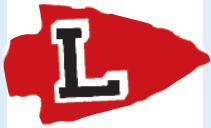




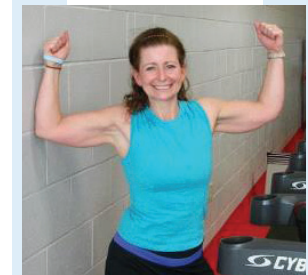
page 9

red arrow sports



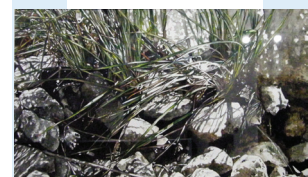
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community weight loss challenge winners



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award winners



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50 CENTS



## Spring Lowell classic gravel bike ride attracts hundreds of participants

by Emma Palova

The first spring Lowell50 classic gravel road bike ride attracted hundreds of participants from all over the Midwest.

On a chilly March morning last Saturday, more than 200 bicyclists gathered at the Fallasburg Park for a speedy jaunt. The parking lots were filled with biking enthusiasts training to the very last moment prior to the big start at 10 am.

Kurt and MariBeth Shields came from Muskegon for the race for the very first time.

“My husband got into biking,” she said. “This is his first race. He just doesn’t want to be the last. He is very competitive. Actually, he is very good.”

MariBeth came faithfully to cheer Kurt along the way.

With a complete start/finish line and time measuring chips, the race was more reminiscent of Tour de France through the hills of Provence.

Actually, it was more difficult because of the gravel roads’ surface, muddied by the recent rain and the pot holes.

“This is our first springtime race,” said timer

Brian Bangma of 42-85 timers.

Each racer got a timing chip and a bib with a number. Day of registration racers were called to come

to the podium, so the race could begin.

“We have electronic timing,” said Bangma, showing the sensors on top of the start/finish banner.

As the hype toward the start grew, the participants were eager to get going

Race, continued, page 16



The bicyclists of Lowell50 at the start/finish line.

## Lowell resident subscribes to the Ledger for nearly 50 years

by Emma Palova

Francis Eugene Eikhoff joined the navy in 1944. In 1947 he got married in Annapolis, Maryland, and moved out of Lowell. He worked in the navy supply department until retiring in 1963.

He lives now in Upper Marlboro in a town approximately the size of Lowell.

To this day, he still subscribes to The Lowell Ledger.

“It’s my hometown,” he said.

The family with four brothers lived in Fallasburg Park, although Eikhoff was born in Victoria, IL.

“My dad worked for Kent County,” he said.

Eikhoff stays in touch not only via the paper; every year he comes back to Lowell for a reunion in August.

He is surprised how the town has grown over the years.

“The town is growing,” he said. “They put the new bridge in and the fair is good.”

Eikhoff went to school in town by the Showboat when it was still the Lowell High School.

He still has a lot of cousins and a brother Gary Eikhoff in town, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

“I like being with the family,” he said. “The Ledger keeps me informed

on what’s going on in Michigan.”

Eikhoff doesn’t have any particular favorite section but enjoys Along Main Street, Looking Back Through The Ledgers and social news like obituaries and births..

“I like the whole thing,” he said. “I wish when people move away they get the paper.”

He is planning to come back in August for a reunion.

Eikhoff said he always looks forward to getting the paper on Saturday or on Monday.

The weekly paper has been in existence for more than 116 years, covering community news, events and sports.

## Alto elementary teacher testifies at hearing

Alto Elementary School kindergarten teacher Cyndi Pierce, on Wednesday, testified in favor of legislation to move the age five cutoff date for kindergarten from December 1 to September 1.

State Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons, House Education Committee chair, invited the local educator to discuss House Bills 4513 and 4514, which supporters say will help students be more mature and better prepared for kindergarten.

Experts in the education community argue that some five year

olds may be smart enough for kindergarten, but may not be mature enough or socially ready for it.

“A child may pass an academic assessment and not be ready for kindergarten emotionally,” said Pierce, who teaches Lyons’ daughter Charlie.

The education committee took testimony from other educators from around the state.

“We need to keep the focus on what is best for kids and it’s important that we listen closely to the concerns of teachers

Teacher, continued, page 2



# Lowell Odyssey of the Mind teams compete at regional tournament

Imagine yourself taking a ride on a team created vehicle traveling a course while showing different emotions, watching a group of students encounter negative situations and turn them into positive ones, enjoying a musical theatre spin on one of William Shakespeare's most famous lines: "To be or not to be," examine a balsa wood structure to see how much

weight it will hold and being surprised as a team created device uncovers hidden objects.

These are all parts of solutions to problems used by Lowell Odyssey of the Mind teams at the Region 13 competition at Greenville High School. Lowell was represented by 10 teams made up of students from all four elementary schools and the middle school. The teams

competed by presenting their solutions to a problem they have been solving since early in the school year, as well as solving a problem that was unknown to them until one minute before they had to solve the problem. The teams are scored by how well their solutions solved the problem, how creative their solutions were and how well they worked together as a team.

Securing a second place finish and qualifying for the State Finals tournament was the Division 1 "You Make the Call" team from Murray Lake Elementary. For this problem, the team designed and built a structure made of only balsa wood and glue that would support as much weight as possible. The

Odyssey, continued, page 16

# Teacher, continued

when discussing education policy," said Lyons, R-Alto. "I'm so thankful Mrs. Pierce took the time to come testify. Her expertise on

kindergarten education is truly valuable."

Additional hearings will be held to discuss the legislation further.



Cindy Pierce, testifies Wednesday in front of the House Education Committee in Lansing.



## along main street

### COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

Come meet and have a cup of coffee with your city councilmembers on the first Saturday of the month from 8-10 am at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza.

### GOOD FRIDAY CROSS WALK

Friday, April 6, at 12:00 noon, meet at the United Methodist Church. We will be walking to various downtown locations behind a rough hewn cross remembering Jesus Passion, concluding at the Oakwood Cemetery. A bus will be provided by the United Methodist Church for those that can't walk. This event will conclude at around 1:30. All are welcome to participate in this event.

### GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

Cancer - New Member Meeting, Tues., April 10 and 24, 2:30-3:30 pm and 7:15-8 pm; Crafting for Spring, Tues., April 10, 4-5 pm; "Look Good, Feel Better," this program, presented by the American Cancer Society, is to help women in treatment for cancer with appearance-related side-effects, Tues., April 10, 1-3 pm; Wood Carving, learn how to make easy and beautiful wood carvings with Doug Shassberger, beginners welcome and supplies are provided, Tues., April 10, 4-5 pm; Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit [www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow](http://www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow)

### 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.

### LOWELL HUNGER WALK

Walkers needed on Sun., May 6, registration at 1 pm with the walk beginning at 1:30 pm at First United Methodist Church (across from Keiser's Kitchen). Each walker gets donors to sponsor him/her for this walk. Walker information packets available by calling Roger at 897-0105.

*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.*



## lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Thursday, April 12, 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.

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# Lowell Community Wellness Weight Loss Challenge results

Each year Lowell Community Wellness, a local nonprofit organization, hosts a community weight loss challenge. This year, Lowell Community Wellness and Snap Fitness partnered together to strive for success.

The participants were able to join the challenge as an individual or as a team of four people. There were 53 individual participants and 22 teams of four. The challenge consisted of ten weeks, January 11, 2012, through March 21, 2012. Throughout the ten weeks, each participant had a 20 visit punch card to utilize the cardio

and strength training equipment at Snap Fitness. Participants also had opportunities to take part in group exercise classes, free meal

planning tools, body composition testing, and a free fitness score session with a certified personal trainer.

“Snap Fitness was hon-

ored to partner with Lowell Community Wellness to host the community weight loss challenge this year,” said Devon McQueen,

general manager. “Getting started on a fitness plan can be kind of intimidating, but these participants started off strong during the New Year and stayed steady throughout the whole ten weeks,” said McQueen.

There was a total of 1,622 pounds lost over the ten weeks. The top individual participant was Loretta Visser, with a 12.67 percent weight loss. The top team of four was named Coun-

try Bumpkins. This team consisted of Elaine Haines, Paul and Cara Rider and Skye Nichols. Country Bumpkins totaled an 8.17 percent weight loss. Jeff Sweet, who was part of a team, actually had the highest overall weight loss percentage with 15.58 percent. “Although Jeff was registered on a team, we still need to highlight his success,” said McQueen. Visser and the Country Bumpkins won the satisfaction of improving their overall health and an opportunity to continue their healthy lifestyle at Snap Fitness with three free months of membership.

For more information on Lowell Community Wellness or Snap Fitness, visit the website at [www.lowellcommunitywellness.org](http://www.lowellcommunitywellness.org) or [www.snapfitness.com/lowellmi](http://www.snapfitness.com/lowellmi)



Above: The Country Bumpkins, Elaine Haines, Paul and Cara Rider and Skye Nichols.



Right: Loretta Visser, top individual participant.

## Rebate doubles to \$60 for old, energy-wasting, fridges and freezers

Lowell Light & Power has recently doubled its cash rebate for old, secondary refrigerators and freezers from \$30 to \$60, giving customers a quick and easy way to boost their home's energy efficiency by saving up to \$150 a year on customer utility bills.

