Make sure you identify everyone in the pictures.

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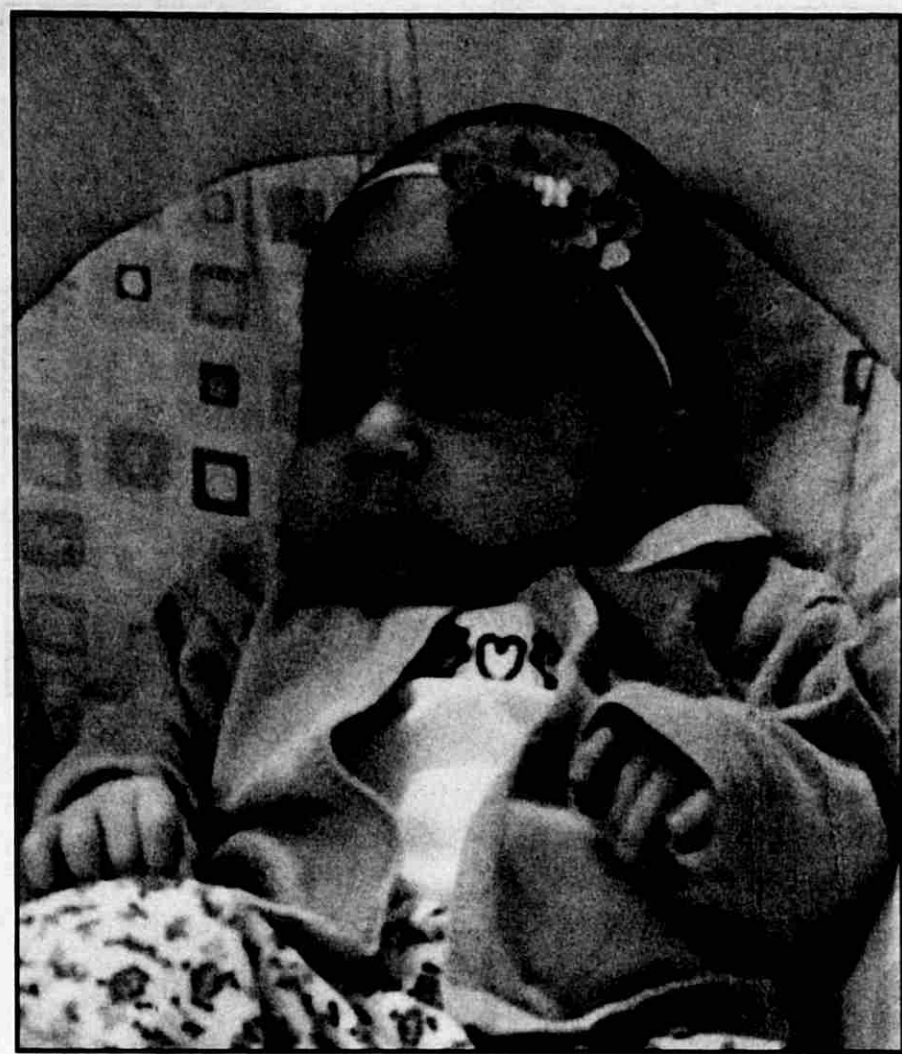
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area births

Davidson



Kayla Rose Davidson

Jesse and Diane Davidson of Lowell announce the birth of their daughter, Kayla Rose, born January 29, 2011. She weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. and measured 20 inches. Welcoming her are brother, Jacob and sister, Emilyn. Grandparents are Nancy and Steve Hubbarth of Lowell and Phil and Sherry Johnson of Lowell.

health

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang, Wayne A. Christenson III, John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie nosebleeds.



Nosebleeds are a very common problem, especially this time of year. Most commonly, the bleeding originates from the anterior nose. This area is filled with tiny blood vessels that are located close to the surface. They serve to warm and humidify the air that is inhaled. These vessels are very fragile and can rupture causing a nosebleed. When a person has a "cold" the vessels become dilated and bleeding may occur when

one sneezes, coughs, or blows their nose. These vessels can also rupture spontaneously, especially when the air is very dry. Bleeding may also begin in the posterior aspect of the nose. Patients typically will feel blood trickle down the back of their throat. This type of nosebleed is a more serious problem and can indicate problems with blood clotting or high blood pressure. This type occurs most often in the elderly population. This type of bleed requires immediate medical attention.

