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CENTS



City formalizes job offer to manager, passes sidewalk repair ordinance

by Emma Palova

The city council formally extended a job offer to city manager candidate Mark Howe and directed city attorney Dick Wendt to negotiate the contract on Monday night. The contract is expected to be available for review at the budget work session on May 9.

The action was formalized under an old business item.

"It is old business now," said mayor Jim Hodges.

Last Saturday, the council chose the top finalist for the position and moved to authorize the city attorney for contract negotiations.

However, the motions needed to be formalized under the Freedom of Information Act, according to Bill Baldrige, Michigan Municipal League consultant.

The search for the new manager started in October after the city decided to use

professional assistance. It accelerated in April when the council selected four candidates for interviews.

The new manager will take over after city manager Dave Pasquale retires on June 30.

In other business, the city council approved the controversial sidewalk inspection and repair ordinance after much ado. The sidewalk repair ordinance has been in the works on and off for the last two years, with the councilmembers changing their stance on it.

The council held a work session on the issue and then tabled it in April.

Councilmembers Maryalene LaPonsie and Jeff Altoft were still in opposition to the ordinance last night.

"I have a problem with doing another ordinance when we have an ordinance and we're not enforcing it," said Altoft.

LaPonsie re-stated her stance on the issue that there has to be another way to address the sidewalks.

"It's important to keep the sidewalks safe, but I am not in favor of this," she said. "I'd rather use the car-

rot approach than the stick."

Resident Barb Barber questioned who was responsible for fixing the sidewalk when the city equipment broke it while pulling out a tree years ago.

"It should have been addressed then," said mayor Jim Hodges. "We're all responsible for our property to be in good condition, so it's safe. This is an opportunity to visibly inspect the sidewalks in disrepair."

Mayor pro tem Sharon Ellison said it's about capturing and fixing the sidewalks on properties that are being sold.

"It's a good time to capture some of them," she said. "It's a drop in the bucket, but it's a starting point."

The ordinance passed on a three to one vote. LaPonsie voted against the proposal and councilmember Andrew Schrauben was not present.

"We have to start enforcing or help fix them and one way is to make budget cuts," said Altoft.

The budget will be discussed on May 9 and May 16 along with video taping of meetings.

Low turnout for school election



The school election on Tuesday attracted only a few voters to the polls. Two candidates were running for the Lowell School Board, incumbent Mark Lessens and write-in candidate Brian Krajewski. Former Lowell schools superintendent Bert Bleke was among the candidates running for the Grand Rapids Community College Board of Trustees. Pictured in the photo are election inspectors Jamie Watrous, Marea Borg and Laura Becker.

Celebrating Arbor Day in Lowell

On Friday, April 29, Lowell observed National Arbor Day by planting a commemorative tree, sponsoring the Biggest Tree Contest and selecting artwork for the Print of the Year. This year, an Autumn Blaze maple was planted at the fairgrounds near the picnic area. The Biggest Tree Contest will extend through the summer, with the winners to be announced at the Harvest Celebration in October. Entry forms can be found in The Ledger or obtained at City Hall.

For the first time, the Lowell Arbor Board held a competition to collect artwork focusing on trees growing within city limits. A skyline photo along Stoney Lake, titled "Misty Morn," was selected from eight entries. Doreen Bates

won a \$50 Lowell gift certificate for her winning submission. The piece will be printed as a commemorative poster honoring Lowell's commitment to promoting and sustaining its urban canopy. The competition will be held every year, concluding in April. Artists of all types are encouraged to keep a creative eye open over the course of the year to capture our local woodland beauty in its entire seasonal splendor.

The Arbor Board continues to work diligently to ensure that the community protects its trees and plants. Grants are received through the Lowell Area Community Fund and the Look Memorial Fund, in addition to contributions from Lowell Light and Power, city allocated funds and private do-

nors. An LCTV Fund grant application has been submitted, but not yet received. This money will be used in various ways to beautify our city. In May, the large maple in front of the Englehardt Library will again receive protective treatment and maintenance. Ten trees are slated to be planted at the fairgrounds to replace ailing specimens. In the fall, a large number of plantings will be made at various locations.

As a result of this commitment, the National Arbor Day Foundation has renewed Lowell's Tree City designation and has further honored the community by awarding the prestigious Growth Award recognizing

Arbor Day,
continued, page 2



A group of citizens gathered at the fairgrounds last Friday to plant a maple in honor of Arbor Day. Pictured in the photo are Dana Chase, Matt Horrocks, Diane LaWarre, Roger LaWarre, Dave Pasquale and Scott Fosburg.

Lowell Light and Power receives national recognition

Lowell Light and Power is one of 82 of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities to earn Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3®) recognition from the American Public Power Association for providing consumers with the highest degree of reliable and safe electric service. Paul Allen, vice president of engineering at Nashville, Tenn., Electric Service and chair of APPA's RP3 Review Panel, presented the designees on March 21 during the association's annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference held in Nashville, Tenn.

"These RP3 designated utilities should be proud," said Allen. "They stand out as utilities that are continuing to strive for excellence for their customers and their communities."

The RP3 program recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development and

system improvement. Criteria within each category are based on sound business practices and represent a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity.

"This is a real honor for our utility," said Greg Pierce, general manager of Lowell Light and Power. "A lot of hard work has gone into receiving this designation, and - in the end - our customers are the real winners."



Back row, general manager, Greg Pierce, second from left, board member, Perry Beachum and electric distribution manager, Tom Russo. In front, Lowell Light and Power employees Tom Torres and Mark Droog. LL&P could not identify the other two men in photo.

Arbor Day, continued

environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care. By having a tree board, establishing a tree care ordinance, sustaining a comprehensive community forestry program with annual expenditures of at least \$2 per capita, and by observing Arbor Day, Lowell's title of Tree City is preserved.

Current members of the Arbor Board are Dana Chase (chair), Sharon Ellison, Jim Hall, Diane LaWare and Jim Reagan. Meetings generally take place on the second Monday of the month at noon and are open to the public. Any interest in joining the Arbor Board should be referred to city hall.

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Comic Book Day returns to Lowell



along main street

Thousands of comic book shops around the world will celebrate the comic book art form on Saturday, May 7 - Free Comic Book Day. Over 2.7 million comic books will be given away by participating stores, introducing many to the wonders of comic books.

From 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Rookies Sportcards Plus in Lowell will be celebrating their tenth year being part of the event.

Rookies will also have live superheroes on hand for pictures, comic artists to meet, giveaways, specials and more. Regular updates and information can be found online at www.FreeComicBookDay.com. Rookies is located at 106 W. Main St.

Council picks top finalist for manager position

by Emma Palova

The Lowell City Council chose the top finalist for the manager post and an alternate candidate last Saturday.

Ionian County administrator Mark Howe, 50, has been selected to fill the manager position for the city of Lowell. Grandville assistant city manager Matthew Butts, 34, is the alternate candidate.

The city attorney, Richard Wendt, will now enter contract negotiations with the assistance of Michigan Municipal League consultant, Bill Baldrige.

The decision was unanimous after a day of public interviews with a total of four candidates. Present at the interviews were also the department heads. The council asked each candidate 20 questions. At the end of the interviews, the candidates were allowed to ask a question of their own.

Howe interviewed first at 10 am. A rigorous interview process followed after Howe's introduction to the council.

Howe has 13 years of experience as the county administrator managing a \$30 million organization with 280 employees.

"I was the first council administrator," he said, "through struggles and challenges I have become a better administrator."

He has extensive political experience from conducting public policy research and administering community and public relations strategies for Rep. Terry Geiger, Congressman Vern Ehlers and for the Michigan State Senate Majority Communications Office.

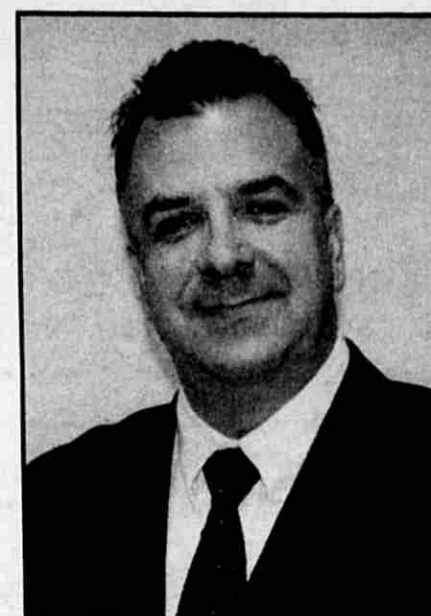
Howe said that he doesn't want to be any city manager, but that he wants to be the Lowell city manager.

"This is not a stepping ladder for me," he said. "I want to be here. I am a part of the community."

He named the top challenge to be the budget and maintaining the fund balance, while looking outside the box and using strategic thinking.

In response to the question of the major issues facing Lowell in the next two to three years, Howe named the Riverwalk, the sidewalks and streets, sidewalk ordinance upon the sale of property and finding alternative sources of revenues, while developing a long-term vision.

Among his achievements, Howe listed the creation of the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority that is responsible for developing and maintaining a 125-mile trail network. This network includes trails north and east of Lowell.



Mark Howe

"Trails and trail tourism are important for economic development," he said.

Howe said he tries to think beyond the boundaries in developing various partnerships with foundations, counties and cities.

Among his disappointments, Howe named a conflict with a department head that deteriorated a professional relationship 10 years ago.

The interview included three scenario questions:

One question was a case of a department head engaging in outside consulting work that is interfering with city responsibilities.

Howe said depending on what is being alleged, he would investigate, talk to the department head and if necessary get law enforcement involved while appraising the entire council.

Mayor Jim Hodges asked the second scenario question.

"Another scenario question which absolutely does not reflect anything about our police department. You receive reliable information that some members of the police department, including some supervisory personnel, are receiving kickbacks. What action do you take?" said Hodges.

Howe said he would first find out the facts, see if the issue needs internal investigation, get the mayor involved and bring in a police agency to conduct the investigation.

The last scenario question was about a significant revenue shortfall midway through the budget.

"In this day and age we need a rough plan not to create havoc and deal with it ahead of time," Howe said. "We need to look at the fund balance, be ready [and] have a plan in place."

In response to a question about the most controversial decision he has made, Howe said it was the \$800,000 animal shelter project while having a 10 percent reduction in department budgets.



Matthew Butts

made, Howe said it was the \$800,000 animal shelter project while having a 10 percent reduction in department budgets.

"I would have started it earlier," he said.

Animal shelter was also Howe's most risky project with an overall long-term benefit rather than short-term pay-off.

In conclusion, Howe said he should be appointed the Lowell city manager because he has passion for Lowell.

"I have a vested interest in serving the city to move forward," he said. "I am a nice guy. I value relationships; I enjoy success. Lowell is the place where I am."

Secondary candidate, Butts, would bring in planning and zoning expertise, and intergovernmental experience from Urban Management Association from Greenville and Grandville.

Other candidates interviewed included Greenville assistant city manager Cameron Van Wyngarden and Bangor city manager Michael Selden.