Typically kept in garages and basements, older refrigerators or freezers can use up to three times the amount of energy of newer models, which is a steep price for keeping a few beverages and leftovers chilled.

“We are extremely pleased to double the rebate for the program. Now is an ideal time to consider whether you really need that extra refrigerator. Not only will you instantly start saving money on your electric bill, you'll also make a ‘green’ contribution

to your neighborhood and gain some extra cash,” said Greg Pierce, general manager.

To schedule a pickup of your refrigerator or freezer, call 1-877-270-3519 or visit [jacoinc.net](http://jacoinc.net). Customers will receive a check for \$60 within four to six weeks following the collection of the appliance. Refrigerators to be recycled must be in working order with an inside measurement of 10 cubic feet or more.

JACO Environmental, the appliance recycling contractor hired by Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA), safely demanufactures refrigerators and freezers through a

process that converts 95 percent of the refrigerator components into recyclable materials. JACO's process also extracts various toxic components found inside refrigerators, including contaminated oil, mercury and CFCs that both deplete the ozone layer and accelerate global warming.

The Michigan Municipal Energy Smart program is a portfolio of voluntary energy efficiency programs designed to assist residential, commercial and industrial electric customers in using energy more efficiently. In partnership with the MPPA, which is made up of Lowell Light & Power and nineteen other

municipal utilities, Energy Smart programs provide rebates and incentives designed to encourage the implementation of energy efficient projects and the adoption of efficient behaviors. Technical assistance and financial incentives are available to eligible commercial and industrial customers. Residential program participants may be eligible for HVAC, lighting and ENERGY STAR® rebates, as well as refrigerator/freezer turn-in services and recycling. Please visit the Energy Smart website for more information at [www.mienergysmart.com](http://www.mienergysmart.com)

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 12-191776-DE

Estate of TIMOTHY  
PAUL SHEPARD. Date  
of birth: 07/23/1957.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS: The  
decendent, Timothy  
Paul Shepard, died  
02/10/2012.

Creditors of the  
decendent are notified  
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the estate will be  
forever barred unless

presented to Kathleen  
A. Mieras, named  
personal representative  
or proposed personal  
representative, or to  
both the probate court  
at 180 Ottawa Avenue  
NW, Ste. 2500, Grand  
Rapids, MI 49503 and  
the named/proposed  
personal representative  
within 4 months after  
the date of publication  
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03/29/2012

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- WRATH OF THE TITANS (PG-13) 9:40
- MIRROR MIRROR (PG) 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
- THE HUNGER GAMES (PG-13) 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
- 21 JUMP STREET (R) 4:55, 7:20, 9:50

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## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### Early IRA funding can pay off over time

You've got until April 17 to contribute to your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) for the 2011 tax year. That's not a lot of time, but if you have some money available, and you haven't completely funded your IRA for 2011, consider doing so before the deadline. And once you've "maxed out" on your IRA for last year, why not get a jump on 2012?

Actually, you could have started contributing to your 2012 IRA as early as Jan. 2. In fact, if you can get into the habit of fully funding your IRA each January, you'll give your money 15 extra months of growth potential, as opposed to waiting until mid-April of the following year. If you factor in all the years you'll be contributing to your IRA before you retire, those extra months of growth opportunities, repeated over decades, could end up providing you with a fair amount of extra

cash when you start tapping into your IRA at retirement.

Of course, you may not find it all that easy to come up with the full IRA contribution amount at one time. (In 2012, you can put up to \$5,000 into a Roth or traditional IRA, or \$6,000 if you're 50 or older.) But if you look at your entire financial picture, you may be able to think of some suggestions:

- Put your tax refund to work. In 2011, the average tax refund was about \$3,000, according to the IRS. If you received that amount in 2012, and you applied it toward your IRA, you would already have met half the contribution limit (if you are 50 or older) or more than half (if you're younger than 50).

- Take advantage of interest payments or dividends. If you own income-producing investments, you may find that they can help you fund your IRA early. For example, if you own dividend-paying stocks, and

you don't typically reinvest the dividends, consider putting some of these funds into your IRA. (Keep in mind, though, that stocks can reduce or discontinue dividends at any time). And you can do the same thing with any interest payments you receive from bonds.


- Put other "windfalls" into your IRA. If you receive a windfall, such as a bonus from your employer or a gift of cash, think about putting it into your IRA.

If none of these options present themselves, and you can't afford to write out a big check to fund your IRA very early in the year, do the best you can to reach the contribution limit as soon as possible. To make this happen, consider setting up a monthly automatic transfer from your checking or savings account into your IRA. Even if you were to divide these transfers into 15 equal payments totaling \$5,000 (or \$6,000 if you're 50 or older), you would still be funding your IRA more quickly than if you would have scrambled to contribute in the last few months before the tax filing deadline.

No matter when you do it, fully funding your IRA is a great way to help build resources for retirement. But the earlier, the better — so do whatever you can to beat that tax deadline each year.

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

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**MON:** Cheeseburger on whole grain bun, seasoned green beans, pineapple, milk.

**TUES:** Eggs & whole grain pancakes, sweet potato tots, banana, milk.

**WED:** Cheese filled whole grain bosco sticks w/ dipping sauce, romaine side salad, fruit goop, milk.

**THURS:** Chicken alfredo w/pasta, steamed broccoli, orange slices, milk.

**FRI:** Whole grain breaded chicken sandwich, crinkle cut French fries, fresh apple, milk.



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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### America's Future - A Lady President

Dear Editor,  
It has been said that a woman is from Venus and that men are from Mars. Men are by nature, competitive and combative, where as women are patient and diplomatic. Men and women were definitely made for one another, however, women have the edge. Women live an average of seven years longer. When a woman loses a spouse she handles it much better than a man. There was a time when man had to be hunter and protector. He was the provider and shield for his women and children.

Past, as well as present, history reveals that women have been suppressed and persecuted. Progress in a country and in government is measured by the status and relative position and rank that women have in that country and government. It was not that long ago, less than a hundred years, that here in America, women fought and won the right to vote. Women have the faculty to be able to use both sides of their brain at the same moment. Women are good at multitasking. A woman can hold a telephone between her

shoulder and her ear, talk to someone on the other end, while holding a baby, feeding the baby and at the same time keeping an eye on two other children and keeping them out of trouble. A man tries the same thing and it isn't long before someone has to call the guys in the white coats to come with a form fitting straight jacket and provide him with a free ride to the laughing academy. I speak from experience men!

So, I say with the shape that this country is in and the choices we have in the coming election, pardon while I take a swig of Pepto Bismol for my stomach, that we should consider electing a lady president by the year of 2024.

It is something to think about!

Richard Vorase  
Lowell

### DDA should contribute to city budget

Dear Editor,  
I recently read an editorial that was produced in 1961. It marked the first anniversary of Lowell becoming a city. The article noted that the citizens of Lowell had voted to become a city

to hold down cost of government and improve services to the citizens. But the editorial also noted the city was spending nearly three times as much to administer the city than it did as a village and that there was a

25 percent increase in city taxes.

Now fifty-one years later Lowell's tax rate is near the tops in Kent County and its water and sewer rates are out of sight. Lowell has little funding to replace 20 miles of roads which are twice the age of replacement.

I understand that Lowell's new city manager is close to balancing the city budget, but it shouldn't end there. I believe there should be substantial savings coming from the single largest cost to the city budget which is the police department. I believe the DDA should be paying the general fund around \$300,000 a year of

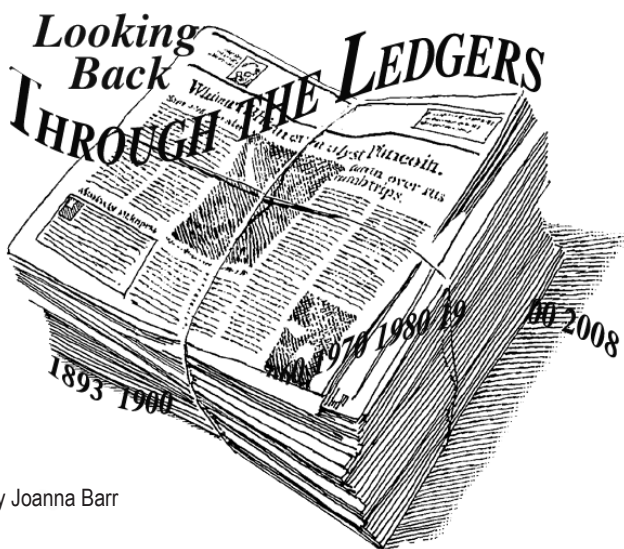
the \$800,000 that it costs to maintain the police department. I believe that's a fair assessment considering that the DDA takes up such a large area of Lowell. None of that can be done unless the city council gives its blessings. I believe there's more to the community than just the downtown area and the general fund needs those fundings. The city could expand the amount of road replacement it does every year and the city could have an equipment fund that actually has some funding in it.

Sincerely,  
Jim Howard  
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](mailto: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](http://www.lowellbuyersguide.com) has a link to submit emails on the left side of the page.