If you experience a nosebleed, first sit or stand up, as this will lower your blood pressure. Hold your head forward, not back. Then pinch the nose tightly, holding it closed for five minutes. Gently release the

nose and check for bleeding. If bleeding continues, pinch the nose closed for 10 to 15 minutes without releasing. You should seek medical care if the bleeding continues for 15 to 30 minutes, you feel weak, you are on coumadin (a blood thinner), the bleed is rapid with large amounts of blood, or you are having frequent nosebleeds. Your doctor will attempt to cauterize a bleeding vessel or pack the nose to stop the bleeding. To prevent nosebleeds, use a humidifier during the winter. Furnace humidifiers generally do a poor job at keeping the air moist. You can also use saline nasal spray every one or two hours during the day, or apply vaseline to the inside of your nose.

happy birthday!

- APRIL 27**
Janice Ryder, Dennis Pretzel, Debbie Burrows, Ashlyn Karp.
- APRIL 28**
Terese Brown, Timmy Vezino, Shawna Austin, Kattie Hildenbrand, Beth Weston.
- APRIL 29**
K.J. Vezino, Bryan Roth, Lucy Wade.
- APRIL 30**
Carmen Roudabush, Stacey Irwin, Shawn Dulin, Nancy Leary.
- MAY 1**
Dennis Anchors, Rick Roth, Mark Christiansen.
- MAY 2**
Melinda D'Agostino, Tim Mastenbrook, Madison Briggs, Glen Bryant, Jaclyn Batt.
- MAY 3**
Wilma Roudabush, Melissa Merriman, Mimi Mitchell, Rich Bieri.

college news

Local student Culver Redd received an E.T.S. Walton Endowed Physics prize during Albion College's annual Honors Convocation held last week. The Albion College faculty and administration choose recipients for these awards from among the most exemplary students in all academic departments. Culver Redd is majoring in physics and computer science and is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program. He is the son of James and Marsha Redd of Lowell and a graduate of Lowell High School.

Lowell Odyssey of the Mind teams compete at state finals

After many months of long practice sessions, Odyssey of the Mind teams of third through twelfth grade students from across the state, traveled to Davenport University to compete at the Odyssey of the Mind state finals. Coaches Mark Looman and Ryan Lothian led the Murray Lake Elementary team of fourth and fifth-grade students to a third place bronze medal finish as they competed in the "As Good As Gold...Berg" problem. Their problem

required them to present an uncomplicated real life task and create a device made out of an unnecessarily complex series of components that would perform the same task as the existing item. In addition to their Rube Goldberg device, the students had to build their own props and sets, design and make their costumes and prepare a script to accompany their performance. Also, competing at the state finals competition was the "Full Circle" team from Lowell Middle School. This team was asked to present

a humorous performance where something changed appearance at least three times and eventually returned to its original form and appearance. This team's presentation of "America's Almost Got Talent" left the judges and audience in stitches! In addition to their long-term performance, each team was required to compete in a spontaneous problem on the day of the tournament, which they had also practiced throughout the school year. New teams will



The Lowell Middle School "Full Circle" team, pictured, left to right: Olivia Nurmikko, Angie Baerwalde, Maria DeCator, Maddie Burt, Nina Vulpetti, Isabelle Fleszar and Alyssa Roest. Missing is coach Angela Baerwalde



The third place Murray Lake Elementary "As Good As Gold...Berg" team, back row left to right: coach Mark Looman, Christian Davis, John Russell, Mike VandenHout and coach Ryan Lothian and front row, left to right: Emily Lothian, Chloe Looman Cassie Dean and Addison Mallindine.

Digging, continued

The partnership between the Michigan legislature and Public Service Commission along with MISS DIG and utilities, such as Consumers Energy, DTE Energy and Wolverine Pipe Line Company, is vital to continue raising awareness among residents and excavators about the importance of calling 811 before digging," said Nofs. "Our goal is to eliminate dig-in utility damages in Michigan and prevent serious injuries, property damage and loss of service that can result from contacting underground pipes, wires and cables."

Warmer weather marks the start of large construction and excavation projects like road work, building and home construction. Excavation contractors are encouraged to continue their partnership with MISS DIG and the state's utilities by calling 811 for staking of underground utilities, waiting at least three business days before digging, then following digging best practices when work begins. Dialing 811 in Michigan connects callers to MISS DIG, a statewide, one-call center for construction safety and utility damage prevention. Once a request is received, MISS DIG contacts local utility companies according to the dig location provided by the caller. Utilities will send representatives to mark the approximate location of underground lines with paint and/or staking flags within three working days. The service is free. Each year, hundreds of dig-in accidents are caused by careless digging, which results in damage to utility lines, service interruptions, property damage, financial penalties and personal injuries, according to Kathie Fournier, MISS DIG chief executive officer and executive director. "Whether you're a homeowner or contractor, calling 811 is a very simple way to avoid some very serious consequences," noted Fournier. "Michigan law requires a call to 811 before any digging job begins, whether it's a small residential project or major construction job."

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Food Fight 2011 is on!