FUN ON THE FARM
Join the Wittenbach/Wege Center on Sat., May 7, 9-12 pm for Fun on the Farm, hosted by the Lowell High School FFA Chapter.

HIKE FOR A CURE
Help Hunt For A Cure raise funds for cystic fibrosis research. Hikers will collect donations before the hike and bring the funds with them to the check in, Sat., May 7 at 8:30 am. Hike starts at 9:30 am. Funds raised will support research at Michigan State University. If you have questions, or want to get a pledge form, call Jeff at 897-7829 or Pete at 616-450-7850. Forms are also available at the Wittenbach/Wege Center.

LET'S TALK
Come meet and have a cup of coffee with your city councilmembers on Sat., May 7, 8-10 am at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza.

GILDA'S CLUB EVENTS
Book Club, Tues., May 10, 4:30-5:30 pm. Craft Workshop, Tues., May 10, 17 and 24, 3:30-5:30 pm. Knitting, Tues., May 17 and 24, 6-7:15 pm. Garden Days, Tues., May 24, 1-3 pm. Gardening 101, Tues., May 24, 4-5:30 pm. Located at 314 S. Hudson St. Call 897-8600 or go to www.gildasclubgr.org to register for program activities.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES
Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Sat., May 14, 10 am - noon. You may also order online using your debit or credit card. Go to www.angelfoodministries.com. Any questions, call Esther, 897-7395.

LHS CLASS OF 1961
The Lowell High School Class of 1961 will hold their 50th class reunion on July 9 and are desperately looking for classmates: Jane Potter, Tom Evans and Charles Briggs. If you have information call Linda Barnes at 897-9924.

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college news

Abbot Mel Kastanek of Lowell was among the full-time and part-time students recently honored for academic excellence at the annual Ferris State University Academic Excellence reception on March 24, 2011. Those full-time students honored have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or greater (4.0 scale) for the previous three consecutive semesters.

Those part-time students honored have maintained a 3.3 overall GPA and a 3.5 in their last 12 semester credits.

Parents are Raymond and Melody Kastanek of Lowell.
John Hauschild will graduate from the Biblical Studies major of the Moody Bible Institute in Spokane, Wash. on May

28, 2011. Hauschild, a 2006 graduate of Alaska Bible Institute, will receive a Bachelor of Science degree.

The Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies program, in which Hauschild studied, trains students in Bible, theology, ministry, and general education.

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ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouder Ph.D.

This article will be discussing the two competences of innovation and adaptability in the workplace. "Political savvy" will be briefly reviewed as well. With spring finally here, it is a good time to talk about innovation and adaptability. These are the "fresh" ideas which our industry and workplaces need. These two competencies add new and unique ways of thinking to the workplace. How a person presents these new ideas is critical. So, having political savvy is important. People who are innovative tend to: 1. seek out fresh ideas from a variety of sources, 2. entertain original solutions to problems, 3. generate new ideas, and 4. take fresh perspectives with an element of risk in their thinking.

The emotional prerequisite of an innovator is someone who takes pleasure in originality. Creativity on the job resolves around applying new ideas

to achieve results. People who have this knack identify key issues and simplify problems that seem very complex. They can find original connections and patterns that others overlook (Working with Emotional Intelligence by Daniel Goleman). People who lack this skill become "bogged down" by the complexity of the situation and get enmeshed in the details. Their fear of risk makes them shy away from novel ideas. An example of an innovative idea comes from Levi Strauss, a garment manufacturer. When faced with the dilemma of having their sewing subcontractors being underaged children, they investigated and found that if these children lose their jobs, they might be driven into prostitution. The creative solution: Levi Strauss decided to keep the children on the payroll while they went to school full time, and then, when they reached fourteen (the local age of maturity) hire them back.

Adaptability is a much sought after competence. In the workplace and in life, change is a constant. The workplace is often challenged by make or break moments. The emotional quality that is needed for adaptability is the ability to be flexible, to take in new, even painful information without tuning out in self-protection and to respond quickly and appropriately.

We see this adaptability especially in the high tech industries that are surviving. Often their response has to be nimble and responsive to the changes that are happening in the field.

But, it often goes without saying that an employee can be enormously innovative and adaptable, but they cannot command an audience because they lack "political savvy." The or-

ganizational life of a company has competing coalitions and power struggles. If one wants to be innovative, these factors need to be taken into consideration. Understanding the web of power in your company can help you successfully implement your creative ideas. One can be overly political and self-centered. This creates "blind spots" when dealing with the feelings of those around

you. On the other hand, a disdain or disinterest in the political climate is also a liability. Understanding both the formal and the informal structure is essential to effectively mobilizing innovation.

If you have any questions, please email me at kathryndenhouder@gmail.com. The June article will be about "how to effectively manage conflict."

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Lifetime income: A great Mother's Day gift

Mother's Day will soon be here. If you're a mother, you will (hopefully) receive thoughtful cards and gifts. But there's one present you may eventually want to give yourself, and it's a gift that truly does keep on giving: a strategy for your retirement. Of course, it's important for everyone to build adequate financial resources for retirement — but the challenge is even greater for women. Largely due to family responsibilities, women

en spend, on average, 12 years less in the workforce than men, according to the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement. Less time in the workforce equates to lost earnings, missed promotions, smaller and fewer raises and reduced retirement plan benefits. In fact, men have, on average, about \$91,000 in Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), including all IRA types and the amounts rolled over from other retirement ac-

counts into IRAs, compared to just \$51,000 for women, according to a recent report issued by the Employee Benefit Research Institute.

Whether you're married, divorced, widowed or single, you'll want to build financial resources of your own and be prepared to manage your finances during your retirement years. You'll be helping yourself, and, by becoming financially independent, you'll also avoid the possibility of depending on your grown children for support.

To help ensure a financially secure retirement, consider these ideas:

- Fully fund your IRA each year. As the numbers above show, women are way behind men when it comes to funding their IRAs. And IRAs, with their

tax advantages, are great retirement-savings vehicles. A traditional IRA have the potential to grow on a tax-deferred basis, while Roth IRAs have the potential to 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. So make it a priority to "max out" on your IRA each year. In 2011, you can put in up to \$5,000 to a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$6,000 if you're 50 or older.

- Boost your 401(k) contributions. Put in as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. At the very least, contribute enough to earn

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viewpoint

to the editor

it's about being good neighbors

Dear Editor,

I am responding to last week's article ("Crowing Roosters Draw Neighbor Complaints"). I am the complaining neighbor.

In the article, Mr. Stoffers says, "...city people want to dictate how we live our lives." I was born and lived my younger years on a Centennial fruit farm owned by my family. I lived in a house on an acre of land between two farms in Cascade Township for 11 years. And, for 21 years my wife and I have lived on five acres of land that now borders on the Stoffers' property. I don't think this is a "city people" issue. I think it has to do with common sense and being good neighbors.

The Stoffers have over five acres on which to locate their roosters. But, they chose to place their chicken coop about 50 feet from our lot line (overlooking a township ordinance stating it has to be at least 100 feet from the lot line). Their roosters begin crowing before daylight and continue to crow throughout the day; many times every 10 to 20 seconds. After four days of this, my wife went to speak to Mr. Stoffers about the noise. He said he was aware of it and that he'd talk to his family and see what could be done.

A week passed. Nothing changed. My wife again went to the Stoffers' residence. This time she was

told that this is a farming community and the Stoffers can do whatever they want. Only then did we turn to the township for assistance.

Apart from the lot line ordinance, there is also a township noise ordinance that the Stoffers were found in violation of. That noise ordinance applies to "The keeping of any animal, bird, FOWL (my emphasis), which emanates frequent or extended noise which shall unreasonably disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of any person in the vicinity, such as allowing or permitting any dog to bark repeatedly in an area where such barking can be clearly heard

from nearby residential property." This ordinance is clearly not a "dog barking ordinance that was matched to the complaint due to lack of specific rules" as claimed by Mr. Stoffers.

Mr. Stoffers asks, "What kind of message are we sending to our youth today?" This question I would have to agree with. All of this could have been avoided had the Stoffers first checked with the township officials and responded in a considerate manner to their neighbors' concerns. It's called being a good neighbor.

Michael Jernigan
Lowell Township

roostergate

Dear Editor,

"Roostergate" is happening right here in Lowell Township. Luckily, an observant resident notified the township and sheriff of this travesty. How dare a high school student raise two vicious show birds on "only" 6.5 rural acres.

What does this kid

think, the 4-H fair is going to take place in his hometown again this summer?

I hope this family learns to obey the dog-barking ordinance (everyone knows it applies to birds too). If not, a visit from the Marines might be in order.

Todd Smithee
Lowell

outdoors



Dave Stegehuis

turkey time again

Every season has traditional events associated with that time of the year. Families head to the beach for picnics during the summer. Fall brings some sort of festival to hundreds of cities and small towns across the state. In the spring, golfers and gardeners now share their enthusiasm for the season with close to 100,000 turkey hunters.

Turkeys scratch and peck their way across both peninsulas in increasingly larger numbers. The big birds are not fussy eaters, tougher than a roach, and therefore able to thrive in a variety of habitats. Although turkeys have been a designated game bird in Michigan for a relatively short time, the number of turkey hunters has kept pace with the expanding turkey population.

Sitting quietly in the woods on a cool spring morn-

ing listening to the booming gobble of a long beard tom strutting into shotgun range will make a turkey hunter out of anyone who experiences it. You have been forewarned.

Turkeys can be hunted on thousands of acres of public land as well as on large and small parcels of private property. A shotgun and a turkey call are all that's necessary to hunt turkeys. Of course, there are special edition catalogs full of optional turkey hunting gear. Also, a major part of hunting is learning about the habits and life cycle of the game which takes time and effort. Turkey hunting is easy to get into but will always remain a challenge.

Hunting turkeys is an excellent opportunity to introduce a newcomer to the

Outdoors, continued, page 7

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By Shelly MacNaughton

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo April 30, 1936

Under direction of Contractor J.C. Hatch, a handsome brick front is nearing completion on the old David Hotel, recently purchased by William E. Christiansen for an ice cream factory.

Everybody got a thrill last Friday afternoon when the new high school band marched through Main St. on its way to Recreation Park for the opening ball game of the season. It was the first time the members of the band had appeared before the public in marching order, nevertheless, they kept good marching time.

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger May 11, 1961

Mrs. L. E. Johnson announced this week that Richard Curtis, President of the Coin Operated Machinery Co., has leased the garage building at the corner of Main St. and Lincoln Lake Ave. She said they plan to use the building for office, repair rooms and storage. They now rent office space in one location and repair and storage space at another spot.

Doyle-Schneider Pontiac Sales & Service are terminating their franchise with General Motors this week and will vacate the building by June 1. The two partners have not announced their future plans.

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger May 4, 1911

Leo Coles, sister, Adell and a lady friend, of near Smyrna, visited at Bela Coles' Saturday night and Sunday.

Cal Rowley who is working in the city visited his daughter, Mrs. O. R. Fountain, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Wright of Lowell have moved into Campell's house. They spend nearly all the week at Wm. Patterson's.

