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Expo 2012 attracts steady flow of visitors

by Emma Palova

This year's Expo attracted a steady flow of visitors to the sold out event at the Lowell High School last Saturday.

The show featured everything from local businesses to trails and other nonprofits.

Among the newcomers were Witt's Inn and Café with owners Tim and Kathy Wittenbach who opened their bed and breakfast last fall.

Other fun stuff included Branch Adventures from Saranac complete with a kayak and a kettle of boiling water.

The Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) made its presence with instructors Keith Fer-

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Branch Adventures youth camps with Steve Grody.

Representative Lyons announces the River of Hope Capital Campaign

State Representative Lisa Posthumus Lyons was on hand at the Lowell Community Expo Saturday, March 24, to announce a milestone in Flat River Outreach Ministries' River of Hope Capital Campaign.

The River of Hope campaign was launched in 2009 to fund much needed renovations to the Flat River Outreach Ministry (FROM) facility at 11535 Fulton Street East in Lowell, MI. FROM serves an average of 300 families in the greater Lowell area each month. Families that are facing hardships find relief at FROM through a client choice food pantry, financial assistance with housing and utility expenses, free tax preparation and e-filing, winter weatherization and various other programs that

help meet the growing needs of West Michigan families.

Lyons was joined by campaign co-chair, Karen Whalen and FROM executive director Tamela Spicer, along with several board

members, to announce that the River of Hope Capital Campaign has reached a milestone, raising nearly three-quarters of a million dollars. Lyons, who presented a personal gift to

the campaign, noted several completed renovations at FROM, including the new roof, energy efficient windows and the recently completed donation room, all funded through the gener-

osity of donors contributing to the River of Hope campaign.

"As the mother of four children, I shop at FROM's Thrift Shop often," Lyons said. She went on to encourage the community to support the River of Hope campaign with their time, talent and treasure. Lyons noted that, "It's not about the building renovations; it's about the hundreds of families served as a result of those renovations."

According to FROM executive director Tamela Spicer, there is more to be done. "Our hope is to surpass the million dollar mark to allow for expanded parking to accommodate increased programs and to renovate the front of the building to provide a public entrance. As funds allow, we also hope to do some renovations in the Thrift Shop to increase our capacity for revenue, all of which goes right back into the commu-



Pictured, from left to right: FROM executive director Tamela Spicer, State Representative Lisa Posthumus Lyons, and campaign co-chair Karen Whalen.

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River of Hope, continued

nity." Spicer noted that 43 percent of FROM's annual budget comes from Thrift Shop revenue. "Every dollar spent in the Thrift Shop helps families here in the greater Lowell community, so we encourage people to not only donate their gently used items, but also come in and shop for great bargains that help families facing hardships."

You can be part of the River of Hope campaign by making a single gift or a

pledge for up to three years. Area businesses will also be collecting change for the campaign through the month of April. "Look for the canisters to be in place this week," Spicer said, "every penny helps."

Flat River Outreach Ministries is a nonprofit organization whose mission is serving the people of the greater Lowell area in their time of hardship. You can find more information at www.fromlowell.org

DNR reminds public to leave wildlife in the wild

Unseasonably warm weather may have Michigan's black bears and recently born cubs out roaming earlier than usual. Great-horned owl chicks are already hatched and will be out of the nest before long. Spring is the season for wildlife to give birth. The Department of Natural Resources reminds Michigan residents to resist the instinct to try to help baby animals that may appear to be abandoned because in nearly every case a parent is

nearby and the baby animal is not abandoned.

"The truth is, the animal doesn't need help - for example, even if a fawn appears to be abandoned, its mother is almost always nearby," said DNR wildlife ecologist Sherry MacKinnon. "We appreciate the good intentions of those who want to help, but the animals are better off left alone than removed from the wild."

MacKinnon said it's not uncommon for does to leave their young unattended for

up to eight hours at a time; an anti-predator strategy that minimizes scent left around the newborn animals. "The same holds true for rabbits, ground-dwelling birds and other wildlife," she said. "Even avian parents will continue to care

less likely to be able to survive in the wild.

Eventually, habituated animals pose additional problems as they mature and develop adult animal behaviors. Habituated deer, especially bucks, can become aggressive as they mature, and raccoons are well-known for this, too.

"If you come across a deer or other animal that you are certain has been orphaned early in the year - for example, if a doe is dead nearby - please call your local DNR office. They can refer you to a licensed rehabilitator,"



for hatchlings that have fallen from a nest."

The DNR advises that:

- Many baby animals will die if removed from their natural environment, and some have diseases or parasites that can be passed on to humans or pets.

- Some "rescued" animals that do survive become habituated to people and are unable to revert back to life in the wild. It is illegal to possess a wild deer or any other wild animals in Michigan, and every day a deer spends with humans makes it that much

said MacKinnon. "Licensed rehabilitators are trained to handle wild animals and know how to release them so that they can survive in the wild." Michigan licensed rehabilitators are also listed on the DNR website at <http://www.michigandnr.com/dlr/>.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.



along main street

"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 Zvirzdis at 616-262-6132 or www.thelowell50.com

STUDENT COUNCIL BLOOD DRIVE

Come support the Lowell High School student council by donating blood on Friday, April 13 from 7:30 am - 2:30 pm at the Lowell High School in the small gym.

FEINSTEIN ONE MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE

From March 1 through April 30 all cash, checks, food or pledges to the Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) Food Pantry are tracked and recorded. The Feinstein Foundation will then give FROM a matching grant. The more contributed, the bigger the matching grant. Please make your cash, check, food or pledge contribution before April 30. For more information or volunteer opportunities, please call FROM at 897-8260 or contact Sylvia Taylor at 676-0659.

SEED SWAP

The Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center (WWC) will be hosting a seed swap on Sunday, April 1, from 2-3 pm at the WWC. Bring out any seeds you have to swap. Seeds can be up to five years old, but please don't bring anything you know isn't viable. Make

sure all packets are labeled with the type and variety name (original packets are appreciated but not necessary). Even if you don't have seeds to swap, come on out. The WWC will have heirloom and traditional varieties available for a small donation. For more information, please call 987-2565 or e-mail Meggan Johnson at mjohnson@lowellschools.com

LAS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB MEETING

The athletic boosters will hold their regular business meeting in the high school staff lounge on Mon., April 2 at 7 pm. Please come and support our athletes.

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.

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LHS Students of the Month for March 2012

In conjunction with the LHS Academic Boosters, Lowell High School is proud to announce that Bravot Morris, 12th grade; and Alex Swartz, 12th grade; are the Lowell High School March Students of the Month. In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly Department Chair Meeting. Students are selected based

on academic achievement, character and work ethic. There are 1200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment



Alex Swartz

for Morris and Swartz. The students receive a \$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

Morris was nominated by the student services and they write, "I am continually impressed with the value Bravot puts on her education. Bravot is an extremely hard worker. She puts tremendous focus on her school work and her future. She pushes herself very hard and continually challenges herself to do better. Her work ethic and drive has pushed her to succeed and she is very focused on her future as a nurse. She has come to see me on numerous occasions to find out more about AP classes, dual

enrollment, course selection and many other issues. She is bright and inquisitive and has researched her college and career options thoroughly. I have no doubt that she will be a successful college student and achieve great things in her career."

The special education department nominated Swartz and they write, "Alex is an amazing young man. He was on homebound instruction for a year and a half for medical reasons. He was cleared to come back to school this year for his senior year and has adjusted very easily. I see him interacting with his friends and he is working hard in all

of his classes. Alex always has a positive attitude and always does his best. He is a great person and models all of the character traits."

This program is made possible by the support of the LHS Academic Boosters, who support the high school in many ways. If you are interested in helping support the LHS Academic Boosters you may call Janine Mork at 897-5671.



Bravot Morris



At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at the Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. Mon-Fri, 10:00-5:00 pm. 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.

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

~ Thomas A. Edison (1847 - 1931)



fire safety 411

Why are we still killing ourselves? Even with the threat of the, so called, "Super Drunk Law" and stiffer mandates on distracted driving we are still throwing away our most precious gift, "life."

The Michigan State Police (MSP) has issued

a preliminary report on the recent holiday season. According to the MSP Criminal Justice Information Center, 15 Michigan lives were lost in traffic crashes over the recent Christmas and New Year's holidays, at

least four of which involved the use of alcohol. Three of those killed were pedestrians and one was a 48-year-old snowmobiler in Antrim County. This is an increase over the 2010 holiday periods when 11 people died in traffic crashes. Four of those deaths were also alcohol-related. Six deaths occurred Dec. 24-26, two of which involved alcohol. In three cases, drivers or passengers were not buckled at the time of the crash. Two of the fatal crashes occurred in Wayne County, while the others happened

in Jackson, Ingham, Washtenaw and Macomb counties. The other nine fatalities occurred between Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, two of which were alcohol-related. The fatal crashes occurred in Antrim, Calhoun, Clare, Genesee, Gratiot, Kalamazoo, Lapeer, Mason, and St. Clair counties. More than 165 law enforcement agencies in 26 counties conducted drunken driving enforcement during extra patrols funded by the Office of Highway Safety Planning through federal traffic safety funds, Dec. 16-Jan. 2.

I don't understand. We tell our kids, "Don't drive drunk" or "No matter what, call me and I'll come and get you." And still people go out and get behind the wheel after drinking. On the different note, how about distracted driving? I work as a commercial truck driver. The U.S. Department of Transportation recently issued a ban on cell phone usage without a "hands free" device, such as a Bluetooth or earpiece device. The ban also includes texting, making calls that require dialing or anything that could dis-

tract the driver's attention from the road. So, as I sit in the cab of my semi, with my Bluetooth plugged in my ear, I constantly see motorists, and yes other commercial truck drivers, with their cell phone pressed to their ear or with thumbs flailing away sending that "my life depends on it" text. Well, here it is folks, your life may very well depend on it. So wake up people! It's time to stop killing ourselves.



