

exploring our national parks



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New fair manager keeps the focus on the kids as she looks forward to successful year

by Emma Palova

Jessica Marks of Lowell Township has been appointed as the interim manager for the Kent County Youth Fair.

Marks steps into former manager Ron Wenger's big shoes, who passed away in December. She is Wenger's devoted follower, who shares the same love for the fair and its principles.

"It's exciting," she said. "It's overwhelming."

And mostly it will be challenging, since Wenger left no specific manual to follow, only a checklist behind.

"I wish we could be doing this together," Marks said.

Already heading into preparations for this year's fair, Marks will be definitely christened by fire, but with lots of help from fair aficionados.

"She has worked in the fair industry and with Ron," said fair board president Dennis Brown. "She has the most background."



And everybody is willing to pitch in to make this year's fair a success.

"There are a lot of things that will pop up, but we'll pick up along," said Brown. "We're looking for volunteers."

Marks' part-time appointment is until Oct. 31 and then the board will review the situation and decide what to do next.

"It was very important to do something immediately to get going on this year's fair," Marks said.

Prior to her appointment, Marks worked as the fair office manager since January of 2011. She was a board member for 10 years, before stepping down to accept the office job.

Marks has already attended a conference of the International Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (IAFE) in Springfield, Ohio. The conferences help to make the fairs more successful, according to Marks.

The preparations for the 2012 fair are gearing up, so Marks is hitting the ground running, making contacts to line up everything. But, she's lucky enough to be contacted by people who want to help.

"We have a large membership coming together and planning what we need to do to have a great fair," said Marks, "and a great group of superintendents."

Fair manager, continued, page 3

Lowell City Council approves agreement for Bowes Road

by Emma Palova

The city council approved a \$37,650 contract for the design and construction engineering services of Bowes Road to Williams and Works on Monday night.

The road will be resurfaced and milled from West Street to Hudson Street and it will be reconstructed west of Valley Vista in the fall.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$417,500 funded from Michigan Department of Transportation Small Urban Fund and by \$83,500 from the city's major street fund.

There was a delay due to allocation within small urban funds, so the project has been moved to September/October, according to city manager Mark Howe.

In related street business, Clark Street which was constructed in 2004 has never been included in the street inventory. In order to be eligible for funding, it has to be designated as a local street.

Councilmember Jim Valentine moved to add Clark Street into the city street directory.

In other business:

A towing facility has requested to locate within the city limits in C3, general business district, which is all of Main Street. However, the zoning ordinance will have to be amended to define such a facility and to allow it in that district or any zoning district.

"A towing facility is not allowed within the city at all," said Howe, "but we cannot completely zone out any facility. We need to look at the zoning ordinance and make [a] determination which district will allow it."

Councilmember Jim Hall said the facility should be in an industrial district.

The planning commission will take on the issue and it will look at all the districts for the best fit.

Howe also informed the council about refinancing of the bonds for the city hall. The refinancing will save \$570,000 or more than 13 percent over the next 20 years. The immediate cost savings is \$106,000 to the

City council, continued, page 4

LaughFest rocks the audiences at the LHS and Flat River Grill

by Emma Palova

From impersonations of Tina Turner to making fun of Irish and Latino heritage, entertainers Greg Morton and Patti Vasquez rocked the Lowell High School Performing Arts Center last Friday.

With two-thirds of the auditorium full, the first-time event enjoyed a great turnout. Morton and Vasquez could not ask for a better response.

"They delivered two hours of complete laughter," said Teresa Beachum of the Gilda's Club leadership team.

When Morton did his imitations of famous entertainers of the 80s and 90s, complete with costume changes on the stage, the audience literally howled.

"He sang and danced and did a full rendition on the 80s," said Beachum. "Hit it," Morton

would inject, a cue to the crew to change lights and music for the next famous impersonation.

Mick Jagger, Prince and Madonna were among some of the favorites. Each lasted approximately 60 seconds.

"He was hilarious," said Beachum.

For Vasquez, the Irish and Latino combination of roots was a source of constant family laughter.

And the comedians really liked the performing arts center, as well as the great Lowell audience, to a point where both want to come back next year.

"It was a terrific event to cap off the entire LaughFest," said Beachum.

And LaughFest enthusiasts got themselves another round of entertainment at the Flat River Grill at 10 pm, also on Friday. The Gilmore Brothers, who own the grill,

were one of this year's LaughFest venues.

"We packed people right in," said manager Matt Horan. "It was nice to contribute to the event."

The grill opened up the entire patio for an open mike night that put the spotlight on nine amateur entertainers from all over West Michigan.

"It was a nice event in downtown Lowell," said Beachum.

Part of the proceeds of LaughFest will end up at the Lowell Gilda's Club.

"We are very happy with the turnout," Beachum said. "There was a very good crowd ready to have fun. Both entertainers delivered a delightful show."

The LaughFest ended last Sunday after 10 days of fun that included stand-up

LaughFest, continued, page 2

50 CENTS



Local politicians visit Lowell elementary schools



At left, State Senator Dave Hildenbrand was honored to read to Bushnell Elementary in Lowell for March is Reading Month. At right, State Representative Lisa Lyons visited Murray Lake to share with the fourth graders how a bill becomes a law and about her duties on the job in Lansing.



along main street

WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL (ART) COMPETITION

March 22 thru April 26. Reception March 25, 2-4 pm, LowellArts!, 149 S. Hudson Street. Gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm; and Saturday, 1:00 - 4:00 pm. For more information, call 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartsmi.org

"THE LOWELL 50"

CLASSIC GRAVEL ROAD RACE

Gravel/paved road bicycle race in Ionia County. Sat., March 31 at Fallasburg Park. Start time is 10:00 am. For information contact Jeff Zvirzdinis at 616-262-6132 or www.thelowell50.com

FREE LAWN MOWING FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY FAMILIES

Robert Bruce, owner of R.B. and Sons Lawn Care in Hastings, is offering free lawn mowing services for up to six families in the Lowell area who can show proof of a family member who is deployed in active military service. For more information, call 269-320-3875.

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

Give what you have. To someone, it may be better than you dare to think.

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807 - 1882)

LaughFest, continued

acts, comedy, improvisation, music, dance, speakers, and films. Both professionals and amateurs participated at 40 different venues.

Lowell mayor Jim Hodges not only attended the event, but at one point he was pulled on the stage to help Morton with a costume change.

"He had trouble getting out of his dress," said Hodges. "Greg was wacky, high-energy and talented. Patti's humor centered around the family."

Hodges said he suspected Morton knew he was the mayor of Lowell.

Overall, the event was a great community builder for all.

"It was a terrific showcase of bringing the entire community together in support of a wonderful cause of Gilda's Club," said Hodges.

Hodges appreciated that the LaughFest reached out to the outlying areas of Lowell and Holland.

On Saturday night, Hodges attended another LaughFest event in Grand Rapids where he and his wife Chris chatted with the mayors of Grand Rapids and Holland.

"It just helps build the spirit of the community," he said, "and brings the entire Grand Rapids community together."

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Petition for renewable energy aims to keep jobs in Michigan

by Emma Palova
Paulette Viau Mayes of Lowell Township has been

collecting signatures for a petition that will help keep jobs in Michigan.

The petition supports renewable energy whether solar, wind, hydro, light or

bio-energy. Approval would not increase electrical rates by more than one percent by 2025.

“It would be a gradual implementation,” said Mayes.

If 500,000 signatures are

collected, the question will be on the November general ballot.

Currently, a bio-digester for renewable energy from waste, is in the works in Lowell.

The deadline for filing of the petition is in July. The petition can still be signed.

More petitions are coming, according to Mayes.



Amy Jo Bazzle of Belding signs a petition in front of Lowell Post Office with circulator Paulette Viau Mayes.

Fair manager, continued

Marks said that Ron was a master of making everything fit, maximizing every inch of the grounds, which poses a major task for her.



Jessica Marks

In order to alleviate the task of grounds' logistics, the board will be looking to hire a grounds' supervisor by the end of April.

And there will be no major changes to the fair itself.

“Ron had a vision looking ahead, how [to] make the best use of what we have and to get more kids involved,” Marks said. “We will keep the kids at the forefront of the planning.”

So, the major mission of giving the kids an outlet to showcase their achievements in agriculture and 4-H will continue.

“We need to think like a kid, what would they enjoy,” she said.

One of the new things at the fair this year will be a booth of the College of Veterinarian Medicine at Michigan State University (MSU) to expose the kids to veterinary careers.

Some portions of the fair will be dedicated to Wenger such as the plaid shirt Thursday. On the biggest day of the livestock auction, hundreds of people will be wearing plaid shirts to commemorate Wenger's deep affinity for the plaid.

“It will be a small tribute to Ron,” said Marks.

Other activities in memory of Wenger will include a fundraiser during the fair in partnership with the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Association of Michigan. There will be a sky lantern lift-off on the last night of the fair to bring awareness to the Lou Gehrig's disease that took Wenger prematurely from all that he had loved.

