

sizzlin' concert



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50 CENTS



Lowell Relay for Life comes close to fundraising

by Karen Jack

It was time to celebrate, remember and fight back at the seventh annual Relay for Life held at Lowell High School this past weekend. With 28 teams, 14 of which were brand new teams, over 500 people were involved in this event aimed at raising \$69,000 for the American Cancer Society. Approximately \$62,000 was raised.

The funds go to such programs as rides to recovery programs in Grand Rapids and free stays at Hope Lodge in Grand Rapids, where patients can go while receiving treatment. Hope Lodge is located at 129 Jefferson in Grand Rapids, close to most cancer treatment options.

Each team was responsible for having at least one person walking for the 24-hour period of the event and with most of them having anywhere from 10-20 participants, the track was busy all day and night long. There were also 12-hour walkers and 24-hour walk-



Photos by Karen Jack

ers who had to walk for the duration of the event. Each was allowed a 15-minute break each hour and could bank the break minutes. One such walker, 68-year-old

Cherri Insley, walked for nine hours straight and as her kids testified, she power-walked for those nine hours and said she walked 14 miles in the first two-and-

a-half hours of the event. She was there supporting her daughter whose dad passed away from cancer. "I just decided it was something I had to do [to] support

my daughter," she said. It's been a difficult year for the clan. Their dad, Bill Fout,

2012 Relay for Life, continued, page 8

Lowell Park & Ride to expand, new downtown intersection turn light

by Emma Palova

One of the busiest Park & Ride lots, located at the Alden Nash exit from I-96, will more than double its parking spaces by August.

The number of parking spots will increase from 112 to 288 to accommodate the growing number of users due to increased gas prices.

The \$655,000 Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) project is being conducted in four phases with certain parking restrictions.

Phase I currently in progress, includes no parking on the northwest edge of

lot resulting in a reduction of 30 parking spaces. Additional parking is available at the Jordan Lake Road and Grand River Avenue Exit 64, I-96 at East Beltline Exit 38, M-6 at 60th Street, plus two Meijer parking lots at 11901 Fulton Street in Lowell and 5531 28th Street on Cascade.

Phase II starting in mid July, will eliminate parking in the existing lot and shift it to the new portion constructed in phase I at the northwest edge.

Phase III in late July to early August, will allow

parking only in the southern half of the lot, so the paving can be finished in the northern portion of the lot.

In the final phase IV in early August, parking will be allowed in the northern half of lot to finish paving in the southern part of lot.

"MDOT realized that it's been a tough place to find a parking spot," said Lowell Township supervisor Jerry Hale.

Also after many years in the works, a left turn light will be installed by MDOT at the busy downtown intersection of Fulton and Hudson streets in the north and south bound direction.

All the poles and traffic controls will be updated as well, according to Department of Public Works director Dan DesJarden.

The light is expected to be installed by the end of September or the beginning of October.

A permanent traffic light has been installed at the intersection of Alden Nash and Cascade Road in Lowell Township.



The expansion of the Park & Ride will double the parking spaces on the Lowell exit from I-96.

Planning commission struggles with signs

by Emma Palova

The Lowell City planning commission gave a conditional approval, to O'Reilly Auto Parts store to be located next to Ace Hardware store at 1427 West Main Street, on Monday night.

The majority of the commission members favored a monument sign. However, the site plan submitted by O'Reilly proposed an eight foot high pole sign that will be located 10 feet away from the lot line.

"We have pole signs going up all over town," said chairman Al Mathews. "We need to push that to the forefront of our agenda."

Mathews was referring to a mix of different signs along the M-21 corridor.

"I still prefer a monument sign, not a pole sign," he said.

A long discussion ensued pertaining to the issue of signs, the size and format, as well as the size of the base of the sign.

"You can spend two years on signs," said commissioner Jim Hall.

All of the commissioners acknowledged that the proposed sign was massive.

But, city manager Mark Howe said if the size of the sign was put into context with the site, it would be alright.

The planning commission decided for now to leave the proposed sign as it is, but the sign issue will be discussed later based on current findings along M-21.

In other business: the Vergennes Township will be holding a public hearing on their updated masterplan on July 9.