Miss Ruth Hudson of near Rockford was home last week.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger May 7, 1986

In a 5-0 vote the Lowell City Council voted, Monday night, to officially close the Lowell Airport to all transient users and those who do not already have a lease or usage agreement. The stop to take such action became necessary due to a question of the City's liability insurance coverage costs.

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.

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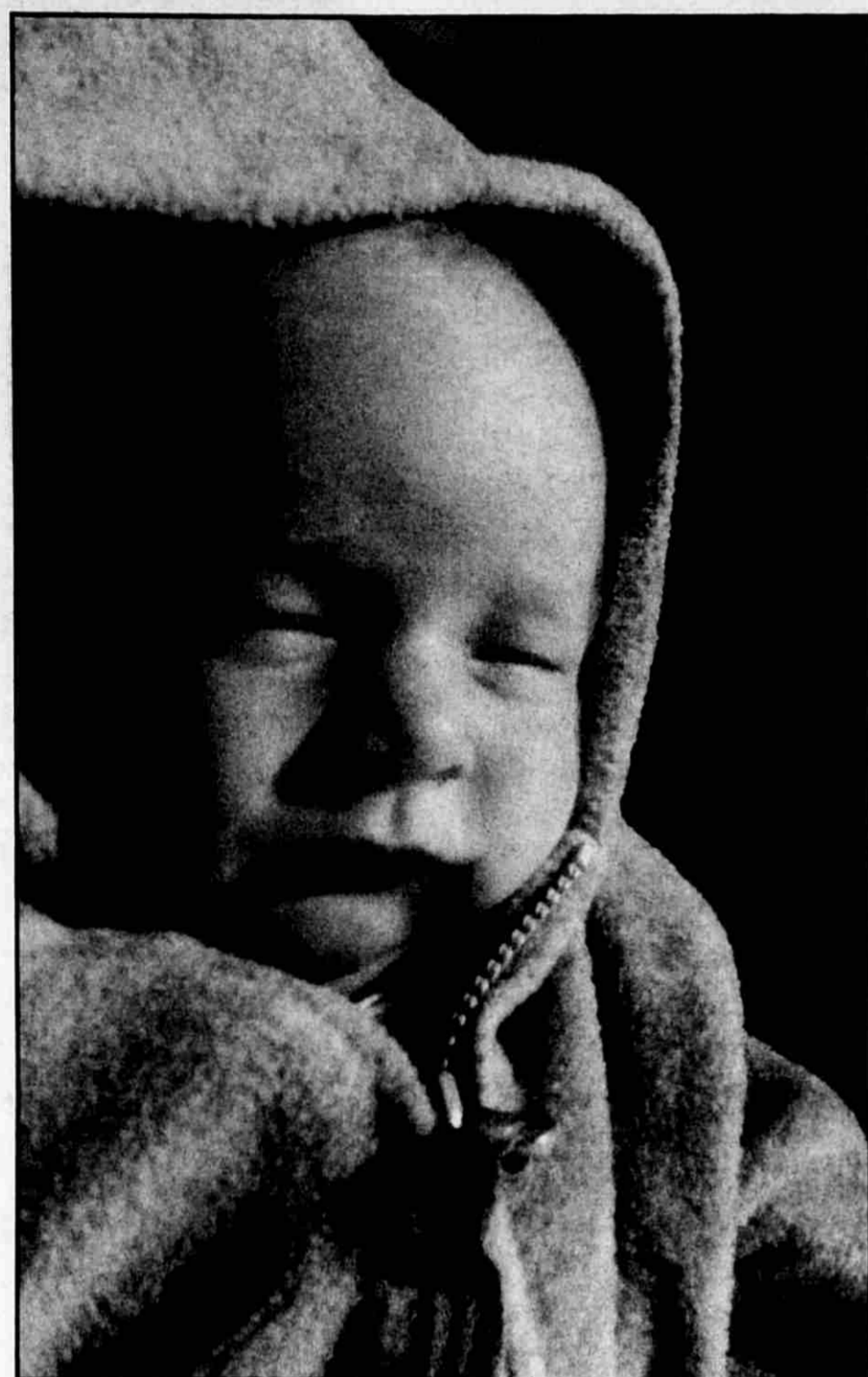
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area births

VanKuiken



Ryder David VanKuiken

Dave and Rebecka VanKuiken are proud to announce the birth of their son, Ryder David, born January 20, 2011.

Welcoming him home are grandparents, Dave and Linda VanKuiken and Orley and Diana Kranenberg; and uncle T.J. and Brad.

Lacics celebrate 62 years of marriage



Al and Dot (Hanes) Lacic of Lowell are celebrating their 62nd anniversary on May 7. The Lacics' have five children, Adeline Brower, Arthur Lacic, Dorothy House, Russell Lacic and Mary Dillard; 13 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

health

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

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, is also known as emphysema or chronic bronchitis. It is a lung problem that is usually caused by cigarette smoking. The air spaces in the lung are damaged and it is hard for air to go in and out.

When COPD worsens, it is called an exacerbation. During an exacerbation you may suddenly feel short of breath or your cough may get worse. You may also cough up phlegm and it may be thicker than normal or an unusual color.

If your symptoms worsen, call your doctor right away. He or she may want to change your medicines. You may need an antibiotic or a medicine to reduce the swelling in your airways. Some people with bad COPD may need to be hospitalized for treatment.

To prevent exacerbations of COPD, stop smoking and stay away from other people while they are smoking. You should also have pneumonia and flu shots to prevent infections.

happy birthday!

- MAY 4**
John Borton, David Rhodes, Jerre Sue Smith.
- MAY 5**
Scott Carpenter, Kevin Vezino, Kerry Vezino, Brenda Erickson, Robert Dalziel, Nora Bell Rash.
- MAY 6**
Jace Bellah.
- MAY 7**
John Schalow, LeAnn VanDyke, Duane Rasch.
- MAY 8**
Rhoda Greenman-Batt, Rhonda Timmers, Mary Mooney, F.J. Johnson Jr., Emily Milstead.
- MAY 9**
Tasha Brand, Ashley Reinbold, Hillary Briggs, Eric Witherell, Bobbie Clouser.
- MAY 10**
Dee Korb, Rebecca Boruta, Jim Lindhout, Eric Swift.

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Residents come to rescue in boating accident at the dam

by Emma Palova

The Flat River almost claimed its victims last Friday when a pontoon boat got caught in its high waters and a strong current by the King Milling Dam.

Gerid Schwartz with son Max, 11, went boating on Friday evening around 7:30 pm. Schwartz wanted



Matt Horan

to do a loop around the island in the river and go past the Showboat.

"I knew the water was up in the main portion," said Schwartz, "usually it doesn't move as fast."

But, the water was moving fast due to recent heavy rains and a flood advisory has been in effect since last Tuesday.

The boat's engine died by the cattail marshy island. In 15 seconds, before Schwartz could restart the engine, the current took the boat to the bridge.

"The current turned the boat sideways capsizing the boat and pulling it underneath the bridge," said Schwartz.

The boat got jammed partially inverted and it was stuck underneath the bridge between the Judd Carroll dentist building and Flat River Grill. If this hadn't happened, the boat would have been pulled into the dam, according to Schwartz.

"We would have drowned," said Schwartz. Luckily enough, guests Pierre Tremblay and Bradley Pylman, sitting on the patio of the Flat River Grill, saw the entire drama unfold on the river and ran out with assistant manager Matt Horan.

"They hollered and ran out with my assistant manager to help," said manager Chris West.

The two held onto Hor-

an who reached down over the concrete railing to pull Max up. Schwartz lifted him up from the wreckage. At that moment, the full gravity of the situation dawned on the father.

"We were soaking wet, clinging to the wreckage and I was holding my son," said Schwartz. "It happened so fast."

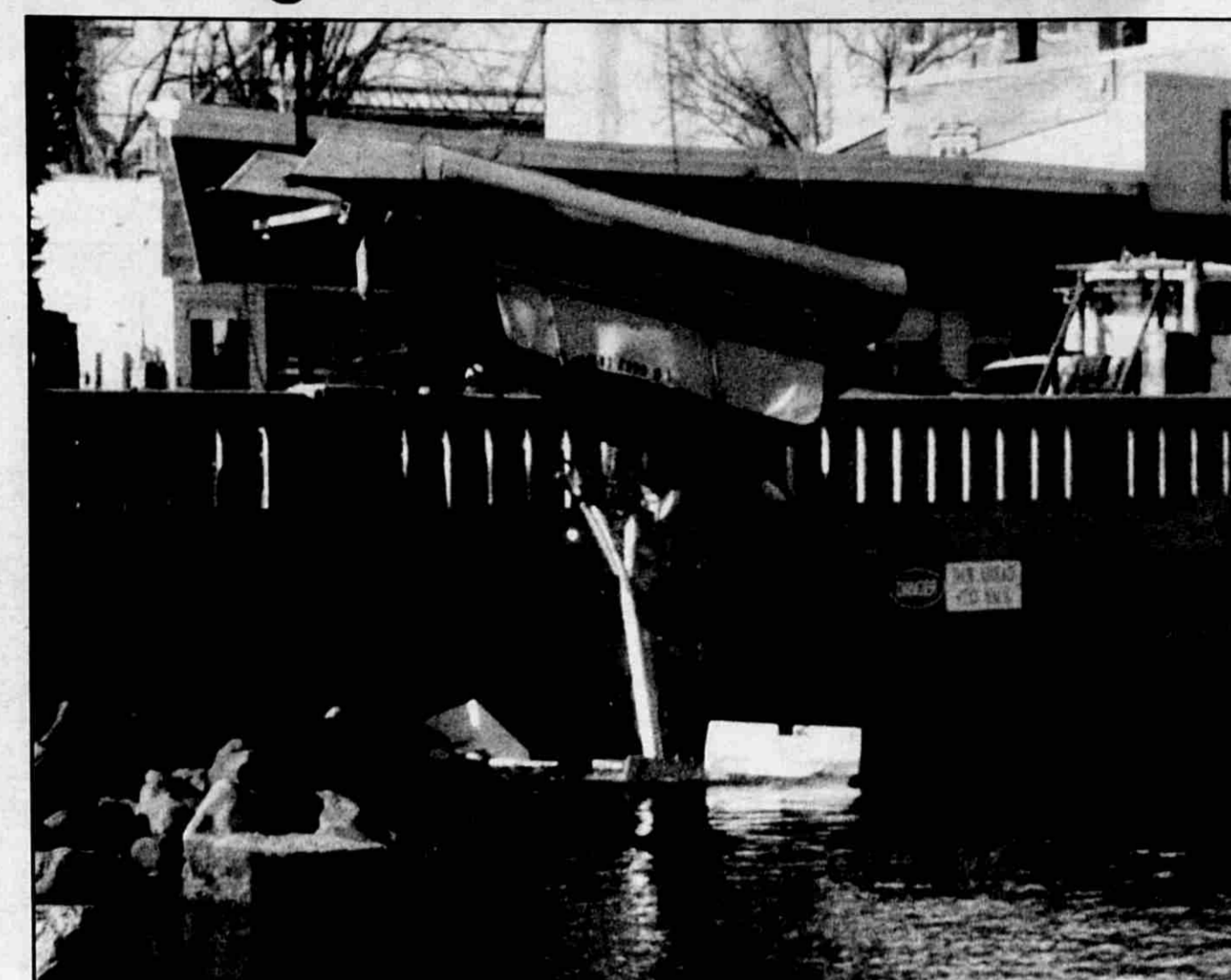
Schwartz worked himself upward as Horan reached down and grabbed him.