Flat River Outreach Ministries is gearing up for the biggest competitive clash of the summer, FROM Food Fight 2011. The annual community-wide competition, between North Lowell and South Lowell, hopes to raise the most nonperishable food items for FROM's depleted food pantry.

"This time of year becomes challenging because the food, so generously donated during

winter holiday drives, is long gone," stated Mary Novello, FROM executive director. "June also marks the beginning of our summer lunch program and the time of the highest need in the food pantry."

An estimated 29 percent of kids, in the Lowell School District, qualify for the free or reduced lunch program through the schools. In the summer these children eat at home putting an added strain on already tight

family budgets. FROM's summer lunch program identifies families to help supply nutritious lunch supplies for their school age children. "Last summer we helped 111 families, feeding 300 children," said FROM chairman Kraig Haybarker, "2011 will be our third year for our lunch program."

The Lowell Schools/Interact Club (formerly Junior Rotarians) kicks off the 2011 campaign with their own Food Fight during the



month of May. Interact is the name of a high school based Rotary Club with students aged 14-18 who are engaged in providing service projects for both their local community and internationally.

There are over 15,000 Interact Clubs in the world, with over 500,000 members, in over 120 countries. Lowell's Interact Club was chartered this past fall after a successful trial year during the 2009-2010 school year.

To date, there are over 65 Lowell students who are now active interactors. RJ Boudro, one of the counselors at Lowell High School, is the Interact advisor. Clubs elect their own officers, set up their own dues, raise funds

and perform hands-on service projects to assist wherever the need may arise.

"The club has chosen the FROM Food Fight as one of their local community service projects again this year," said Boudro. "The kids are excited to help serve the Lowell community."

Last year the Interact Club participated in the FROM Food Fight as just one of their local projects. They also gathered many needed supplies for a relief project in Haiti following the earthquake.

"The Lowell club may be the largest one in Michigan at the current time. They are a great group of students dedicated to helping others and they follow in the Rotary motto of "service above

self," said Rotarian Jim White. "These are some of the finest students in the high school. They are motivated to do good things in our world and they don't hesitate to get themselves involved."

According to Boudro, "These kids are fantastic! It is hard to hold them back. They want to do so much!" "It doesn't surprise me one bit that these interactors are once again, this year, fully involving themselves in the FROM Food Fight," said White. "They know what wonderful things FROM does for those in need in our community and they want to help in any way they can!" "When you see what these Interact students can do and are doing, in leading the way towards developing a better world. One can only wonder what their limits might be," he added.

"Our Interact Club students are an outstanding group. They enjoy working in the community and understand the importance of community service," stated Dee Crowley, Lowell High School assistant principal.

Conner Swift, Interact Club president, explained, "Our local food pantry and the Food Fight seemed like the perfect outlet for our local project. Our members do weekly pickups at all of

Food Fight, continued, page 11

NOTICE OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on Tuesday, the 3rd day of May, 2011, at the Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office, 1500 Scribner Ave., N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49504, County of Kent, or such place and time, I, William R. Byl, Kent County Drain Commissioner, may adjourn, the apportionment for benefits and the lands comprised within the "SCOTT LOWE COUNTY DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT", and the tentative apportionments against parcels and municipalities in the Drainage District will be subject to review on the above specified date only, from 8:30 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. Also on this date, the computation of cost for said drain will be open for inspection by any interested parties. You may also review your apportionments by phone at (616) 336-3688.

WHEREAS, You are further advised that, pursuant to Section 154 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, drain assessments against land will be collected in the same manner as property taxes. And also if drain assessments against land are collected by installment, the land owner may pay the assessments in full with any interest to date at any time and thereby avoid further interest charges.

WHEREAS, You are further advised that, pursuant to Section 155 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, any owner of land within the Drainage District or any city, village, township, district or county feeling aggrieved by the apportionment of benefits made by the drain commissioner, may appeal the apportionment within ten (10) days after the Day of Review of Apportionment by making an application to the Kent County Probate Court for the appointment of a Board of Review. If there is no appeal, the roll will be confirmed ten (10) days after the Day of Review of Apportionment. The confirmed roll may be slightly different from the roll presented at the Day of Review due to arguments made at the Day of Review.

AS A PROPERTY OWNER WITHIN THE DISTRICT, YOU ARE SUBJECT TO A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR A PORTION OF THE COST OF THIS PROJECT.

The following government units and permanent parcel numbers of the parcels of land within the Special Assessment District of said drain will be assessed:

41-24-27-300-001, -003;

41-24-28-200-004; 400-016 thru -020;

Bowne Township at large and the County of Kent on account of roads.