Planning commission, continued, page 3

North team storming back in Food Fight

"Never count out the North team," said Deb Canfield, with Canfield Plumbing and Heating. "Doesn't anyone remember last year? My, what short memories!"

"Our intentions were to storm into the lead and never look back," said Jack Reedy, from Rookies Sportcards. "But, it doesn't look

like the North Lowell team is giving up."

The Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) 2012 Food Fight has suddenly become a tighter contest. As the first half ended, the North team rallied and closed the gap between the two teams. "The South team had nearly a 2,000 food item

lead at one point, but it's looking like another close contest this year," said Dave Emmette, FROM board member. "I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see it all come down to the Riverwalk parade again this year."

The fourth annual FROM Food Fight is showing signs of a repeat of last

year. The communitywide contest to raise the most non-perishable food items for the FROM Food Pantry was decided in 2011 by a mere 29 food items. "The North team showed up at the parade and certainly brought the most food," said Kraig Haybarker, FROM board member. "It was a very ex-

citing finish to the event," Currently, the South leads the North 12,417 to 12,063.

The Food Fight will end at the conclusion of the "FROM the Heart" Riverwalk Parade on Saturday, July 14. The big red and white FROM Food Fight barrels will line the parade route to collect last minute

food donations as the finale for the event. For further information on donating food or sponsorships for either team, visit www.fromlowell.org or look for the full page displays in every Lowell Ledger and Buyers Guide throughout the event.

More than 8,000 motorists cited for not buckling up during Click It or Ticket Campaign

During a statewide effort to get motorists to buckle up, law enforcement agencies in 26 counties issued 8,050 seat belt and child seat violation tickets, nearly 1,000 fewer citations than during last year's enforcement effort.

Preliminary reports from police agencies indicate 14,761 vehicles were stopped during the May 21-

June 3 Click It or Ticket campaign. The enforcement is part of a national effort to save lives and reduce injuries by increasing seat belt use.

Following the state's record-high rate of 97.9 percent in 2009, seat belt use has declined to 94.5 percent in 2011. Every one percent increase in belt use means 10 fewer traffic deaths and

130 fewer injuries. In 2011, nearly 200 people who died in Michigan traffic crashes were not buckled up.

"When properly used, seat belts can reduce the risk of being killed in a crash by almost 50 percent," said Office of Highway Safety Planning Director Michael L. Prince. "Efforts like Click It or Ticket are an opportunity to remind motorists about

the importance of buckling up."

In addition to seat belt violations, 95 drunk drivers were arrested during the enforcement period and 53 drug arrests were made. More than 1,000 tickets were written for uninsured motorists and 535 for sus-

Click It or Ticket, continued, page 7



along main street

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ANNUAL COVERED BRIDGE BIKE TOUR

The Fallasburg Historical Society's 18th annual Covered Bridge Bike Tour will be held Sun., July 8. Pedal through the beautiful countryside at your own pace on well-marked routes from 12 to 100 miles that begin and end in the historic village of Fallasburg, north of Lowell. All proceeds benefit the continued preservation of historic Fallasburg Village. For more information or to volunteer call 616-682-0785 or e-mail fallasburg@yahoo.com

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS

Grant funded exercise class for seniors. 12 weeks beginning July 9. Mondays and Fridays, 11-noon. Call 855-9570 for details.

CIVIL WAR ERA YOUTH WORKSHOP

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will present another hands-on children's workshop, Thurs., July 19, from 9 am - 2 pm. Join us at Fallasburg Park Village (old schoolhouse) with Civil War re-enactor Bruce Butgereit. This youth workshop is designed for children ages 8 to 14. Call 897-7688 to register.

FELTING CLASS

Artist Cindy Allen will teach a felting class at LowellArts!, 149 S. Hudson, Tues., July 24, from 6 to 8 pm. You will learn to wet felt fabric from fiber. After brief instruction, the class will be primarily hands-on. For more information, call 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartsmi.org

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

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Firework safety for the Fourth

This Fourth of July, fireworks will blast overhead across the country to celebrate our nation's birth. But with the festivities come safety hazards that amateur pyrotechnicians should consider. There are nearly 9,000 emergency room-treated injuries associated with fireworks a year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product and Safety Commission.