"It was definitely exciting, pretty intense and adrenaline rush, said Horan. "The little guy was very calm and brave."

"I hung on to the wreckage; the current was strong enough, pinning me to it. It all took less than a minute," said Schwartz. "people were reacting fast."

West said it was a very scary thing as the current crushed the pontoon boat into the size of a fishing boat.

"They were sitting in waist deep water," said West.



The crushed pontoon boat was pulled out on Monday. Photo submitted by Ron Wenger

The Lowell Police Department and the fire department assisted in the accident.

"It was pretty scary," said Sgt. Steve Bukala. "They were heading to the dam. The current could pull them in if it sucks in a boat."

Bukala said people don't understand how strong the current is year-round.

"We're at flood stage right now," said Bukala. "This is the first time this has

happened in 16 years since I've been here."

Later that night, King Milling was alerted that a boat was stuck up against the bridge.

"My concern was that the boat would come underneath the bridge and hit the flood gates over the dam," said vice-president Steve Doyle.

King Milling shut one gate, but the water started rising an inch every 15 minutes flooding the base-

ments of the buildings on the bridge. Another gate had to be lifted to compensate.

"The water was moving very fast," said Doyle. "I've never seen anything like this."

Since the Kent County Sheriff's boat had trouble pulling the boat upstream,

Boat accident, continued, page 15

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Rev. Rick Blunt
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Outdoors, continued

hunting lifestyle. Hunting turkeys is done slow and deliberate and hunting with a partner has advantages. One partner can call while the other handles the firearm. The level of excitement is equally shared by both partners.

Pleasant weather during the turkey season adds to the enjoyment of spending time in the bug-free woods. There is also a fall hunting

season for turkeys. One can hunt both seasons, but a major difference is that spring is breeding time for turkeys and toms respond aggressively to calls that duplicate the talk of other turkeys. This advantage makes

it exciting and productive to hunt the spring season.

Jump on the bandwagon. Head out and join up with a flock of wild turkeys this spring; it's turkey time again.

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LUNCH MENU
ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of May 9, 2011
MON: Nachos w/meat, shredded cheese (3 meat sub also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), salad w/Litehouse dressing, pineapple, milk.
TUES: Homemade cheese pizza (fish sandwich w/cheese on wheat bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), celery sticks/broccoli florets, low fat ranch Litehouse dressing, applesauce, milk.
WED: Chicken fingers w/wheat bread (tuna salad sandwich also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes & gravy, diced peaches, milk.
THURS: Mini baked corn dogs (hamburger on bun also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), glazed carrots, pear slices, milk.
FRI: Macaroni & cheese (burrito w/salsa also offered at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), green beans, orange wedges, warm soft pretzel, milk.

Honoring War of 1812 Veterans

Members of the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 and the Stephen Preston Chapter located in Grand Rapids are documenting service and burial locations for all War of 1812 Veterans buried in Michigan.

A dedication took place on April 30, 2011, at Merriam Cemetery in Alto, for Peter Spitzer who needed a headstone. Stephen Preston Chapter members were joined by the National Treasurer of the National Society and members from the Flat River Post #8303 V.F.W. located in Lowell.

members of "Pillars of Honor" which is working to document and photograph the graves of all Civil War Veterans buried in Michigan.

Peter Spitzer was born in 1790 in New York and died on March 6, 1869 while living in Kent County. His

wife Maria / Marian, whose last name is unknown, was last found on the widows' pension list in 1883. Her death record and burial site has not been located. They were married in New York where all their children were born. Spitzer and his

wife came to Michigan and settled in Kent County with their children: John, Aaron, Mary, Nancy and Peter.

Spitzer served as a Corporal in Captain John Brown's Company of the New York Militia. For his service, he received boun-

ty land and his wife Maria would draw a pension of \$8.00 a month.

We'll never know the sadness or joy that Spitzer and his family experienced, but we know the service and sacrifice he gave.

They are photographing headstones and ordering headstones for those who do not have them.



Commander Herman Weststrate and other members from the Flat River Post #8303 Lowell V.F.W.



Pictured, left to right: Patt DeHaan, Judy Hull, Barbara Allison, Anne Abraham, Claudette Darling, Kathy Howard and Linda Stillman from the National Society United States Daughters of 1812.

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Buyers Guide

The flag is the embodiment, not of sentiment, but of history.

- Woodrow Wilson (1856 - 1924)

Memorial Day is a time to remember

On Memorial Day, it's important to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. We at Social Security honor the heroism and courage of our military service members and mourn for those who have given their lives in defense of freedom.

It's also important to recognize those service members who are still with us, especially those who have recently been wounded. They've served us; likewise we serve them.

Earnings for active duty military service or active duty training have been covered under Social Security since 1957. Social Security also has covered inactive duty service in the Armed Forces reserves (such as weekend drills) since 1988.

If you served in the military before 1957, you did not pay Social Security taxes, but we gave you special credit for some of your service.

You can get both Social Security benefits and military retirement. Generally, there is no reduction of Social Security benefits

because of your military retirement benefits. You'll get your full Social Security benefit based on your earnings.

When you reach age 65, you'll also be eligible for Medicare. If you have health care insurance from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or under the TRICARE or CHAMPVA program, your health benefits may change or end when you become eligible for Medicare. You should contact the VA, the Department of Defense, or a military health benefits advisor for more information.

If you've served in the Armed Forces and you're planning your retirement, you'll want to read our publication, Military Service and Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 50 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or via email at vontil@ssa.gov

Spring Into The Past tour draws good turnout

The annual Spring Into The Past tour fundraiser drew a good turnout in spite of the changing weather last weekend. The Lowell Area Historical Museum, one of the many stops on the tour, put outside a clothesline to attract attention.

"It was well attended from all over Michigan," said museum educator Luanne Kaeb. "We had a steady stream of people."

Visitors from as far as Livonia and Zeeland came to check out the "best small town museum."

Some stopped specifically because they saw the clothesline.

Approximately 120 people went through the museum during both days.

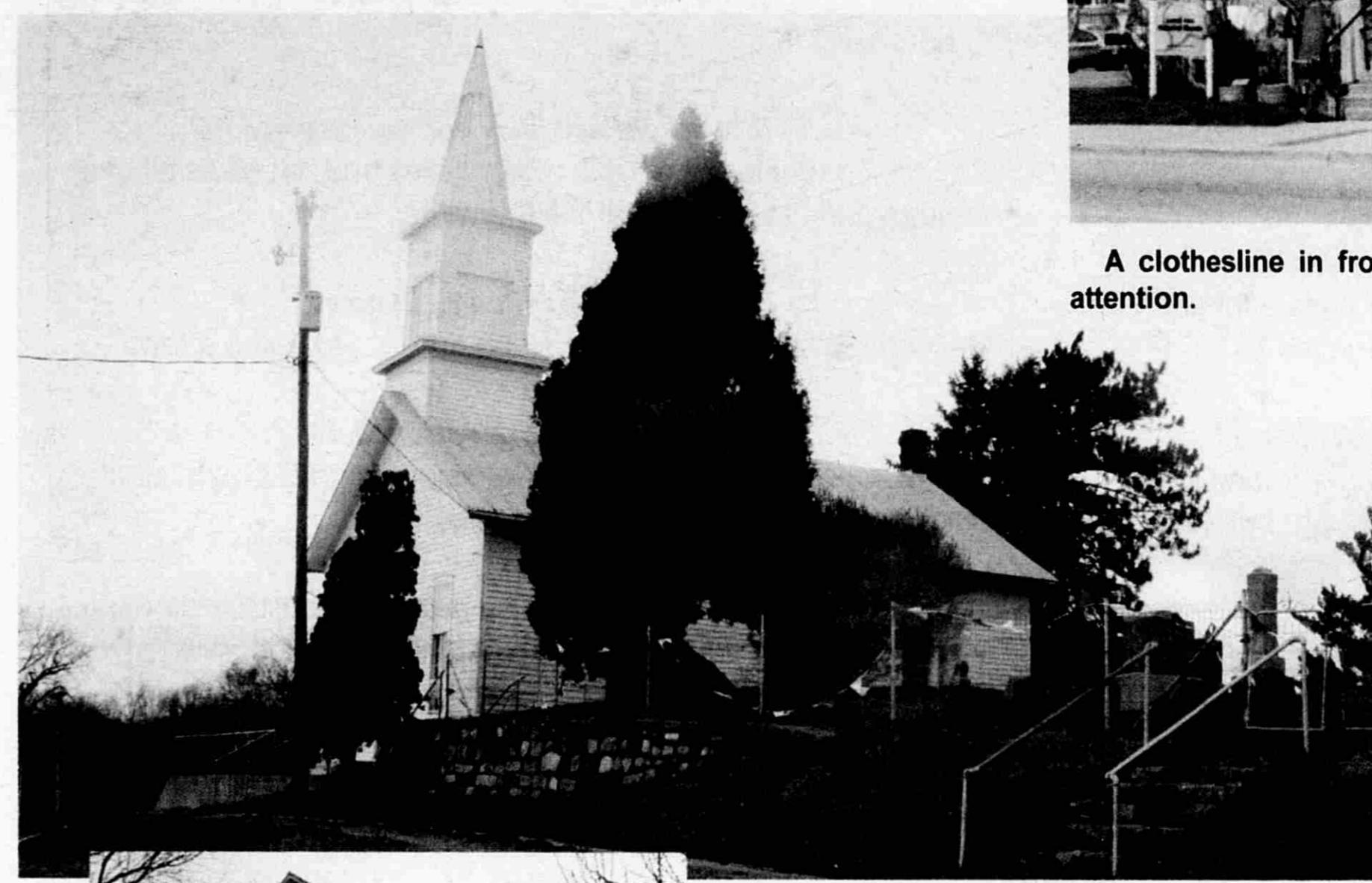
Museum director Pat Allchin said she sold a lot of raffle tickets.

Following are the winners of the raffle: Nick Blough got the first-place prize of \$500; Louis D'Agostino received second place, a reception for 20 catered by Flat River Grill; and S. VanStee got third prize, one night at Main Street Inn.