In partnership with the Kent County Tax Credit Coalition of United Way, Flat River Outreach Ministries is providing free tax preparation services to qualifying families with annual income less than \$50,000.

This service is available by appointment only in the FROM Ministry Hall at 11535 Fulton Street East.

To register and verify eligibility, please call our tax services hotline at 421-0029.

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Cyrocki named Staff Member of the Month

Lori Cyrocki was named Murray Lake's Staff Member of the Month for February. Cyrocki was nominated by several staff members for the compassion and patience she shows her students.

"Lori has to be a saint. She is the most patient staff member I have ever seen. She truly cares about each one of her students," said PE teacher Margaret Harrison.

Kindergarten teacher Karla Bryne added, "Lori has such a special way of dealing with kids, especially students who have special needs."

Cyrocki is a mother to two daughters and grandma to a one-year-old grandson (who is coming next week).

"I'm looking forward to a summer road trip to Quebec with my husband to celebrate our 30th anniversary.

This is my eighth year teaching second grade at Murray Lake. I love it here because the staff, students, and parents are always working together to make our school a fun, positive and effective place to learn," commented Cyrocki.



Cyrocki pictured with her second grade class.

Groom recruited by Harvard

Morgan Groom, a senior at Lowell High School, will be attending Harvard University next fall. Harvard recruited her for softball last summer; she went on an official visit in early November and was early admitted. Groom was the only West Michigan student admitted early out of 15 applicants.

Groom had an outstanding season as a junior, even with the pitching mound

being increased to 43 feet, sporting a 0.63 ERA, 11 shut outs in 18 starts and averaged 12 strike outs per game. She beat Northview with a 14 strike out-no hitter and hit a three run homer to win the first game of the conference championship double header 3-0.

Last August, Groom pitched the complete game victory in leading the big league, District 9 Grand Rapids team to the World

Series Championship on ESPN TV.

She plays summer travel ball with Ann Arbor Gold Fastpitch, which won the Fort Wayne Winter Blizzard tournament in January. She went 3-0, pitching a one-hit shutout in the championship game and batted .400 for the tournament.

The Lady Red Arrows will begin their season March 28 at Wyoming Park.

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Are you prepared for long-term care costs?

Like everyone else, you hope to remain physically and financially independent your entire life. And you may well achieve this goal. Nonetheless, the future is not ours to see, so you'll want to prepare yourself for as many contingencies as possible — one of which is the high cost of long-term care.

As you may know, long-term care primarily refers to nursing home expenses, but it also includes services provided in your own home. In either case, though, it could be expensive.

The national average rate for a private room in a nursing home was more

than \$87,000 per year in 2011, according to the 2011 MetLife Market Survey of Long-Term Care Costs. The same survey found that the average private-pay hourly rates for home health aides and homemaker companion services were \$21 and \$19, respectively.

With luck, of course, you won't need to worry about these types of expenses. But consider this: People who reach age 65 have a 40 percent chance of entering a nursing home, according to a study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. And about 10 percent of those who enter a nursing home will stay there five or more years.

Clearly, if you take no steps to prepare yourself for the potentially devastating

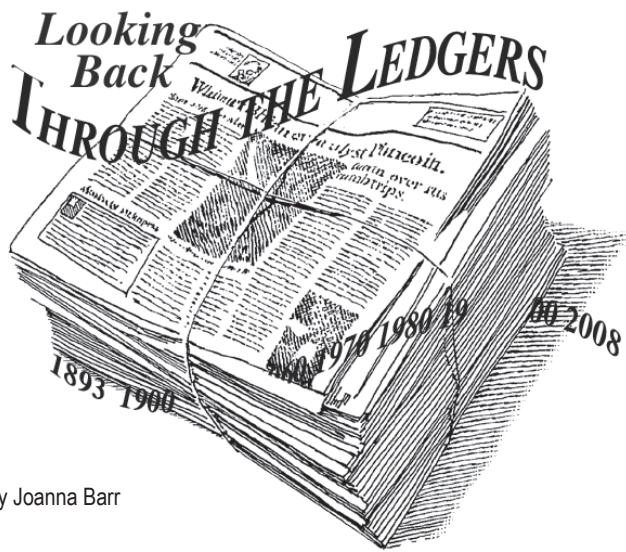
costs of an extended nursing home stay, you could be jeopardizing the assets you've worked so hard to accumulate. Even worse, if you run through your money, you might end up creating a financial and emotional burden for your grown children.

Unfortunately, many people assume that a federal or state government program will help them pay for their long-term care expenses. However, Medicare pays only a small portion of nursing home costs, and to be eligible for Medicaid, you would likely have to divest yourself of most of your financial assets. Consequently, you'll probably need to find another way to pay for long-term care.

Fortunately, there are investment or protection vehicles designed specifically to help you meet long-term care expenses. Your financial advisor can help you pick the option that's most

Financial focus, continued, page 16

viewpoint



By Joanna Barr

140 Years Ago Lowell Weekly Journal March 29, 1872

Serious Runaway – One day last week, while Mr. Chas. Morse and wife were riding out in the country, the horses became frightened at the appearance of a pedlar's cart and started to run. The place they were in was an unfortunate one, as they had just begun to descend a hill, in consequence of which the team became unmanageable. Mr. and Mrs. Morse were thrown from the buggy, the latter seriously injured by the wheel, also what is supposed kicked by one of the horses. Her situation was for some time critical, but we are glad to hear that she is now improving. She was taken to the house of Mr. Geo. Sayles to remain until able to be carried home. Mr. Morse was not so seriously injured as was first reported and is able to be around.

100 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger April 4, 1912

Horse thief nabbed within ninety-minutes of get-away. Tuesday afternoon Ed Parker's old family driver was taken from its hitching post in Lowell by Ben Sayles, a paroled Ionia convict and driven away. Less than three miles north of town he met a man who recognized the rig and on arrival in the village reported accordingly. Deputy Sheriff Scott telephoned to Mr. Hoppough at Smyrna who said the fellow had just left there.

"Can you get him?"

"You bet I can."

Twenty minutes later and less than an hour and a half from the get-away, Hoppough announced that he had Mr. Man. He was brought to Lowell and lodged in jail. Next morning, Justice Andrews bound Sayles over to the circuit court and he was lodged in the county jail by Deputy Scott. Parole papers carried by the prisoner showed him to have been Convict No. 9595 at Ionia and paroled.

Monday was not a good day for a big vote and despite the attraction of the good roads issue with its big bonding proposition, Lowell Township turned out less than half its vote, 431. Lowell gave good roads a big boost. Yes, 377. No, 52. For highway commissioner, the only office for which there was a contest, Charles O'Harrow was elected, receiving 236 votes to 183 for Noah P. Allen. The other officers elect are: supervisor C. Bergin, clerk F. N. White, treasurer R. E. Springett, justice C. L. Blakeslee, justice Clarence Collar, highway overseer Ed Kiel, board review W. H. Murphy, constables Geo. P. Taylor, A. A. Scott, Lewis Morse, C.O. Hill.

75 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger April 1, 1937

As we came down Main St. this (Thursday) morning about 8:15, we discovered quite a group of persons standing in front of the old post office. They were waiting for the doors to open and that was quite an April Fool joke in itself.

From the Hastings Banner, March 25: "Wednesday evening the majority of the Hastings Rotary club was in Lowell, as guests of Lowell Rotary, to help celebrate the second anniversary of that club. Lowell is one of the snappiest little towns in Michigan and is the home of a lot of high grade fellows. It is fortunate too, in the fact that they all work together in the closest of harmony and work as in everything that tends to help their home town. This is evidenced by the way it puts across its 'Show Boat' every year. You can judge a town pretty closely too, by its schools and in this respect Lowell will compare very favorably with any town its size in Michigan." After mentioning the features of the program, the Banner concludes by saying: "It was an unusually fine meeting throughout, showed a lot of thought and careful planning and was a compliment to Lowell Rotary."

50 Years Ago The Lowell Ledger March 29, 1962

Alto-Bowne Township volunteer fire department was called to the Fred Wingeier home on Nash Ave. shortly after noon on Sunday where there was a roof fire on the south side of the house. A passerby had notified Mrs. Wingeier who called the fire department. The fire was caused by a spark in the chimney alighting on the roof. Damage was confined to a small section of the roof and by using the fog system of fighting fires, was soon extinguished without causing much water or smoke damage.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bencker were the victims of a theft either Saturday night or early Sunday morning when thieves entered their barn and stole a seven weeks' old Hereford calf from beside his mother. The thieves evidently knew their "beef" as the calf they

took was a prime veal calf. Police are at work on the case and it is hoped the guilty parties will soon be apprehended.

The voters of the Lowell Area School district turned out in record numbers on Monday to approve two proposals – one for construction of the new high school, the other to levy three mills for operation. While the high school issue passed by only one vote, the general response seems to be that there was no denying a need for the building. The Board of Education, therefore, will continue their planning with the concern of obtaining the proper educational program with their eye to the tax dollar. As in all elections, and especially one where the results are close, there are many unsung heroes, and in this election there is no exception. It was a pleasure to see the interest – for and against – and to realize that the issues had been brought to the attention of the district voters. Certainly any issue as important as this special election deserved the record-breaking turnout.

25 Years Ago The Grand Valley Ledger April 1, 1987

Jerry Hale of Lowell and Warren Streffling of Galien were elected to the Federal Land Bank Association's board. Jerry Hale has a dairy and crop farming operation near Lowell. He farms 1,250 acres, has been in business 24 years, is currently FLBA director and a member of the planning committee. He is also a district delegate for the Michigan Milk Producers Association, a township trustee and a Lowell Rotary Club member. He has been a member of FLBA for ten years and a member of PCA for 20 years.