So before you light that fuse, keep these tips from the Red Cross in mind:

- Abide by local and state laws.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.
- Keep a supply of water close-by as a precaution.
- Make sure the person lighting fireworks always wears eye protection.
- Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight "a dud."



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Sizzlin' Summer concert series rocks on the riverbank

by Emma Palova

The Riverwalk stage sizzled with the blues music of the Vincent Hayes Project band last Thursday.

The spectators were enjoying the concert from the ground, as well as from the Flat River on kayaks, pontoon boats and canoes. The concerts take place in front of the Lowell Showboat, that will be celebrating its 80th birthday this year.

The Sizzlin' concert series is one of the most successful Lowell events attracting hundreds of visitors to the area.

The next concert will be the Rhythm Section Jazz Band (big band) this Thursday at 7 pm. Concessions are available; parking and admission are free.



...
"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and cannot remain silent"

~ Victor Hugo

Planning commission, continued

Part of the hearing will be a proposal from J&H Family Stores to place a gas station, convenience store and restaurant with drive-thru at 432 Lincoln Lake Ave on the southeast corner of Vergennes Street and Lincoln Lake Ave.

Mathews questioned if there has been a dialogue between the city, the township and the airport board pertaining to the proposal.

Also, Howe will be in charge of the intake of information for zoning issues,

while the enforcement will be done by the police department.

"We want to make it more efficient as part of budget cutting," he said.

Cascade Township will do the building inspection and permits.

"They are web based and we'll have the electronic files," he said. "We want to make sure the process is quick and efficient."

Eventually, the city

website will have an option to file an electronic complaint in case of noncompliance with sign issues or any other items.

The Arbor Board has filed a comprehensive tree plan for 2012 that doesn't have enough funding to be implemented.

There will be an increased dialogue between the Arbor Board and planning commission in the future.



TO THE LOWELL AMERICAN LEGION:

We want to thank the Lowell American Legion and the wonderful Women of Lowell for the fantastic desserts (325) they provided for God's Kitchen on Father's Day Sunday.

We don't often see many smiles on the faces of those who come here for a meal. On June 17th we saw many more smiles!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to those smiles!
 - Gods Kitchens Staff

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- ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER (R) 7:10
- ROCK OF AGES (PG-13) 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
- THAT'S MY BOY (R) 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
- MADAGASCAR 3 (PG) 4:10, 6:40, 9:00

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Dave Emmette

Motorcycle – No Helmet Law: What this means for motorcyclists

On April 13, 2012, Governor Snyder signed Public Act 98 of 2012 repealing the mandatory helmet law. Below is some information you need to know as a motorcyclist:

- Riders under the age of 21 must continue to wear a helmet.
- Riders at the age of 21 and older are no longer required to wear a helmet, if the following requirements are met.

Requirements for not wearing a helmet: (Note – both must be met)

- The motorcyclist has had a motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license for at least two years

or they have passed an approved safety course.

- In addition, motorcyclists must purchase and maintain a minimum of \$20,000 of medical insurance on their motorcycle policy. (Be advised, the Personal Injury Protection on your policy nor any medical plan/health insurance does not meet the requirements.)

Passengers requirements for not wearing a helmet:

- If they are at the age of 21 or older.

- If the motorcyclist has at least \$20,000 per person/per occurrence of medical insurance on their motorcycle insurance policy, or

• If the passenger has at least \$20,000 in medical insurance on their own motorcycle policy.

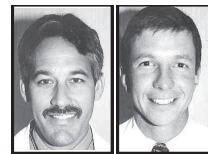
If you are over 21 and continue to wear your helmet, then the helmet law does not affect you.

However, it is important to know many health insurance companies exclude motorcycle accidents, so you could be left without the needed coverage in the event of an accident. Contact your local agent for more details and to make sure you have the appropriate coverage in place.