By Joanna Barr

and Mrs. Morrison Tucker, last Friday afternoon. He went out of doors to play and in a short time the mother sent a little sister out to see what he was doing and she found him dead beneath a large grindstone which had tipped over on him. The grindstone was a large one mounted on a rickety frame and evidently the little fellow tipped it over while playing with it. Funeral was held Monday at 10 o'clock. Rev. George of Saranac officiating. The family have the sympathy of the entire community in their sad bereavement.

### 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 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 April 5, 1962

When the snow leaves the ground and the sunshine brings the spring atmosphere out, people get the urge to clean their yards and burn the excess rubbish

### 140 years ago Lowell Weekly Journal April 10, 1872

The small pox excitement is dying out. There have been two or three cases in this village since the death of Mr. Avery and those of a mild type. Quite a number of our citizens went to Detroit on Monday to witness the "Unveiling of the Soldiers' Monument," which took place yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon. Any deficiency in the paper this week may be attributed to the Editor's haste in "g'ang awa' to Detroit. General satisfaction prevails in regard to the officers elected for this township. Mr. Simon Hunt, our supervisor, will enter upon his duties with a thorough knowledge of his work and will labor earnestly for the best interests of the township. The other officers are straight-forward and capable men and we have reason to believe will attend to their respective duties faithfully and to the satisfaction of the people.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 4, 1912

A very strange and what proved to be a fatal accident occurred to little Georgie Tucker, son of Mr.

around their houses that have collected during the winter months.

Volunteers of the Lowell Police Department were kept busy since the paper came out answering eight calls, six of which were grass fires.

These calls are hard on the equipment and can be cured by people closely watching their fire after it is lit and having the proper equipment around in case the fire starts to spread.

### 25 years ago The Grand Valley Ledger April 8, 1987

Recently about 250 of this area's brightest students flooded the halls of Grand Rapids Junior College's North Building for GRJCs "Fourteenth Annual Business Competition Day" on Thursday, March 19, 1987. Students from 24 area high schools tested their business and secretarial skills in eleven different contests ranging from accounting to word processing. Students also compete for points for their respective schools. Each year a traveling trophy is presented to the winning school. This year the students from Lowell High School took the trophy home.

A rare round of applause rose in the council chambers of Lowell City Hall Monday evening. Former city manager Ray Quada read the councilmen a letter from the Environmental Protection Agency announcing that a federal grant of \$3,575,500 had been awarded for the construction of a secondary sewage treatment plant here.



# Cross Walk this Friday

The third annual Good Friday Cross Walk will take place this Friday at noon. Last year, this worship celebration included over six churches from our community and around 150 walked behind a cross through the streets of Lowell. "We are excited to be continuing this popular event," Pastor Rick Blunt, one of the organizers of the Cross Walk, adds as he recounts past years' events. "It's a great way for all denominations to be able to ride from point to point on a bus. The walk will go right down Main St. from the Methodist Church and will conclude



in Oakwood Cemetery. "We are really excited to be able to offer this worship opportunity to our city," offered Pastor Wes Hershberger. Those that find walking to be difficult will be able to ride from point to point on a bus. The walk will go right down Main St. from the Methodist Church and will conclude

## happy birthday!

- APRIL 4**  
Troy Pethers, Nick Corbeil, Janet Kelley.
- APRIL 5**  
Doug Klahn.
- APRIL 6**  
Brad Yonker, Connie Vaughn, Pearl Peckham,
- APRIL 7**  
Corey Vollink, Rick Sauber, Lindsey Thaler, Mary Kimble, Kenneth Dalga, John Henderson, Brad Shoen.
- APRIL 4**  
Malley Cahoon, Carol Hovinga, Fran Clouser, Cheryl Foster, Taylor Milstead, Jonathon Hoag.

**APRIL 8**  
Jay Vezino, Sandy Converse.

**APRIL 9**  
J.R. Guastavino.

**APRIL 10**  
Julie Webb, Nicholas Comdure, Chelsea Comdure, Betsey Walker, Sarah Rusch-Hildenbrand, Tristan Lane Ellsworth-Bristol, Barbara Bechtel, Lois Wittenbach.

## college news

Zachary J. Sarna, of Alto, recently received a four-year bachelor of business administration and a two-year associate of arts degree from Northwood University.

specialist, cum laude; Patricia Miller, Bachelor of Science, nursing, summa cum laude; Daniel Vos, Bachelor of Science, business administration.

Ferris State University, Kendall College of Art and Design and the College of Professional and Technological Studies announced that some 920 students completed the requirements for certificates, associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees during the semester that ended in December 2011.

Alto: Ron Hendrick, Bachelor of Science, BUAD with professional tracks, summa cum laude; Justin Monson, Bachelor of Science, construction management; Brian Schultz, Bachelor of Applied Science, industrial technology and management.

The following are local graduates, their degrees, majors and honors:

Lowell: Lisa Drust, Bachelor of Science, nursing, cum laude; Michael Hollemans, Bachelor of Applied Science, industrial technology and management; Karen Hysell, Bachelor of Applied Science, industrial technology and management, summa cum laude; Kimberly Jones, Bachelor of Science, elementary education, summa cum laude; Parker Lui, Associate in Science, pre-science, summa cum laude; Laida Ruiz-Pagan, Bachelor of Science, criminal justice/generalist; Micah Tawney, Bachelor of Science in Business, business administration, cum laude; Emily Weller, Bachelor of Science, criminal justice/generalist, cum laude; Michael Whitman, Master of Science in Career and Technical Education, career/tech ed - instructor; and Lee Wirick, Bachelor of Science, business education, summa cum laude.

Ada: Linda Hill, Certificate, coding/reimbursement

To be eligible for academic honors, undergraduate students must have accumulated at least a 3.5 GPA in no fewer than 12 credit hours of coursework at the 100 level or higher during the given semester, while part-time students must have accumulated at least 12 credit hours of graded coursework at the 100 level or higher with a 3.5 semester GPA and a 3.3 cumulative GPA.

The following are local students who received academic honors:

Ada: Kelsey Aiken, Charles Alm, Anthony Amato, Benjamin Biondo, Chelsea Broekema, Emily Canda, Emily Ciosek, Jessica Covert, Kristin Dunn, Robert Esch, Nicole Finch, Anna Geurink, Brandon Hall, Brooke Hanson, Natalie Hughes, Brett Lesiewicz, Pearce Liversedge, Jonathan Ludden, Patricia Miller, Julie Mooney, Cameron Raterink, Benjamin Scudder, Katherine Smith, Kasey Stowell, Nicholas Szymski, and Scott Teliczan.

Alto: Jackson Botsford, Sara Fifarek, Rebecca Hawkins, Ron Hendrick, Joshua Morgan, Nicole Prins, Brian Schultz, Andrew Silverman, and John Wilder.

Lowell: Austin Blough, Karol Burnham, William Burt, Devon Chopp, Logan DeClercq, Lisa Drust, Tammy Garcia, Jessica Hook, Karen Hysell, Kimberly Jones, Parker Liu, Mitchell Mcrae, Jacob McVey, Erica Patrick, Andrew Pfaller, Renae Reed, Maranda Ruegsegger, Caleb Schultz, Chelsey Treglia, Courtney Wierzbicki, Megan Willemstein, Lee Wirick, Jonathan Woods, and Melissa Zuiderveen.

Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design has announced that more than 3,992 students received academic honors for the semester that ended in December 2011.

## business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Don Reedy received Sales Associate of the Month in March. This award recognizes Reedy for his outstanding success and achievements.



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# area churches

**LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
201 N. Washington  
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**

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)  
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21  
www.goodshepherdlowell.org  
Worship Service.....Sunday -10:00 A.M.  
(Nursery available)  
Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**  
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

**CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)**  
3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery  
**Robert Holmes, Pastor**  
**SUNDAYS:**  
Worship: 10 a.m.  
**WEDNESDAYS:**  
Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m.  
"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.  
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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL**  
2275 West Main Street • 897-7168  
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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621 E. Main Street • 897-5936  
[www.lowellumc.com](http://www.lowellumc.com)  
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**Worship..... 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday School.....9:30**  
**Youth Groups (Jr. & Sr. High).....6:00**  
**Wednesdays**  
**After School Kids' Club..... UNTIL 5:30**  
**Rev. Rick Blunt**

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
402 Amity St. • 897-9820  
[www.stmary-lowell.com](http://www.stmary-lowell.com)  
Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM  
Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM  
Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM  
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10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)  
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21  
www.goodshepherdlowell.org  
Worship Service.....Sunday -10:00 A.M.  
(Nursery available)  
Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**  
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

**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  
9:45 A.M. ....Sunday School  
10:30 A.M. ....Fellowship  
11:00 A.M. ....Worship  
**897-9863**  
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Worship Programs Provided  
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# Lowell Nazarene church gives money to Rotary Club

Lowell Church of the Nazarene celebrated, Sunday, by giving a check to the Lowell Rotary Club for \$1462.16. The money was raised during the Christmas season when families set aside the money necessary for providing a water filter for people in Haiti.