The new Family Fare food store on Lowell's West Main Street opens its doors for the first time today, Wednesday, April 1. The Lowell Eberhard's store is also celebrating a grand opening under the new name of Food City. The Food City concept has been instituted in six Eberhard stores.

Patty Elzinga of Lowell has opened a new tanning and exercise salon in Ada. The salon is called "No Sweat" and features Master Tone powerized exercise tables that trim away flab and tone muscles without the physical exertion required from conventional exercise techniques. "No Sweat" also features tanning tables using the patented Wolfe lighting system.

Speculators are driving up gas prices, hurting American families



Sen. Carl Levin

Once again, oil prices are spiking, threatening our economic recovery and causing real hardship for American families and businesses. The price of a barrel of oil is up nearly 30 percent since early October.

Unfortunately, that's nothing new. For years now, the commodity markets have taken the American people on an expensive and damaging roller coaster ride with rapidly changing prices for crude oil. At the start of 2007, oil cost about \$50 a barrel. By July of 2008, oil prices had shot to nearly \$150 per barrel and then, by the end of the year, crashed to \$35. In the beginning of 2011, oil prices took off again, climbing to over \$110 a barrel in May. By October, the price fell to \$75 a barrel, a drop of more than 30 percent over four months. Now, three and a half months later, oil prices are back up.

One of the major factors driving these high prices isn't getting enough attention: excessive speculation in the commodity markets. Investigations by the Senate Permanent

Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, have shown how the activities of speculators – those who don't produce or use oil, but who bet on oil price changes – have overwhelmed normal supply and demand factors and pushed up prices at the expense of consumers and American business.

In 2006, the subcommittee released a report that found that billions of dollars in trading by speculators in the crude oil market was responsible for an estimated \$20 out of the then \$70 cost for a barrel of oil that year – and a corresponding rise in the price at the gas pump. Since then, even more speculators have entered the commodity markets. Today they bet billions of dollars on oil prices every day.

Oil markets exist to enable producers of oil and users of oil to do business. But at a November hearing before my subcommittee, the chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Gary Gensler, testified that 80 percent or more of oil trades are now made by speculators. In February, Forbes magazine, citing a recent report by Goldman Sachs, reported that oil speculation adds 56 cents to the price of each gallon of gas bought at the pump.

Before speculators flooded the markets, oil prices were determined by fundamental market forces of supply and demand. When supplies were tight and demand high, prices went up. In contrast, when supplies were ample and demand low, prices went down. Nowadays, that relationship

college news

Western Michigan University has announced the graduation list for the 2011 fall semester. The following are local graduates, their degrees, majors and honors:

Ada: Jerry J. Caswell, Bachelor of Science, student integrated curriculum, cum laude; Ashely L. Martin, Bachelor of Science, interdisciplinary health services; and Kevin M. Teunis,

Master of Business Administration, business administration.

Alto: Eric C. Closson, Master of Arts, educational leadership: K-12 school principal; Katherine E. Closson, Master of Arts, practice of teaching; Brian H. Dewit, Bachelor of Business Administration, integrated supply matrix management; Erik L.

Jacobson, Bachelor of Arts, music, magna cum laude; Justin P. Kucharczyk, Bachelor of Arts, criminal justice; and Kendra L. Overfield, Master of Science, occupation therapy.

Lowell: Zachary T. Beachum, Bachelor of Science, physical education: elementary; Leslie A. Morrison, Bachelor of Fine Arts, art; and Trevor J. Wermet, Bachelor of Business Administration, management.



lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 pm and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the center and its literacy programs.

At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Literacy Center of W. Michigan is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in our community. Based on 1990 census figures, at least 19,000 adults in Kent County cannot read at a functional level. At least

6,000 adults cannot speak or understand English well. By training people to be tutors, the center can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Literacy Center of West Michigan, located at 1120 Monroe Ave., NW, Suite 240, Grand Rapids, MI. Please call us at 459-5151 (ext. 10) to register.

happy birthday!

MARCH 28

Amie Thaler, Aaron Kastanek, Beck Butler.

MARCH 29

John Ellison, Sandra VanWeelden, Judith Schafer Eiseman, Laura Rasch, Carl Rasch, Robin Burns, Casey Yonker, Brianna Homrich, Priscilla Nearing.

MARCH 30

Deb Maxim, Erin Wade, Delores Ellison, Laurinda Horsley, Patrick Drake.

MARCH 31

Katelynn Fonger, Jennifer McCaul, Ben Lobbezoo, Tera Raab, Rudy Smith, Michaela Blough.

APRIL 1

Christopher Vollink, Denny McClure, Kurt Wermet.

APRIL 2

Kyle Geldersma, Ron Metternick, Alec Newhouse, Chris Rittersdorf, Blake Bergy, Nicole Wilcox, Alex Hazard.

APRIL 3

Hayleigh Borton, Jamie Barnes, Darwin Lambert.

area births

Donaldson

Blake and Amy Donaldson are proud to announce the birth of their

son, Gabriel James Eugene, who was born March 2, 2012. He weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz. and measured 20 1/2 inches.

He joins siblings Mitchell, 11; Jackson, 7; and David, 2.

Grandparents are Tom and Sally Donaldson of Lowell and Gary and Sharon Curless of Ada. Great-grandparents are Evelyn DeShane and Ray and Jan Donaldson.

All about Social Security disability

Disability is something most people do not like to think about but if you're not able to work because you have a medical condition that is expected to last at least one year or result in death, you may be able to get Social Security disability benefits.

You should apply for disability benefits as soon as you become disabled. It

can take months to obtain all your medical records and process an application for disability benefits (three to five months, on average).

Generally, the information needed includes:

Names, addresses, and phone numbers of the doctors, caseworkers, hospitals, and clinics that took care of you, and dates of your visits; Names and dosage of all the medicine you take;

Medical records from your doctors, therapists, hospitals, clinics, and caseworkers that you already have in your possession;

Laboratory and test results; and

A summary of where you worked and the kind of work you did.

IMPORTANT - Do not delay filing for disability benefits if you don't have

all the above information in your possession. Social Security will assist you in getting the necessary documents, including obtaining your medical records.

The fastest and most convenient way to apply for disability is online at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability. You can save your application as you go, so you can take a break at any time.

If you do not want to file online, then call 1-800-772-1213 between 7 am and 7 pm to make an appointment.

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

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Levin, continued

is largely absent. There is no shortage in the supply of oil globally, and the United States is producing more oil than it has in a decade. Last year, the United States actually exported more gasoline and other petroleum products than we imported. At the same time, U.S. demand for fuel actually sank.

Under normal economic conditions, rising production

and lower demand should mean lower prices. Instead, prices are more volatile than ever. One key reason is that speculators are playing too large a role in the oil market. If we are to get a handle on oil prices, we have to curb excessive speculation.

Congress has already taken the first steps. In July 2010, we told federal regulators to establish rules to prevent speculators from domi-

nating markets and distorting prices. Last year, the regulators rolled out the new rules. They are not as tough as they should be, but the real problem is that they are not yet fully in force. That means this important new tool lies dormant. One big roadblock is that the financial industry has filed a lawsuit to stop it from taking effect.

In the meantime, Congress should acknowledge

that speculation is helping to drive up gas prices. We should urge federal regulators to exercise emergency authority, without waiting any longer, to clamp down on excessive speculation in the oil markets.

Congress should also ask more of the president's task force on commodity speculation. A year ago, Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island and I sent a letter asking

President Obama to convene a task force to investigate and combat excessive oil speculation. While the attorney general did convene a task force, it focused on criminal cases instead of the broader problem of commodity traders driving up gas prices. The task force should urgently re-focus and bring its firepower to the battle against excessive speculation.

American families cannot afford the current price of oil and neither can our economy, which after four years is beginning to turn a corner toward real growth. Ignoring how speculators affect oil prices could put our recovery at risk.

Carl Levin is the senior U.S. senator from Michigan.

outdoors

Look about you

Dave Stegehuis

"If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you," is the state motto, and it appears on the Great Seal of the State of Michigan in Latin. Some years ago the motto was used as a marketing slogan to promote recreation and tourism in Michigan. The motto was adopted in 1835 and is as true today as it was then.

Recently a popular travel magazine identi-

fied seventeen beaches as the Best Secret Beaches on Earth. I stumbled across two of them. One is Puako Beach on the Kona coast of Hawaii and the other is Grand Haven, Michigan. Of the two, Grand Haven gets my vote.

I took a relative who lived in Alaska lake-trout fishing off Petoskey and he remarked that fishing for trout wasn't that good back home. I have hunted a vari-

ety of big game as far away as Africa and if I could only do one hunt for as long as I am able, it would be bow hunting Michigan white-tails.

The point is that we often see the grass on the other side of the fence as greener — it is human nature. I understand that we all have different interests and expectations, but fortunately for me, this side of the fence suites me just fine.

Four distinct seasons at this latitude allow for a large number of choices for recreational activity year

around. Countless lakes and streams, from the far north reaches of the Upper Peninsula to our southern borders, are easily accessed providing great fishing as well as opportunity for a variety of water sports. Michigan must have as many golf courses as any other state.

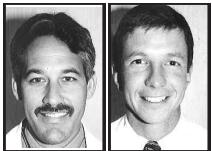
The border of both peninsulas is defined mostly by Great Lakes shoreline featuring great beaches, world class fishing, and spectacular scenery. Vast areas of state and federal forests are frequented by residents and visitors alike for hiking, ski-

ing, camping, hunting, riding, gathering, or just sitting and taking in a slice of nature.

Wherever one travels in Michigan, there is a wealth of colorful and diverse history including Native American culture, the fur trade, logging, mining, farming, and early manufacturing. This history is displayed in museums, celebrated with pageants and festivals and documented at designated locations around the state. Every city and small town has a story.