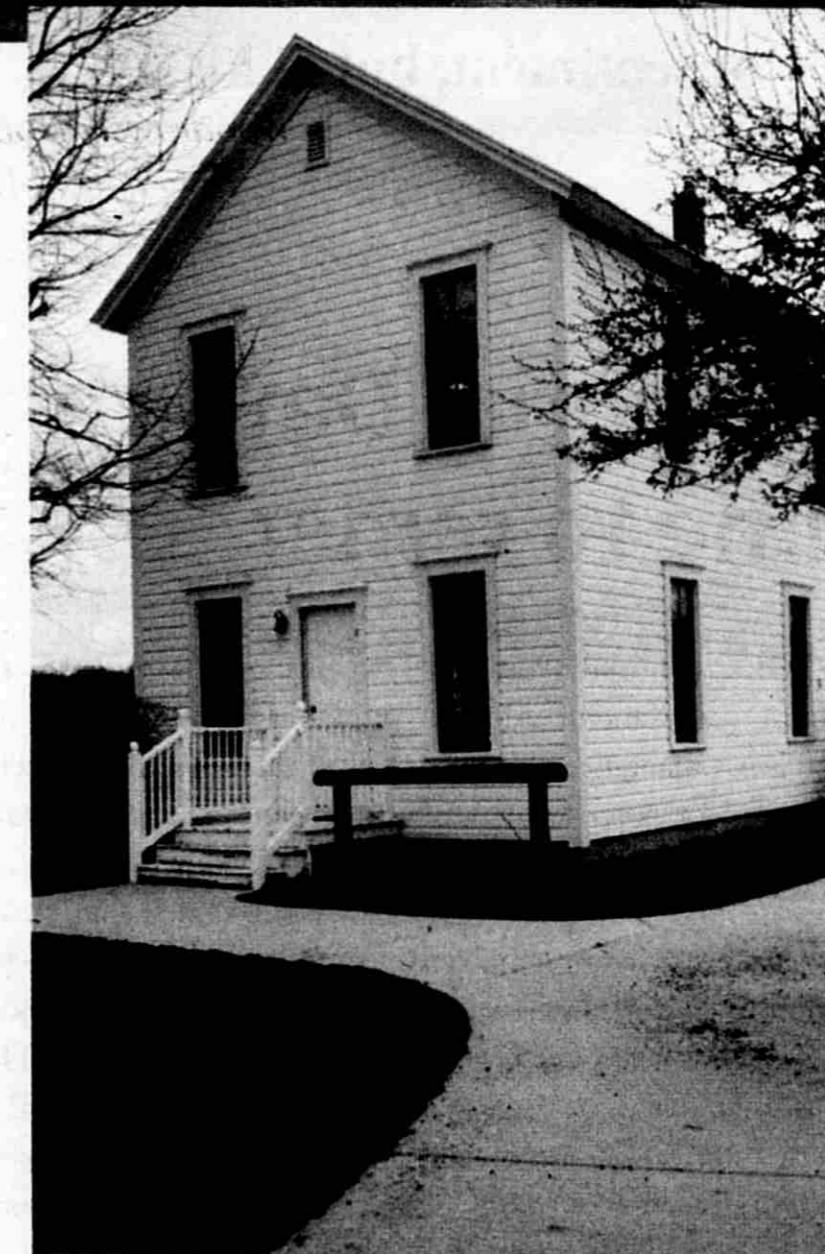
Allchin said the attendance looks as good as last year.



A clothesline in front of the Lowell Area Historical Museum attracted attention.



Alton Church was on the tour.



Also on the tour was Bowne schoolhouse and old township hall

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Red Arrow SPORTS

Spotlight On Sports

With Shane Beach

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 kids we're all so proud of in the community.

This Week - Reece Posthumus
Lowell Varsity Lacrosse

When did you start playing lacrosse and why?
Freshman year. Two of my best friends were playing, so I decided to try it. I liked it because of my friends, at first; but when I started playing, I loved it. It is fast-paced and I just really like how everything moves fast.

What kind of player are you on the field?
I'd like to think I'm a good team player. I like to pass a lot and I am scrappy. Some team-mates call me "Reeces Pieces."

What are your expectations this season? Goals?
Our team record is 5-2 so far and we can win conference if we continue to play well. We started the season rough, but are playing great now with a great defense.

Who has been your strongest opponent this year and why?
Northview. They are big and physical with good defense and good shooters. Catholic Central was our other loss this year. We should beat them, but they have fast centers and play a good all-around game. It's possible we could have a rematch against either of those teams in the playoffs.

What are your favorite things about playing lacrosse?
It is fast-paced. Everyone seems to love it. It's just a fun atmosphere.

- TRACK

Northview defeats Lowell boys at dual meet

by Shane Beach

The Red Arrow boys' track team had several personal bests, but it wasn't quite enough against Northview. "On paper we should have won this meet. We had many kids who had personal bests, but we lost a huge amount of points in

the throws," said head coach Sara Ellis. Matt Kyllonen had a fantastic day as he finished first in high jump, 200-meter, 400-meter and was part of the 4x200-meter team that also took first. Kyllonen scored 16.25 points. Jacob Meyer was also


a part of the relay team that finished first. He took first in the 100-meter dash and second in the 200-meter dash. His 4x100-relay team also took first and Meyer finished the day with 10.5 points. Bryce Hrusovsky took a first place in the 110-meter hurdles on his way to an eight-point day.

Leighton Watson added six as he was part of two relay teams finishing first, along with a second in long jump and third in shot put. Dylan Brower, Robby Coffey, Sean Khodl, Robert Becker, Liam Kelley, Ryan Lubbers, Calvin Meyer, and Ben Partridge also scored points. Although the Red

Arrows came up short, coach Ellis has set standards high and knows great things are in store in the future. "I just want this team to be on top right away. Not only were there many personal bests on the track and field, there were many other small victories as well," said Ellis. "Our kids warm up as a team, cheer for one another, are interested in their teammates events

and are showing respect for themselves and the teams they go against." She added that she felt proud when it was Lowell kids, at an away meet, who helped with the cleanup of the hurdles off the track. "These small victories will eventually turn into large ones and make this team into the type of team that others will want to emulate," added the coach.

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exploring our national parks



Kurt Hieshetter

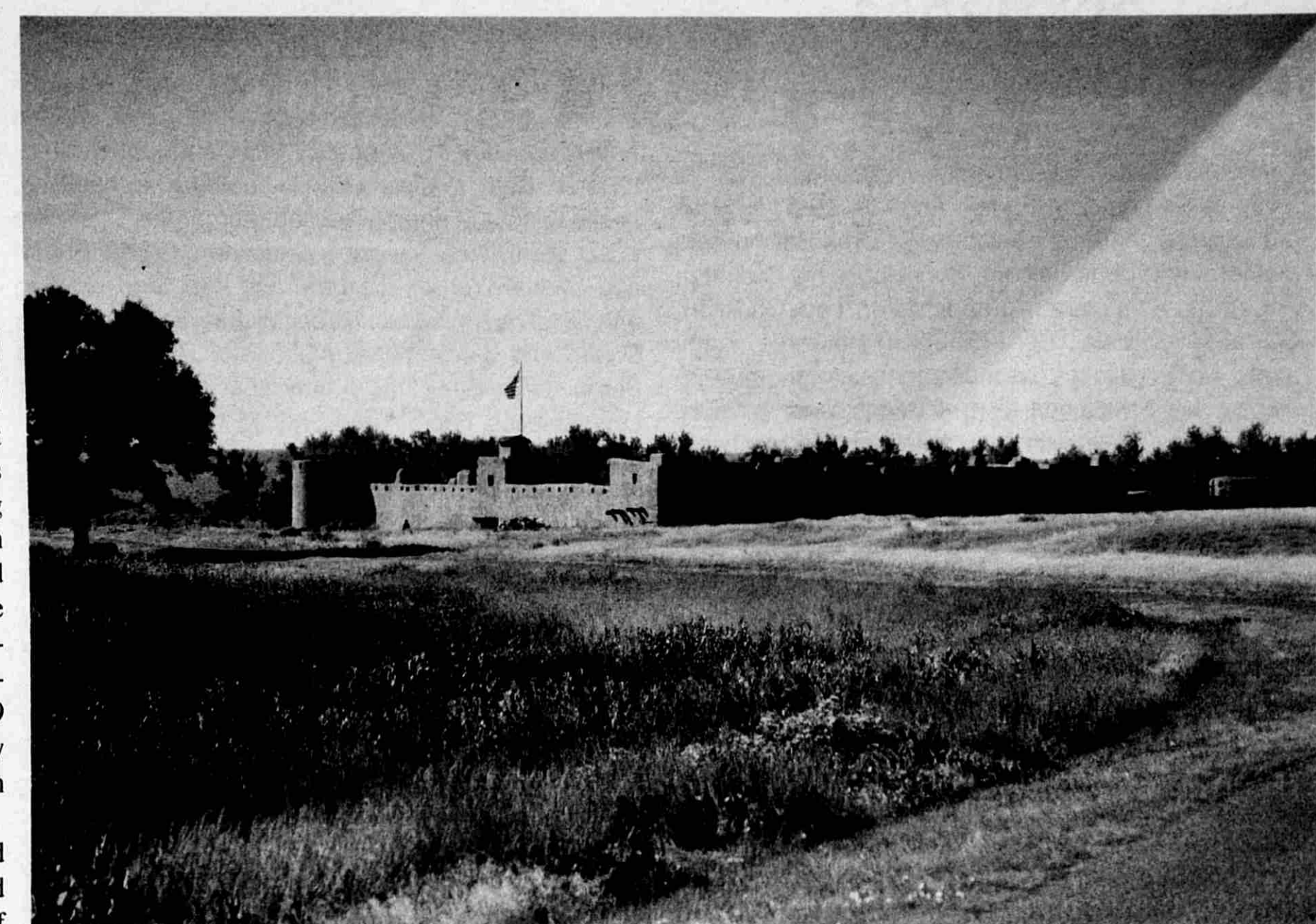
In the summer of 2010, we took on one of our most ambitious travel plans yet. Thirty-five hundred miles, ten states and five national parks. All of this would take place in only two weeks, with one night at Walmart and no more than three nights in one place. However, we would also see some of the most spectacular scenery this great country has to offer.

As usual, we leave Lowell after work on Thursday. I drive until my eyes will no longer stay open. This is about two in the morning at the Walmart just outside St. Louis, Missouri. I find that it is much harder to stay awake when the other three occupants of the car are sound asleep. We pull in and four miserable hours of sleep later, we are on the road again.

The first scheduled stop was Independence, home of the Harry Truman National Historic Site. This four-block area of down-

going broke. The following morning after a short drive we found Fort Larned. This national historic site was one of eight forts built in the mid-1800s to protect settlers traveling the Santa Fe Trail. South Central Kansas was the wild west in 1860. Settlers were traveling on Cheyenne, Comanche and Arapaho homelands. From 1859 to 1869 Fort Larned played a very important roll in the Indian wars.

The eight fully restored buildings at Fort Larned are an accurate depiction of what military life was like in 1860. The barracks are fully furnished with period furniture. Each bed is made up with the one wool blanket issued to that soldier for the long cold winter. Uniforms and firearms stood at the ready. A trip to Fort Larned is much more educational for two eight-year-olds than the tourist town of Dodge City just twenty miles to the South.