Steve Flohr, the president of the Lowell Rotary Club, was there to receive the money. "We feel blessed to serve with the rotary club to make a difference in the world," said Pastor Wes Hershberger. "It's exciting to realize that so many people in Lowell understand that fulfillment comes through service." He recounted some of the experiences and memories

shared on a recent trip to the island of La Gonave in Haiti with Starfysh Ministries and the Lowell Rotary Club. This is the same trip that Cherry Creek Elementary recently raised money to support as well.

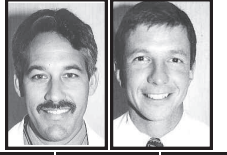
Dr. Steve Edmondson, the director of Starfysh Ministries, who was also on the trip, complimented the rotary club and the Lowell Church of the Nazarene for working together to make a difference for the 61 families

that received one of the water filters and stated that he was glad to host the team from Lowell. "The group dynamic was great from the start," Dr. Edmondson said.



Pictured is Steve Flohr of the Lowell Rotary Club (right) receiving a check from Pastor Wes Hershberger of the Lowell Church of the Nazarene for \$1462.16 for water filters to be placed in Haiti.

## health



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

### Osteoarthritis

Osteoarthritis is the most common joint disease. It is caused by a breakdown of the cartilage in the joint. It is more common in older people, women, overweight people and people with family members who have it.

Joint pain is the most common symptom of osteoarthritis. It is usually in the hands, feet, hips, knees or spine. In the hand, it often affects the joint at the base of the thumb. Osteoarthritis also limits movements because it causes pain and stiffness. It can make it difficult to do everyday activities like walking on a flat surface or opening a jar.

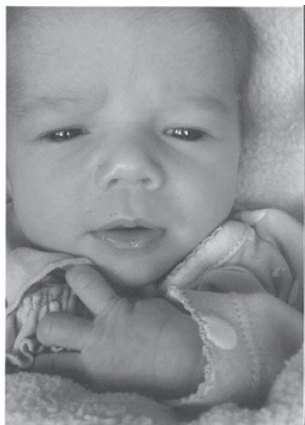
Osteoarthritis is treated with medicines, supple-

ments, exercise, weight loss, and sometimes surgery. Medications to try include Tylenol, Motrin or Aleve. The dietary supplements glucosamine and chondrantin may be helpful when taken together. There are also many prescription anti-inflammatory medicines that your doctor can write for you.

If standard treatments do not help, you may need surgery to replace the joint. This is called a total joint replacement. Most people have excellent relief of pain after this surgery. Artificial joints can last for 15 to 20 years. Your doctor will talk to you if surgery is a viable option for your osteoarthritis.

## area births

### Koepfel



Lydia Grace Koepfel

Eric and Justin Koepfel of Grand Rapids, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Lydia Grace, born February 1, 2012. She weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz.

She joins big brother Caleb, who is three years old. Grandparents are Ron and Peg Stanford of Lowell and Dave and Julia Vanveldhuizen; great-grandma, Jean Bishop of Lowell.

## In The Service

Air Force Airman Cody S. Gilbert graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, air force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree

through the Community College of the Air Force.

Gilbert is the grandson of Raymonde Richardson of Clarksville.

He is a 2010 graduate of Lakewood High School.

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# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



3 miles east of Lowell on M-21

## Holy Week Schedule

- ❖ Thursday: 7 pm
- ❖ Friday: 1 pm, 7 pm
- ❖ Easter Sunday: 7:30 am, 10 am

897-8307 • Joe Fremer, Pastor • Ed Van Cott, Licensed Deacon  
Web: www.goodshepherdlowell.org • Facebook: goodshepherdlowell



**Saturday, April 7th**  
**1:00 - 4:00 pm**  
**Stoney Lake Park (By Pebble Beach)**



**Easter Egg Hunt---Crafts---Face-Painting---Music Snacks and Refreshments---Story Time**

Who doesn't love a bit of chocolate and some funny bunny play?! Ignite Community Church would like to celebrate the true meaning of the season by hosting a community Easter Celebration of the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please come join the FUN!

For more information please call 269-377-1512





# 26th annual West Michigan Regional Art Competition

The 26th annual West Michigan Regional (art) Competition held its opening reception and awards presentation Sunday afternoon, March 25, in LowellArts! King Gallery, 149 S. Hudson, Lowell. The large crowd of artists, friends and other guests listened as guest juror Anne Norcross, assistant professor and program chair of the art history program at Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University, briefly explained her selection process for this year's five cash award winners and additional Juror's Recognition award recipients.

"I am honored to have participated in the 26th annual West Michigan Regional (art) Competition as juror. I would like to thank everyone who submitted works for consideration. Congratulations to those who are in the exhibition and who impressed me with their creativity. Congratulations to the award winners whose vision and mastery of their chosen medium far surpassed my expectations.

It has been an incredible challenge and an extremely rewarding experience, to be the sole juror of this year's art competition. The overall quality of the 250 submissions was so high and so professional that I wondered if it would be possible to reduce the selections to just five award winners. Every work that was finally included was included for a very specific reason and the five winners, along with those

who received a juror's recognition award, were very different from each other and stood out as unique among their competition.

I was asked to select 90-100 works to be included in



**First place piece titled 'Enlightened' by Sheri Woodward**

the exhibition, with the top five receiving awards and first place sponsored by Kendall College of Art & Design of Ferris State University. 250 artists submitted works consisting of a vast array of media including sculpture, painting, metals, drawing, photography, printmaking, ceramics and mixed media. The diversity of the entries made the task of judging the competition a daunting one and each artist should remember that a different juror would have selected a different group of winners.

I judged works on creativity, solid technical skill and a personal or unique vision. The works I selected for inclusion displayed a high degree of technical mastery and professional presentation, but my main criterion was to select works I couldn't stop looking at. That generally included works that exhibited an original

point of view and whose concept, composition, format and execution came together flawlessly, resulting in a compelling image.

The first place award went to Sheri Woodward for

her watercolor 'Enlightened.' Ms. Woodward exhibited technical mastery over her chosen medium, in a work that is executed in a detailed and realistic style with a rich depth of shadows and highlights. The work stood out amongst the many entries capturing the feel and the beauty of a small nook of nature. There was no grand narrative, which allowed me to focus my attention on the image with its fidelity to realism and excellence in execution.

Creativity, strong composition, solid technical skill and unique vision describe the next two selections. Paul Van Heest's 'As Ye Sew,' a work done in colored pencil, was awarded second place; and the watercolor 'Maasai I' by Tessa Broek received the third place award. Both works were thought provoking and as an art

historian I am drawn to images that make statements or stir my emotions. These successful entries were well executed and intriguing in their subject matter and presentation.

Steven Peters' ceramic entry 'Generational Layers' conveyed a strong connection to history while embracing innovation and was awarded fourth place. The photograph 'Purple Trees' by Dianne Carroll Burdick took the fifth place award. Both works were well crafted and freshly seen, but what set them apart from other works was that they offer[ed] more than that. They seemed to emote a sense of awe and wonder which intrigued me and I was captivated by the uniqueness of each artist's vision.

Thank you to the many talented artists whose depth of talent and

creative vision truly inspired me and to everyone at the LowellArts! for their hospitality, professionalism and assistance."

With her background in art history from the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries and the history and criticism of modern art and culture, Norcross brought a unique perspective to this year's event. She presented cash awards, to five artists totaling over \$2,000 plus six additional Juror's Recognition awards, to the following artists:

First place: Sheri Woodward, Enlightened, watercolor, \$600; second place: Paul Van Heest, As Ye Sew, colored pencil, NFS; third place: Tessa Broek, Maasai I, watercolor, \$400; fourth place: Steven Peters, Generational Layers, ceramic, \$450; fifth place: Dianne Carroll Burdick,

Purple Trees, digital photography, \$400; Lisa Ambrose, A Dialogue of Sentimental Dimensions, oil, \$3,000; Mary Bommarito, Blazing Spring, mixed media, \$450; Amy Johnson, Mother Earth, beaded jewelry, \$3,500; Kimberly Gill, Where There Is Doubt, Faith, mixed media, \$850; Kathleen Kalinowski, Awaiting Fields, pastel, \$900; and Oakley Traynor, Future Farms of America, photography, \$200.

The annual art competition draws entries from 16 counties and offers prize monies totaling over \$2,000.

The exhibition continues through April 26. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 6 pm and Saturday, 1-4 pm. For more information, contact LowellArts! at 897-8545, or visit <http://www.lowellartsmi.org>



**Pictured, from left to right: Dianne Carroll Burdick of Grand Rapids, fifth place; Sheri Woodward of Spring Lake, first place; juror Anne Norcross; Steven Peters of Grand Haven, fourth place; Tessa Broek of Grand Rapids, third place; and Paul Van Heest of Holland, second place.**



**Pictured, from left to right: Oakley Traynor of Vestaburg, Kathleen Kalinowski of Comstock Park, Kimberly Gill of Bryon Center, juror Anne Norcross, Amy Johnson of Grand Rapids, Mary Bommarito of Lowell, and Lisa Ambrose of Plainwell.**

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 12-191900-DE

Estate of ESTELLA M. GONZALES. Date of birth: 02/13/1930.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The

decedent, Estella M. Gonzales, who lived at Fulton Manor of Holland Home, 1450 E. Fulton St., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503, died 11/12/2011.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Eva Gonzales-Switek, named personal representative or proposed personal

representative, or to both the probate court at 509 Cheshire Dr. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

03/27/2012

Eva Gonzales-Switek  
509 Cheshire Dr. NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505



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Cindy Troms

**Position:** Window presenter at McDonald's  
**Residence:** Saranac  
**Education:** Lakewood High School, 1972, daycare license training  
**Experience:** 14 years at McDonald's; three years at Allied Finishing; 16 years of daycare  
**Family:** Amy Curtis, Jeremy Kimble  
**Hobbies:** Travel, beach, riding horses Nascar, animals



## Drive thru employee praised for friendliness

by Emma Palova

Cindy Troms just celebrated her 14th year of working at McDonald's drive thru window in Lowell at the end of March.