There are, of course, many remarkable places to visit, special people to meet, and unique things to do which require traveling afar to experience. Be careful, however, not to overlook what is close by and accessible. Whenever I am far away from Michigan, I always think about what I am missing back home (except, maybe in February). Don't forget to "look about you."

health



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

Trans fats

Trans fats are a type of fatty acid. Fatty acids come from fruit and vegetable oils, seeds, nuts, animal fats, and fish oils. Not all fatty acids are unhealthy, but some, such as trans fats, can be bad for you. Trans fats are often used in processed foods and baked goods because they are cheaper than

animal fats, have a wide range of textures and have a larger shelf life.

Margarines, shortening, crackers, cookies, chips, salad dressings, and fried foods may be made with trans fats. Many foods from fast food restaurants also have high levels of trans fats.

Trans fats are unhealthy

because they may increase the levels of bad cholesterol in the body and decrease the level of good cholesterol. Studies have found that eating more trans fats is linked

to a higher risk of heart disease.

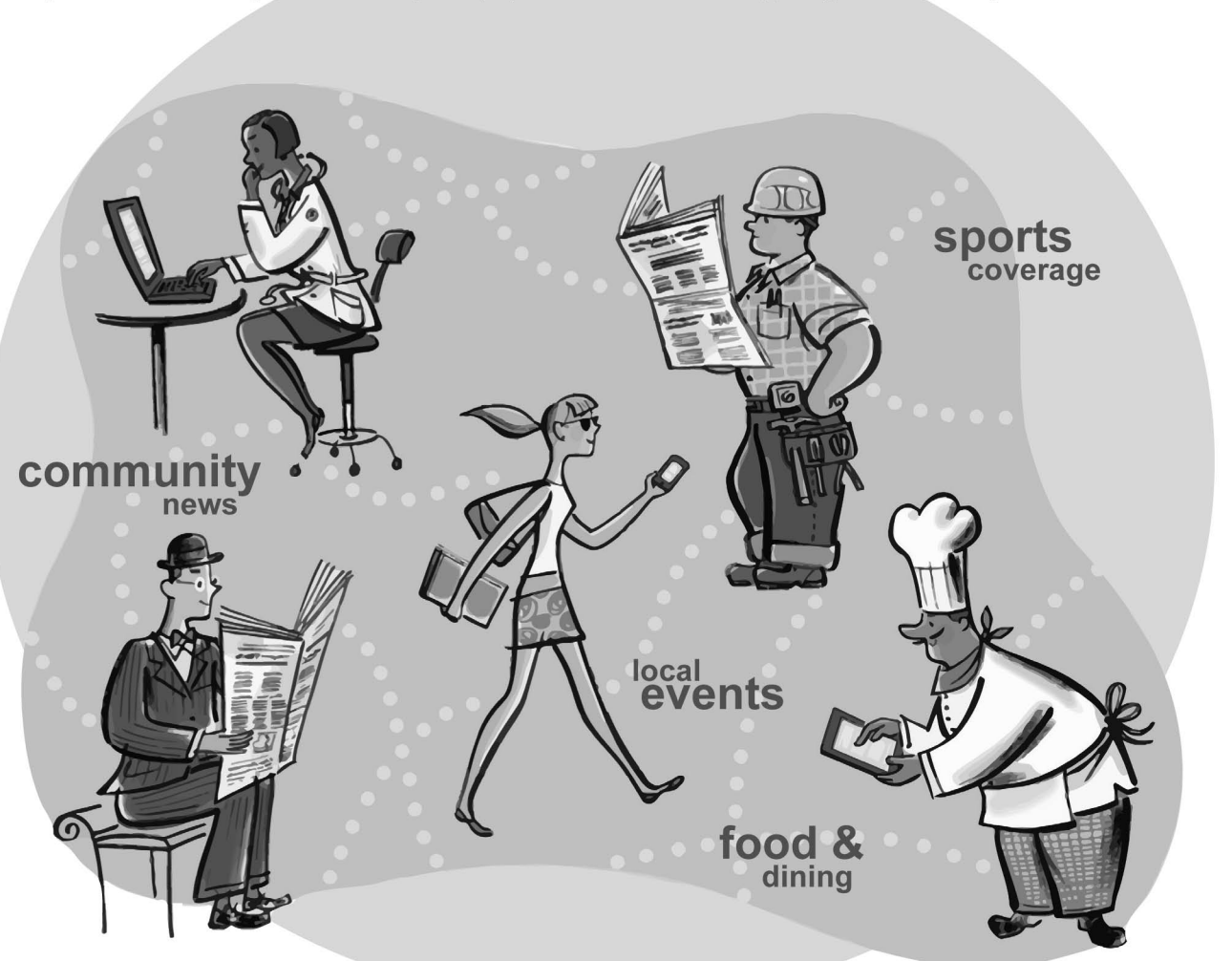
Add more fruits and vegetables to your diet in place of some packaged foods. Fruits and vegeta-

bles are naturally free of trans fats. You should also carefully read food labels - many products will now boldly relate that they are "trans fat free." The Amer-

ican Heart Association recommends that no more than one percent of your total calories per day come from trans fats. This equals about two to 2.5 grams per day.

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Expo, continued

guson and Miguel Espinoza. GRCC has been offering classes in Lowell for a second year in a row.

The Expo has grown tremendously over the years from few participating vendors to a packed event. Some vendors like Canfield, Seese and Harding participated in the first year and continue to this day.

The Lowell Arts, museum and the YMCA haven't missed a single Expo.

Lowell Area Schools provide the facility and Lowell Light and Power has been giving bucket rides for the last 10 years.

Also present were the Lowell Area firefighters

with Bob Rogers and Justin Soyka.

For the first time, veterans of VFW Post 8303 participated in the Expo.

"We received very positive comments from the vendors again this year," said Liz Baker, chamber of commerce director. "The attendance was down in the afternoon, but the weather was great and that could account for it."

Every year, the chamber conducts a survey of the vendors. This year there were 164. Ninety-four returned their surveys.

Baker said the question most asked was, if a vendor had attended the Expo, have they seen a return on their investment. The majority of returning vendors said yes.

The other question was, "Do you receive new business from exhibiting at the Expo?" Again, the majority gave it high marks.

"We feel once again the Lowell Community Expo was very successful; our goals have been met," said Baker. "The Expo is a great undertaking, takes lots of planning and we hear from so many that it's an extremely well-oiled machine. We look forward to the 17th annual Lowell Community Expo, March 23, 2013."

Mike Schmidt of Lowell is the winner of the Com-

puter Rehab giveaway of a custom built desktop computer worth \$600. Schmidt won out of 270 entries. Computer Rehab also recycles computers. The compa-

ny started a new service for \$99; customers are encouraged to bring in their computers up to three times a year.



Catherine Acker and Sierra Hieshetter of The Lowell Ledger, Buyers Guide and Lowell Litho.



Lindsey, Dave and Don Vroman and Jamie Rolfe of It Works, all natural plant-based supplements, skin care and weight loss products.



The trail booth of Lowell Area Recreational Authority Trailways, Rails to Trails and North Country Trail Association.



Vets of VFW Post 8303, Don Souser, James Breen, John C. Bedard, Charles Boerema, Herb Rice and Herman Westrate.



Paul Kehoe, Jack Horton and Jason Bennett of Comprenew collecting TVs for recycling.



Lowell area firefighters Bob Rogers and Justin Soyka.




Eja stylist Becky Osterhaven with client Karen Igel.



Stacey Marquee and Cass Kilyanek of Main Street Medical and Sport Supply, LLC.

Expo photos, continued, page 16

Catharina Bek



Behind The Scenes

Position: Office manager for Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce; bookkeeper for Arctic Heating and Cooling, Jerry's Lawn Care

Residence: Lowell since 1980

Education: High school in Netherlands, college classes in bookkeeping

Experience: Bookkeeping and office work

Family: Husband Evert, daughter Kim

Hobbies: Gardening, spending time with grandson



Catharina Bek enjoys talking on the phone.

Office manager enjoys fun job at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

by Emma Palova

For Catharina Bek every day is a good day at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, with visitors streaming in and out, artists coming to hang their paintings and different groups meeting with different agendas.

"There are no bad days here," said Bek smiling.

The chamber located on the Riverwalk across from the Showboat and next to the Flat River Grill is a busy place, sort of a chatroom. People don't just come here for information, but to throw around ideas and to practice small talk. Many rumors are born right here.

"I like the telephone and the books and sometimes the gossip," said Bek.

Bek, a bookkeeper for her husband's business, Arctic Heating and Cooling, started helping out at the chamber a while back. She stuffed envelopes, answered

the phone and helped with summer concerts.

When Barbara Schmaltz retired three years ago, Bek took over the office job.

"Liz needed some help," she said referring to chamber director Liz Baker.

Bek shares the challenges most people face at their workplaces and which are the most difficult to overcome. That is not having enough time to do all the work. So, she comes in on an extra day to catch up or stays longer. Most of her work is volunteer, except for eight paid hours to do bookkeeping for the chamber.

"It's my fun job," says Bek. "I like doing the books, but mostly I get to meet so many people and I get to know what's going on in the community."

Her major goal is to get the work that needs to be done. Bek first does the books for the chamber and

then she spends a lot of time on the phone answering questions about the town and its major events.

During cyclical events such as the summer concerts, Bek helps set up and she decorates the Showboat for Christmas activities.

"I like the variety of tasks," she said.

And how does this manager accomplish her diversified tasks?

"I try to make a schedule and put as much time as I can and see what happens," she said.

That may sound easy, but as mentioned earlier, the chamber buzzes with activity and a million and one interruptions on a regular day. When doing books, Bek has to close the door.