Do you have an insurance question you would like to see discussed in the future? Send me an e-mail with your topic and I will address it at dave@theaic-group.com

Information provided is general in nature and not intended for your individual situation. Refer to your policy or agent for specific coverage, limitations or exclusions.

health



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



Athlete's foot

Athlete's foot, also known as tinea pedis, is a fungal skin infection that most commonly affects the area in between the toes, but can also affect other areas of the foot. This is the most common fungal skin infection. Most people experience itching, stinging, burning and cracking or peeling skin. Sometimes tiny blisters also appear in the affected areas. This fungal infection

is closely related to "jock itch" and "ringworm." Dermatophytes are mold like fungi that cause these infections. These normally inhabit the skin, but can overgrow causing an infection. Fungus thrives in warm moist environments, which occur with chronically damp socks and shoes. This infection is contagious and can be spread by contact with contaminated surfaces, like shoes, floors

and towels. Athlete's foot can lead to secondary bacterial skin infections by causing deep cracks and breaks in the skin. Doctors may diagnose the infection after visual inspection, but sometimes a fungal culture or examination of the cells under a microscope is necessary. Treatments for mild infections are available over the counter. Popular options are Lotrimin, Lamisil, Tinactin and Desenex creams. These are typically used twice daily for four weeks. One must also treat conditions that increase susceptibility, like changing into dry socks and keeping the feet clean and dry. More persistent or serious infections may require prescription creams or oral (pill) antifungal medications.

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Don't take a vacation from investing

Summer is here — which means a vacation most likely isn't far away. Whether you're hitting the road, jumping on a plane or even enjoying a "staycation" at home, you're probably looking forward to some down time with your family. But not every aspect of your life should be relaxed. Specifically, you don't want to take a vacation from in-

vesting — which means you need to become a diligent, year-round investor.

Here are a few suggestions that can help:

- Keep on investing. Don't head to the investment "sidelines" when the financial markets experience volatility. You don't want to be a nonparticipant when things turn around because, historically, the early

stage of any market rally is generally when the biggest gains occur. (Keep in mind that past performance of the market is not a guarantee of future results.)

• Keep learning. In just about any classroom, the best students are the ones who get the most out of their education and put their learning to the best use. And the same is true of the investment world: The more you know about the forces that affect your investments' performance, and about why you own the investments you do, the more likely you are to make the right moves — and the less likely you'll be to make hasty and unwise decisions.

viewpoint

to the editor

quality local entertainment

Dear Editor,

Some of the finest entertainers in the state are located right here in Western Michigan.

One of them is a man by the name of Tom Hagen. Tom lives in Saranac. He is well-known in Grand Rapids for his work. He was born in 1944. Besides being

a very accomplished musician, he is a composer and arranger of music.

Tom grew up in Ionia where he attended high school. While in high school, it was noted that Tom was an outstanding musician in the high school band.

Tom went on to get a

degree in musical education while attending Michigan State College. He has mastered the piano, saxophone, trombone, mandolin, accordion, flute, and just about any instrument he has taught while teaching at Homer High in Marshall, Michigan and at Saranac High for sixteen years. He even sings pretty darn good.

Tom worked with the Lowell Showboat choir for ten years and works with the Grand Rapids Symphony

when special arrangements are used, such as mandolin, guitar and accordion.

He also has his own recording studio in his home where he provides service for those that wish to record their talents.

Tom has appeared all over Grand Rapids with his music: in concert at the Forest Hills Center for Fine Arts, the Meijer Gardens and John Ball Zoo. Tom was the band that provided the music for Tootsie Van Kel-

ly at the VanAndel for thirteen years and provides the music for the Grand Lady Showboat.

Tom backed Steve Allen when he appeared in Grand Rapids. (Steve Allen was the original late night host on television, before Jack Parr and Johnny Carson.)

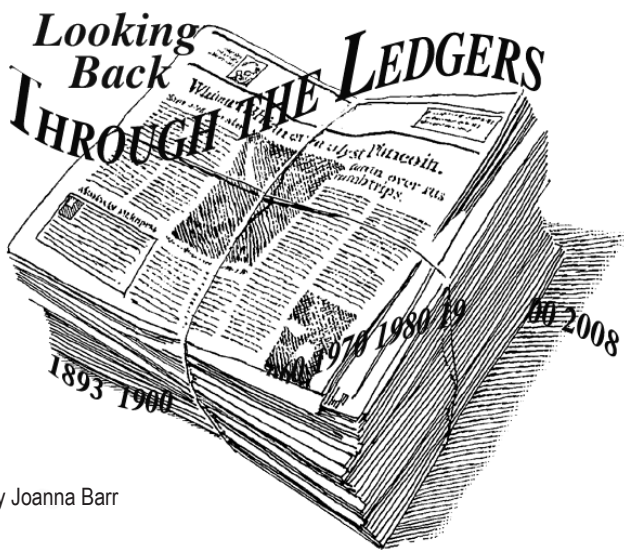
The Tom Hagen trio appears at the lounge in Notos Restaurant on 28th Street, on Wednesday nights from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, which