She has been nominated for her friendliness for the Behind the Scenes series.

Throughout the years she did it all, from the front counter taking orders, taking orders at the window to working in the grill area.

But it was the window she really wanted, to be in contact with the customers.

"I love waiting on people at the window because everybody is so nice and friendly," she said. "I love my job."

Troms loves her job so much that she can't wait for a Monday to come. The company is very accommodating in scheduling.

Some of the early challenges included learning how to work on a computer, but she received good training.

And of course the speed of delivering food and drinks to the hungry customers has always been a factor. But, the rewards are many.

"We get a lot of compliments [on] how fast we deliver," Troms said.

And the team is timed. It takes less than 15 seconds from paying to handing the food and drinks to the customers.

Other challenges definitely include sick calls, for example, on snow days.

Troms never wanted to quit. Actually, every morning she is looking forward to her first customer with a smile and a greeting.

"My main goal is to do

a good job, so the customer comes back," she said.

Co-workers know that they can count on Troms. In 14 years, she has missed one day of work.

And if there is something wrong with the order, then a decision has to be made whether to park the customer.

"The biggest demand is

coke, wraps, burritos and parfaits.

A few years ago, specialty coffees were added, also frappes and smoothies, triple thick

to people losing jobs in factories and dealerships like Good. But on the other hand, new businesses came to town.

A bad day is when two or more people call in sick.

"When we're short on help you have to move as fast as you can," she said.

But, the flexible schedules on crew lists allow for replacement based on availability.

"Being friendly and good service make the company successful," she said.

And the crew has fun, like the time when one of the managers placed a plastic head on the toilet and Troms opened the door to the bathroom.

"I was scared," she said.

Another moment that stands out in her mind was when a boy had a real snake wrapped around his hand.

Once she performed CPR, on an older gentlemen who had a heart attack at McDonald's, until help arrived.

She loves Nascar and got to meet Dale Earnhardt Jr. in person.

Troms also placed in a national competition in her job category some 10 years ago.

Competitions are also done between the stores locally.

"We get shopped a lot and we get a lot of 100 percent," Troms said. "Lowell McDonald's is awesome. I love to be around people."



The biggest project is definitely the lunch hour from noon to 1 pm and listening to different people taking orders.

"Sometimes you're hearing four to five people talking at the same time to the customer," she said.

So, how does she navigate through the rush hour?

"I always listen to my customer first," she said. "I make sure I have a lot of cups and lids."

for styrofoam cups," Troms said.

What gives this franchise a competitive edge? Troms answered immediately.

"Speed, quality and friendliness," she says.

The changes over the years included ordering at a speaker, wearing headsets, a remodel with a fireplace and a play area.

Among popular items

shakes with whipped cream and a cherry.

Also, themes are big throughout the year, such as egg nog around Christmas and green mint shamrock shakes around St. Pat's.

The sluggish economy has projected itself into this business as well, due

The franchise does support the Pink Arrow Project.

"I am hoping for further growth and improving the satisfaction of customers," she said.

A good day for Troms is when she is busy with lots of customers and smiling faces.

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**ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL**



# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Player Spotlight

**This Weeks' Athlete:** *Abby Rogalke*  
**Team:** Girls' Varsity Tennis  
**Grade:** Junior



### How long have you been playing tennis?

*"I've been playing tennis for about six years, on and off."*

Rogalke was in competitive cheer last year and has been doing gymnastics for eight years, with her favorite event being floor exercise.

### Are you hoping to play after graduation at the college level?

*"Well, right now, I'm just a junior, but I'm hoping to try out for the MSU cheer team and make that."*

### What do you do for fun?

*"I usually do one of my three sports for fun or in my free time. I also enjoy shopping and hanging with friends."*

### What was your personal best in a match?

*"Well, right now, I don't really think I have a personal best that stands out. I am hoping that between this year and next year, I will be able to say I have a personal best. This year, so far, I have done alright. It's a hard position to fill and all I can do is try my best."*

Rogalke was moved from one doubles to one singles this year, which means she will be facing the best singles player on their opponent's team.

### Do you have any siblings?

*"Yes, I do. I have a sister, Morgan, who is 18 and goes to Michigan State. I also have a brother, John, who is in seventh grade at the middle school."*

**This Weeks' Athlete:** *Jordan Drake*  
**Team:** Boys' Varsity Baseball  
**Grade:** Senior

### When did you start playing baseball?

*"I have been playing football and baseball all my life. I [have] played football since I was four years old in the Lowell youth flag football program. I also started out with t-ball when I was about four years old."*

### Are you hoping to play after graduation at the college level?

*"I just signed to play baseball at Grand Valley State University as a pitcher. I can't wait to see what college baseball is like. I'm looking forward to graduation. Of course, I'm going to miss my friends, but I'm looking forward to the opportunities that college and college baseball brings me."*

### What do you do for fun?

*"For fun, I like anything outdoors, including hunting and fishing and any other sport. While at GVSU, I plan on getting a degree in accounting."*

### What was your personal best in a game?

*"My best performance I'd have to say was last year during summer ball when I played with Elite 18U and we played the Diamonds. I pitched a complete game and let up one run against the Diamonds 18U to get us a win in the regionals."*

Elite 18U is a national team and the Diamonds 18U is their rival.

### Do you have siblings?

*"I have one sibling, Josh, who went to Lowell. He's 20 now and plays baseball for Aquinas College."*



## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Lowell City Hall Offices, Police Offices, Light and Power Offices and the Department of Public Works will be closed on Friday, April 6, 2012 in observance of Good Friday.



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk

## LEDGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

We can take care of it right over the phone - place it on your credit card & receive your first issue the following Wednesday in the mail!

## The Lowell Ledger

105 N. Broadway • P.O. Box 128 • 897-9261





# Red Arrow SPORTS

## - SOFTBALL

### Softball team wins a pair

by Karen Jack

Varsity softball picked up a pair of wins in a doubleheader at Wyoming Park on Wednesday night last week.

In the first game, pitcher Morgan Groom demonstrated exactly why she will be pitching for Harvard University in the fall. In the first three innings, she struck out all batters and recorded two more strikeouts in the last inning. She allowed one hit and one walk.

The Arrows came out strong on offense, scoring five runs in the second inning. Carissa Piaz led off with a double and then stole third, followed by a hit from Grace Quiggle who brought Piaz in. Wy-

oming Park walked two of the Arrows and then Groom hit a double to bring one of those runners in for another run. Quiggle

tried to make it home, but got thrown out at the plate. With Groom on base, Sarah Mogar got hit by a pitch and then Bethany Dean hit

a double, scoring two more runs for the Arrows.

Both teams were scoreless in the third and fourth innings. In the final inning, Shelby Wolbers got a base hit and then stole second. Olivia Kaufman hit a ground ball for an out, but managed to advance the runner to third. Julie Smith then got a base hit to score the Arrows' final run.

The final score for that game was 6-1.

In the second game, pitcher Allie Hinton picked up her first varsity win by a score of 7-4. Dean went three-for-three at the plate and went five-for-six on the night with three doubles. Other supporting cast members for Hinton were Groom and Lindsey Crawford, each going two-for-three at the plate.



Bethany Dean hits one of her five hits.



Morgan Groom winds up to pitch.

\*\*\*

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

~ Thomas A. Edison (1847 - 1931)

## - WINTER GUARD

### Winter guard teams compete in state finals

Lowell winter guard traveled to Saginaw Valley University, Saginaw, for the Michigan Color Guard Circuit (MCGC) state finals

this past Sat., Mar. 31. Exit 52 placed fourth out of eight in "Independent A," a step up from last year's level. Almost Home placed

sixth in Junior Regional A with a great performance for the largest group that

they have ever taken to a competition.

A past member of the guard, Robert Becker,

wrote the equipment work for Exit 52 this year. Becker marched with the winter guard State of Art,

through Michigan State University who received a silver medal on Saturday at the state championships.

\*\*\*

**Don't let your sorrow come higher than your knees.**

~Swedish Proverb



Pictured is Exit 52: Jenna Saunders, Rachel Phelps, Amanda Willson, Audrey McKay, Robert Becker, Danielle Bagin, Jordan Kazen, Kayleigh Davies, Mackenzie Bush, Rachael Yomtoob and Riley Breimayer.