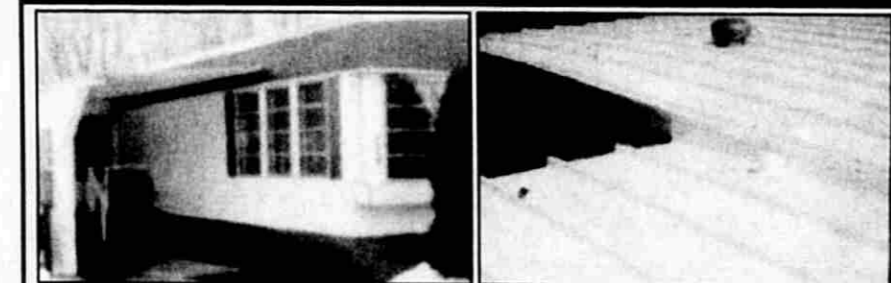
NOW, THEREFORE, All unknown and non-resident persons, owners and persons interested in the above described lands, and you: Mary Hollinrake - Clerk of Kent County, Christian Wenger - Bowne Township Supervisor, and Jon Rice - Kent County Road Commission Managing Director, that at such time and place, as stated above, the apportionment for benefits and the lands comprised within the Scott Lowe County Drain Special Assessment District will be subject to review.

AND EACH OF YOU, owners and persons interested in the above referenced parcels of land, are hereby given the opportunity to appear at the time and place noted above to review the apportionments and be heard with respect to such special assessments and your interests in relation to them, if you so desire.

Dated this 11th day of April, 2011.

William R. Byl,
Kent County Drain Commissioner

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GNO, continued

Even though mayor Jim Hodges didn't make it this year to Eja Salon for some eyebrow plucking, owner April McClure was busy doing eyebrows with Janet Buck.

At Ella's Coffee & Cuisine, visitors enjoyed some good coffee, art and company of fellow shoppers.

A group of women lit-

erally invaded Chimera's leaving Cliff Yankovich surprised.

"It's not as busy as the fall one but it's been good," he said.

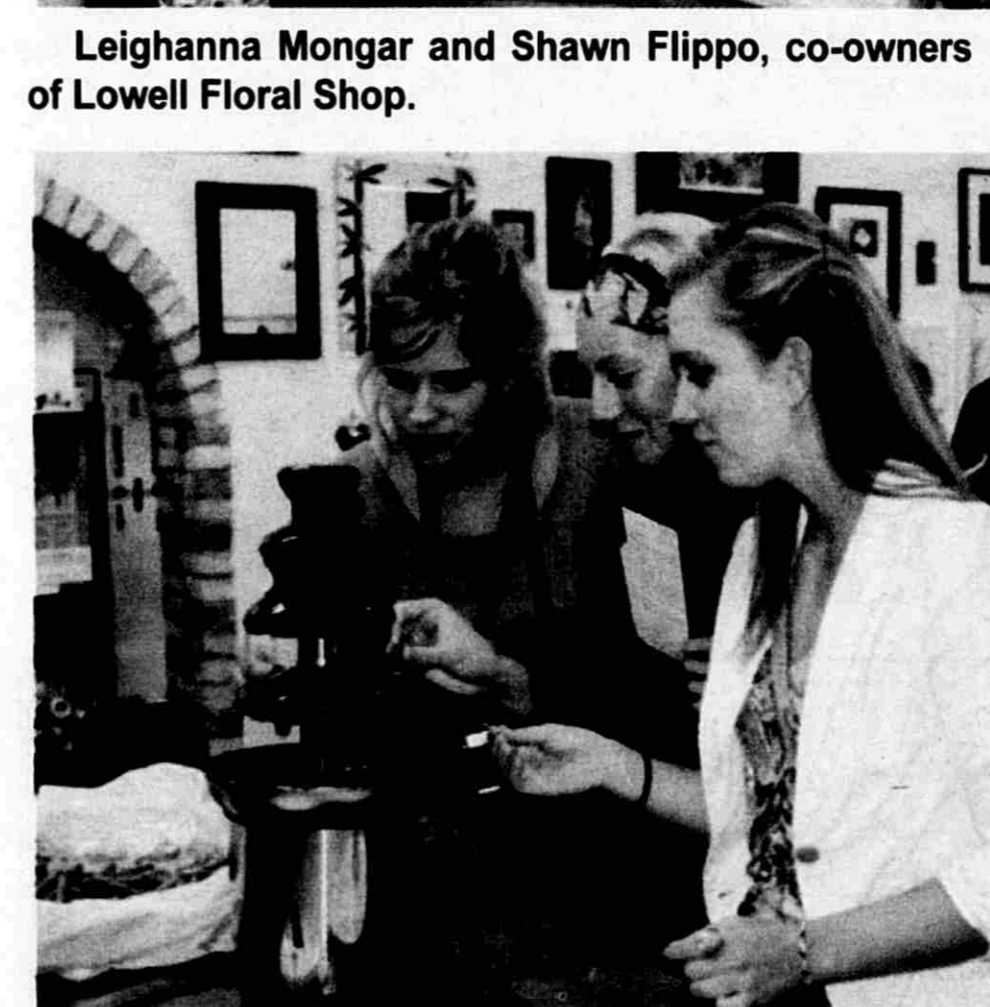
During the fall event, Yankovich goes through boxes of wine before the night is over. Partner Julie Clare-DeVoe baked chocolate covered cookies.