“We will be sending lanterns into the sky,” said Marks.

To continue Wenger's vision into the future, the fair plans to partner with Kent County in moving the fairgrounds to the regional park at the corner of Cascade and Alden Nash roads.

“We want to fulfill Ron's dream to move the fair,” said Marks.

The fair's rental agreement with the city ends in 2017 which will coincide with the fair board's long-term planning.

Wenger worked on the design of the new fairgrounds that would include his favorite gathering park area as its central part.

But for now, Marks finds it overwhelming just to look at that long to do list of things that need to get done before the fair opens on Aug. 6.

Sometimes, Marks finds it hard to turn off that constant thinking about the fair when she gets home.

“We'll make it a success as a tribute to Ron,” she said.

Art competition begins March 22

The 26th annual West Michigan Regional (art) Competition at LowellArts! runs from March 22 - April 26. A public reception will be held on Sunday, March 25 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

The juror this year is Anne Norcross. She is the assistant professor and program chair of the art history program at Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University.

Norcross' teaching interests and research is in the history and interpretation of the arts of the United

States from the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries and the history and criticism of modern art and culture.

Cash prize monies now total \$2,050 with first place recipient receiving \$750. All other prizes have increased as well. Five prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Best of Show - \$500; 1st place - \$400; 2nd place - \$300; 3rd place - \$200; and 4th place - \$100.

In addition, the juror will select artworks for special recognition awards.

Participation is open to lower West Michigan artists 18 yrs. and older. Eligible counties include Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Muskegon, Ottawa, Kent, Montcalm, Ionia, Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Berrien, Cass, and St. Joseph.

Gallery hours for LowellArts! are Tuesday - Friday from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm and Saturday from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. LowellArts! is located at 149 S. Hudson, Lowell.

For more information, call 616-897-8545 or visit www.lowellartsmi.org

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- 21 JUMP STREET (R) 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
- 3D JOHN CARTER (PG-13) 6:40, 9:30
- 3D DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX (PG) 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
- DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX (PG) 4:40, 9:10
- PROJECT X (R) 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
- ACT OF VALOR (R) 5:00, 7:30, 9:50

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City council, continued

general fund for the current fiscal year and \$74,000 for the next fiscal year.

The savings will enable to better balance the current budget which has a deficit of \$143,000, according to Howe.

On a different note, the city has received numerous requests from fireworks' companies to set up temporary facilities to sell fireworks this summer.

Under the state law, the city cannot prohibit these

transient merchants, but it can require the transient merchants to follow the special use procedures.

On the budget update, Howe said a preliminary budget will be presented in April.

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Maxed out on your IRA and 401(k)? What's the next step?

If you are contributing the maximum amount to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan each year, that's good. And if you're also "maxing out" on your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) annually, that's even better. But what then? If you're already fully funding your 401(k) and IRA, can you put away even more for retirement? Should you?

The answer to this last question is almost certainly "yes" — because you could spend a long time in retirement. How long? Consider these statistics from the Society of Actuaries:

- A man who's reached age 65 in good health has a 50 percent chance of living 20 more years and a 25 percent chance of living to age 92.

- A 65-year-old

woman has a 50 percent chance of living to age 88 and a 25 percent chance of living to 94.

- There's a 50 percent chance that at least one member of a 65-year-old couple will live to 92 — and there's a 25 percent chance at least one of them will reach age 97.

Because you have a reasonably good chance of spending two, or even three, decades in retirement, you clearly need to accumulate substantial financial resources before you retire. So, if you consistently reach the contribution limits on your 401(k) and IRA, you're making a smart move, as both these vehicles offer the potential for tax-deferred earnings and a variety of investment choices. But if you can still afford to put away more money, or if your income level prevents you from contributing to a Roth IRA, you may want to look at these possibilities:

- Life Insurance Retirement Plan — A Life Insurance Retirement Plan (LIRP) is essentially a life insurance policy that can potentially help you generate tax-advantaged income during your retirement years. Until you begin tak-

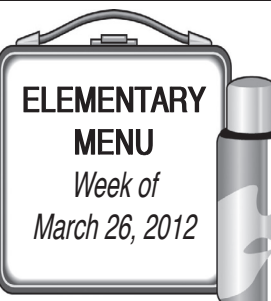
ing withdrawals, the cash value of your policy has the potential to grow tax deferred. Then, when you retire, you can take tax-free payouts from your principal. (After the entire principal is paid, payouts are treated as loans against the contract.) And your beneficiaries will receive the balance of the death benefit income tax free, minus any loans or loan interest.

- Annuities — You might find that a fixed annuity can be an appropriate way to supplement your retirement income. Like a LIRP, a fixed annuity's earnings have the potential to grow on a tax-deferred basis. Also, fixed annuities generally offer some type of guaranteed rate of return over the life of the annuity contract. And perhaps most importantly, you can structure your annuity to provide you with an income stream you can't outlive. (Keep in mind, though, that annuities are generally more appropriate for investors who are at least 45 years old.)

While you can certainly get some key benefits from a LIRP and a fixed annuity, you need to fully understand all aspects of these investment vehicles and make sure they are suitable for your situation and individual needs. Consequently, before investing, consult with a financial professional.

But don't wait too long. By preparing for your retirement well ahead of time, you can boost your chances of enjoying the type of "golden years" lifestyle that you've envisioned.

LUNCH MENU



**ELEMENTARY
MENU**
Week of
March 26, 2012

MON: Baked breaded fish sticks, honey glazed carrots, apple slices, milk.

TUES: Turkey w/gravy, whole grain roll, mashed potatoes, mandarin oranges, milk.

WED: Sloppy Joe on whole grain bun, coleslaw, peaches, milk.

THURS: Hot dog on whole grain bun, tater tots, orange smiles, milk.

FRI: Spring Break Begins!

Women's club helps Lowell Alpha Center

The Lowell Women's Club (LWC) and its junior members donate diapers and baby wipes each year to the Lowell Alpha Center and St. Mary's Pregnancy Center. On March 14, they delivered four cases and 10 packages of diapers along

with a dozen packages of baby wipes to the center.

"This is but one way our club and its junior members strive to make Lowell the best and 'Next place to be,'" said Jan Thompson, LWC president.

viewpoint

to the editor

find adventure at the library

Dear Editor,
How would you like to be able to visit a place where you could find adventure and entertainment, a place to learn and satisfy your curiosity about many of the things that you always wondered about?

Well, saddle up partner and head for the Englehardt library in Lowell. The library in Lowell receives, on average, ten thousand visitors a month and handles an average of eighteen thousand items per month.

You will find twelve computers for general use at the library and two computers for children. You can

use the library computers to create an e-mail address for yourself and also a Facebook website.

From March through May the library will be sponsoring computer classes. There will be classes on laptop use and hot topics. Stop in and pick up the booklet showing the scheduled times of the classes.

There is a kiddie corner at the library. This is a play area for the little ones. It is no longer necessary to be silent in the building. You will be able to speak out in a normal voice, no more whispering in order to communicate. You will hear

the children talking and enjoying themselves and it is pleasant to the ears.

When you visit the Lowell library, you will be greeted by one of seven librarians. Kristin Meyer is the manager of the library, which is a task that presents a multitude of challenges.

It's monumental undertaking, to say the least and Kristin is up to it. While attending Grand Valley University, Kristin earned a bachelor's degree. Also, she attended Wayne State University and came away with the title of Master in Library Information and Science.

Kristin runs a taut ship (that is a navy expression). She is supported by an extraordinary proficient crew of six lady librarians: Lynnda, Jan, Chris, Mary, Lori,

and Zurina; and three ladies, Barb, Melody and Theresa, who perform related duties.

The ladies will answer all your questions and help you with any service that you may require. Besides, they are all good looking.

The Lowell library is one of the nineteen libraries in the Kent District Library system. You are welcome to use your library.

I have only scratched the surface of what you will find of interest at the library your Lowell library and it is all yours to use, at no cost to you. There is no charge to check out books, music discs, movies or anything else.

See you there,
Richard Vorase
Lowell

unsung heroes

Dear Editor,

I want the community to know Curtis Cleaners has been taking care of our boys in the military by cleaning their uniforms for free and

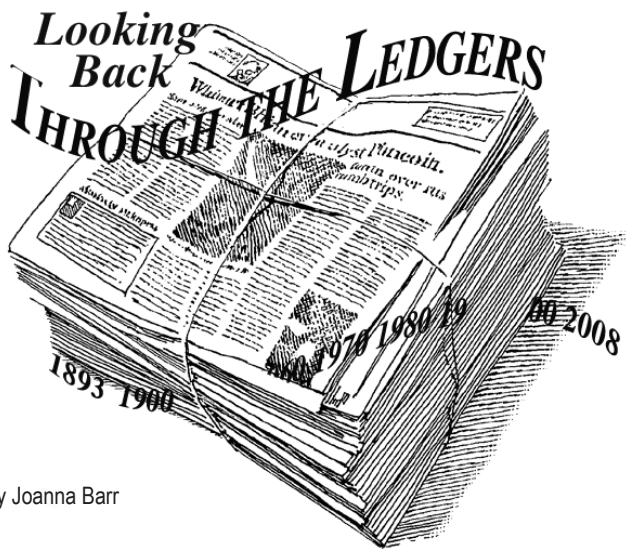
will continue to do so. I feel that they do a service for our boys better than some of our government does.