Pictured is Almost Home, front row, left to right: Morgan Allison, Sylvia Hawley, Shelly Bailey, Katie Peterson, Nathan Barrett, Erica Nelson, Joley Bem, Autumn French, Abby Green, Corrina Wenger; back row, left to right: Brittany Richards, Emma Stockreef, Brianna Homrich, KaRae Roscoe, Ally Stockreef, Kayleigh Lubbers, Elese Carey, Hayden Hoffman, Madisen Schram, Jessica Barrett and Greta Gustafson.

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 12-191775-DE

Estate of DALE  
HARIG. Date of birth:  
03/03/1941.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Dale Harig, died 12/09/2011.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless

03/29/2012

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

Marikay Chipman  
2228 Wilson NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49534  
616-453-7113

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## obituaries

### BRIGGS

Thomas W. Briggs, age 64, of Lowell, passed away Monday, March 26, 2012. He was preceded in death by his mother Genevieve. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Marlene; daughters, Mette (Craig) McGoffin, Jacoba (Jamey) Briggs-Limbers, Sara (Jake) Briggs-Grzegorski; brother, David (Sally) Briggs; sisters, Miriam (Edwin) Earl, Annie (Stephen) Vanden;



grandchildren, Evan and Ryan McGoffin, Ella and Beck Limbers; brothers-in-law, Alan (Carol) Hovinga, Steven Hovinga; also several nieces and nephews. Funeral service was held Friday at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home. Interment Bowne Center Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, 129 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or Gilda's Club, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331 / 1806 Bridge Street N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504. Funeral arrangements provided by Roth-Gerst, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Michigan 49331.



www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

### GAEDERT

John R. Gaedert, December 4, 1948 to March 26, 2012. For some, this will be the best obituary they've

ever read for one simple reason - it will be the last goofy article/letter they have to read written by me. As this is my final letter/obituary, I feel the privilege of going a little off course. I was born in 1948 to two of the most wonderful parents that any child could be blessed with, Donald and Natalie Gaedert. Prior to my birth, there was a brother, Harold and sister, Patty. After my arrival came along another brother, Steve and then sister, Kathy. We were a family wealthy with love and fortunate to grow up in a small community that fostered friendship, sportsmanship and hard work. Then came my own personal family, which taught me the most important facts of life - the love of children and the importance they play in your entire life. My first daughter, Brinda, arrived in 1968. Then came along a second daughter, Rebecca (who later taught me the grief of losing a loving child). My daughter Cindy came into my life in 1971, followed by my son Johnny in 1974. These four people, plus one other, would have the largest impact on my entire life's purpose. They taught me love, patience, how to cry, how to smile and last but not least, how to work, as they sure cost plenty to raise and to feed. Well, it's time to mention that other one in my life that stood by me during many challenges, much happiness and unbelievable memories that grew even stronger right up to my last day. Roxie never questioned my strange ideas and I don't believe she ever thought about trying to hold me back from my dreams. There is no possible way to express my real love for her, my children and even more important, my grandchildren, (thank you and please continue to make people proud to know you and call you a friend.) It is absolutely impossible to mention the hundreds of friends that I have been honored to have throughout my life. These people were always like a second family, only a hell of a lot less taxing on my wallet than my immediate family. I have to mention my daily work associates that helped to make my immediate family's lives more comfortable - Dave Hawkins, Denise Ensley, Travis Silvas, Lindsay Crandall, Hunter Smith, Pat Wing, Carol Berger, Paul McLeod, Rod Magoon, Traci Graham, Liza Sayre and all past associates of The County Journal, plus former business partner, Gordon Sparks and associates of our former businesses. There are many more special friends that helped to make The County Journal possible along with hundreds of business people that utilized our publications over the past 45-plus years. Fred Jacobs, owner of J-Ad Graphics, has printed our

papers since they made paper, I think. Fred, I must say how well you covered yourself by calling to ask how many pages we were sending over and when they would be there, when you were actually only concerned about when you'd receive another payment from us. We always owed him money and I hope Cindy keeps up the tradition. Well, it's time to come to a close as I could fill the paper with people's names that have meant so much to me. All that were special to me will already know what I would like to say to them one last time. Now, I ask you to always remember your family and friends and especially those that may need a helping hand, even if it's just a hug. My friend Dave gave me a plaque quoting Abraham Lincoln that hung in my office that I believed in daily, which read: Live a good life and in the end, it's not the years in a life, it's the life in the years. Now please go celebrate the life you made very special to me and join my family to break bread, share a handshake and of course, toast with the last beverage I will ever be able to buy for you, my friends. Funeral service was held Monday at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center with Rev. John Bailey officiating, followed by interment in Maple Hill Cemetery, Charlotte. If desired, memorial contributions may be made to Eaton Community Palliative Care, the Charlotte Generosity Fund, Charlotte Christmas Kiddies or Friends of CPAC. Funeral arrangements provided by Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte, Michigan.

### HARWOOD

Pete Harwood, age 79, of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, March 28, 2012, surrounded by his loving family. He was preceded in death by his sons, Larry and Danny. He is survived by his wife, Pat; children, Robert (Audrey), Gerry (Karen), Thomas (Kathleen), Marion, Joan, Chris (Tara), Charlie (Erin); brother, Lint (Dean), Carl, Rebecca (Tim), Amy Jo (Todd); 42 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Pete's family would like to thank Maridell for her exceptional service and care to our husband, dad and to all of us. Following Pete's wishes there will be a celebration held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Ionia and/or to the Harwood family, 10214 Riverside Drive, Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral arrangements provided by Roth-Gerst, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Michigan 49331.

### KENNEDY

Mary (Duggan) Kennedy, age 87, of Lowell, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family, on Saturday, March 31, 2012. Mary was born in Detroit, Michigan, on May 1, 1924 and moved to Lowell in 1960. She was a warm, compassionate and loving mother and grandmother who unselfishly devoted her entire life to her family. Mary was the happiest when her home was filled with kids, family and laughter. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jeremiah and Julia (Moynihan) Duggan; daughters, Margaret Mary Kennedy and Sheila (Kennedy) Soyka; and siblings, Dennis Duggan, Helen Duggan, Jeremiah Duggan, Margaret (Duggan) Asam, Catherine (Duggan) Kaiser, and Magdalena (Duggan) Arbanas. She will forever be remembered by surviving family members; daughter, Maureen Kissinger; son, Kevin (Chris) Kennedy; son-in-law, Chris Soyka; grandchildren, Tammy (Bob) O'Connell, Carrie Kennedy, Kerri Kissinger, Rob (Shannon) Kennedy, Aron (Angie) Kennedy, Alison (Ken) Wolters, Courtney (Scott) MacPherson, Sean Kennedy, Cody (Sarah) Soyka; brothers-in-law, Richard Asam, John Arbanas; special friend, Delores Alexander; 17 great-grandchildren; one great great-grandson; also many nieces and nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial to celebrate Mary's life will be held Wednesday at 10:00 am at St. Mary Church, 402 North Amity, Lowell. Interment St. Mary's Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Gilda's Club of Lowell, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331 or Spectrum Health Hospice, 100 Michigan N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Funeral arrangements provided by Roth-Gerst.



## LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2012**

at 7:00 pm at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, MI 49331.

Alden Nash, LLC has requested a variance from Section 18.08(b) of the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance which states that no billboard face shall be larger than 378 sq. feet. The applicant, is requesting a variance to install three billboards with each face being 672 sq. feet for a variance of 294 sq. feet per sign face. The property is located at 4687 Alden Nash Ave SE, Lowell, MI, Permanent Parcel No. 41-20-28-200-004.

The Zoning Board of Appeals semi-annual meeting will follow the public hearing.

The application is available for review at the Township Hall during regular office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Linda S. Regan  
Clerk

## CITY OF LOWELL RESIDENTS ONLY YARD WASTE PICKUP SCHEDULE FOR SPRING AND SUMMER 2012

The City of Lowell's Spring and Summer yard waste program is as follows:

### YARD WASTE PICKUP SCHEDULE

April 5 and 19  
May 3 and 17  
June 1\*, 14 and 28  
July 12 and 26  
August 9 and 23  
September 7\* and 20

Yard waste pickup is always on Thursday, unless there is a holiday that week, then pickup day will be Friday. Yard waste bags are \$20 for a bundle of ten (10) and are available at City Hall, Springgrove Variety and Meijer.

\* PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES ARE A FRIDAY PICKUP DUE TO A HOLIDAY DURING THE WEEK.

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall (897-8457).

Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk



www.gerstfuneralhomes.com



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

# classifieds

**for sale**

**KENMORE REFRIGERATOR & STOVE SET** - (2006), cost \$900, sell \$199 for pair. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

**TWIN BED** - Mattress, box spring & frame, (Sealy), \$85 complete. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

**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.

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

**BOB'S 15TH ANNUAL SPRING BIRDHOUSE SALE** - Be an "early bird" & get your houses & feeders from the great selection we have on hand - bluebird & wren houses, bat houses, bird feeders, entertaining squirrel feeders. New this year - wood duck nesting boxes for your creek or pond area. Several on hand, taking orders. All solid cedar built to last for many years. Best prices anywhere. Bob's Birdhouses, 12279 60th St., Alto. 868-6633.

**QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET** - (new), \$248/set. Thick & plush. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

**ELIMINATE HIGH HEATING BILLS** - Reduce your carbon footprint. Central Boiler Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace. Buy NOW & save up to \$1,145! Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

**143 S. PLEASANT, \$69,900** - No Money down. Move in ready. Well built & cared for ranch in Lowell. Rivertown Realty, 616-238-6935.

**200 APPLIANCES** - Washers, dryers, refrigerators & stoves. Guaranteed. From \$69. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.

**for sale**

**TRAVEL TRAILER** - 1999 Flagstaff Super Lite Series M-21 Shamrock. Air conditioning, heating, microwave, refrigerator, rest-room w/shower and many more extras. Sleeps 6. Asking \$4,800. Call Dan, 616-862-1874.

**help wanted**

**PERSON TO DO PART-TIME** - yard work & maintenance in NW Lowell area. 676-9257.

**HELP NEEDED AROUND THE HOME** - I need someone to help me with many areas - child care, organizing, laundry, light lifting, etc. for approx. 10-20 hours per week. Please e-mail to mandymcd@rocketmail.com

**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.TFN

**lost**

**LOST ENGLISH SETTER** - male, orange & white, has one orange patch over his eye, red collar. Lost 3/31/12 in Fallasburg Park. Call 616-745-1122 or 616-745-1998.

**for rent**

**LARGE 1 BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR RENT** - downtown second floor apt. \$775+utilities. 214 E. Main, Lowell. 616-291-1760.

**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.TFN

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

**ONE BEDROOM UPPER** - quiet neighborhood, clean & cozy. \$475/mo. plus deposit \$475. Heat included. Available May 1. References required. 987-9124.

**misc.**

**JOIN US** - Saturday, April 14th at 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce (behind Flat River Grill) as the East Kent County Republicans host Tommy Brann, local owner and restaurateur to learn about "10 to Defend - 10 Reasons to Defend Free Enterprise." Principles include job creation, paying taxes and limited government. Call 897-6380 for more info.

**REGISTER NOW** - for the 4th Annual Tal 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.

**SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** - at 3189 Snow Ave. SE, will serve a family style Turkey & Dressing Dinner on Wednesday, April 11, starting at 5:30 p.m. Adults are \$9. children 6-12 are \$3, and children 5 & under are free. Takeout dinners also available.

**EASTER CANTATA** - end your Easter celebration with a beautiful cantata "The Christ, The Cross, The Crown." Easter Sunday evening, April 8, 2012, 6 p.m. at the Alto Baptist Church, 6015 Bancroft Ave., Alto. Public welcome, no charge.

**services**

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

**THINK SPRING!** - Free appliance removal. Want it out today? Call J&J! We remove most household appliances, lawn mowers, cars, batteries, campers, etc. any metal. 616-719-9742.

**NEED A HELPIN' HAND** - around the house or out and about? Call Tara's Tender Care Home Health Service, CNA Certified, 616-421-5299.

**services**

**PRAIRIE CREEK** - Tom Smith. Spring clean up and lawn care. Call for a quote, 293-0977.

**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.**

**BUYING OR SELLING A HOME** - Call Joice Smith, Country Hills Realty, 897-1061 or 293-0980.

**services**

**YOGA CLASSES** - Tues. & Fri. 7:30 a.m. & Tues. & Thurs. 6:30 p.m. at 901 W. Main. \$8 walk-in. Specials at www.thehammockllc.com Questions, 893-5661.

**MOTORCYCLE, ATV, SCOOTER, JET SKI REPAIR** - Certified mechanic offering service & repair. Half of what it would cost at the big shops. 616-292-7226.

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

**CLASSIFIEDS ARE NOW ON OUR WEBSITE ALSO** - www.lowellbuyersguide.com.

**services**

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

**COMPUTER REHAB - and more - Virus & Spyware removal. No diagnostic fees! Mon. - Sat., 505-B West Main, Lowell. 987-1155, www.computerRehab.ws**

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

## 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.

**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.

**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 council members. First Saturday of each month at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, Lowell. 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

**CIVIL AIR PATROL** - Meets the second & fourth Tues. of the month, 6 p.m., Benz Aviation Building at Ionia Airport, teen/adult programs available, Call Shawna, 616-430-1348 or visit online http://mi222.miwg-cap.org

**FREE SENIOR COFFEE** - Every fourth Friday, 8-9 a.m., sponsored by Laurels of Kent, Lowell McDonalds, 1300 W. Main St.

**FOOD PANTRY** - First Friday of month at Lakeside Community Church, 6201 Whitneyville Rd. Free frozen, perishable food. Registration 1 p.m., distribution 4 p.m. Bring own containers. 868-6402.

**FREE SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES** - offered at Lowell Family Medical Center. Call 616-446-7058 to register. The class runs for 8 weeks. Evening & weekend sessions are available. Time & dates will be determined by those registered.

**LOWELL WOMEN'S CLUB** - Meets the second Wed. of each month, Sept. - May, 11:45 a.m., Schneider Manor. For more information call Jan at 897-2533.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** - Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. A Christ centered program to help overcome life's hurts, habits, hangups. Impact Church, 1069 Lincoln Lake, www.impact-church.org or www.celebrater-recovery.com

**FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAYS** - Fun at Calvary for boys & girls preschool - 8th grade. Cadets for boys 1st - 8th; GEMS for girls 3rd - 8th; Kingdom Kids for boys & girls preschool - 2nd grade. 1125 W. Main, Lowell. Ph. 897-7060, email: lowellcalvarycra@yahoo.com

**LOWELL** - Varsity sporting events, concerts, school board meetings, city council meetings, etc., can be downloaded for viewing from the www.wlilstv.org website. Many athletic contests & concerts can also be heard 'live' from the www.wlilstadio.org website.

**EXERCISE CLASS FOR PEOPLE OVER 50** - Meets Monday & Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. at United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main, Lowell. Call Peggy w/any questions, 897-7948.

**ADULT CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** - Every Tues., 6-7:15 p.m., for adults diagnosed with cancer. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

**REIKI NIGHT** - Tues., April 24, 6:30-8 p.m. Experience & learn about the healing art of Reiki at Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

Visit our website:  
[www.thelowellledger.com](http://www.thelowellledger.com)

# classifieds

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# Red Arrow SPORTS

**- BASEBALL**

## Baseball splits doubleheader

by Karen Jack

The varsity baseball team split a doubleheader against Wyoming Park on Wednesday night last week.

In the first game, pitcher Titan Anderson threw a no-hitter, starting off his pitching season on a good foot and the Arrows won that game 5-0.

In the second game, the Arrows trailed early, but made a last-inning comeback to try to win the game and came up short. In the first inning, Kyler Shurlow and Jake Boelens each got hits and Jake Stephens was able

to advance Shurlow across the plate to score a run. In the bottom of that inning, however, Wyoming Park scored five runs.

Both teams were scoreless in the second

inning, but the Arrows were able to score another run in the third inning, making the score 5-2 going into the bottom of the inning. Wyoming Park scored five more runs, with the score

10-2 at the bottom of the third.

The Arrows tried to come back in the fourth inning, scoring two more runs with hits from Shurlow and Zack Dawson and a double from Ryan Schaefer. Lowell held Wyoming Park to no runs in that inning.

The last inning began with a Lowell out. Then Stephens hit a double to get into scoring position. Tim Antel flied out to advance the runner to third. With two outs, Dawson got on base from an error, but brought Stephens in across the plate. With two runners on base, Shurlow got a base

hit, bringing another run in. Schaefer hit a long fly ball, but Wyoming Park was able to catch it, making the final out.

The final score of that game was 10-6.



Ryan Schaefer blocks the plate to get the out.



Jake Boelens throws a fast ball.

## Cichocki named assistant coach of the year

by Karen Jack

Dustin Cichocki, the assistant coach of the varsity wrestling team, was named the state Assistant Coach of the Year by the Michigan Wrestling Association.

Cichocki came to Lowell seven years ago, after being the head coach of Carson City High School's wrestling team for several years, where his record as head coach was 90-20. Since coming to Lowell, his record is 194-31. He teaches seventh grade

history at Lowell Middle School as well.

"I love being a part of the Lowell wrestling community. It is a second family to me. I have also enjoyed working with David Dean the past seven years. He is an incredible coach, mentor and friend. Lowell has always had good wrestling, but Dave Dean's vision of where he wanted to take this program has begun," commented Cichocki.

Criteria for being

selected for this honor includes being a member of the Michigan Wrestling Association (MWA) and having been coaching for at least five years. Cichocki was nominated at the regional level by his peers and then the board members of the MWA voted him as the winner.

This year, the wrestling team boasted a 24-1 record, were the state runners-up, regional and district champions and were ranked 23rd in the nation.

"Finishing this past season 23rd in the nation is just an example of some of the goals that Dave and I established many years ago. It has always been our number one goal to produce great wrestlers and even better people. Lowell wrestling will be solid for years to come. The tradition is being upheld by the entire Red Arrow coaching staff, which I would say could contend as being one of the best coaching staffs in the country. It really has been an honor to be a part of such a

great organization," added Cichocki.