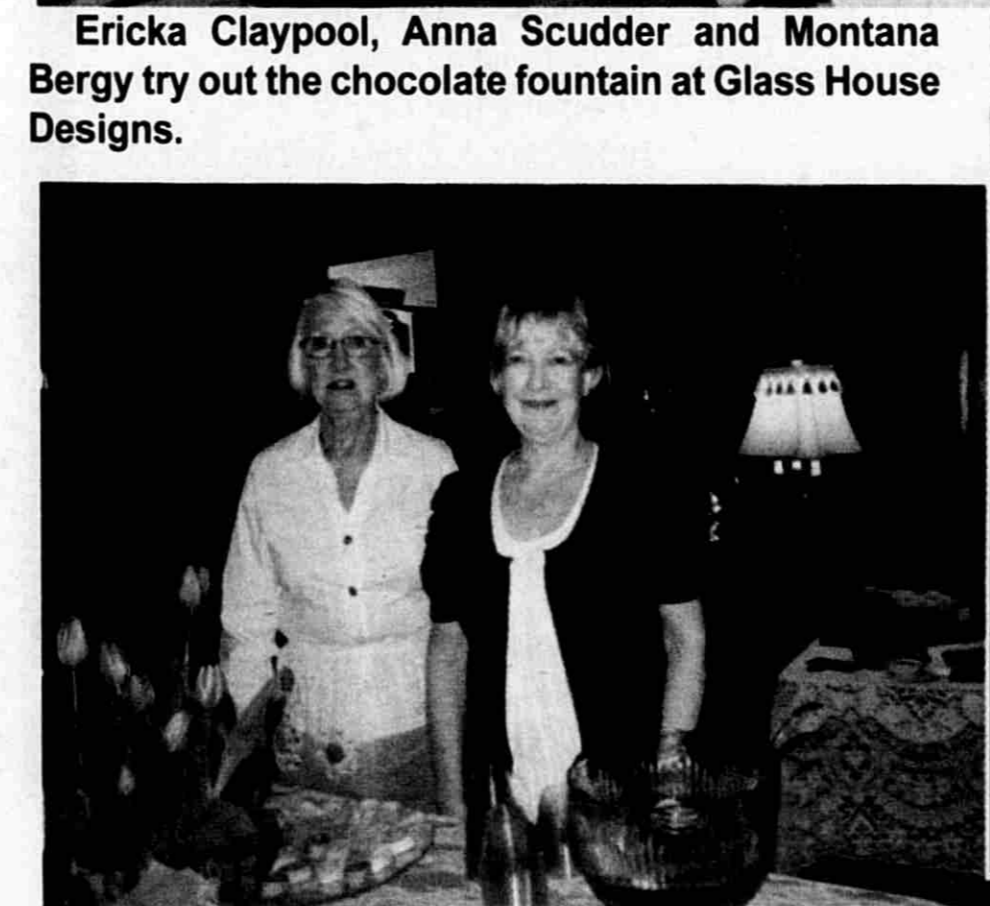
April McClure works on Janet Buck's eyebrows.



Randall Rapelje and Emma Duvernay at Ella's.



Leighanna Mongar and Shawn Flipppo, co-owners of Lowell Floral Shop.



Ericka Claypool, Anna Scudder and Montana Bergy try out the chocolate fountain at Glass House Designs.

Joy Smith and Susan Stouffer at LAHM.

At Fire and Water Art, artist Marylu Dykstra handed out prizes from a ladder.

It wasn't as busy on the other side of town where Brenda's Hair Design and Lowell Floral Shop teamed up to offer a prom package give away.

The prom package includes tuxedo rental, corsage, boutonniere, up do hair style and a guy's haircut.

Three Brothers Pizzeria made bruschetta for the event.

New on the block were Happy Bums offering cloth

diapers and green detergent. Owner Cheryl Pratt stressed the environmental importance of cloth diapers. According to Pratt, disposable diapers are reported to be the third largest consumer item in landfills.

Giggles & Gumdrops also joined in on this year's spring shopping night.

Chamber director Liz Baker said the turnout was good. "We were very happy with the turnout for our spring GNO event and look forward to fall GNO on October 20," said Baker.