Pat Turner
Lowell

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.



By Joanna Barr

140 years ago Lowell Weekly Journal March 22, 1871

"Sue," a correspondent of the Lowell Journal, thinks that were women running for office, men would be as polite toward them as they usually are to other men's wives! Quite likely. Does the correspondent forecast the time when she will be a Sue-tor for votes?

The false alarm "boy in the river" created some excitement last Saturday. The boy was out on a raft and got fast in the bushes, we're told. About 100 persons repaired to the scene and succeeded in taking him out of that in great haste. Boys should be careful how they venture near the water just now, for it's wet enough to drown a thousand every day.

Some one the other day accused us of injuring the reputation of the Upper Grand River Bridge. We stated in our last issue as we were informed, that a portion of the bridge has settled two feet, which a later informant says "is no such thing" – that no part of the bridge has settled over one sixteenth of an inch. Readers will please accept both reports until we get another.

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger March 28, 1912

On April 1st, the question of bonding Kent county for \$600,000 for building a trunk line system of good roads will be submitted to the voters of Kent County and should have their united support. The system, as laid

out, takes in 220 miles of Highway and covers every part of the county, making 14 truck lines in all, of which center in the county seat. These roads will all be built even better than the specifications furnished by the State Highway Department and the county will draw from the state \$500 per mile for each mile constructed. On the present equalization of Kent county, Grand Rapids pays 76 per cent and the township 24 per cent of the taxes of the county, so there is no township but gets their allotted amount of road built in this system for an investment of 25 per cent of its actual cost. For instance, Lowell township gets an expenditure of \$30,594 for an investment of only \$7830, Vergennes township gets \$14,000 for \$4,000 and Bowne gets \$27,173 and pays only \$5400 for it. The roads taken over and built under this system become county roads and are maintained by the county, thus relieving each township of this construction and maintenance and giving them more money to expend on other roads connecting with these trunk lines.

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger March 25, 1937

E. A. Compagner, operator of Lowell Creamery, this week announced that starting Monday, March 29, pasteurized milk will be delivered to people of the vicinity. Pasteurization, says Mr. Compagner, is the only sure certain method of preventing any disease being transmitted by impure milk and for the first time the people of Lowell will be able to have this service. The Lowell Creamery has added much new equipment to its plant and with a new truck will give Lowell citizens a complete dairy product service, including milk, cream, buttermilk, butter, eggs, cottage cheese, all of which will be delivered direct to the customer's door. Mr. Compagner, who came to Lowell in 1934, has built up a fine business with his Lowell Creamery butter and deserves success in his new enterprise.

Ira Blough of Bowne-tp. was in town Friday disposing of delicious maple syrup made from the first run of sap from his bush. Mr. Blough has been producing maple syrup and sugar for a long time, but not on as extensive a scale now as in former years. In The Ledger office Friday, Mr. Blough recalled that in February of 1911 he sold to R. VanDyke, then engaged in the grocery business here, upwards of 1800 lbs. of maple sugar, the price ranging from 10 to

12 cents per pound or approximately \$200 for the lot. At today's prices for maple sugar, the 1800 lbs. would bring about \$630.

Postmaster F.J. Hosley states that the Lowell post office will move to its new location in the London block, next week Wednesday evening, where it will be open for business Thursday morning, April 1.

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger March 22, 1962

Dr. R. D. Seigle reported this week that he has found a rabied skunk in the Fallasburg Park area and that this animal may have infected other animals and livestock in this vicinity. The doctor said that this is only the second animal diagnosed with rabies he has discovered in his 23 years of practice. He also stated that any person finding a skunk or other animal that acts aggressive, should kill the animal without destroying the head so it can be sent to the laboratory for examination. Farmers in the area are urged to have stock and pets vaccinated to prevent the spread of this dangerous disease. Any animals who act strangely aggressive should be brought to the attention of a veterinarian at once.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger March 25, 1987

Carolyn Jane Blough, reading consultant at Bushnell Elementary School, has been elected as vice president-elect of the Michigan Reading Association. Carolyn Jane has been a Member at Large on the board of directors of the Michigan Reading Association for the last two years and is chairperson for Newspaper in Education for the state of Michigan.

Once again, it will be time for Lowell to say thank you to an individual who has dedicated his time and talents to our community. The Lowell Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring its second annual "Person of the Year" banquet on Friday, May 15, at Lee's Landing. The highlight of the evening will be to honor a person from our community whose efforts have made Lowell a better place to live.

Nearly 200 first through fifth graders from Runciman/Riverside raised over \$3,000 for the American Heart Association by jumping rope. Teams of six shared the jumping for three hours.

Girl Scouts are prepared, are you?

March 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts.

It was on March 9, 1912 that Juliette Gordon Low made a phone call to her cousin and said, "I've got something for the girls and we're going to start it tonight." A few days later, on March 12, she organized the first U.S. "Girl Guide" troop in Savannah, Georgia, with 18 members in two patrols. Today, there are more than three million Girl Scouts. The organization's motto is "Be prepared."

That same advice can help your retirement savings to grow as plentiful as the Girl Scouts have over the last 100 years.

The best way for you to "be prepared" when it comes to retirement planning is to visit our online Retirement Estimator. The Estimator can give you an instant, personalized picture of your future retirement benefits from Social Security. Enter different scenarios (such as different future earnings amounts or dates of retirement) to find out how that will change the benefit amount you can

expect to receive. It is available at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

Knowing how much you can expect to receive from Social Security, coupled with any retirement plans you may have through your employer, will help you figure out how much you need to save for your retirement.

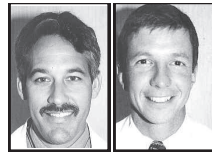
Looking for more tips on planning for the future? Pay a visit to our Benefits Planners as well. You can use the planners to help you better understand your Social Security protection as you plan for your financial future. Get

started at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners.

You don't have to be a Girl Scout to be prepared. Sit down at your computer — perhaps with a box of Girl Scout cookies — and plan for your future. You could be celebrating your own 100th year one day; you might as well do it comfortably.

Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov

health



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

pink eye

Pink eye is an inflammation of the tissue that covers the eyeball and the inside of the eyelid. Pink eye is also called conjunctivitis. It is usually caused by a mild infection that isn't serious. Most pink eye is caused by a virus, but it can also be caused by other germs (such as bacteria or fungi) or allergens (such as pollen or dust).

Symptoms commonly seen with pink eye are redness and burning of the eye, watery or yellow discharge that can cause the eyelids to stick together, blurred vision or sensitivity to light, swollen eyelids, and tenderness around the eyes. You should see a doctor if any of the above symptoms last more than three days.

Treatment of pink eye depends on the cause. Pink eye caused by a virus goes away in about a week without treatment. Pink eye caused by bacteria also goes

away without treatment, but if the infection is severe, antibiotic drops or gels may be used. If pink eye is caused by allergens, staying away from the things that trigger the reaction will help. Eye drops may be used to help soothe redness and itching.

Pink eye caused by allergens is not contagious, but pink eye caused by germs may be very contagious. You can get it by having direct contact with a person who has it. You can also get it by sharing personal items with someone who has pink eye, such as towels or makeup.

It is important that you wash your hands well and use tissues and paper towels. Don't share personal items. Don't wear contact lenses if eyes are red or inflamed. It may be a good idea to keep children home from school or daycare if they have pink eye.

Character in Action awards



Picture are Murray Lake's Character in Action award winners for February. February's character trait was fairness. These students were nominated by staff and fellow students for putting fairness into action each day in February.

happy birthday!

- MARCH 21**
Terry Raymor, Ardis Barber, Gary Yeiter, Molly Clark, Steve Kovacs.
- MARCH 23**
Brian Gabrion, Richard King, Brendan Lally, Caleb Koeppel.
- MARCH 24**
Joe Vezino Jr., Candy Speerstra, Angela Titcombe, Marian Rutherford.
- MARCH 25**
Chris Yeiter, Shirley Carigon, Sari VanKeulen, Andy Quada, Troy Sloan.
- MARCH 26**
Margaret Hoats, Carol Maynard.
- MARCH 27**
Joel Roudabush, Kelly Geldersma.