"Sometimes at home I ask myself, what did I do today to help the chamber?" Bek said.

Bek has no trouble showing her friendliness to complete strangers. She always hopes to give the right information with a positive attitude to the community.

And the chamber is constantly striving to improve all the events throughout the year.

"I rely on teamwork," Bek said. "There are a lot of people willing to step up to the plate."

Yeah, sometimes Bek doesn't see these little helpers for months and then when needed the most, they miraculously emerge. There is also a whole new generation of volunteers that guarantees the continuity of the chamber mission to promote local businesses into the future.

Over the years, Bek has seen many changes in the chamber business, mainly that events are getting bigger.

"They're well organized and well marketed to the surrounding communities," she said.

Most of the well established existing businesses do quite well during various chamber events, according to Bek.

The chamber stands at the beginning of all of the major projects; volunteers are like a lifeline that guarantees success; meetings are held to pull everything together and the only thing left to chance is the weather.

For example, the preparations for the annual Expo start right at the beginning of the year.

"There's never a downtime and if there is some, you make sure you use it well," Bek said.

There are many motivators for Bek to come to the office, after all, it is her fun job.

"I get to meet nice people," she said, "and hopefully I do something that will make an improvement in the community."

Sluggish economy has shown its ugly head to the chamber business as well.

"People are careful about membership dues, but on the other hand we get new people," she said.

Bek's biggest contribution and success is in getting the books organized and done. She is involved in most of the facets of the chamber business, as well as in various church activities.

She plans to continue her work at the chamber, but Bek would like to retire from bookkeeping for Arctic.

"I would like to put more hours at the chamber," she said.

As far as future for the chamber, Bek envisions the activities getting bigger and better, as well as the improvement of the existing ones.

"There are many volunteers who should be recognized as well; they're right here in the community," she said.





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MARCH 21 - MARCH 27

- Rallies, “scream-outs,” planned coast to coast in support of Trayvon Martin. Martin was an unarmed Florida teen that died at the hands of a neighborhood watch volunteer.
- Monday was the first day of landmark oral arguments on the constitutionality of sweeping health care law championed by President Obama.
- North Korea - Just hours after the U.S. warned that North Korea would achieve nothing with threats or provocations, Pyongyang moved a long-range rocket with plans to test fire to a launch pad Monday.
- Open mic catches President Obama asking Russian president for space on missile defense until after the election where he has more flexibility.
- Former Vice President Dick Cheney is recovering after having a heart transplant in Falls Church, Virginia. Cheney, 71, has been on the cardiac transplant list for more than 20 months.

Winter Guard to compete in state finals

Saturday, March 10, 2012, The Lowell competitive winter guards

traveled to Novi High School for their fourth regular season competition. Exit 52, Lowell High School, placed second in Independent A class; while Almost Home,

at the Michigan Color Guard Circuit Solo and Ensemble. Amanda Willson and Danielle Bagin choreographed a duet performed on flag and placed first in their class, earning them both gold medals for their efforts.



Pictured, left to right, are Amanda Willson and Danielle Bagin.

Lowell Middle School, brought home fourth in Junior Regional A, just tenths out of second and less than two points out of first. nships on March 31.

Both guard units will travel to Saginaw Valley University this weekend to compete in the Michigan Color Guard Circuit Championships

On Sunday, March 11, two members of Exit 52 performed

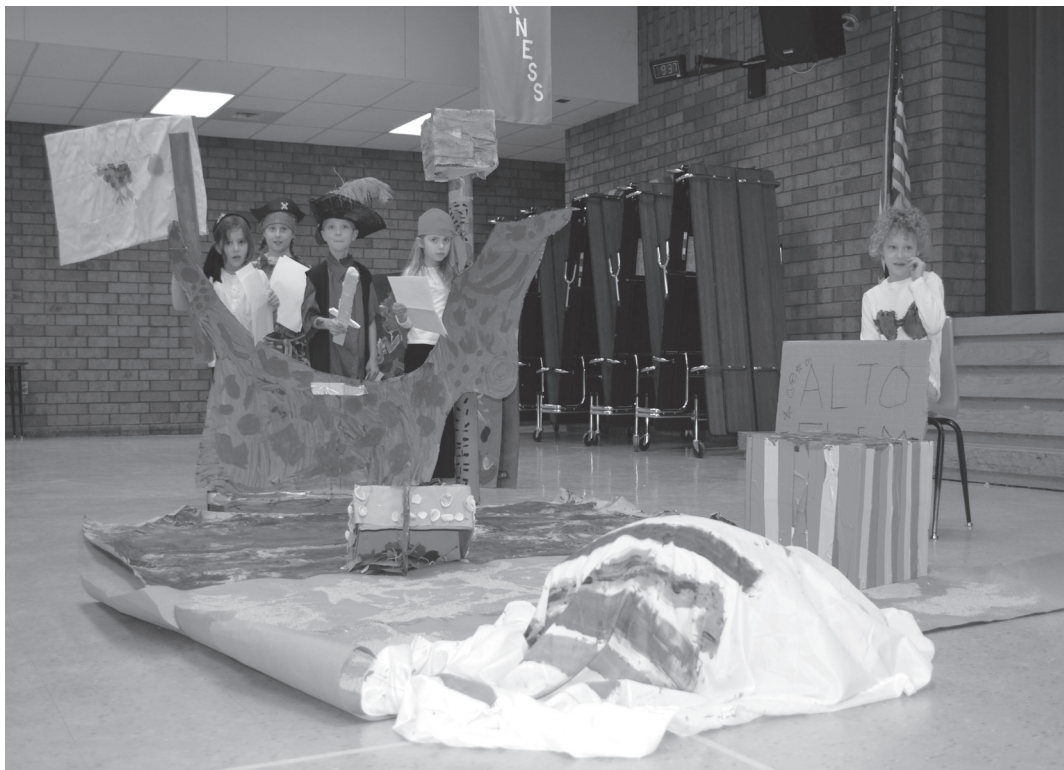
Odyssey of the Mind teams compete

Ten teams from Lowell Area Schools met recently at Cherry Creek Elementary to show off their creativity in a dress rehearsal for the Odyssey of the Mind competition. The Lowell teams traveled to Greenville High School on Saturday, March 24 for the Region 13 Odyssey of the Mind Competition. The teams performed a long-term performance that they had been working on since October. Their long-term performances included a performance where teams will find a way to satisfy their own curiosities and make surprising discoveries; an original humorous performance based on William Shakespeare’s Hamlet’s famous ques-

tion, “To be or not to be”; an original performance where a group of students encounter negative situations and turn them into positive ones; a vehicle that is designed,

built and operated by team members that will change and display different human emotions; and a structure built using only balsa wood and glue that will balance

and support as much weight as possible. On the day of competition the teams were also judged on how well they solved a spontaneous problem.



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Thank You!

I'd like to personally thank my 2012 Lowell Community Expo Committee for all of their hard work and planning to assure we had another very successful Expo.

Liz Baker - LACC
Ray and Barb Zandstra
Russ Groot - Harold Zeigler
Larry Mikulski - Lowell Area Schools
Jon Jacobs - The Lowell Ledger/Litho
Kristen Bruwer - Arrowhead Golf Course
Lori Buys - Lowell Area Schools

Again, Thank you for everything.

Marilyn McDougall
 Firstbank, Lowell

Looking for surprising discoveries are Alto students, left to right: Kendra Hoffert, Paige Barnhart, Aiden Pyle, Ali Bredwell, Sophia Scott, and hidden, Karina Peplinski.

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- SOCCER

Girls' soccer gets off to a slow start

by Karen Jack

The Lowell girls' soccer team lost their season opener on Monday night, with Grandville outscoring them 3-0.

The game started with Lowell taking control; Grandville quickly stole the ball and moved down field to take the first shot, but couldn't capitalize on it. Lowell played great defense during the whole first half, stopping Grandville from scoring until the last 34 seconds of the half. Grandville had 12 shots on goal in the first half, with six of them being errant shots. Lowell's goalkeeper, Jessica Montgomery, blocked or caught the other six. Lowell's Skylar Bowne, however, stopped seven shots in the first half with her defensive tactics, not allowing them to get close to the goal.

Lowell's Michelle Foote tried to get the offense going in the first half by forcing a foul to give Lowell the chance to take it down field to make a shot, but missed that shot. Just af-



Hannah Fitzpatrick passes the ball.

ter that, Stephanie Stevens stole the ball as Grandville was taking it down the field. She passed it to Colleen Carter, who wasn't able to keep control. In a back and forth battle, Grandville managed to outmaneuver Lowell to score their first goal at the end of the first half.

At the beginning of the second half, Lowell came out with determination to get their offense going, but with Grandville's speed, wasn't able to score at all. Grandville managed to control the ball most of the sec-

ond half, although Lowell played hard defensively and never quit. The half started with Grandville having control and Montgomery had a diving save on their first shot in the half. Amy Carpenter then passed the ball to Caitlin Fitzpatrick to take it down field, but was blocked by Grandville. Grandville took the ball towards the Lowell goal, but was again blocked by Bowne. Grandville regained control, but Fitzpatrick stole the ball and took it in for a shot, missing. Grandville was then able to

score on Lowell with 14:56 left in the second half. With Grandville controlling the ball most of the game, Montgomery and Bowne were working hard to keep the ball out of the net. With 6:30 left in the game, Montgomery made a diving save, but wasn't able to catch the ball and with Grandville players right there, they were able to kick it in before Montgom-

ery could get back into position.

The team has a new coach this year in Dan Lipon, who is expecting to have a successful season this year. With the team returning several girls, including four seniors, three juniors and two sophomores as part of their starting squad, Lipon expects to give the other teams a run for their money.

Stephanie Stephens, Caitlin Fitzpatrick, Melissa Southwell, and Annie Bencker will lead the team as seniors. Their games are usually Mondays and Thursdays.