The award will be presented at the Michigan

Wrestling Association Hall of Fame banquet on November 9 in Lansing.



Dustin Cichocki (left) and Dave Dean (right) coaching at the team state finals.

### REMINDER NOTICE REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THE SCHOOL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 8, 2012

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of Bowne Township, Lowell Township, Vergennes Township and the City of Lowell, who is not already registered, may register to vote at the city or township offices, at any Secretary of State branch office, or other designated places for the school election to be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2012.

The last day for receiving registrations will be Monday, April 9, 2012.

Qualifications to register to vote: Citizen of the United States at least 18 years of age on or before May 8, 2012.

Sandra Kowalczyk  
Bowne Township Clerk  
616-868-6846  
9 am to 12 pm

Betty Morlock  
Lowell City Clerk  
616-897-8457  
8 am to 5 pm

Linda S. Regan  
Lowell Township  
616-897-7600  
9 am to 5 pm

Mari Stone  
Vergennes Township  
616-897-5671  
9 am to 3 pm

### CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE CEMETERY SPRING CLEANUP

The annual spring cleanup of the Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell, Michigan will be the week of:

APRIL 16 THROUGH APRIL 20, 2012

Please remove all arrangements, baskets, etc., you wish to keep by:

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2012

Please be sure your gravesite(s) are in conformance with the Rules and Regulations that are posted on the cemetery building. Any items not allowed will be discarded.



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk



### Part-time Janitorial in Ada

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# Earth Day is a great teaching opportunity for parents

Earth Day has been around for more than 40 years and during that time it has inspired millions of people to increase their awareness of, and their appreciation for, the environment. Since the dawn of the twenty-first century, people increasingly have adopted eco-friendly lifestyles and attitudes. The continued embrace of environmentally friendly practices and principles has made the struggles of Earth Day pioneers, like former United States Senator Gaylord Nelson, more than worth it.

Nowadays, children grow up learning about the environment in school and at home. For example, many households participate in their community's recycling programs and such households are raising eco-conscious children, perhaps without even recognizing they're doing so.

While a transition to a more eco-conscious lifestyle might not be seamless, it's far easier than many might suspect and even easier for kids who have yet to develop a lifetime of habits that might not be so eco-friendly. With Earth Day on

the horizon, the following are a few ways parents can get their kids involved in activities or lifestyles that benefit the environment.

### Address eating habits

Over the last several years, the opportunities to eat in an eco-friendly manner have increased dramatically. Organic foods have grown more and more popular and parents can use this growing trend to teach their kids about the environment. When shopping for groceries, choose organic products that weren't grown with pesticides or harmful chemicals and explain this difference to kids.

Shopping locally provides another opportunity for parents to involve food when teaching kids about the environment. Explain to kids that shopping locally reduces reliance on fuel because products don't need to be shipped, be it through the air or on the ground, to your community, minimizing fuel consumption.

Teach conservation techniques

Conservation provides another easy opportunity for parents to instill eco-friendly ideals in their children. Conservation is about reducing waste, so conservation techniques don't involve sacrifice.

Instead, they involve being more responsible when it comes to using our resources.

Parents know full well the constant reminders kids need when it comes to dental hygiene. But use these daily reminders about brushing and flossing as an opportunity to impart a lesson about the environment. Instead of keeping the faucet running while brushing your teeth, turn the faucet off and encourage kids to do the same. When they ask why, explain that this helps conserve water and show them how it's just as easy and effective to clean teeth without the water running as it is when the faucet is on. This teaches kids that conservation is simple and often just requires minimal effort to make a big difference.

There are additional lessons about conservation that parents can impart. For instance, when grocery shopping, always make a list before leaving the house and explain to kids that you do this so you don't have to make two trips to the store and waste the gas that the second trip would require. In addition, encourage kids to turn the lights off when they leave a room to better conserve energy.

Purchase recycled products

Recycling is a practice that many of today's kids grew up with and as a result, many of them might take it for granted, failing to fully realize the positive impact they're making whenever they recycle. If recycling is as natural to kids as breathing, then it's no surprise they might not recognize its impact.

One way parents can address this issue is to purchase products made from recycled materials. A host of products are made from recycled materials, from the paper you put in the printer to the toys under the tree on Christmas morning. Explain to kids why you're choosing these products and let them know such products wouldn't be possible without their own recycling efforts.

Another way to help kids realize the value of recycling is to make crafts from recycled products. For instance, make a papier mache globe to celebrate Earth Day by using old newspapers as your primary material. Such lessons show kids their efforts make an impact and increase the likelihood they'll continue this eco-friendly lifestyle well into adulthood.



616-897-0787

Loved the April Fool's Day joke on the front page of the Buyers Guide! I was excited to think one was coming to Lowell, but got a good laugh when I turned the page! Larkins had a good one on their marquee too! It's fun to live in a community that can joke around!

I was extremely disappointed when I saw that the KFC was just an April Fool's joke. I thought it was real. Maybe the Buyers Guide shouldn't be posting jokes on the front page of the paper.

Some of us didn't like your April Fool's joke about KFC coming to town. We all have been waiting for a long time!

Boy was I excited to see that KFC was FINALLY coming to Lowell! But the joke was on me! You got me Buyers Guide! What a good April Fool's joke!

It's spring. Make Lowell look a little better. Clean off your porches and pick up all of the accumulated trash in and around your home.

## THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS

**What should the Supreme Court do with the health care law President Obama signed two years ago?**

- Uphold it.....46%
- Toss it .....46%
- Toss parts of it .....8%

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# Race, continued

on a 50-mile long jaunt on gravel roads mostly in Ionia County.

The second category was a 28-mile long loop also on gravel roads.

Both categories had to go through the treacherous covered bridges, one right at the starting point where the racers were saturated and streamed into it like wild wolves. Then before the schoolhouse, they turned right onto Montcalm Road with a killer hill. The second one, Whites Bridge Road, already had the bikers spread out into the fast packs and the slower ones.

“It is a challenging course,” said one of the organizers.

“The fastest ones will do the 50-mile route in 2.5 hours,” said Bangma. “They average 20 miles an hour.”

Seeing them out and about on the gravels of

Otisco Township and on the former railroad tracks was a novelty. After a fast pack, you could see a slowpoke trailing behind them.



Bikers on gravel roads of Otisco Township.

“I wish I could have seen the racers,” said Karlene Johnson, owner of Otisco Bakery, a new shop that opened just last

summer. But Johnson was too busy making dough for pretzels.

The next race will be held on October 17.

# Odyssey, continued

testing of their structure was presented in a performance that included a mathematics theme.

Receiving a third place medal was the Division 1 “Ooh-Motional Vehicle” team from Murray Lake Elementary. In this problem, teams had to design, build and drive a vehicle that traveled a course where it encountered different situations and displayed a different human emotion.

The complete list of scores can be found online at [www.miodyssey.com](http://www.miodyssey.com) under the Region 13 competition page.

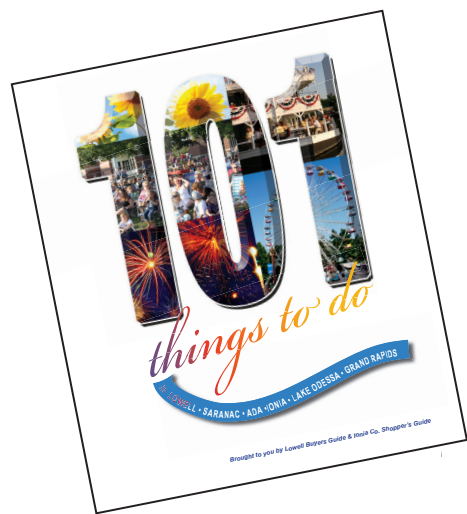
Coach Angela Baerwalde said, “The day of competition is so exciting! The team only has eight minutes to perform and as a coach you pray

and hold your breath that the set stays up, the team remembers their lines and their performance impresses the judges!”

The State Finals competition will be held April 21 at Davenport University in Caledonia. Teams that do well at the state competition will be invited to compete at the World Finals competition May 23-26 at Iowa State University. The Odyssey of the Mind program fosters creative thinking and problem-solving skills among kindergarten through college level students from around the world. New teams will be forming in the fall if you have a student that may be interested in participating. Watch for information at your school building in the fall.



“Odyssey Angels” team from Murray Lake Elementary, left to right: Jacob Hough, Emily Lothian, Kenzie Madden, Ellie Cooper, Abby Davis and Addison Mallindine.



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## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council, sitting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, will hold a public hearing at a regular meeting on April 16, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers at 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331, to consider the following request:

Request for Zoning Ordinance variance by King Milling Company pertaining to a parcel of land commonly known as 115 South Broadway, Lowell, MI, property identification number 41-20-02-409-018. The applicant seeks variances pertaining to the lot coverage standards and landscape requirements of Section 13.04 of the Zoning Ordinance with regard to a proposed 4,557 square foot addition to existing industrial facilities as well as covered loading docks.

Interested persons may submit comments prior to the meeting at City Hall, 301 East Main Street or appear in person.



Betty R. Morlock  
City Clerk