I have come to the conclusion that politics are too serious a matter to be left to the politicians.
~ Charles De Gaulle (1890 - 1970)

area churches

LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
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Lowell, MI • 897-8800
Pastor Wes Hershberger
Sundays - Christian Education.....9:15 a.m.
Celebration.....10:40 a.m.
Wednesdays - Kid's Service, Teen's Service, Adult Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.
Lowell Naz - Where People Matter



CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)
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Robert Holmes, Pastor
SUNDAYS:
Worship: 10 a.m.
WEDNESDAYS:
Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m.
"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.
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Internet: <http://www.fbclowell.org>
Rev. Jon Pickens
Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn
Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.
AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.
Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times
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www.goodshepherdlowell.org
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(Nursery available)
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CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
897-7060
Pastor Rod Galindo
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Morning Worship.....10:00 A. M.
Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
Nursery available at both services
Barrier-Free

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell
Pastor Dr. Mike Conklin
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10:30 A.M.....Fellowship
11:00 A.M.....Worship
897-9863
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www.lowellumc.com
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Sunday School.....9:30
Youth Groups (Jr. & Sr. High).....6:00
Wednesdays
After School Kids' Club..... UNTIL 5:30
Rev. Rick Blunt

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Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM
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Lowell robotics team excels at competition

The local FIRST robotics team, Lowell Red Arrows, FIRST team #3234, competed in Traverse City, March 9 and 10 and again at GVSU in Allendale, March 16 and 17 and took home three trophies. They were in the victorious alliance with team #4003 from Allendale and team #3509 from Niles to win the Traverse City district competition and won

the Delphi Engineering Excellence award in Traverse City. The Engineering Excellence award celebrates an elegant and advantageous machine feature or features and recognizes any aspect of engineering elegance that reinforces the principles of FIRST. At the West Michigan FIRST Robotics competition at GVSU, they made it to the quarterfinals

and won the Quality award, sponsored by Motorola. The Quality award celebrates machine robustness in concept and fabrication.

FIRST, which means "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," was founded in 1989 to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology through a competitive

game that pits robots against each other in short games on the floor of a sports arena, battling it out to earn points during a two-minute round. The game differs every year, announced in January, with the teams given six weeks to design, program, and build the 120 lb. max robot with a kit of parts and a limited budget. Competitions take place all over the world cul-



The FIRST team #3234, Lowell Red Arrows' 2012 red anodized aluminum robot.



Back row, left to right: Zack Gibas, Mark Winogrocki, Vicky Pratt, Caleb Pratt, Nick Gibson, Nick Longway, Josh Zalis, Pete Odland, Wendy Cherba, and Dave Cherba (head mentor); middle row, left to right: Sue Huffman (kneeling), Allison Annable, Dylan Odland (holding Quality award trophy), Jenny Huffman, Steven Endres, Evelyn Zalis, Austin Sherrill, and Scott Zalis; front row, left to right: JD Speck, Esme Misiak, Caleb Kaufman, Stephanie Zalis, and Gavin Palmer.

minating in the world championships in April. Michigan has nearly 200 teams this year vying for 64 spots at the state championships and then 18 spots for the world championships. The state championships will be webcasted live on www.coderedrobotics.org/webcasting

With their record this year, FIRST team #3234 will be going to the state championships April 12 through 14 in Ypsilanti, at Eastern Michigan University. The Red Arrows are sponsored by White's Bridge Tooling

Inc, ABHE & Svoboda Inc, Visual Entities Inc, Vanderziel Machinery Sales, Dairy Discovery at Swiss Lane Farms, Hooper Printing, NAPA Auto Parts, and Lowell Area Schools. They support Hunt For A Cure in their fight against Cystic Fibrosis. They will be at the Lowell Expo March 24, Hike for a Cure at the Wittenbach Center May 5 and other local events.

You can get more information about team #3234 on their website, at www.lowellrobotics.org

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The Lowell Ledger





MARCH 14 - MARCH 20

- Quarterback Peyton Manning has apparently signed with the Denver Broncos and is reportedly working on a five-year deal worth around \$90 to \$95 million.
- In Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 14 workers were fired for wearing the color orange. The workers said that they wore the color to all go together for a happy hour event after work. The exec who fired them accused them of wearing the color to protest against management.
- A massive manhunt is underway in France on Monday to find the perpetrator of the fatal shootings of three children and their teacher at a Jewish school in Toulouse, in southwest France.
- One of the world's greatest unsolved mysteries, the disappearance of Amelia Earhart, has new legs after the discovery of a photo showing the landing gear of her plane. The picture will be unveiled at an event in Washington, D.C. which will be attended by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and explorer Dr. Robert Ballard.
- A major 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck 120 miles east of Acapulco on Mexico's Pacific coast according to the U.S. Geological Survey.



History Mystery



Periodically, The Ledger with the help of Lowell Area Historical Museum, will publish a picture of something in the museum's collection. Then the following week the museum will supply a brief explanation and history of the artifact. Feel free to email the Ledger at ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com with your thoughts on that week's picture, then read the Ledger to see if you were right.



At Your Local Library

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

Spring Break Drop-In Craft Time

Drop in at the library for some creative fun with this self-directed activity. For all ages. Mon., April 2, 1:00 pm.

Meet the Author: Bob Tarte

Lowell author, humorist and bird watcher Bob Tarte will read from his third pet-centered memoir, "Kitty Cornered," sign and sell books and bestow wisdom about the writing and publishing process. For adults. Mon., April 2, 6:30 pm.

Board Game Bonanza

Bring your friends and family to the library for our Board Game Bonanza. All types of great games for all ages will be available. Come try one out or bring your own. For all ages. Tues., April 3, 1:00 pm.

The Lorax

"I am the Lorax and I speak for the trees..." The Lorax movie is coming and we will have all sorts of fun that is funny. Join us and celebrate by making Truffula trees and crafts, playing games and much more. For all ages. Wed., April 4, 1:00 pm.

Superheroes Away!

You won't want to miss this celebration of all things super! Come dressed as your favorite superhero and get ready to have fun listening to a story, playing games and making your own comic book. For all ages. Thurs., April 5, 10:30 am.

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Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center hosts annual maple syrup event

The annual ritual of the making of maple syrup has become a tradition at the Wittenbach/Wege nature

center. Last week, volunteers and visitors gathered at the center to enjoy a pancake breakfast with delicious ma-

ple syrup donated by Melody Bee Farms of Alto. Paula Mierendorf, Kevin Nugent and Jim Foerch were flipping the pancakes.

Outside, right by the barn, educator Cheryl Helmus gave demonstrations of Native American syrup making and other crafts, like making birch bark baskets.

"They plugged in the holes with resin," said Helmus.

Both kids and parents observed the demonstrations with keen interest. Also, on display were animal skins and hides.

There were more demonstrations near the cabin further into the woods.

"We had a really good turnout," said director Megan Johnson.



Above, Paula Mierendorf, Kevin Nugent and Jim Foerch flip the pancakes.

Photo by Emma Palova



Gary Blough gets some help lifting the buckets. Photo by Marilyn Keigley



At left, Luanne Kaeb tests the syrup.

Photo by Marilyn Keigley



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exploring our national parks



Kurt Hieshetter

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Since we began this quest to visit all the national parks, one thing we had not done was to camp in the winter. However, in 2011, that was about to change, if you can call dragging our camper to Florida camping in the winter. The freezing winter temperatures do complicate things a little when it comes to camping.

coast of California; and The Dry Tortugas which are 70 miles west of Key West, FL. Needless to say, a remote 14 acre island which is 70 miles across open water, does not have camping for a trailer. We set up our home for the holidays at Curry Hammock State Park, a wonderful Florida state park, 52 miles from Key West.

am we could not see much.

For the first three days in the Keys, the wind was constantly blowing at 20 plus knots. This was especially fun for the kite boarders at the state park, however, not so great for a 70 mile trip across the ocean. By the time we reached Key West at 7 am, it was clear the wind was not going to cooperate. A small crowd was gathering at the Yankee Freedom dock. The Yankee Freedom is the only boat service to the national park. As the crowd gathered, it seemed that it was going to be questionable if they were going to make the trip.

The captain was telling the ever-increasing crowd

grew in size, it became clear what a feat it was to build this far out in the Gulf of Mexico. All of the materials (sixteen million bricks, concrete, cannons and lumber). brought out to this place, not with a high speed catamaran like the one we were traveling on, but by wooden sailing ships. Some of the loads taking as long as three weeks to make the journey from the east coast.

Once tied up at the dock and receiving a brief lecture from the park ranger on protecting the park, we were off to explore the fort. Although Fort Jefferson was never completed as a military fort, it did serve as prison for Union deserters during the

needed to snorkel. All the gear, albeit a little worn, was provided. The challenge was fitting the kids with masks and fins and then showing them how to use a snorkel. One thing we quickly found out is that you should not teach your kids how to snorkel in salt water. The loose fitting mask which allowed the salty gulf water to enter their eyes was bad enough. Add the fact that the kids tilted their heads back forcing the snorkel under water as they sucked in each breath and wore flippers which kept them from standing up, they were not having the time of their lives! With eyes burning from the salt water and lungs full of the fowl tasting Gulf of Mexico, the kids were having no further part of this snorkeling business.