Bent's Old Fort

stored. Park rangers wear period clothing, such as flannel pants and shirts, on an 80-degree day while stoking a campfire that was always burning. Peacocks roam the grounds, as they did in 1840 as sentries, blaring at night if something was not right. At the time, Bent's Old Fort was one of the leading industries west of the Missis-

sippi. Morning views consisted of the sun breaking over the mountains behind you illuminating the dunes in front of you. In the evening, as the sun sets behind the tallest dune in North America, the Crestone Peak at 14,300 feet would shine for another half an hour.

Great Sand Dunes National Park is unique in the fact that it encompasses treeless alpine tundra, desertlike dune fields and rich wetlands. In the spring, as the high mountain snows melt, Medano Creek becomes a beachfront playground. However, on our visit in July, the water had become just a trickle.

Our first full day started with a hike to the tallest dune which is called Star Dune. From the dune parking lot we had to hike some two and a half miles into the dune field. With 30-square miles of sand and no trails, you are pretty much on your own. An early start is necessary since the sand can easily reach 140 degrees in the summer. It must also be known that you are starting your hike at 8,100 feet above sea level. It is not like hiking Sleeping Bear Dunes.

Our daughter, Sierra, seemed to have the most energy at seven in the morning. With her camelback full of water, she took off across the flats toward the dunes. It soon became apparent that it was much easier to climb

the dunes without our shoes. They would fill up with sand which then added several pounds to our already substantial weight.

We also discovered that dunes do not go straight up to the highest point. They go up and back down again. You follow a ridge line to a peak only to have to descend to the base of another ridge line. At this rate we would not make Star Dune by lunchtime and back to the base before the heat of a July afternoon kicked in.

Our new goal was to summit High Dune, so named because from the parking lot it looked like the tallest dune in the park. This also would save two miles of hiking. Although she started with the most energy, Sierra quickly faded to the rear. She now needed constant encouragement from the rest of us. One thing I have learned from all the hiking done with the kids is that they only look at the small picture. They know what the short-term goal is. Get to the top of the dune, have lunch, some water and relax. They don't think about the need to go back. This short-sightedness on their part is very beneficial in getting them to the turnaround point.

We were able to reach the summit of High Dune by lunchtime. At 650 feet above the floor, it still offered a great view of the mountains and the fires burning there. Oh, I forgot to mention that most of the park was closed because of forest fires, including one that was burning not far from the campground. This was very evident from our current position on High Dune.

As the old saying goes, what goes up, must come down. And, it is always easier to descend from a summit. Whether it is a 650-foot dune or a 14,000-foot mountain, for the most part, you are guaranteed to be go-

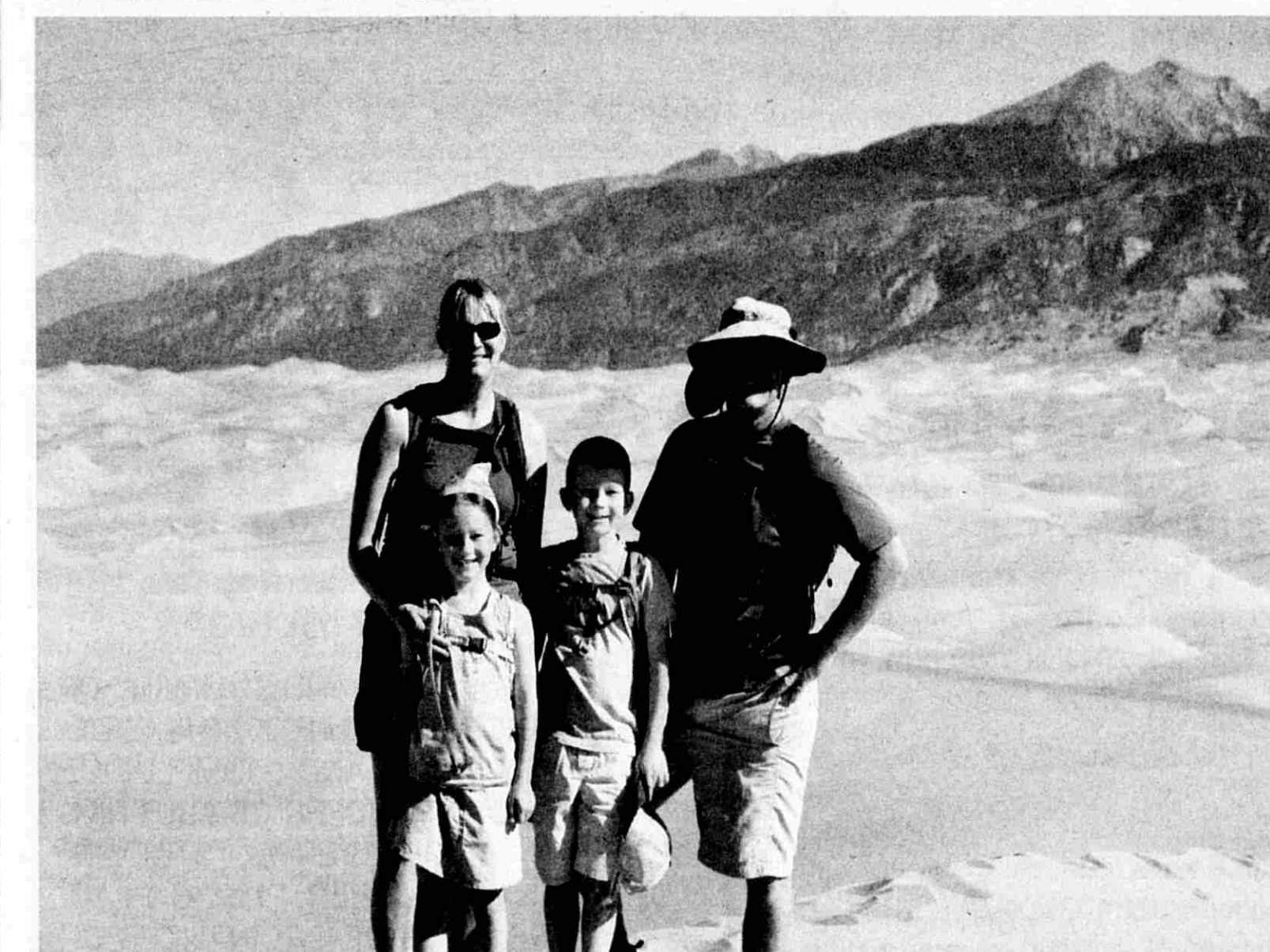
ing downhill the whole way. However, walking back in the midday heat, it was going to be necessary to put the shoes back on because the sand had gotten so hot we were unable to stand for long with our bare feet. This small problem just meant we would have to stop and empty our shoes out a few times on the descent. It was nice to know that the cool waters of Medano Creek were waiting for us at the end of this journey.

The rest of the afternoon was spent hiking to Zapata Falls. This hike requires a short drive out of the park and driving three miles up a washboard gravel road to the trailhead. Then a short hike to the falls hidden deep in the sub-alpine forest. The things you can see when you just hike a short distance off the main road are spectacular and almost always worth the extra effort. The view from this trailhead also provides a great view of the dune field and the San Luis Valley. It is especially spectacular at sunset.

The following day was spent exploring the San Luis Valley. Alamosa, which is the home of the Rio Grande Scenic Railroad and Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge. Then on to Hooper, which has the Sand Dunes Pool, a large 100-degree hot springs pool with a view of the dunes to the east. The kids loved this!

One more night and we had to pull out. We had four more national parks to visit on this trip. Stay tuned next time as we pull into Durango, Colorado, the gateway to Mesa Verde National Park (as well as river rafting, horseback riding, a bear and a microbrewery).

If you've missed any of my articles, it is also possible to catch up on past trips by visiting our blog at www.nationalparkswithtwins.blogspot.com



Hieshetter family on top of High Dune

town Independence is the location of Truman's home, library and museum. After a brief stop at the visitors' center, to get junior ranger badges for the kids, we pull the trailer over to the library and grave site. Anyone with an interest in the Korean War or the A-bomb should visit this site. Our stay was far too short at this very historic site, but the road was calling once again.

Night two was spent at Kanopolis Reservoir near Salina, Kansas. As with all Corps of Engineer campgrounds, this one was a bargain. Full electric and water hookup with a great beach for swimming. All for just eight bucks. It's no wonder our federal government is

Traveling old US-50 across the vast plains of Western Kansas into Colorado gives you the opportunity to visit many national historic sites. Fort Dodge, Fort Lyon, Kit Carson Museum and the Sand Creek Massacre site are just a few. We had time for only two with Bent's Old Fort being the second after Fort Larned.

Bent's Old Fort was more of a trading post than an army fort. The fort was built in 1833 on the north bank of the Arkansas River. At the time, the river was the border with Mexico to the south. The fort was built of adobe since this area had limited timber.

As with Fort Larned, Bent's Old Fort is fully re-

BALCOM Steven Charles Balcom, age 60, of Saranac, passed away at his home on Friday, April 29, 2011. He was preceded in death by his father, C. Oren Balcom and mother, Anna Doris Balcom. Surviving is his daughter, Angie (Larry) Putschaven; grandchildren, Levi, Christian, Gavin, Miles; sister, Gerri (Franklin) Holwerda; many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and special friends; his companion, Debra Briggs; and her son, Dean Briggs. Steve was an excellent marine mechanic working several years for many marinas in Florida and in Michigan, including Nunica and Murray Lake. His passion for motors and running his boat "My Other Joy" at Hardy Dam was special. His love for his 23 cats was exceptional. Memorial service will be held Saturday at 1:30 pm at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Rev. Rick Blunt of First United Methodist Church—Lowell officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation will be 12:30 to 1:30 pm. Memorial contributions to the Ionia County Animal Shelter, 275 E. Sprague, Ionia, MI 48816 would be appreciated.

KLINE Betty Lou Kline, age 78, lifetime resident of Lowell and member of First United Methodist Church, went to be with her Lord Friday, April 29, 2011, surrounded by her children. Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Leslie Kline and great-grandson, Aaron Lee Scott. She is survived by her children, Christine Grames, Robert and Sharell Wolf Jr., Barbara and Alex Modzelewski, and Carol Ayers; step-children, Michael and Pam Kline, Daniel and Jamie Kline, Albert and Rita Kline, and Phillip Kline. Betty has a very special nephew, Cary Lewis; nieces, Wicky Alvarez and Mona Jean Buete; 10 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and three great, great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at First United Methodist Church on Monday, May 2, 2011. In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to be made to Noah's Gift, c/o Community Foundation of Northwest MS, 321 Lusher St., Hernando, MS 38632 or American Cancer Society, Hope Lodge, 129 Jefferson S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The decedent was the Grantor of the Gerald V. Spencer Living Trust, dated November 5, 1992. Date of Birth: May 23, 1910.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Your interest in the Trust may be barred or affected by the following: The decedent, Gerald Vanderlip Spencer, whose last known address was 5320 Meadowmoor, NE, Belmont, Michigan 49306, died on June 23, 2000.