Monique Bailey, Tammy Smith and Brenda Bergy at Brenda's.



Dave Emmette, Tab Molehouse and Jason McNamara inside AIC Insurance.



Melissa Freeman of Giggles & Gumdrops.



Brad Smith of Soft on the Feet Entertainment prompted visitors to dance in the streets during Girls' Night Out.

obituaries

FREUND

John Matthew Freund, age 70, of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, April 23, 2011. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Gena Freund. He is survived by his children, Jill (Mark) Smith of Lowell, John Freund Jr. of Seattle, WA, Joseph Freund of Allen Park, Jennifer (Donald) Haring of White Lake; sister, Sandra Freund of Rockford; grandchildren, Landon and Logan Smith, Steven and Shane Freund, Dawson Freund, Lauren Haring; nephews, Chip (Martie) Oosdyke, Thomas Oosdyke; and niece, Christine Oosdyke. John was an avid reader and fanatic Detroit Red Wings fan. Memorial Mass will be held Friday, 11 am, at St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 N. Amity, Lowell. Rev. Eugene Okoli presiding. Visitations will be Thursday 2-4 and 6-8 pm, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson St., Lowell. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary Catholic Church or Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St. SE, Lowell.

MCBRIDE

Michael D. McBride, age 62, of Mendon, passed away peacefully on April 18, 2011. A memorial service will be held on May 28, 2011, at 11:00 am at the McBride farm, 21168 Mahnke Road, Mendon. Cremation has taken place. Share a memory at www.avinkremation.com

MARENTETTE

Brian Allen Marentette, age 42, of Iron Mountain, formerly of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly April 18, 2011. He was preceded in death by his stepfather James Fahmi. He is survived by his parents, Ruth Fahmi, Ray (Ann) Marentette; brothers, Mark (Tracy) Marentette and Rob (Amanita) Fahmi; sister, Christine Oesch; (Tom) Oesch; many, many nieces and nephews; and special friends, Jill and Cathy. Memorial service was held Monday at Roth-Gerst Chapel with Pastor Nathan Gray of Elmdale Church of the Nazarene officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the family of Brian Marentette.



MILLER

Daniel Duane Miller, age 88, of Lowell, passed away Friday, April 22, 2011. He was preceded in death by his wife Helen. He is survived by his children, Sharon (Dan) Ryan, Debbie (Tim) Yalacki, Gary (Kathy) Barnette; and grandchildren, Richard, Pat and Nikki. A graveside service was held Tuesday, April 26, at Oakwood Cemetery, Lowell. Pastor Tom Harris of Shiloh Community Church officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Gilda's Club of Lowell, 314 S. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331.



in-law, Reynaldo and Cecilia Marasigan; brothers-in-law, Luis, German (Samantha), Dino, Ace (Jackie) Marasigan; also many nieces and nephews. Jeff was a 1983 graduate of Tekonsha High School and received his associate's degree from Manchester College in Indiana. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, with the Air Force in Operation Desert Storm and worked for Wachter Network, Inc. of Lenexa, Kansas. Jeff was a fanatic Detroit Tigers' fan. Funeral services were held Friday, April 22, at Central Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Grand Rapids, Pastor John Delger, officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Michigan Special Olympics Area 11, 1239 76th St. SW Suite E, Byron Center, MI 49315.

VANDENHOUT

Robert Jack VandenHout, 79, of Yucca Valley, CA., passed away April 11, 2011, in Joshua Tree, CA. Bob was born in McCords to Walter and Margaretta (Reynhout, Shaw) VandenHout and went to school in Whitteville. He attended Lowell High School and joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1951 with his best friend Raymond Ramsdell. That same year he married Dorothy Neelis of Belding. Bob retired from the Marine Corps on a medical disability in 1970 and remained in CA., where he owned a service station, drove his 18 wheeler, raised and showed Peruvian Paso and miniature horses and continued to collect cars. He was preceded in death by his parents; stepfather, Charles Shaw; sister, Donna Hahn; brother-in-law, Gurney Hahn (Hahn Hardware); and mother-in-law, Grace Kutchey. Survivors include his wife, Faye VandenHout; daughters, Karen Wagner (Ronnie) of Kendalia, TX; Kim Miller (Donnie) of Twenty-nine Palms, CA; son, James R.VandenHout (Dianna) of Yucca Valley, CA; brother, James W. VandenHout (Sue) of Alto; sister, Dorothy Smith of Ann Arbor; grandchildren, Matthew Gillett, Ashley Finch (Wyatt) of TX, Clinton Miller, Courtney (Matthew, Capt USMC) Moreno of Twenty-nine Palms, CA, Jeremy VandenHout of Yucca Valley, CA, Paul VandenHout and Douglas VandenHout (Jessica) of Colorado; and five great-grandchildren. He is also survived locally by his nieces, Anita Hahn Roth (Dave) of Ada and Gretchen Hahn Jones (Paul) of Lowell; nephew, Robert Hahn of CA, formerly of Lowell; and families. Other survivors include many sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, cousins, nieces and nephews throughout the greater Grand Rapids area.