"This young, talented group expects to have a successful season, with high expectations in the MHSAA tournament," commented Lipon.



Lauren Blanchard stops the ball with her head.

Youth wrestlers take Battle Creek by storm

by Karen Jack

It's true what they say – Lowell doesn't rebuild, they reload. The Lowell Youth Wrestling Club proved that in the past couple of weeks. Last week, 20 of them placed in the top four spots at the Michigan Youth Wrestling Association (MYWA) individual regionals to qualify themselves for the state tournament, which took place this past weekend at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

Of the 20 wrestlers that went, eight of them placed in the top eight of their age and weight class. The MYWA tournaments split the wrestlers not only by weight class, but by the year they were born as well, making it so the younger ones (age five) don't have to wrestle against the older ones (age 15).

The Lowell club walked away with one first place, two seconds, one fourth, one fifth, two sevenths, and one eighth place. The first place winner was Sage Serbenta (02/01 year, 86 lbs.) who won in the finals 1-0 against Ian Kennelly from Eagles Wrestling Club in the Metro Detroit region.

Taking second place were Grant Pratt (02/01 year, 131 lbs.) and Lucas Hall (98/97 year, 96 lbs.). Keigan Yuhas (00/99 year, 106 lbs.) took fourth, while David Kruse took eighth place in the same bracket. Caden Engle (04/03 year, 73 lbs.) took fifth place, with Carter Blough taking seventh place in the same bracket and Eli Boulton (00/99, 127 lbs.) also took seventh.

The state tournament is an extremely tough tour-

namment, with eight regions throughout the state bringing their four best wrestlers to compete. Having seven of the nineteen bring home medals is a real accomplishment.

The other qualifiers included Brenden Hill (07/05 year, 41 lbs.), Ramsy Mutchler (04/03 year, 50 lbs.), Kyle Mutschler (04/03, 56 lbs.), Zeth Strejc (02/01 year, 68 lbs.), Doak Dean (02/01, 81 lbs.), Grant Pratt

(02/01 year, 131 lbs.), Jeffrey Leach (00/99, 71 lbs.), Tyler Lynch (00/99, 76 lbs.), Sam Russell (00/99, 81 lbs.), Channing Perry (00/99, 96 lbs.), Garrett Taylor (00/99 year, 101 lbs.), Austin Engle (00/99, 113 lbs.), and Danny Kruse (98/97, 115 lbs.).

"These kids are our future," said Brian Krajewski, president of the youth club. "I'm extremely pleased to see the nineteen here and having seven of them place

is just phenomenal. Michigan is a state with a bunch of tough youth wrestlers and these kids had to wrestle a

very long day to make it to the podium. I'm just really proud of them all," added Krajewski.

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obituaries

KYSER

Dr. Robert C. Kyser DDS, age 84, a lifelong resident of Lowell, passed away Saturday, March 10, 2012. He was preceded in death by his son, Kevin Kyser; and



his wife of 42 years, Nona D. Kyser. Bob will continue to be in the hearts of his children, Chris Kyser of Vermont, Karen Hill of Ada, Nancy and Ivor Tafferner of Nevada, and Kerry and Becky Kyser of Irons;

several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bob was a veteran of the United States armed services, honorably serving in the Korean War. Dr. Kyser opened his practice in 1951 and worked until his retirement in 1997 where he served the residents of Lowell and the surrounding areas. Dr. Kyser was an active member of Lowell Rotary and a faithful member of First United Methodist Church of Lowell where he enjoyed singing in the choir. Bob was also an avid recreational pilot, a hobby he shared with his youngest son. A springtime memorial will be announced at a later date. Memorial contributions in Bob's honor to either Lowell First United Methodist or Lowell Rotary Club would be appreciated.

aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, sister- and brothers-in-law, cousins and friends; also very special friends, Mike and Sue Shinabarger, Sue and Gerry Lyster.

Preceding him in death were his mother, Marylyn (Collins) Thomet; grandson, Nathan Thomet; in-laws, Delmar and Beulah Millering. Jack touched so many lives with his kindness, quick wit and love for his kids, grandkids and friends. He enjoyed very much the friends and employees that he had while owning Lowell Lanes for over 20 years and was very proud to be a part of the bowling community. Funeral service was held Monday at Roth-Gerst Chapel. Rev. Chris Schwab of First Congregational Church of Lowell officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lowell Football Touchdown Club, PO Box 380, Lowell, MI 49331. Arrangements provided by Roth-Gerst, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Michigan 49331.



www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

THOMET

Jack A. Thomet, age 60, of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, March 21, 2012. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Gail (Millering); children, Travis (Catherine) Thomet, Carrie (Brian) Fox; father, Duke (Alfred) Thomet and special friend Donna; grandchildren, Brianna Thomet, Mackenzie Fox, Sydney Fox, Brady Fox, Gloria Rivera, Olivia Rivera, Jonathan Thomet; sister, Lynn (Phil) Nauta; brothers, Denny (Cathy) Thomet, Ken (Susan) Thomet, Mark (Cindi) Thomet; several special

Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

~ Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP Township Board Public Hearing Notice

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Board will be held on **Monday, April 16, 2012 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider a special exception use permit as follows:

Ryan Peel is applying for a special exception use permit to erect a 150 foot tall tower to attach broadband internet antennas. The tower will be located on the western area of the property owned by Kerry Tap at 3251 Fallasburg Park Dr NE, Lowell Michigan.

The complete application can be reviewed at the **Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 (fax 897-5674)**. Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Clerk at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to: clerk@vergennestwp.org

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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

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GROUNDSSUPERVISOR - the Kent County Youth Fair is seeking applicants for the position of grounds supervisor. Full job description is available at www.kcfg.org. Send resume & letter of interest to office@kcfg.org

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misc.

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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.

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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.

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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.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY - at Cascade Fellowship Christian Ref. Church, 6655 Cascade Rd. Free perishable food. 1st Monday. Register: 4:30 p.m. Distribution: 6 p.m. lic.

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.

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

KNITTING 101 - Every Wed., 10 a.m. - noon, Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

GRIEF - ADULT GROUP - Each Tuesday, 6 - 7:15 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.

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.

TOTS PLAYGROUP - Meets every Tues., Wed. & Thurs. at Bushnell Elementary, 700 Elizabeth, Lowell. 8:30 a.m. or 10 a.m. Meeting at Alto Elementary, 6150 Bancroft, Alto on Thursdays at 10 a.m. For more info contact Lori at TOTS, 987-2532.

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

ALTO LIONS CLUB - Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at Keiser's Kitchen.

COFFEE WITH THE COUNCIL - Come meet & have a cup of coffee with your city councilmembers. First Saturday of each month at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, Lowell. 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

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Lowell Middle School honor roll

Lowell Middle School has released the honor roll for the second trimester – 2011-12 school year

Sixth grade

Aikens, Taylor
Allison, Morgan
Anderson, Madeline
Anes, Paige
Angelo, Sky
Antel, Melody
Ashenbremer, Bryan
Baker, Collin
Baker, Noelle
Barrett, Nathan
Barrie, Atlas
Beimers, Christian
Bell, Keaton
Bendall, Gabriel
Berklich, Jonathan
Bierling, Carter
Blakie, Laurel
Blum, Bailey
Boggs-Osman, Hailey
Branagan, Makyla
Brandt, Alexander
Breen, Devin
Brenner, Olivia
Brown, Amber
Brown, Emily
Buckius, Addison
Bush, Joshua
Bussell, Mitchell
Carmichael, Sydney
Chapman, Dawson
Charron, Ashton
Chase, Auden
Chertos, Tayler
Cilley, Dax
Clark, Carson
Clouatre, Kimberly
Cody, Brynn
Conlan, Riley
Cook, Alexis
Cornell, Travis
Corner, Brittany
Crace, Madelyne
Creighton, McKenna
Cupp, Devin
Cussimano, Katherine
Davis, Christian
Davis, Thomas
Dean, Cassandra
Dean, Darby
Devereaux, Caleb
Dial, Isabelle
Dimmick, Eric
Dixon, Elijah
Douma, Brady
Douma, Connor
Draigh, Jonathan
Droski, Katrina
Duhr, Quinne
Duimstra, Jarrett
Eckert, Jayce
Eggleston, Dylan
Eickhoff, Clarellan
Engle, Austin
Ettinger, Ethan
Evink, Mitchell
Fahrni, Keana
Feeney, Bryce
Feeney, Jordan
Fleenor, Geoffrey
Flier, Katelyn
French, Casey
Fritsma, Joel
Garcia, Josiah
Gordon, Makayla
Greenhoe, Tierney
Gutowski, Jacob
Hackstedt, Joshua
Haff, Mitchell
Halfmann, Hannah
Hancock, Joseph
Hanson, Jacob
Harper, Jenna
Harper, Ryan
Hart, Maria
Higley, Alexis
Hindley, Lindsay
Hoevenaar, Hailey
Hofman, Samuel
Hull, Lydia
Inman, James
Jack, McKenzie
Jankowski, Peyton
Jernberg, Dylan
Johnson, Audra
Johnson, Evan
Johnson, Jade
Johnson, Roman
Johnson, Shelly