Don't forget to file for Medicare at 65

You've made your decision: although you're eligible to collect Social Security payments, you've decided to delay receiving your retirement benefits to receive a higher amount later. That's great but don't forget about Medicare. Even if you decide to wait until after you are age 65 to apply for retirement benefits, most people should apply for Medicare coverage at age 65. If you'd like to begin your Medicare coverage, you should apply within four months of reaching age 65. There's a fast, convenient, and simple way to apply online for Medicare as little as 10 minutes — even if you're not ready to receive retirement benefits. Just visit www.socialsecurity.gov/medicareonline. At the website, you'll find more than just the online Medicare application. You'll also find information about Medicare, and have the opportunity to watch a short, fun video reuniting

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

classifieds

for sale for rent sales services services services
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.
HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.vfw8303.org. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.
HUGE GRAND SLAM MOVING SALE - Fri, May 6 & Sat., May 7. Bring your pickup truck for this one! 1631 Stonewood Dr., 9 a.m. - ? Sat. after 12:00 1/2 off.
HUGE DOWNSIZING SALE - May 5, 6 & 7. 1252 Fun St. Moving sale. Household, lawn/garden, books, sewing/craft, furniture, appliances, much more.
LARGE YARD SALE - May 6 & 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 1030 Hunt St., Lowell, W. of Lincoln Lake. Electric guitar, Guitars Hero, fish tanks & accessories, toys, clothes, some furniture, x-box, household decor, cell & i-phone accessories.
MOVING SALE - crib, twin bed, race car bed, Amish bedroom suite, aquarium, tools, scrapbooking, infant car seat, stroller, adult clothing, kids toys, gazebo, & much more. 165 Tia Trail. Sat., May 7, 9 to 6.
SALE - My wife has passed away so I'm downsizing. Fri. & Sat., May 6 & 7, 10:20 Lockwood, Eastgate.
HUGE MOVING SALE - Everything must go. Fri., May 6 only, 10-3 p.m. 803 N. Washington, Lowell.
GARAGE SALE - Household items, Dale Earnhardt memorabilia, kids items, 3 in 1 crib, 732 Godfrey, Fri., May 6 & Sat., May 7.
7 FAMILY SALE - Fri. & Sat. May 6 & 7. DieCast cars, wood train, Princess Diana dolls, tools, cookbooks, yarn and crafts, dishes from an estate and misc. 11024 Woodbush.
CRUISE IN FOR THE CORNER'S CAR/BIKE SHOW - Saturday, May 7, 9-3 p.m. at Lowell Lanes, 11550 Fulton St. E. \$10 entry fee. Free to spectators. Show awards top 15. All profits will be donated to the Corner Family missionary trip to Slovakia. Contact Megan, 616-437-1701 w/questions. No calls after 9 p.m.
SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - at 3189 Sene Ave. SE will serve a family style Pork & Dressing dinner on Wednesday, May 11th, starting at 5:30pm. Adults are \$9, Children 6-12 are \$3, and children 5 & under are free. Take out dinners also available.

DRAFT SYNOPSIS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, MAY 2, 2011

- Motion to excuse the absence of Councilmember Schrauben.
Motion to approve the agenda as modified.
Motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2011 regular meeting as corrected.
Motion to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2011 special meeting as presented.
Motion to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2011 special meeting as presented.
Motion to approve the accounts payables as presented.
Motion that Mark A. Howe be the lead candidate for the City Manager position and Matthew Butts as the alternate candidate.
Motion to direct City Attorney Richard Wendt to negotiate the contract of the City Manager position with the assistance of Bill Baldrige.
Motion to set the public hearings for May 16 and June 6, 2011 for the consideration of the 2011-2012 City Budget.
Motion to approve the closure of Mercer between Hudson and Riverside on Saturday, June 11, 2011 from 5 p.m. to 12 midnight.
Motion to adopt the ordinance for sidewalk inspection and compliance upon sale or transfer of abutting property.
Motion to close Avery from Riverwalk Plaza to Washington Street on Thursday, July 7, 2011 to Saturday, July 9, 2011.
Motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, May 16, 2011.
Complete minutes will be available after approved on May 16, 2011 on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or at City Hall.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Vergennes Township Zoning Board of Appeals on Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr. PO Box 208, Lowell to hear the following business:
Applicant Ryan Peel is requesting setback variances from section 201.432 (D) (2) & (4) (Wireless Communication Facilities) to construct two towers to host high speed internet services closer to lot lines than the required tower height setback of the structures. The towers are proposed to be located at 9777 Vergennes St and 13101 Beckwith Dr within the Rural Agriculture District.
The members may review any other business that may come before them as permitted by the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance.
The complete application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Public comment will be heard at the meeting. Written comments received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the office entrance will also be considered if received at the Township office prior to 7:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Comments may also be emailed to: zoning@vergennestwp.org

FAXING Sending or Receiving \$1 or 1st sheet, 50¢ each additional sheet The Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway • P.O. Box 128 • 897-9261

CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE TO ADD ARTICLE III, "SIDEWALK INSPECTION AND COMPLIANCE UPON SALE OR TRANSFER OF ABUTTING PROPERTY," TO CHAPTER 19, "STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES," OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL
The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 11-06 adding Article III, "Sidewalk Inspection and Compliance Upon Sale or Transfer of Abutting Property," to Chapter 19, "Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell on May 2, 2011. Ordinance No. 11-06 requires the inspection and, if required, the repair of sidewalks, driveway approaches and retaining walls at the time of sale or transfer of abutting or adjacent property within the City. A complete copy of Ordinance No. 11-06 is available for review at City Hall, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan, during regular business hours.
Ordinance No. 11-06 is effective 10 days after this publication.
Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

help wanted LAURELS HEALTH CARE CO. - is a national provider of skilled nursing, sub-acute, & assisted living services. Laurels of Kent, a 153-bed facility, has an excellent opportunity for CENAs. We offer a competitive salary, great working environment w/supportive staff & excellent benefit pkg including 1 wk vacation after 6 mths. We have full & part-time as well as PRN positions avail. for any CENAs or nursing staff. All shifts. If you have a professional, caring attitude, at least 1 yr exp. & enjoy working in a fast paced environment, then we may be the place for you. Send resume to Terrie Kerschen, RN, DON at the Laurels of Kent, 350 N. Center St., Lowell, MI 49331 or fax 897-0081.

card of thanks We would like to express how grateful we are for all the kindness showed to our family after the passing of our son, Ethan Matthew Hedlund. All of the flowers, cards, donations, visits & food were greatly appreciated. It was nice to see so many people at the visitations & funeral. Ethan was a wonderful son, brother, grandson, great-grandson, nephew, cousin & friend. Our home will never be the same without him, but we know God will help us through this loss. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. The Lett-Hedlund Family, Aaron, Jamie, Evan, Breanne, Isis, & William

wanted WANTED - older fuel oil with or without tank. Please call 897-6892.

Community Calendar

- PLEASENOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are ran on a space available basis & ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO 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: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.
GRIEF - ADULT GROUP - Each Tuesday, 2-3 p.m. & second & fourth Tuesdays 5:30 - 7 p.m. A committed group for adults who have experienced the death of a family member or friend. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.
GRIEF - KIDS GROUP - Second & fourth Tuesdays, 5:30 - 7 p.m. A committed group for children in first - fourth grade on a grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.
GRIEF - NEW MEMBER MEETING - 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 of Commerce.
FREE ADDITIONS PROGRAM - every Friday, 7 p.m. at Bible Believers Church, 404 N. Hudson St., Lowell. For more information call 616-485-2385.
MOTHERS WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD - sons/daughters serving in the military. We are meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For more info call Sally 616-761-2042.
LOWELL AREA PRAYER & HEALING ROOMS - located in the FROM building, 11535 Fulton Street, most Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Christian Scripture based. No cost or fees, no appointment necessary, confidentiality respected.
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. Bellline. Potluck at 12:30 p.m. & meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Call Ed Moore for time, 616-784-6716.
FAMILY STORYTIME - Thursdays, now - May 5, 10:30 a.m. Share books, stories, rhymes, music & movement as a family. Develop early literacy skills & encourage a love of reading. For children ages 6 & under with a caregiver. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 616-784-2007.
ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES - Sign up at the Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St., Sat., May 14, 10 a.m. - noon. You may also order online using your debit or credit card. Go to: www.angelfoodministries.com. Any questions, call Esther 897-7395.
RHyme TIME MUSIC & MOVEMENT - Fridays, May 6 - May 27, 11 a.m. Move & groove together with rhymes, songs, games & hands-on musical activities that will help children develop motor, listening & literacy skills. For children ages 6 & under with a caregiver. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 616-784-2007.
FAMILY STORYTIME - Mondays, thru May 30, 10 a.m. Share books, stories, rhymes, music & movement as a family. Develop early literacy skills & encourage a love of reading. For children ages 6 & under with a caregiver. Alto Branch Library, 6071 Linfield Ave, 616-784-2007.
QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - 8731 Riverside Dr., Saranac. Open to the public on Sundays thru Oct. 30. Except Holiday weekends. For more info call 642-9800. www.Qua-Ke-Zik.org
ALTO LIONS CLUB - Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at Keiser's Kitchen.
KDLVILLE RIBBON-CUTTING PARTY - 10:30 a.m. on Thurs., May 12 at Englehardt Branch Library. KDLville is KDL's new early literacy play space. Families w/children 6 & under are invited for crafts, games, balloon animals, face painting & a dance party. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 616-784-2007.
WANTED - older fuel oil with or without tank. Please call 897-6892.

Lowell logo Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

Vergennes Township ZBA logo

Lowell logo Betty R. Morlock City Clerk

2011 LAS SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE

BOYS VARSITY BASEBALL

* Denotes a home game at Cherry Creek Ball Field

5/5 at 4:15 p.m. at EGR
 5/10 at 4:15 p.m. at Northview - double header
 5/12 at 4:15 p.m. Northview*
 5/14 time TBA Aquinas Tournament
 5/17 at 4:30 p.m. Greenville* - double header
 5/19 at 4:15 p.m. Greenville
 5/21 at 11 a.m. Grand Ledge* - double header
 5/23 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Eastern* - double header
 5/28 at 10 a.m. Oxford High School - double header

BOYS & GIRLS TRACK

* Denotes a home meet at Red Arrow Stadium
All meets begin at 4:15 p.m. unless indicated

5/5 Greenville*
 5/12 Conference at Greenville
 5/26 time TBA Jon Bos Meet
 5/13 at 6 p.m. Conference at Greenville

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

* Denotes a home game at Red Arrow Stadium

5/4 at 6:45 p.m. Greenville
 5/9 at 6:45 p.m. Reeths Puffer
 5/11 at 5:45 Creston
 5/13 at 6:45 p.m. Cedar Springs*
 5/16 at 6:45 p.m. GR Christian*
 5/18 at 7:15 p.m. EGR
 5/23 at 7:15 p.m. Northview
 5/25 at 6:45 p.m. Greenville*

GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL

* Denotes a home game at Cherry Creek Ball Field

5/5 at 4:15 p.m. EGR*
 5/10 at 4:15 p.m. Northview - double header
 5/12 at 4:15 p.m. Creston
 5/14 time TBA Traverse City West Invitational
 5/16 at 4:30 p.m. Hudsonville* - double header
 5/17 at 4:15 p.m. Greenville* - double header
 5/19 at 4:15 p.m. EGR
 5/25 at 4 p.m. Tichelaar Tournament*

GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS

* Denotes a home meet at H.S. Tennis Courts

5/5 at 4 p.m. Portland
 5/9 at 4 p.m. Greenville*
 5/12 at 4 p.m. Hudsonville
 5/14 at 9 a.m. Conference*

GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE

* Denotes a home game. All times TBA

5/4 Northview*
 5/9 GR Christian
 5/11 Grand Haven*
 5/16 Caledonia*
 5/18 West Ottawa

**For More Information
 please visit
www.lowellschools.com
 Be sure to read the
 Lowell Ledger for
 coverage of the
 LAS Spring Sports.**

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 the **lowell ledger**



616-897-0787

It's so funny that the neighbor called the cops on us because my husband was letting our chickens run for a while. And they were not hurting anyone at all. So we had a good laugh.