SUMMERFIELD

Jeffrey S. Summerfield, age 46, of Grand Rapids, passed away unexpectedly Monday, April 18, 2011. He is survived by his wife of four years, Riza; children, Chris Cater and Charlie Summerfield; parents, George and Ruth (Elston) Summerfield; brothers, Mark (Laurie) Summerfield and Tom (Coi) Summerfield; parents-

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



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT will be held on May 17, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: on the petition of John Stafford for the appointment of a guardian and conservator for Harold Slack. 04/25/2011 In the matter of HAROLD SLACK. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: TERRY SLACK, GARY SLACK, MICHAEL SLACK, NAN DILL, and MARIE BLAIR whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: John Stafford 121 Franklin SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 616-248-1617

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing

office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fri. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. closed Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale for sale help wanted services services services
QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - (new), \$250/set. Thick & plush. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600.
FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE!
LAURELS HEALTH CARE CO. - is a national provider of skilled nursing, sub-acute, & assisted living services.
TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351.
NEED A DUMPSTER? - Dudley's Dumpsters. Dumpsters priced to grid of your trash & save you cash!
LEGAL SERVICES - Save the cost of gas & don't travel out of town to receive high quality legal services.
SEPTIC SYSTEMS - excavation & dozer work, trucking - sand, crushed dirt, road gravel, blacked concrete & asphalt millings.
DANI'S CLEANING SERVICE - Spring cleaning discounts. Detail cleaning, organizing, gardening & offices. 12 years experience. 616-322-3634.
SHIP UPS AT THE LEDGER OFFICE - We cannot accept hazardous materials 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 prepaid packages unless they have ARS or RS on the label.

Your Michigan home needs Michigan protection... Thanks for making your home in our community. As Michigan's insurance company, we know Michigan homes and the hazards they face. We also know the kinds of discounts that help you save a lot of money on your home insurance. Call today. Mark Johnson 6095 28th St., Ste. 4 Grand Rapids 940-8181 www.MarkJohnsonAgency.com

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regular meeting of the Lowell Charter Township Board held on April 18, 2011, Ordinance No. 03-2011 - Parking of Commercial, Recreational and Inoperable Vehicles, an amendment to the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance was adopted, a summary of which follows: An amendment to Section 4.20(b) to allow recreational vehicles to be parked in the front yard for up to 72 hours for the purposes of loading, unloading, and cleaning. An amendment to add Section 4.20(d) which would prohibit trailers from being parked in the front yard in the R-2, R-3, and MH, Mobile Home Park Zoning District except that trailers could be parked in the front yard for up to 72 hours for the purposes of loading, unloading, and cleaning. An amendment to Section 4.20 to change title of this section to add the word "Trailers". This Ordinance shall become effective May 4, 2011. A copy of the complete text of the ordinance can be obtained at the Lowell Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, MI, 49331 during regular office hours. Linda S. Regan, Clerk Lowell Charter Township

Community Calendar

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement.
AVERILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF AYDA - 7144 Headley, is open every Friday & Saturday 1-4 p.m. or by appointment.
ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Tues. & Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Thurs., 1-5 p.m.
ENGLERHARDT LIBRARY HOURS - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM - open Tuesday, Saturday & Sunday 1-4 p.m.; Thursday 1-8 p.m.
THE EAST KENT COUNTY REPUBLICANS (EKCR) - meets the second Saturday of the month at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce (113 Riverwalk Plaza) from 8:30 to 10 a.m.
ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTER - 402 Amity, Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS - (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues. & Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 p.m. & 8-9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m.
ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Tues. & Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Thurs., 1-5 p.m.

Annual Easter egg hunt winners

The following children won the top prizes at the 19th annual Lowell Moose Lodge Easter Egg Hunt.

Winning \$50 Meijer gift cards were: Tyler Carns (3-year-old group);

Skyla Degrote (1-2 year-old group); Esabel Wilson (4-5-6 year-old group) and Madison Stevens (7-8-9 year-old group).

Winning \$15 checks were: Gabbie Saldivar, (1-2

year-old group); Kaylee Droese, (3 year-old group).

The \$25 check winners were: Isabel Barnes, (4-5-6 year-old group) and Jenna Happie (7-8-9 year-old group).



The Easter Bunny was on hand as area children searched for hundreds of colored eggs.