After the tears and sheer panic had subsided, the kids thought they could better see what was in the water from the surface. Fort Jefferson has a moat wall that circles the entire 11 acre fort. This wall allowed Stephanie and the kids to follow me around as I circumnavigated the moat. In the over 150 years since this fort was built, a large amount of coral has found life on the concrete footings. This has given a home to a fast species of tropical fish and has made the Dry Tortugas National Park one of

people a false sense of security. People were up walking around, drinking handmade pina colodas at the bar and generally having a grand old time. However, once outside the safety of the reef, things quickly changed. People forgot how to hold on to the upper grab rails while walking around the boat and were crashing to the floor. Lunch and the pina colodas found their way into the motion sickness bags. Small children were crying and we still had over an hour in open water to go.

Our family thankfully stayed put in the very center of the boat. Dillon, after drinking a few gallons of seawater, started turning an off shade of white. There was also a time I thought we might lose Stephanie. Fortunately, they were both able to fall asleep even with the crashing of each wave.

As Key West appeared on the horizon, the sea started to settle down. The crew began making the rounds to clean up the cabin and people found their sea legs again. Dillon and Stephanie woke up, surviving the trip none the worse for the wear. As the ferry boat entered Key West harbor it passed by Mallory Square. This is where thousands of people show up every night to watch the sun set. Those thousands of people had already shown up as we



Walking the top of Fort Jefferson.

First, you do not have any water; second, it is very cold outside which makes it difficult to sleep in a Walmart parking lot; therefore, we had to get to Florida fast!

After a few hours sleep on Friday night, we pulled out of Lowell at 11:00 pm. The kids and Stephanie were tucked in the back of the Expedition with their pillows and blankets. Oh, and don't forget Soozy Q (she still goes to all the parks with us even after five years). One of these trips, that doll will just disintegrate into a pile of Raggedy Ann dust.

The night was long and the next day even longer, so I will spare you all the details. I'll just tell you that by Saturday evening, we had driven to Lake City, Florida, which was 1,100 long miles from Lowell. But, we had to pull the trailer far enough to where the temperature allowed us to stop and sleep in it. This location also made for a much shorter day to drive on Sunday with only 500 miles to our reserved campsite in the Florida Keys.

The first national park we planned to visit on this trip was The Dry Tortugas National Park. This park is one of three that lay offshore from the mainland: Isle Royale in Michigan (which we have already visited); Channel Islands off the

Since this was our Christmas vacation and our Christmas present to ourselves, many things were planned for the kids. The most exciting activity being the opportunity to swim with dolphins. Dillon and Sierra both participated in this at the Dolphin Research Center in Marathon, FL. It was very hard to top swimming with dolphins on the rest of the trip. We probably should have saved that for last.

With kayaking through the mangroves, playing in the ocean, hiking and swimming with the dolphins behind us, it was time to take care of business and travel to the national park. The Dry Tortugas is accessible only two ways: the first is a very expensive boat ride across open water; and the second, an even more expensive trip by sea plane. With four people, we were forced to choose the boat. After waking to the alarm clock (another thing we were not used to while camping), we piled into the car and headed down US 1, the overseas highway. For those of you that have not been to the Keys before, the overseas highway is an engineering marvel. A series of bridges connecting many islands all ending at the southern most city in the US, Key West. Unfortunately, at 5:30

that he was waiting for the 7:15 report from the outer buoy. If the wind was over 25 knots, they were not going to make the trip. He also was telling us that they did make the trip the day before and in his words, "It was not pretty."

We, on the other hand, had just driven 1,657 miles to be able to cross another park off our list. So, regardless of the weather, somehow we were going to The Dry Tortugas. As Stephanie stood in line waiting to see if the ship would sail, I was on the phone to Key West Seaplanes. We had come this far and we were on vacation, so who cares how much it costs at this point? We were going to this park. Then, the report came in from the buoy. The wind was 23 knots. That's right, two knots under the no-go criteria - so the boat was going. Now it was our job, as parents, to convince two 9-year-olds that all the talk of people getting sick did not mean they would.

With Key West and the wind behind us, the two hour trip across was uneventful. Everyone's eyes were scanning the horizon looking for the largest brick structure in the western hemisphere when suddenly it appeared, seemingly floating on the ocean surface. As the fort



Kayaking in the mangrove swamp.

Civil War. Four of the men convicted of complicity in the Lincoln assassination were also held here, including Dr. Mudd. The US government abandoned the fort as an army fort in 1874. The dark, damp cells were all open to visit along with the upper level, where the view over the 11 acre structure was just incredible.

With our tour of the fort over and a quick lunch on the boat, it was time to do what dad wanted, to go snorkeling in the clear pristine waters surrounding Fort Jefferson. Part of the fee associated with the trip out to the fort was the equipment

the premier dive sites in the Southern Florida Keys.

The excitement of exploring this beautiful, remote national park had us all forgetting that we had a two hour boat ride back to Key West. This time into a 20 knot head wind and waves of eight to 12 feet. Remembering this, as the captain had, our stay on the island was cut about 30 minutes short. We made a mad dash to get as close to the center of the boat as possible, thinking this might help in avoiding any upset stomachs in our party. The first 30 minutes from the dock seemed to give a few

passed, with sunset only 45 minutes away. We were just happy to be in calm water, knowing the sun was going to come up again tomorrow.

We took a short walk from the ferry dock to Mallory Square to watch the sun drop into the horizon. We also enjoyed a great seafood dinner on the dock and then started our 50 mile drive back to our campsite. One of the most remote national parks in the lower 48 was everything we had hoped it would be. And, once that trip was over, it was time to pack up and head to Everglades National Park for Christmas.

SPRING SPORTS

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

CALENDAR



BOYS' & GIRLS' VARSITY TRACK

* Denotes a meet at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

- 3/27 at 4 p.m. FHN*
- 4/12 at 4:15 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*
- 4/19 at 4:15 p.m. at EGR
- 4/21 time TBA Caledonia Invitational
- 4/24 at 4:15 p.m. Northview*
- 4/26 at 4:15 p.m. at Greenville
- 4/28 at 8:30 a.m. Lowell Invitational*
- 5/3 at 4:15 p.m. at Creston
- May 10 at 4:15 p.m. OK White Conference*
- May 11 at 6 p.m. OK White Conference*
- May 19 at 9:30 a.m. Regionals at Houseman Field

GIRLS' VARSITY SOFTBALL

* Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Softball Field

- 3/28 at 4:15 p.m. at Wyoming Park (doubleheader)
- 4/11 at 4:15 p.m. at Caledonia (doubleheader)
- 4/12 at 4:15 p.m. Ionia* (doubleheader)
- 4/14 at 10 a.m. East Kentwood Tournament
- 4/16 at 4:15 p.m. Byron Center* (doubleheader)
- 4/19 at 4:15 p.m. South Christian* (doubleheader)
- 4/20 at 5:30 p.m. at FHC (doubleheader)
- 4/21 at noon Reeths Puffer Invitational
- 4/23 at 4:30 p.m. at Jenison (doubleheader)
- 4/26 at 4:15 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*
- 4/28 time TBA Lake Orion Tournament
- 5/1 at 4:15 p.m. at EGR (doubleheader)
- 5/3 at 4:15 p.m. Northview*
- 5/8 at 4:15 p.m. Greenville* (doubleheader)
- 5/9 at 4:15 p.m. at Hudsonville (doubleheader)
- 5/10 at 4:15 p.m. at Grand Rapids Christian
- 5/15 at 4:15 p.m. Creston* (doubleheader)
- 5/17 at 4:15 p.m. at Northview
- 5/19 at 9:30 a.m. Traverse City West Tournament
- 5/23 at 4 p.m. Rockford, Covenant Christian & Kenowa Hills*

GIRLS' VARSITY SOCCER

* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

- 3/23 at 5:45 p.m. at Caledonia
- 3/26 at 5:45 p.m. Grandville*
- 4/10 at 6:45 p.m. at Wyoming Park
- 4/11 at 6:45 p.m. at Kenowa Hills
- 4/13 at 6:45 p.m. Byron Center*
- 4/16 at 6:45 p.m. Reeths Puffer*
- 4/18 at 6:45 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*
- 4/23 at 6:45 p.m. EGR*
- 4/25 at 6:45 p.m. at Northview
- 4/27 at 6:45 p.m. at Fruitport
- 4/30 at 6:45 p.m. Greenville*
- 5/2 at 6:45 p.m. Creston*
- 5/7 at 6:45 p.m. FHC*
- 5/9 at 4:30 p.m. at Grand Rapids Christian
- 5/14 at 6:45 p.m. at EGR
- 5/16 at 6:45 p.m. Northview*
- 5/21 at 6:45 p.m. at Greenville
- 5/23 at 6:45 p.m. at Creston