I'm driving the speed limit posted. Gas today is \$4.29. Three drivers passed me on M-21. Maybe they can afford gas wasted speeding past me. I cancelled dental work and a surgery.

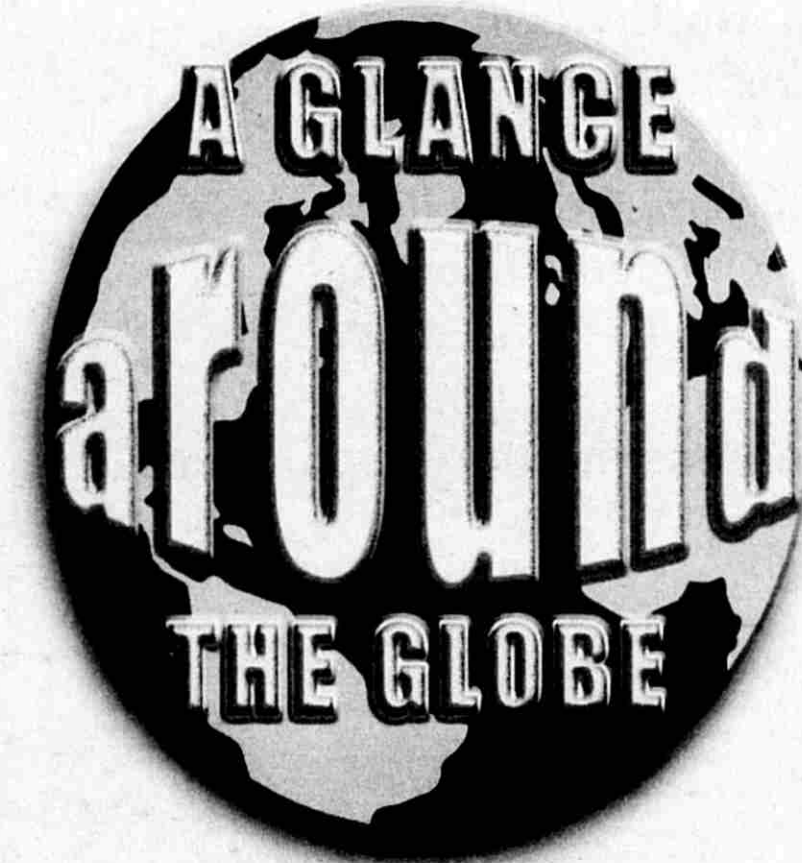
Originally we were from the east side of the state. We have lived in Lowell for the last 25 years and have never regretted our move to Lowell. We've enjoyed the friends we've made, the shops we frequent, the yearly events and the overall cleanliness of the city. We're looking very much forward to the next 25 years. Thank you to everyone for making this such a wonderful city to live in.

- Beth Bieri

last week's poll result: Sound Off

Do you plan on watching the royal wedding?

Yes! I'm excited. 12%
 No! It's a waste of time. 75%
 What wedding? 13%



APRIL 27 - MAY 3

- Osama Bin Laden is dead, President Obama announces Sunday night in a televised address to the nation. His death was the result of a U.S. operation launched in Pakistan. After a fire fight, a small team of American forces killed Bin Laden and took possession of his body. The mission was a kill mission, not capture.
- Nearly 23 million Americans rise early on Friday to watch Prince William and Kate Middleton tie the knot.
- Investigators locate and recover the missing black box recorder from a 2009 Air France flight, remarkable deep sea discovery they hope will explain why the aircraft went down and killed all 228 people on board.

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: Recently the UN voted to declare access to safe and clean water a "human right." Isn't that a no-brainer? What are the ramifications of this declaration?
 -- P. James, Boston, MA

In July 2010 the United Nations (UN) agreed to a new resolution declaring the human right to "safe and clean drinking water and

sanitation." One hundred twenty-two nations voted in favor of the resolution; 41 (primarily developed) countries abstained; and there were zero "no" votes. The agreement comes on the heels of a protracted effort on the part of Bolivia and 30 other (mostly developing) nations determined to improve access to clean water and proper sanitation sys-

tems for the poorer human residents of the planet.

Bolivia's Permanent Representative to the UN, Pablo Solon, cheered passage of the resolution that he had campaigned hard for, and stressed the need to recognize access to safe drinking water and sanitation as a human right as global supplies of fresh water get fewer and farther between. "Approximately one out of every eight people does not have drinking water," Solon told reporters. "In just one day, more than 200 million hours of the time used by women is spent collecting and transporting water for their homes." According to the declaration, approximately 884 million people lack access to safe drinking water.

"The lack of sanitation is even worse, because it affects 2.6 billion people [or] 40 percent of the global population," Solon said, citing a 2009 World Health Organization and UNICEF study which found some 24,000 children in developing countries were dying each day from preventable causes like diarrhea resulting from polluted water. "This means that a child dies every three-and-a-half seconds," added Solon.

The resolution itself carries no regulatory weight, but backers view it as important to raising awareness of the problem and engendering support for solutions. "We are calling for actions...in communities around the world to ensure that the rights to water and sanitation are implemented," said Anil Naidoo of the Council of Canadians, a group that has been crucial in the international struggle for the right to clean water. "Governments, aid agencies

and the UN must take their responsibilities seriously," he added.

Some developed countries—including the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and several European nations—tried to block passage of the resolution in hopes of minimizing their future obligations. As one official from the United Kingdom put it, these countries "don't want to pay for the toilets in Africa." Also, six African countries (Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Tanzania and Zambia) and two in the Caribbean (Guyana and Trinidad/Tobago)—all former European colonies—joined efforts to try to kill the declaration. But when it was time to vote, these nations abstained so as not to go on record as opposing it.

"This matters because we are a planet running out of water," said Maude Barlow, an expert affiliated with the Council of Canadians as well as the Blue Planet Project and Food and Water Watch. Indeed, a still-growing human population, global warming and other factors combine to make fresh water supplies scarcer around the world. A recent World Bank study predicted that demand for fresh water will exceed supply by some 40 percent within just two decades. While the UN resolution may not move any mountains, it is a step in the right direction for the world's increasing number of have-nots.

CONTACTS: United Nations, www.un.org; Council of Canadians, www.canadians.org; Blue Planet Project, www.blueplanetproject.net; Food and Water Watch, www.foodandwaterwatch.org.



Boat accident, continued

Greg Canfield assisted with his backhoe to pull the boat to the side.

"This was an urgent situation," said Canfield. "They were struggling."

By 1:00 am the boat was secured to the side and pulled out on Monday morning.

"We're lucky nobody

drowned," said Canfield. "It was an unfortunate mechanical failure at the worst possible spot."

Schwartz, a GE Aviation engineer who spent five years in the navy, ended up with a few bumps and bruises and a new respect for rivers and inland waterways.

"Good God, I consider

myself very lucky," he said. "If my other son Ian had been with us, I don't know if I could have saved them both," he said. "We're fortunate that people helped us."

The dam holds roughly eight to 10 feet of water and maintains the height of the river within six inches. However, due to heavy rains

the water level was at nine inches.

"There is a current coming through all the time, but not like during this flood condition," said Doyle.

There are signs warning boaters about the dam.

The Kent County Marine Patrol is conducting an investigation.

Financial Focus, continued

your employer's match, if one is offered. (In 2011, you can put in up to \$16,500, or \$22,000 if you're 50 or older.) Your earnings have the opportunity to grow tax-deferred and you have a range of investment options, so your 401(k) or other retirement plan can be an effective, flexible way to put money away for the future.

Invest in an annuity. If you've reached the contribution limits of your IRA and 401(k), you may want to consider purchasing an annuity, which can be structured to provide you with regular payments for the rest of your life. And this lifetime income source is especially important to women, who, at age 65, can

expect to live, on average, almost 20 more years, compared to slightly over 17 for men of the same age, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As a mother, you willingly spend a great deal of time and effort on your children. But it's important to also think about yourself

and your future, so review your strategy for retirement with your financial advisor, and take the actions needed to help make sure you can enjoy all the Mother's Days of your life in the comfort you deserve.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Solar panels help reduce energy consumption

by Emma Palova

With the recent energy crunch, the need for alternative energy sources has resurfaced. Natural sources, such as wind and sun, are being put to use again as the prices of gas, petroleum and wood rise.

Highly efficient solar panels are making their comeback from the 1970s. Unlike their crystalline predecessors, they are thin filaments now.

"They're more efficient and less noticeable," said Scott McDowell, owner of All Weather Seal. "We are just getting into it."

The old panels only worked, when facing south, 25 percent of time.

The new solar film panels can also be placed in more directions and mounted on the roof or on the ground. By placing the solar panels on the ground, there is no penetration to the roof.



Although the initial start-up cost for a solar system is high and runs around \$30,000 to \$40,000, the government gives a 65 percent tax credit. The solar system reduces electricity bills and Consumers Energy pays back up to 11 cents per kilowatt hour.

With solar panels, the energy may be put back into the grid. The payoff time for the solar system is approximately three to five years.

The installation of solar panels in the roof is recommended in cities where there is less space. The solar system consists of three panels covering 600 square feet. The panels will still collect sunrays under four inches of snow.

"They're more efficient and less noticeable," said McDowell.

Although Lowell Light and Power has no specific solar program in place, they do have a net metering rate. This gives credit to the cus-

tomers, against their bills, for any energy generated over and above their usage.

The net rate is available for any kind of alternative energy, including wind turbines.

LLP general manager Greg Pierce said there is no program simply because the utility hasn't had any customers, so far, doing solar panels.

"We are ready, but we've had no calls," he said.

If solar panels produce more energy than is being used, the energy enters back into the grid.

"It would take a huge facility to generate enough power to put energy back into the grid," said Pierce.

The real benefit, according to Pierce, is that solar panels help reduce energy consumption.

The closest manufacturer of solar panels is United Solar in Greenville.

All Weather Seal owner Scott McDowell shows filament solar panels.

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Shotgun start at 12:00 pm	Shotgun start at 3:00 pm
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SILENT AUCTION
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