Kaminski, Ethan
Kastanek, Abigail
Kehoe, Jonathon
Kelly, Fiona
Kenkel, Haley
Kerkstra, Mitchell
Kleinedler, Rachel
Kolp, Annelise
Kondor, Dawn
Kroll, Katherine
Kropf, Emily
Kruse, David
Krzysik, Hunter
Kuhns, Elizabeth
Lachowski, Laura
Laird, Alexander
LeFebre, Andrew
Link, Joanna
Lobbezoo, Benjamin
Longway, Cassiopeia
Looman, Chloe
Lubbers, Courtney
Lupton, Avery
Lynch, Tyler
Mangus, Abigail
Mason, Nicholas
Massel, Cameron
Mast, Caleb
McDonald, Kelum
McDowell, Abigail
McGee, Cody
McRee, Gabrielle
McVey, Blake
McVey, Rachel
Mellema, Sadie
Mexicano, Daniel
Miller, Raiden
Minier, Madison
Misak, Samuel
Moore, Asher
Mrozinski, Karleigh
Mullins, Benjamin
Nethercott, Eden
Noffke, Ryan
North, MacKenzie
Nugent, Connor
Nugent, Jacob
Nugent, Nicole
Ortowski, Michael
Owen, Paul
Patrick, Alexander
Paulus, Nicole
Pawlowski, Ryan
Perosky, Grace
Perry, Channing
Plunkett, Justin
Poll, Alexis
Pollock, Austin
Polsgrove, Morgan
Powell, Sydney
Pratt, Garrett
Price, Natalie
Quiggle, Ethan
Rankin, Alec
Ransom, Miah
Rau, Jacob
Read, Devin
Reagan, Theresa
Roberts, Carrie
Roest, Brianna
Ross, Seth
Roth, Evan
Rozell, Roman
Russell, Payton
Ryan, Lane
Sanders, Brendan
Sawyer, Holton
Schluckbier, Kaelonnie
Schmidt, Chloe
Schwartz, Max
Seese, Drake
Senneker, Kaitlyn
Smith, Anna
Smithee, Erin
Sparks, Kya
Spencer, Noah
Starkweather, Olivia
Stockreef, Emma
Stump, Kenneth
Summerfield, Megan
Svoboda, Nathaniel
Swain, Caleb
Tavarone, Olivia
Tichelaar, Zachary
Tower, Mitchell
VanderBoon, Vanessa
VanderMark, Bailey
VanOosten, Jordan
Virsik, Joshua
Whaley, Austin
Whittum, Elyssa
Wilcox, Kaitlin
Wilczewski, Justin
Williams, Gaven

Williams, Jade
Williams, Kaitlynn
Willson, Jarod
Woern, Jason
Worsley, Noah
Wyant, Trenton
Yomtoob, Nathan
Yuhas, Keigan
Zimmerman, Kennedy

Seventh grade

Amante-Dickman, Ethan
Anderson, Adam
Anderson, Karmen
Anderson, Sterling
Andrus, Jordan
Baerwalde, Angela
Barber, Nathan
Barnes, Keagan
Barnhart, Angelica
Barr, Shawn
Battle, Brennan
Bauman, Sela
Bazen, Austin
Beach, Tyus
Beachler, Matthew
Bem, Johanna
Bergin, Jeremy
Bierlein, Delaney
Bileth, Dakota
Bishop, Jacob
Bishop, Maxwell
Bodemann, Katherine
Boulton, Elijah
Bouman, Trevor
Bowers, Collin
Bramble, Casey
Branagan, Austin
Briggs, Maria
Brown, Clayton
Brown, Mitchell
Burt, Madeline
Carey, Elese
Cater, Kyle
Celori, Samantha
Chapin, Emma
Chapman, Brodrick
Chrisman, Autumn
Churches, Colton
Clarke, Ryne
Clemenshaw, Katie
Clouse, Paige
Conard, Sydney
Coxon, Riley
Coyne, Troy
Curtis, Amber
Dalessandro, Nicholas
DeCator, Maria
Dee, Ricky
DeHaan, Paige
DeVito, Samuel
deVoest, Andrew
Dixon, Kyla
Dodde, Sydney
Dollar, Megan
Dommer, Alexander
Doyle, Michael
Dubisky, Robert
Dull, Preston
Endres, Shane
Ergang, Brayden
Falk, Devin
Fezzey, Victoria
Fisher, Edward
Fleszar, Isabelle
Ford-Weber, Callie
Ford-Weber, Rose
Forward, Alise
Fosburg, Paige
Fox, Brady
Frederickson, Laurel
Fuller, Darby
Furtaw, Taylor
Garter, Bridget
Gaskin, Ciera
Geldersma, Bethany
Godbold, Haley
Grant, Parker
Grasman, Sonja
Green, Abigail
Grile, Elizabeth
Grochowalski, Emily
Haines, Madeleine
Hall, Megan
Hall, Rebecca
Hawkins, Nathan
Haywood, Brianna
Heffron, Joseph
Heikkila, Edward
Hieftje, Kollin
Higgins, Taylor
Hock, Emily
Hock, Olivia
Hoekstra, Shannon

Holdridge, Kamryn
Holmes, Jacob
Hoseth, Molly
Hubert, Thomas
Hudson, Anderson
Huizinga, Noah
Humphreys, Jerrod
Huston, Henry
Inda, Bailey
Jamison, Logan
Jeffries, Kara
Jernberg, Danton
Johnson, Savanna
Judd, Eric
Jurmo, Kelsie
Kargl, Jeremy
Kaufman, Caleb
Kelley, Kaitlin
Kline-Scheltmeyer, Harley
Kooistra, Bretton
Korzen, Adam
Ladner, Josie
Landman, Logan
Lane, Aidan
Larson, Jacob
Launer, Clayton
Laux, Zachary
Lezan, Jared
Liddle, Kyle
Lubbers, Kayeleigh
Majestic, Sara
Malone, Jack
Martinez, Makyla
Mason, Samuel
McCormack, Madison
McDonald, Carsen
McIntire, Alyssa
McLarty, Kenzie
Mears, Alyssa
Melle, Jarrod
Micho, Tessa
Mierendorf, Aron
Mitchell, Kennedy
Mooney, Nicole
Moore, Daniel
Moore, Skylar
Murray, Austin
Myers, Braden
Nault, Mikayla
Nethercott, Riley
Nietling, Nova
Noffke, Benjamin
Nurmikko, Olivia
Owens, Hunter
Painter, Isabeau
Paiz, Grace
Peavey, Tiana-Marie
Perry, Nicolas
Perysian, Jayce
Peters, Jasmine
Peterson, Chad
Peterson, Katie
Peterson, Mary
Petricevic, Tiana
Phillips, Remington
Pickens, Caleb
Pickett, Abigail
Pontius, Josealyn
Powell, Alexander
Pratt, Jacob
Preston, Griffen
Price, Lisa
Pytlik, Jacquelyn
Quiggle, Lillian
Reagan, Jacob
Reed, Daniel
Reed, Mansel
Reedy, Matthew
Remar, Aiden
Reyes, Eduardo
Reynolds, Andi
Ricards, Gina
Ritchie, Megan
Robinson, Samantha
Roest, Alyssa
Rogalke, John
Roth, Emily
Rozell, Alexander
Russell, Samuel
Schneider, Hayden
Schram, Madisen
Schramm, Braydon
Sheldon, Autumn
Sheppard, Gabrielle
Sherman, Trevor
Simpson, Courtney
Slagell, Brevon
Smit, Brandon
Smith, Benjamin
Smith, Landon
Smith, Logan
Smithee, Connor
Sobie, Caleb
Solomonson, Sage

Spliedt, Anthony
Steinebach, Hana
Stephens, Nathan
Stewart, Benjamin
Stewart, Jonathan
Stoffers, Bradley
Striplin, Kayleigh
Sturgeon, Mason
Swanson, Evan
Taylor, Garret
Taylor, Hailey
Thompson, Jakob
Thomson, Fiona
Travis, Patrick
Trierweiler, Donald
Tripp, Steven
Truba, Nickolas
Underwood, Jacob
VandenHout, Sydney
VanderMeulen, Logan
VanDyke, Trevor
VanTil, Jared
VanTil, Nicholas
Vulpetti, Annina
Wade, John
Walters, Sara
Wenger, Corrina
Weston, Zachary
White, Lauren
Whittum, Nathan
Wilcox, Kodie
Williams, Maya
Winn, Sophia
Woods, Kiauna
Wosinski, Jacob
Wroten, Kendra

Eighth grade

Aalsburg, Maya
Anderson, Keara
Bailey, Shelley
Bancroft, Riley
Barnes, Anastasia
Barrett, Jessica
Bates, Ethan
Bell, Kyle
Bennett, Baylee
Bessey, Jenna
Bishop, Elena
Bramer, Leah
Brenner, Amanda
Briggs, Dean
Brim, Katerina
Brooks, Paige
Browning, Lauren
Brzezniak, Jared
Buckius, Avery
Campbell, Ethan
Chappell, Alina
Coble, Elle
Commire, Grace
Cooke, Jack
Cooper, Matthew
Copeyon, Logan
Dean, Zeth
Dec, Sarah
Delgado, Veronica
Dickson, Billy
Dickson, Elizabeth
Doane, Tyler
Duvernay, Hannah
Emelander, Madison
Emmanuel, Kelsey
Engels, Haley Jo
Fotis, Rachael
Fox, Rachel
Frederickson, Alexis
Gable, Eric
Gaskin, Madison
Gerig, Abigail
Grim, Austin
Grohman, Addison
Grover, Kyrsten
Guinn, Kellen
Gustafson, Greta
Haefner, Katie
Haehnel, Brandon
Hamilton, Autumn
Harper, Cameron
Havlik, Jessica
Hemingsen, Seth
Hess, Mary
Hessler, Ryan
Hewitt, Victoria
Holloway, Maranda
Huber, Lance
Hull, Talitha
Huston, Samuel
Huver, McKenzie
Jakubiak, Aaron
Johnson, Graham
Johnson, Johnathan
Kaminski, Madison