★ In The Service

Cadet First Lieutenant Melissa A. Hawks was announced as the incoming Cadet Wing (CW) Commander for the fall 2011 semester for Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 400, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI. Cadet Hawks will be responsible for or-

chestrating the efforts of over 100 cadets in completing all cadet wing activities. Cadet Hawks and her staff are responsible for the overall planning and supervision of the Wing. The mission of the 400 CW is to recruit, retain, train, and educate cadets employing mutual respect as their training phi-

losophy in order to prepare the cadets to be the highest quality officers in the United States Air Force. The Wing provides cadets opportunities to learn, develop and use leadership abilities through administration and execution of the Leadership Laboratory program. Cadet Hawks is currently a third-year student at Michigan Tech. and is a civil engineering major. She is the daughter of Ed and Marcia Hawks of Ada.

NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Two Public Hearings will be held regarding requests for Special Use Permits at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on May 16, 2011, at 7:00 pm at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

Alec McPherson of 1927 Pikeview Dr., Warsaw, IN 46580, has requested a special use permit to remodel a grainery barn that is located on his property at 1313 Parnell Ave, Lowell. Plans for the remodel are to use it as a guest house, which use will be secondary to the house that already exists on the parcel. This request is addressed in the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance under sections 201.415 (C) and 201.502.

Ryan Peel of 9769 Vergennes St., Lowell, 49331, has requested a special use permit for construction of two towers for additional Internet connections within the township. The first one would be located at 9777 Vergennes, Lowell, and is planned to be 120 feet in height. The second would be located at 13101 Beckwith Dr., Lowell, with a height of 100 feet. The Vergennes Township Wireless Communication Facilities Ordinance, 201.432, regulates the placement of these structures.

Copies of the applications are available for public inspection at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, 616-897-5671, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Public comment will be taken at the meeting, or if received by the Clerk in writing or by e-mail at clerk@vergennestwp.org by 7:00 pm May 16, 2011.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

BOWNE TOWNSHIP CITY OF LOWELL LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE ABSENTEE VOTER INFORMATION

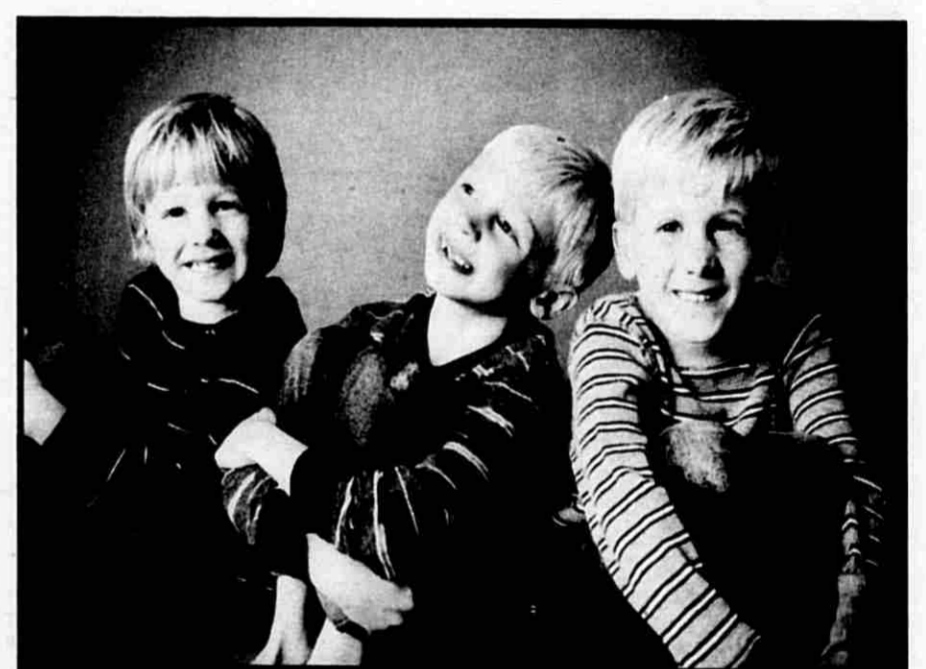
The City and Township Clerks will be available at the following locations on Saturday, April 30, 2011 or any registered voter who would like to apply for or return an absentee voters' ballot for the May 3, 2011 Primary Election.

Sandra Kowalczyk
Bowne Township
11am - 2pm
8240 Alden Nash
Alto, MI 49302
(616) 868-6846

Betty Morlock
City of Lowell
8am - 2pm
301 East Main
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-8457

Linda S. Regan
Lowell Charter Township
11am - 2pm
2910 Alden Nash SE
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-7600

Mari Stone
Vergennes Township
11am - 2pm
10381 Bailey Dr
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-5671



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Wednesday.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday.....8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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