includes Tom's wife, Cheri, playing the drums and Rick Reuther, who is a fine vocalist, playing the guitar.

Although Tom has become a legend, he is a very modest person and approachable.

I have known Tom for a long time and have counted myself as a long-time friend. It has been an honor for me and I am sure for many others as well!

Richard Vorase
Lowell



By Joanna Barr

135 years ago Lowell Journal June 27, 1877

A little girl of H. W. Booth came very near drowning in Flat river Sunday afternoon. While trying to get her dog out of the water, she fell into the river and would have been lost had it not been for the timely assistance of Lyman Aldrich who arrived just in time to take her out alive. This is a warning – it came very near being a sad one.

Mr. Gambee informs us that his Steamboat will be ready for an excursion trip to Grand Rapids, July 4. He further announces that the boat will leave the landing, near lower Grand river bridge, at 7 o'clock A.M. for Grand Rapids and return at 6 P.M. Round trip 75 cents.

C.T. Wooding has the exclusive right to manufacture and sell Boyce's famous feed cutter and will begin business soon.

Of course all farmers are honest. It is only when he gets absent minded that he sifts plaster into his wool.

Single fare pays round trip to Barnum's show and excursion train will not return until after the evening performance.

If typographical errors are numerous this week, perhaps it is because the proof-reader was absent when the paper was printed.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 27, 1912

D.G. Look's store was broken into by petty thieves Saturday night, entrance being gained by removing several panes of glass in a rear window. The only articles missed were a bottle each of wine and brandy, choice goods just received. The cash register was tampered with and somewhat damaged but the thieves did not succeed in opening it. A woman living in the Williams house, just south of the block, says she heard a sound of breaking glass about 2 o'clock that night but all was quiet afterward and soon fell asleep.

Night Watch Lane saw no one on the streets that night after eleven o'clock, but the job was evidently that of amateurs. Last Thursday night the Watts store at Alto was entered and on the following night the barber shop was broken into. A Brockway boy about aged 17 years is under arrest at Grand Rapids and has confessed to have done the Alto jobs. He was in Lowell Saturday night but there is no evidence to connect him with the burglary.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo July 1, 1937

Hit by lightning while shaving – C. E. Bowen of Keene-tp., residing near Whites Bridge, received a severe electric charge during the electrical storm last Thursday morning while shaving with an electric razor. Mr. Bowen was rendered unconscious for some time and received severe burns on his face and leg. A local physician was called and Mr. Bowen was given a heart stimulant. He was quite lame for several days but is now able to attend to the farm work.

The balloon ascension and parachute drop, which has been a free feature in Lowell for the last three weeks, failed to take place last Saturday evening and it is lucky for the parachute jumper that he did not make his usual flight because, if he had, he would not be in the land of the living today. It came about this way: Just as the balloon was about to leave terra firma, after being filled with gas for buoyancy, a rip occurred in the structure, causing it to collapse and catch in fire.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 28, 1962

Local physician Thomas B. Hill cautioned area residents this week to be on the lookout for any pets or wild animals that seem to be acting either "suspiciously or differently." One such animal, a skunk, was reported in the Vergennes Township area near Lowell earlier this year, Hill said. The presence of such an animal may indicate that the surrounding territory has become infested with rabies-carrying wildlife. Health officials' suspicions were confirmed this week when a cow on a Vergennes-area farm was diagnosed as a rabies' bearer. Two Lowell-area farmers, Fred Fuss and Paul Fuss, who operate farms on Foreman Drive and who came in contact with the cow are presently being inoculated with anti-rabies vaccine, as is veterinarian Wayne Finkbeiner of Caledonia who diagnosed the cow's disease. Dr. Hill warned that rabies is an acute and often fatal virus infection which affects the central nervous system. Treatment of the disease, Hill added, is extremely painful and consists of 14 daily anti-rabies shots.