BOYS' VARSITY BASEBALL

* Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Baseball Field

- 3/28 at 4:15 p.m. at Wyoming (doubleheader)
- 4/2 at 10 a.m. Rochester Tournament
- 4/4 at 10 a.m. Rochester Tournament
- 4/6 at 11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. at Franklin
- 4/7 at 10 a.m. Rochester Tournament
- 4/12 at 4:15 p.m. Ionia* (doubleheader)
- 4/14 at 10 a.m. Hopkins, Williamston & Rogers*
- 4/17 at 4:15 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian* (doubleheader)
- 4/19 at 4:15 p.m. at Grand Rapids Christian
- 4/20 at 4:15 p.m. Caledonia*
- 4/24 at 4:15 p.m. at EGR (doubleheader)
- 4/26 at 4:15 p.m. EGR*
- 5/1 at 4:15 p.m. Northview* (doubleheader)
- 5/3 at 4:15 p.m. at Northview
- 5/4 at 4:15 p.m. Cedar Springs* (doubleheader)
- 5/8 at 4:15 p.m. at Greenville (doubleheader)
- 5/10 at 4:15 p.m. Greenville*
- 5/12 time TBA Aquinas Tournament
- 5/15 at 4:15 p.m. at Creston (doubleheader)
- 5/17 at 4:15 p.m. Creston*
- 5/19 at 10 a.m. Grand Ledge (doubleheader)
- 5/21 at 4:15 p.m. FHE* (doubleheader)

GIRLS' VARSITY TENNIS

* Denotes a game at the high school tennis courts

- 3/24 at 9 a.m. Fruitport Invitational
- 3/28 at 4 p.m. Grandville*
- 4/11 at 4:15 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*
- 4/12 at 3 p.m. East Kentwood Quad Tournament
- 4/14 at 9 a.m. Lowell Invitational*
- 4/18 at 4:15 p.m. at EGR
- 4/19 at 4:15 p.m. at Lakewood
- 4/21 at 9:30 a.m. Caledonia Invitational
- 4/25 at 4:15 p.m. Northview*
- 4/26 at 4:15 p.m. Jenison*
- 4/28 at 9 a.m. Northview Invitational
- 4/30 at 4:30 p.m. at Mona Shores
- 5/2 at 4:15 p.m. at Greenville
- 5/3 at 4:15 p.m. Portland*
- 5/9 at 4:15 p.m. at Creston
- 5/10 at 4:15 p.m. Hudsonville*
- 5/12 time TBA Conference at Northview

BOYS' VARSITY LACROSSE

* Denotes a game at Burch Field

- 3/23 at 6:30 p.m. Portage Central*
- 3/27 at 7 p.m. at Zeeland West
- 3/29 at 7:30 p.m. Spring Lake*
- 4/12 at 7:30 p.m. Northview*
- 4/14 at 5 p.m. Lowell Lacrosse Day Tournament at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium
- 4/17 at 5:30 p.m. at Caledonia
- 4/20 at 7:30 p.m. Grand Haven*
- 4/24 at 8 p.m. at Grand Rapids Christian
- 4/25 at 7:30 p.m. Holland Christian*
- 5/3 at 5:30 p.m. at Catholic Central
- 5/8 time TBA OK Tournament

GIRLS' VARSITY LACROSSE

* Denotes a home game at Burch Field

- 3/28 at 5 p.m. Northview* at MVP
- 4/11 time TBA at FHE
- 4/13 at 5 p.m. West Ottawa*
- 4/16 at 7 p.m. Rockford*
- 4/18 time TBA at Grand Haven
- 4/25 at 7:30 p.m. at Grand Rapids Christian
- 4/30 at 5 p.m. Caledonia*
- 5/2 time TBA at Northview
- 5/7 time TBA at West Ottawa
- 5/9 at 5 p.m. Grand Haven*
- 5/14 at 5 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*
- 5/16 at 6 p.m. at Caledonia

BOYS' VARSITY GOLF

* Denotes a home meet at Deer Run

- 4/10 at 3:30 p.m. at Portland
- 4/12 at 12:30 p.m. Kent County Classic
- 4/14 at 11 a.m. Lowell Tournament*
- 4/17 at 3:30 p.m. Lakewood & Kenowa Hills*
- 4/19 at 9 a.m. Pre-Conference at Thornapple Pointe
- 4/20 at 3:30 p.m. at FHN
- 4/23 at 3:30 p.m. Northview at Greenville
- 4/25 at 3:30 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*
- 4/30 at 3:30 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian at Creston
- 5/2 at 3:30 p.m. EGR*
- 5/7 at 3:30 p.m. Creston at Northview
- 5/9 at 3:30 p.m. at EGR
- 5/14 at 3:30 p.m. Greenville*
- 5/15 at 3:30 p.m. at Belding
- 5/18 at 3:30 p.m. at Caledonia
- 5/23 at 8:30 a.m. Conference at Thornapple Pointe

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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obituaries

DeVRIES

Gus DeVries, age 79, passed away Thursday, March 15, 2012. He was preceded in death by his brother, Hank. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Jane (VanderVliet) DeVries; siblings, John DeVries, Joyce (Bill) Venneman, Julie (Dave) Speenstra, Jan (Ron) Holtrop, Jim DeVries; sisters-in-law, Evelyn DeVries, Ruth (Bert) VanderMeer, Shirley (Peter) Pijnapples; brother-in-law, Marvin VanderVliet; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral service was held Monday at Roth-Gerst Chapel. Rev. Dr. Marvin VanderVliet officiating. Interment Merriman Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 2944 Fuller Ave. N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49505. Arrangements provided by Roth-Gerst, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Michigan 49331.



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Social Security Q & A

Question: We adopted a baby girl overseas and brought her home with us to the United States. We need to get a Social Security number for her. What do we do?

Answer: In general, to apply for a Social Security number for your child you must:

Complete an Application For A Social Security Card (Form SS-5) for your child, which you can find online at www.socialsecurity.gov;

Show us documents proving your child's:

- U.S. citizenship or immigration status;
- Adoption;
- Age; and
- Identity.

Show us a document proving your identity; and

Show us evidence that establishes your relationship to the child if your name is not listed as the parent on the child's evidence of age. The adoption decree or the amended U.S. birth certificate will suffice.

You can take your application and original documents to your local Social Security office, or you can mail them to us. All documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. We cannot accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. If you do not yet have proof of your child's citizenship, we can assign a number based on documentation

issued by the Department of Homeland Security upon the child's arrival in the United States. When you do receive documentation of your child's citizenship, you can bring it to us, and we will update your child's record. We will mail your child's number and card as soon as we have verified your documents with the issuing offices.

Question: How long do I need to work to become eligible for retirement benefits?

Answer: Everyone born in 1929 or later needs 40 Social Security credits to be eligible for retirement benefits. You can earn up to four credits per year, so you will need at least 10 years to become eligible for retirement benefits. During your working years, earnings covered by Social Security are posted to your Social Security record. You earn credits based on those earnings. If you become disabled or die before age 62, the number of credits needed depends on your age at the time you die or become disabled. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question: I have children at home and I plan to retire next fall. Will my children be eligible for monthly Social Security payments after I retire?

Answer: A child (bi-

ological, legally adopted, or dependent stepchild or grandchild) may potentially be eligible. Monthly Social Security payments may be made to your children if they are:

Unmarried and under age 18,

Age 19 if still in high school, or

Age 18 or over, who became severely disabled before age 22 and continue to be disabled.

Question: Is there a time limit on Social Security disability benefits?

Answer: Your disability benefits will continue as long as your medical condition has not improved and you cannot work. Social Security will periodically review your case to determine whether you continue to be eligible. If you are still receiving disability benefits when you reach your full retirement age your disability benefits will automatically be converted to retirement benefits. Learn more about disability benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Question: Why is there a five-month waiting

period for Social Security disability benefits?

Answer: The law states that Social Security disability benefits begin with the sixth full month after the date your disability began. You are not entitled to benefits for any month prior to that. Learn more at our website: www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

Question: My grandfather, who is receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), will be coming to live with me. Does he have to report the move to Social Security?

Answer: Yes. An SSI beneficiary must report any change in living arrangements within 10 days after the month the change occurs. If the change is not reported, your grandfather could receive an incorrect payment and have to pay it back, or he may not receive all the money due. Just as importantly, your grandfather needs to report the new address to Social Security to receive mail from us. You can report the change by mail or in person at any Social Se-

Social Security Q & A, continued, page 14

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 12-191843-CA,
12-191844-GA

In the matter of VERNON DARBY.
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: the missing and unknown heirs whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on April 13, 2012 at 9:00 am at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: on the petition of Emily Pierce for the appointment of a guardian and conservator for Vernon Darby.

03/14/2012

John D. Flynn (P27413)
1275 Hawthorne Hills SE
Ada, MI 49301
616-897-6632

Emily Pierce
121 Franklin SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
616-248-1335

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CLASSIC OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE - Heat your home & water. Buy NOW & save up to \$1,145! Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

MATTRESSSETS - All new Euro pillowtop, Queen \$139; plush top set, Twin \$125, Full \$135, Queen \$159, King \$199 & up; **MEMORY FOAM** Cool Gel, I-Comfort, retail \$1,299, wholesale \$699; **ADJUSTABLE BED**, \$800; **BUNKBEDS**, \$199 & up; **WATERBEDS**, \$65 & up. 682-4767.