Karns, Reece
Kelley, Neill
Khodi, Megan
Kline, Joseph
Kloosterman, Nicholas
Kloosterman, Sara
Kole, Kayla
Kopecek, Kalie
Kramer, Hunter
Kruse, Daniel
Laird, Allyson
Litchfield, Anna
McMillian, Maxwell
Maksymetz, Claire
Mankel, Kyle
Marks, Adam
Marks, Marilla
Massey, Brianna
Massey, Derek
Maughan, Jarett
Maxim, Brett
Mayhew, Sarah
McGee, Collin
McGillicuddy, Bryndal
McMillian, Hensley
McQueen, Jennifer
Mierendorf, Evan
Miller, Elizabeth
Misak, Richard
Misiak, Mason
Mixon, Jordan
Moomau, Aleecia
Morris, Ellinor
Murley, Karson
Nauta, Garrett
Nies, Abigail
Noskey, Carter
Olesko, Sawyer
Pallottini, Ashton
Paulus, Brendan
Peckham, Alyssa
Peterson, Liam
Petrovich, Samantha
Philo, Cameron
Pollock, Anthony
Rasch, Mark
Richards, Brittany
Richardson, Tess
Ritchie, Tyler
Ritsema, Hannah
Roberts, Skielynne
Roche, Emily
Rodgers, Brittany
Rodriguez, Adrian
Roest, Trevor
Rogers, Corynn
Roscoe, KaRaeFreeman
Roth, Noah
Rowley, Isaiah
Schmidt, Courtney
Schuitema, Sara
Senneker, Karen
Serbenta, Ashley
Shurlow, Trevor
Smit, Austin
Smith, Kyle
Smith, Madison
Sprague, Jacob
Steed, Gabriel
Steffen, Brooke
Stevens, Ryan
Stockreef, Allyson
Struckmeyer, Andrew
Sutton, Hayden
Talalay, Joshua
Taylor, Katie
Thalison, Carter
Tidd, Lakota
Tyler, Valerie
Urban, Jamie-Lynn
VanderBerg, Micaela
VanderMark, Courtney
VanDerWarf, Kenneth
VanEnk, Morgan
VanLaan, Breanna
Vescolani, Isabella
Warning, Calvin
Washburn, Kyle
Watson, Courtney
Webster, Amanda
Weed, Douglas
Weeks, Donelle
Wester, Rylee
Whitsett, Brian
Wilson, Faith
Wilson, Jared
Wilterdink, Sarena
Wittenbach, Morgan
Worsley, Christian
Yates, North
Ysasi, Alysia
Ziomkowski, Mallory

**THEME:
MARCH MADNESS**

ACROSS

- 1. Frosting on a cake, e.g.
- 6. Heat or energy unit
- 9. *School with most championships
- 13. Love intensely
- 14. Dr. Cornelius in sci-fi movie classic, e.g.
- 15. Like dragon after knight's conquest
- 16. Copperfield's domain
- 17. Eating of forbidden fruit, e.g.
- 18. Total amount
- 19. *Game tracker
- 21. In an open way
- 23. Not vertical, abbr.
- 24. Be sick
- 25. Emergency responders
- 28. Home to Stags Leap and Wild Horse
- 30. Superlative of "yare"
- 35. Reluctant, usually followed by "to"
- 37. A tall one is not true
- 39. The present occasion
- 40. U.N. civil aviation agency
- 41. Rossini's opus, e.g.
- 43. It travels through air
- 44. Pulsating pain
- 46. At a great distance
- 47. *Final _____
- 48. Some give this when upset
- 50. Drug abuser
- 52. Dry, as in humor
- 53. Eagerness
- 55. Clinton ____ Rodham
- 57. Famous for its coffee
- 60. *Goes with March
- 64. NBC's "The _____"
- 65. "____ to Joy" by Friedrich Schiller
- 67. Become one
- 68. On the move
- 69. Julie Andrews in "The Sound of Music"
- 70. Holy See's administering body
- 71. *Ranking
- 72. Apollo to ancient Greeks
- 73. Levels

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19						20		21	22					
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36			37			38		39			
40						41			42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48						49		50		51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
		57	58	59					60			61	62	63
64						65	66			67				
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

DOWN

- 1. Its fleece was white as snow?
- 2. Sixth month of civil year
- 3. Downward and upward dogs are part of this
- 4. _____ Maria Remarque
- 5. Suppose
- 6. *Georgetown's conference, "The Big _____"
- 7. *Ranking based on strength of schedule
- 8. Major Italian seaport
- 9. _____ Bator, Mongolia
- 10. Collect telephone _____
- 11. Monet's water flower
- 12. "____ day now"
- 15. Novelist _____

Zweig

- 20. Muse of love poetry
- 22. Be nosy
- 24. Deadly or sinister
- 25. *Like last eight
- 26. Sweet coffee drink
- 27. A Beatle
- 29. Daddy
- 31. Over your head?
- 32. To give an income or property
- 33. Scrub or purge
- 34. Towel cloth
- 36. Ungulate's foot
- 38. Victorian or Elizabethan ones, e.g.
- 42. *Kentucky's Rupp _____
- 45. *_____ beater
- 49. "Big Island" flower necklace
- 51. Simplify

- 54. Movie "_____ Came Polly"
- 56. Boredom
- 57. Speaker type
- 58. Baptism, e.g.
- 59. Important battery component
- 60. "Cobbler, cobbler, _____ my shoe"
- 61. Republic of Ireland
- 62. Done in a pot
- 63. Ligurian one and Adriatic one
- 64. Military hospitals
- 66. Simon & Garfunkel, e.g.

Puzzle solutions on page 12

SUDOKU

PRESENTED BY



		3					9	
	1		7	3		5	6	
7	8				9		3	
8				6				
4			9		3			1
				1				9
	4		3				5	7
	6	9		5	7		1	
	7					2		

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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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I'm one of those bike riders. I found that Lowell has the most considerate drivers and I'm grateful for that, but it is not always easy to ride close to the edge of the road. The roads on the edge have rocks, glass and holes. Please slow down when passing bikers and give us space.

Thank you, Bev Toomey

What a great letter from a Richard Vorace who spoke so beautifully about our Lowell Library. We agree that we have a wonderful staff and facility!

To the man who walked up to our booth at Expo and stated, "These are the people that HATE women"....I feel sorry and embarrassed for both you and your eight-year-old daughter. She obviously needs a better role model to teach her civility. A course in public engagement might help you from making such dopey comments.

Why is the dress code length no longer being defined other than "appropriate length" in LAS student handbooks? After seeing the students around the district, I am amazed that some of the girls can even sit down due to the length of their skirts. Why were the high school students allowed to curse in the production Annie? This was suppose to be a family event. My elementary child said, "They are talking naughty." It is hard enough to raise good moral children in today's world. It is time for parents and faculty to teach our children what is appropriate for our school settings.

NEED TO SEND A



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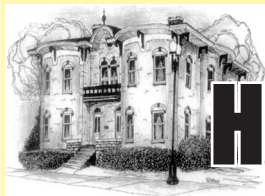
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History Mystery

Amy Hill had the correct response to the History Mystery. Her family owned Hill's Shoe Store and donated many objects, like the old cash register, the big boot and a shoe shiner's chair to the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

Many older citizens may remember seeing this giant shoe on display at Hill's shoe store at 218 W. Main Street in Lowell.



The Hill's shoe store operated from this location from 1917 until 2001. Many of the store's display pieces, shoes and artifacts were donated to the Lowell Area Historical Museum (LAHM) by the Hill family when the store closed.

This giant shoe was acquired in 1935 by the Hill family from Howk shoe store. The shoe is one of the oldest artifacts on display at the museum and recalls the early history of several great businesses on Main Street.

This shoe was cobbled in 1865 by Isaac White and used as a trade sign for his boot and shoe business. It has a rich history and can be linked to one of the oldest pioneer families of Lowell. It was originally built

by Isaac White for the Lowell Boot & Shoe Company. This store was located in the McQueen house, across the street from a section of town known as the "Old Wooden Row." This block is now known as the Superior Furniture block. The store also served as the post office. Isaac White served as postmaster in 1861 and George White, served as postmaster in 1851. They kept the mail in a drawer under their shoe bench. Isaac joined the Howk shoe company in 1867.

LAHM will be highlighting this artifact in their quarterly newsletter, where you can learn how this giant shoe became a part of Lowell's history.

Expo photos, continued



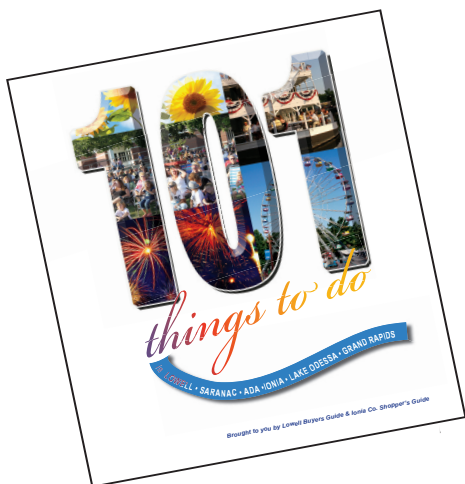
Christine Koehler of Birchwood Garden Apartments and Betty Morlock.



Ella Bolan of Ella's Cafe and Cuisine.



Kathy and Vanessa Wittenbach of Witt's Inn and Cafe.



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Financial focus, continued

appropriate for your individual situation.

Having the ability to pay for long-term care is obviously important. But other issues may also enter the picture. For example, if you need to enter a nursing home, you may be suffering from a physical or mental disability that might prevent you from handling your own affairs. This impairment could prove disastrous to your finances — which is why you can't afford to take that type of chance. Instead, consult with your legal advisor to determine if you can benefit from a durable

power of attorney — a document that lets you delegate your financial decisions to a relative, close friend or anyone else you might choose.

None of us like to think about spending time in a nursing home or needing round-the-clock care in our own homes. However, life is unpredictable. But even if you can't avoid the need for long-term care, you can take steps to help reduce the financial strain it can cause you and your family.

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