25 years ago The Grand Valley Ledger July 1, 1987

Richard Bryon (notice I didn't add a "t" to the end of Dick), Dr. Robert Kyser and Jim Hodges were part of a sizeable crew of Lowell Rotarians that assembled two sets of bleachers at the tennis courts west of the high school Wednesday evening. The Rotary Club purchased the \$2,200 bleachers with money earned with their hot dog booth at events. The assembly stalled several times because of a very confusing set of instructions. The dilemma caused superintendent of schools' Fritz Esch to quip, "Those instructions must have been written by a Saranac student." Roger Brown, a 1968 Saranac graduate (barely), rose to the occasion and took charge of the project. Esch must have been right, because Brown deciphered the instructions in short order and the bleachers soon began to take shape. Must be Saranac grads think alike. Bruce Walter couldn't help but toss out a barb, "Who'd ever thought Brownie would be the one to figure this thing out?" He [Brown] said thanks for the support Bruce. The project was initially the idea of this year's Rotary president Jim Speerstra, who, like all other tennis parents, had to sit on the ground during high school matches. The project was eventually chaired by Dr. James Lang and Dr. Paul Gauthier. Herb Haines found sources and shopped prices on the bleachers. The bleachers will be formally accepted by the school board at their next meeting.



WWW.
thelowelledger.com

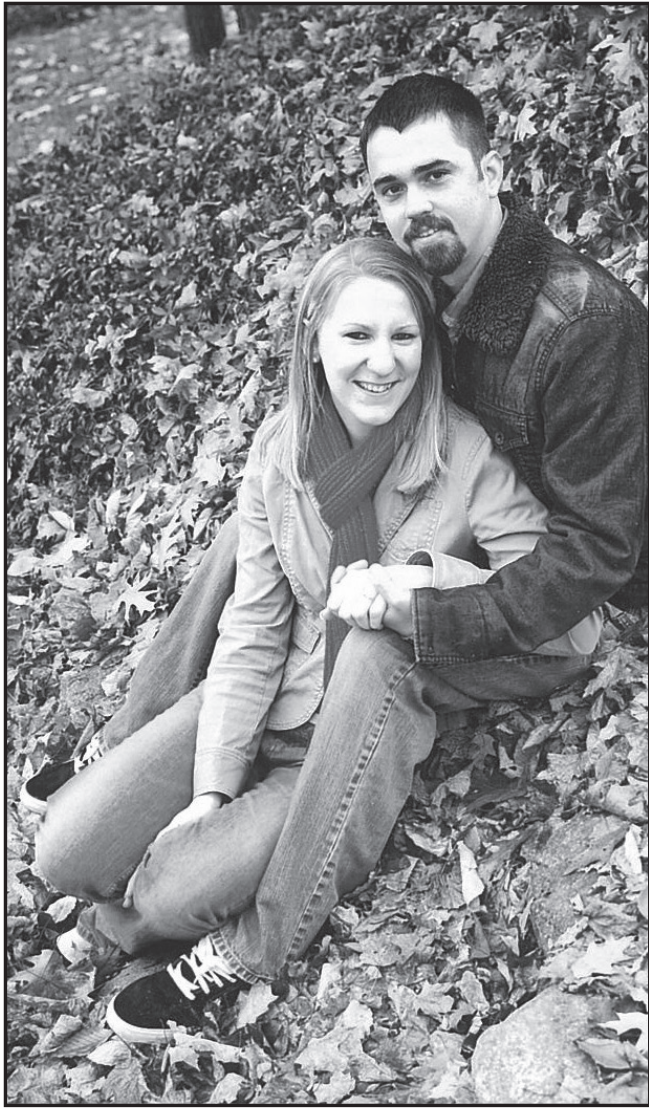
Letters To The Editor:

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher. All letters are subject to editing for length and grammar. Thank you letters, advertising or personal attacks will not be printed.

Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331. Also, our website, www.lowellbuyersguide.com has a link to submit emails on the left side of the page.

engagements

Ligman/DeDonado



Kelsey Ligman and Andrew DeDonado

Kelsey Ligman, daughter of Tracey Ligman and the late Jeffery Ligman; and Andrew DeDonado, son of Troy and Sonja DeDonado; are pleased to announce their engagement. The cou-

ple are both graduates of Lowell High School and the bride is a 2012 graduate of Central Michigan University. A July 21, 2012 wedding is planned.

anniversary

Gasper



Kenneth & Jane Gasper

Forty years together as husband and wife will be celebrated with a card shower on June 30, 2012, by Kenneth and Jane (Majinska) Gasper. The Belding couple are the parents of Nikki Gas-

per-Bernreuter, Aaron Gasper, Maddie McCormack, and Jamie Peterson. They have 10 grandchildren: Quinn, Grant, Triston, Ella, Miriam, Samantha, Louisa, Gustav, Isaac, and Isabella.

Beach



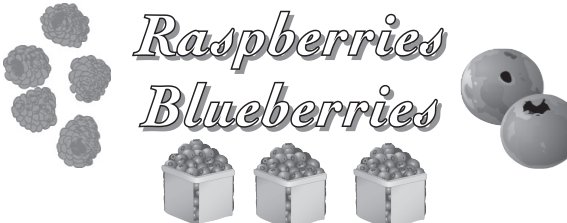
Richard and Eileen Beach

Richard and Eileen Beach will observe their 60th anniversary on June 28. God blessed them with four wonderful children: Sharon, Marsha, Dave and Dick

(deceased), as well as six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. The occasion will be celebrated with family and friends.

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area churches

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JULY 17 - AUGUST 26 - Summer Worship @ the Riverwalk . 9:30a.m.
Rev. Rick Blunt

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happy birthday!

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JUNE 27 Dylan Schneider, Aaron Kroemer. | JULY 1 Brandon Hewitt, Dylan Borton, Amy Markel. |
| JUNE 28 Brian Doyle. | JULY 2 Bradley Ball, Marilyn Sauber, Brandon Lee, Logan Brenk, Landon Trierweiler, Ryan Lynne Roth, Mary Jo Buechler, Calihan Janowiak. |
| JUNE 29 Stephanie Yonker, Jackson Simmons, Trevor Wernet. | JULY 3 Alice Ryder, Jamie Capen, Maxin Ligman, Janet Bieri. |
| JUNE 30 Sheila Yeiter, Kayleigh Page, Miranda Jo Zalewski, Noah Garrett. | |

St. Patrick's Parish Festival raises money for the school

by Emma Palova

The annual St. Patrick's Festival, which took place last weekend, featured a variety of activities, from the 5K run on the opening night to dancing and music.

The EZ Idle band played, on Friday night, their fine bluegrass music led by Dave Simmonds. The Diddle Styx Polka Band

played on Sunday, while the chicken Bar-B-Q dinners were served until 5 pm. Both bands have been playing at the festival for the last few years and they love coming back to the home-grown country event.

The festival tradition brings the parish community and the community at large together, according to

Fr. Mark Peacock. The first festivals started as parish picnics and grew into home-coming events.

As more people came to the homecoming picnics, they became a major fundraiser for the school.

The car show is always an integral part of the festival.



Several bands played during the festival.

The annual car show is always popular.



Click It or Ticket, continued

pending licenses. In Detroit, a seat belt stop resulted in the arrest of a federal fugitive. While in Allegan County, a driver with unbelted young children in the car fled from police on foot and was arrested under the state's high blood alcohol content law.

Ten people died in traffic crashes over the Memorial Day holiday period. Of

those, two were not wearing a seat belt, three were motorcyclists and two were riding off-road vehicles along the roadway. This is an increase from the 2011 Memorial Day holiday period when nine people were killed in traffic crashes.

Grant-funded counties participating in the Click It or Ticket campaign in-

cluded: Allegan, Bay, Berrien, Calhoun, Chippewa, Delta, Genesee, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Livingston, Macomb, Marquette, Monroe, Muskegon, Oakland, Ottawa, Saginaw, St. Clair, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne and Wexford counties.

Officers will again take to the streets working stepped up drunk driving patrols July 1-8 and Aug. 16-Sept. 3, during the heavily traveled July Fourth and Labor Day holidays.