AMIGO POWER WHEEL CHAIR - totally adjustable, 300 lb. capacity, \$850 obo; 3 wheel walker w/basket, hand brakes, \$60; large shower chair, \$50. All equipment in good condition. Call 616-868-7426 after 10 a.m.

1/2 ACRE LOT WITH POLE BARN - Everything there but the house. Mobile homes welcome. 1 mile from Lowell on M21, Ionia County, Lowell Schools. Commercial or residential. By owner. 616-446-7426 or 897-6045.

FAMILY PROTECTION DOGS FOR SALE - Professionally trained, custom training available. 616-293-5653 or website www.k9academyinternational.com

FREEZER - 19 c.f. chest, clean, works great, \$50; **SCUBA TANKS**, 4 steel 72 cf. newer hydro & vis. \$50 each or \$180 for all; **LOCKS** - 105 brass & steel. 40 with keys combo, the rest without, \$35; beer making supplies & kit, 2 Cornelius kegs, 2 carboys, 2 ale pales, new CO2 tank & reg. set, IPA kit plus misc. items. 616-902-1982.

CUSTOM MADE - stainless steel ATV/snowmobile ramps. Hardly used, \$199. Call Jon at 897-9555.

for sale

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555, fax 897-4809 or email to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

REDUCED PRICE ON KEY CARDS - Now \$20. Help support the LHS Academic Boosters. Stop by & get your card today, Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway. Cash or check only please.

misc.

SWAN'S FUNDRAISER - March 23, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., behind the Moose #809.

REGISTER NOW - for the 4th Annual Tai Hanline Memorial Flat River Youth Turkey Hunt sponsored by Purk's Exxon-Mobil Convenience Stores. FREE to kids age 16 and under. 40 hunter limit. Call 616-902-8792 or on Facebook at Flat River Youth Turkey Hunt.

WEST CATHOLIC SPRING CRAFT SHOW - Sat., May 12, 2012. Information at www.westcatholicband.org

ANTIQUÉ SHOW - Barry County Fairgrounds, Sat., March 24, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun., March 25, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Located right on M-37 just 20 miles S. of M-6 just past Middleville. \$3 adm.

help wanted

ENTRY LEVEL FACTORY POSITION - \$9.50 starting rate, full medical, dental & vision after 30 days, 1st shift, Kentwood location. Call 616-974-9165.

TYLER CREEK GOLF & CAMP - Holding open interviews on 3/24/12, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Positions: Clubhouse, grounds, security, beer cart sales. 13495 92nd St., SE, Alto, MI 49302.

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

for rent

LOWELL - Nice clean 3 bedroom home in country, big yard. No pets. No tobacco. Please call 616-897-7203 evenings/weekends.

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.vfw8303.org. Also for those interested in dance classes at the post. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

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

sales

SPRING FLING SALE - Sat., Mar. 24, 9 to 5. Key Heights Community Bldg., 11335 E. Fulton (1 mile west of Meijer on M21).

ESTATE SALE - March 23 & 24, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., March 25, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 9060 60th, Alto. Vintage jewelry & glassware (depression, Candlewick, Wexford), collectibles, housewares, hanging lamps, extensive Christmas village, Home Interiors, electronics, linens, books, lawn equipment, tools, patio furniture. Terms - Cash only. All sales final. All items to be removed the day of purchase. Moving & lifting is buyer's responsibility.

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BUSINESS CARDS - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

HOME BUYERS - Unbelievable prices on bank repos along with super low interest rates. Call me and I'll let you know when they first hit the market as they sell fast. **Joice Smith 293-0980**, Country Hills Realty 897-1061.

COUNSELING SERVICES - from a local licensed therapist. Career, mental health & chronic pain management etc. 238-2116 Life Transitions Therapy.

CHAINSAW CHAINS SHARPENED - \$3. Call 897-2985.

services

HELPING HANDS - Spring clean up. Garages, basements, clean outs, pressure washing & minor repairs. Call Rick, 616-295-3575.

INVESTORS - Great repo deals coming and going fast. I will get you in them ASAP. **Joice Smith 293-0980**, Country Hills Realty 897-1061.

DON'T HAVE TIME - to clean your dirty windows? Call Travesse with Time To Shine Window Washing and we can help, 616-292-0695.

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TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351.

NEED A DUMPSTER? - 14 to 20 yards available. Garage, attic, household cleanup, roofing, trash, junk etc. Dependable service & affordable prices. Call for free estimates. Spring special, 10% off, exp. 4/30/12. Contact Doug 616-295-6640.

services

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

SHIP YOUR UPS PACKAGES WITH US & SAVE!! - Call us for a price comparison. We will need: weight, zip code & dimensions of the box. No Hazardous materials or firearms accepted. Daily UPS pickup at 3 p.m. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261.

WEDDING INVITATIONS Available at Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell Ph. 897-9261. Stop by & check out one of our books. Many different styles & price ranges.

Coming Events

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are 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.

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

LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB - meets the 3rd Monday in the Church of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 211 N. Washington St. at 6:30 p.m.

BOYSCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Randy Jesberg at 897-4569 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372 - every Tuesday at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Building. Weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m.

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

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

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

LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - meets the 2nd Saturday at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 E. Fulton, 9 a.m. social gathering; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

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. to discuss current events on the local, state & national levels. Bring your concerns & issues to our meeting for open discussion! Share information about what you can do to become involved! For more information, please call Dave Emmette, 644-0759 or Nancy Steckler, 897-6380.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT STORE - is open Wed. 10 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri., 10-6; Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Food Pantry, 897-8260; Emergency Services, 897-8260.

ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. 11-5 p.m.; Tues. 6-9 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m. 987-9533. Diapers, formula, clothing & free pregnancy testing available.

AVERILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF ADA - 7144 Headley, is open every Friday & Saturday 1 - 4 p.m. or by appointment. Closed Jan. & Feb. 676-9346.

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Tues. & Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Thurs., 1-5 p.m. Info., call 784-2007.

ENGLEHARDT 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. 784-2007.

LOWELL ARTS! GALLERY HOURS - Tues. - Fri., 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; Monday by appt.; 149 S. Hudson. Visit www.lowellartscouncil.org or call 897-8545.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM - open Tuesday, Saturday & Sunday: 1-4 p.m.; Thursday: 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individual \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members free. 897-7688.

ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTER - 402 Amity. Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Non-denominational. Help for pregnant women/adolescents in need. Provides support, referrals, food, clothing/ infant items. Lowell area. 897-9393.

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. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

EVERY THURSDAY - Night service at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 865 Lincoln Lake SE at 6:30 p.m. Public welcome.

NEW CLASSES FOR EVERYONE - children - adults at Christian Life Center, 3050 Alden Nash SE, Lowell. Every Wednesday 7-8 p.m. Bible-centered classes for children through 5th grade, youth group for 6th grade thru high school & adult prayer & Bible study. Everyone is invited to attend.

MOMS IN TOUCH INTERNATIONAL - Thursdays 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Friendship Country Chapel, 10200 Grand River Ave. Moms & grandmas come pray for our kids & schools. Contact Missy at 308-7920 or missykooistra@gmail.com with any questions.

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EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: I read that car makers had agreed to up fuel economy standards to an average of about 55 miles per gallon by the year 2025, and that specifics were due to be hammered out by the end of 2011. Did this happen and where do things stand now? - Scott Ellis, Norwalk, CA

After years of wrangling on the issue, auto companies, regulators and policymakers have finally come to terms on increased Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for vehicles plying American roads. According to the plan as formulated by the Obama administration, automak-



ers will double the average, unadjusted fuel-economy rating of their car and light truck vehicle fleets to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025 from today's standard of 27 miles per gallon. Automakers which don't meet the standards will be penalized \$5.50 per 0.1 miles per gallon they fall below, multiplied by their total production for the U.S. market. Congress is likely to sign the new rules, which will start taking effect for the 2017 model year, into law this summer.

According to the White House, the higher standards will likely lead to price increases of some \$2,000 per vehicle to cover the costs of more expensive technology, but drivers should save an average of \$6,600 in gas over the life of a vehicle. Environmental advocacy groups allied as the Go60mpg Coalition report that the new rules will create almost half a million new jobs while cutting domestic oil consumption by 1.5 million barrels or more a day by 2030.

"The standards are going to lead to large investments and a rebirth of the U.S. auto industry [as] global leaders in innovation," says Roland Hwang, director of the Transportation program at the Natural Resources Defense Council, one of the six environmental groups (along with Environment America, the National Wildlife Federation, the Safe Climate Campaign, the Sierra Club and the Union of Concerned Scientists) behind Go60mpg. Hwang figures the new rules will generate \$300 billion in extra revenue to the U.S. auto industry, not to mention lining consumers' pocket-books with an estimated \$200 billion in fuel savings. "This is a big deal [and] something that will keep the U.S. auto industry on the forefront of manufacturing innovation."

In addition to the new CAFE standards for cars and light trucks, the White House is calling for a

20 percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions from large trucks and buses by 2018. The fuel economy bump inherent in these new truck rules will translate to some \$73,000

in fuel savings for truckers over the lifetime of a new 18-wheeler and some 530 million barrels of oil saved for all large trucks and buses made between 2014 and 2018.

Critics point out that no one can be sure how much new technology will add to the cost of vehicles, let alone how fluctuations in gas prices, consumer tastes and the overall economy could impact what types of cars people want to drive. While the new rules represent a gamble in regard to these variables, enough Americans see the benefits of more fuel efficient vehicles outweighing the trade-offs. Of course, environmentally conscious consumers can already buy more fuel efficient vehicles — Priuses, Volts and Leafs are already all over American roads. And if Congress goes along with its intent to pass the new rules, greener cars will be standard and the U.S. will be on the forefront of automotive innovation once again.

CONTACTS: Go60mpg Coalition, www.go60mpg.org.

Dear EarthTalk: There are many areas around the U.S. where "disease clusters" have occurred, whereby unusually

Stop disease clusters. Protect people. Control toxic chemicals.

Health Alert: Disease Clusters Spotlight the Need to Protect People from Toxic Chemicals



large numbers of people have gotten sick, usually because of proximity to a polluter. What if anything is being done to remedy the situation? - Michael Sorenson, Natick, MA

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) defines a disease cluster

as "an unusually large number of people sickened by a disease in a certain place and time." The organization, along with the National Disease Clusters Alliance (NDCA), reported in March 2011 that it had identified 42 disease clusters throughout 13 U.S. states: Texas, California, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Florida, Ohio, Delaware, Louisiana, Montana, Tennessee, Missouri, and Arkansas, all chosen for analysis, states the report, "based on the occurrence of known clusters in the state, geographic diversity, or community concerns about a disease cluster in their area."

State and local health departments respond to some 1,000 inquiries per year about suspected disease clusters, though less than 15 percent turn out to be "statistically significant." Epidemiologists explain that true cancer clusters typically involve one type of disease only, a rare type of cancer, or an illness not usually found in a specific age group.

A classic example of a disease cluster is in Anniston, Alabama, where residents experienced cancerous, non-cancerous, thyroid and neurodevelopment effects that they believe were caused by releases of various chemicals, including PCBs. The culprit: a nearby Monsanto-owned chemical maker, according to NDCA. And, indeed, a 2003 study in and around Anniston by the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry did find that one in five locals had elevated PCB levels in their blood.

Clusters are controversial "in part because our scientific criteria for proving that exposure A caused disease B...are extremely difficult to meet," says Donna Jackson Nakazawa, author of *The Autoimmune Epidemic*. "People move, or die, or their disease is never properly diagnosed. How can we prove, with all these variables, that a toxic

exposure in an area caused a group of people to fall ill with a specific set of diseases?" Nakazawa is hardly skeptical about the existence of disease clusters. She is part of a growing chorus of voices calling on the government to not only

remediate existing sites but to also prevent disease clusters in the first place by developing more stringent standards regarding chemical usage and disposal.

"European environmental policy uses the precautionary principle — an approach to public health that underscores preventing harm to human health before it happens," Nakazawa reports. In 2007 the European Union implemented legislation that forces companies to develop safety data on 30,000 chemicals over a decade, and places responsibility on the chemical industry to demonstrate the safety of their products. "America lags far behind, without any precautionary guidelines regarding chemical use," adds Nakazawa.

NRDC says "there is a need for better documentation and investigation of disease clusters to identify and address possible causes." Armed with better data, advocates for more stringent controls on chemicals could have a better chance of convincing Congress to reform the antiquated Toxic Substances Control Act of 1975 and bring more recent knowledge about chemical exposures to bear in setting safer standards.

CONTACT: NRDC report, www.nrdc.org/health/diseaseclusters/files/diseaseclusters_issuepaper.pdf.

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Social Security Q & A, continued

curity office or call Social Security's toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778). You can get more information by reading the booklet Understanding SSI, at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi.

Question: I found out that my son submitted incorrect information about my resources when he completed my Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs. How can I get my application changed

now to show the correct amount?

Answer: You can call 1-800-772-1213 and let us know or you can visit your local Social Security office (find it by using our office locator at www.socialsecurity.gov/locator). Information on your application will be matched with data from other Federal agencies. If there is a discrepancy that requires verification, we will contact you.

**THEME:
CLASSIC NOVELS**

ACROSS

- 1. *Harry Potter's antagonist
- 6. Hole puncher
- 9. Attention grabber
- 13. Beyond suburban
- 14. Sheepish cry
- 15. Supports climbing plants
- 16. *Holmes would try to verify this
- 17. Make a mistake
- 18. Popular jewelry stone
- 19. *Toni Morrison's Pulitzer winner
- 21. *Emerald City visitor
- 23. Before tac
- 24. Sports award
- 25. Siesta
- 28. *"A Clockwork Orange" protagonist
- 30. Performed alone
- 35. Away from wind
- 37. Heart feeling
- 39. Mother-of-pearl
- 40. Live bait
- 41. "Now _____ entertainment!"
- 43. Not Sunni
- 44. Used to call someone's attention, pl.
- 46. Expression of pain
- 47. Dissenting clique
- 48. Street of shops, especially in orient
- 50. Fraud or imposter
- 52. U Rah ____!
- 53. Mixed breed canine
- 55. ____ de Janeiro
- 57. *It chronicles Leopold Bloom's journey through Dublin
- 61. *Twist and Heep creator

CROSSWORD														
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69						70				71				
72						73				74				

- 65. _____ Protocol on climate change
 - 66. Consumed
 - 68. China Grass
 - 69. NBA great _____ Baylor
 - 70. St. Louis player
 - 71. Speak one's mind
 - 72. Make hot and dry
 - 73. ____ Lanka
 - 74. Used as fertilizer and explosive
- DOWN**
- 1. Not bright
 - 2. "_____ of thumb"
 - 3. Seed cover
 - 4. 15th century North America explorer

- 5. Famous picture book pig
- 6. Tucked in
- 7. *One main topic in Tolstoy's 1869 classic
- 8. Hog fat, pl.
- 9. Jumping stick
- 10. A team reserved for emergencies
- 11. Comedian with red, curly hair
- 12. 3-point shot
- 15. Heavy elementary particle
- 20. Enthusiastic approval
- 22. Roman goddess of fertility
- 24. Car emission, e.g.
- 25. Honorific title given to Muslim rulers
- 26. Central Pacific greeting
- 27. Actress Rosie
- 29. Repeating sound
- 31. Lad's counterpart
- 32. Autumn color
- 33. *"Fear of Flying" author Jong

- 34. *It happened in Venice
- 36. *Jane Austen classic
- 38. ____ A Sketch
- 42. African river, also spelled "Chari"
- 45. Delilah's trusting victim
- 49. Street in Paris
- 51. One millionth of a meter
- 54. Former Russian leaders
- 56. Giraffe-like African animal
- 57. Short for ukuleles
- 58. Singer/actor Lovett
- 59. Hindu discipline
- 60. Evoke emotion
- 61. Ashton's ex
- 62. Give off
- 63. Number of baseball fielders
- 64. Tiresias in "Oedipus Rex," e.g.
- 67. Smoker's lung residue

Puzzle solutions on page 12



When submitting your opinion to Sound Off!, we ask you to follow a few guidelines.

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

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

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

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

Dear bicyclists on Grand River Dr. - As motorists we would all appreciate a few considerations in regards to sharing the road. Take a good look around before you decide to cross the street in front of a car hurtling towards you at 55 miles per hour. Nobody wants to kill or be killed. Also, we don't mind slowing down, but for your own safety please stay inside the white lines and ride in single file when in groups. Enjoy your exercise!

Dear fellow city residents - If you live in the city limits, you cannot have a campfire in your backyard 24-7. I'm tired of smelling it in my house!

We had a great time at the LaughFest event held at the LPAC. Thank you for bringing this kind of entertainment to Lowell.

Don't forget to treat your ash trees against emerald ash borer this spring. Leaves will be out before you know it!

Deer Run Golf Course should be taken to task for setting up the speaker's podium in front of the coat rack for the Chamber banquet. And couldn't the photographer have asked award recipients to step to another area of the room to have a picture taken? The whole thing reflects poorly on our community.

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Should Rush Limbaugh be banned from the public airwaves?

- YES **23%**
- NO **42%**
- He never should've been allowed on the air **12%**
- I don't listen, I read The Ledger **23%**

SUDOKU

PRESENTED BY



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		1		9				5

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



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Now... \$10,455

2008 BUICK ENCLAVE CXL AWD

Heated leather, moonroof, 3rd row, rear DVD, loaded. Was \$22,900

Now... \$20,788

2004 FORD RANGER 4X4 EXT. CAB

Tonneau cover, extra clean, CD. Was \$10,400

\$9,950

2004 GMC ENVOY

Heated leather, 4x4, 3rd row

\$8,950

2011 BUICK LACROSSE CXL

Heated leather, 1 owner, loaded, low miles, full warranty

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