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Lowell City Hall, Department of Public Works and the Police and Light and Power offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, 2012 in observance of Independence Day.

The City of Lowell refuse and recycling will be delayed one day, Thursday pickup will be on Friday due to the holiday.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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Hope Network is a non-profit Christian based organization founded in 1963 to empower people with disabilities or disadvantages to achieve their highest level of independence.

With corporate offices in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Hope Network provides services in 240 locations, by 2,800 staff, to people in more than 75 counties with traumatic brain injuries, developmental disabilities, and mental illness.

We currently have opportunities in our Lowell Facility working with individuals with developmental disabilities in a residential setting helping each person to reach their highest level of independence.

We are currently hiring for entry-level positions, for more information on Hope Network or to apply, visit our website at www.hopenetwork.org of Hope H/V/M/F, EOE, Affiliate Network Apply to Requisition # 4464

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2012 Relay for Life, continued

was diagnosed with leukemia in 2007, was in remission for two years, then the cancer came back in January 2011. Fout elected to have a stem cell transplant, which worked. Unfortunately, he contracted the BKV (a human polyomavirus), which ultimately attacked his body and he passed away in August 2011.

Co-chairs for the event were Paul Mundt and Melissa Kelley-Carey. Both co-chairs are cancer survivors

and are dedicated to helping out any way they can. Carey has been a part of the event since its inception seven years ago and has been the co-chair for the past two years. Having battled and survived Hodgkin's lymphoma in 1991, she's been cancer-free for 18 years. Mundt wasn't so lucky. He's a two-time cancer survivor and was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 2006 while in college, which resulted in surgery and radiation. A

year and a half later, he was diagnosed with testicular cancer again, but not related to the first diagnosis. That

time around he had surgery and then chemo. Fortunately, he's healthy now and will celebrate his fifth year of be-

ing cancer-free soon.

Another team, Purple for our Papa, was there to support their husband, dad

and grandfather, Ronald Pawloski of Lowell. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer (purple is the color for that particular cancer) in August 2005 and was told by Christmas of that year, he would probably be gone. He defied the doctors and lived for 26 months and fought for every moment, leaving five children and 14 grandchildren – only one of which he never met. His wife Maureen said that her husband's will and faith that the Lord

Continued, next page



Aiden Kelley carries the "celebrate" flag for the opening lap.



The Pawloski family: Maureen, Erin, Brecken, Caydence, and Graysen.



John Rose of Rockford, has been diagnosed with CML (chronic myeloid leukemia) leukemia for the past 11 years and still has to take a chemo pill each day, but says he feels good.



Trinity Resch holds the "fighting back" flag for the opening lap.

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
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COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 12-192284-DE

Estate of STEPHEN R. LEMARBRE. Date of birth: 08/01/1955.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Stephen R. LeMarbre, who lived at 952 California, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan, died 05/30/2012.

Creditors of the decedent are notified

that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Therese M. Armijo, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative

within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

06/19/2012

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Relay, continued

knew what he was doing was what kept him alive so long. She gave her grand-kids some money to spend during the event, but they didn't want to spend it. In fact, they donated it back so "other kids could have a papa."

It was quite a sight on Friday night with the luminaria ceremony. Teams decorated white bags remembering those who have passed and placed them all around the track and then candles were lit in each one

of them. There were also bags placed in the football stands on both sides of the stadium spelling out "hope" and "cure" illuminating in the darkness.

Throughout the 24-hour event, they had some fun times as well. One such event was "Miss Relay," whereby men from each team dressed up as women and had a pseudo beauty pageant and a homemade dunk tank by the Cancer Crusaders team to raise additional funds. Each team captain also voted on the most spirited team and the best decorated site. The Yoga With Susan team won the most spirited award, while Team Postal Connections won the best decorated site.

The top yielding teams in fundraising were A-1 Laser raising \$9,731, then River Valley Credit Union raising \$5,807.97, followed by Team Postal Connections who raised \$5684.25. "This is outstanding," said American Cancer Society's



The Hout family and friends walking for the Cancer Crusaders team.

Jaime Counterman. "The funds will go to helping a lot of people access resources," she added. Counterman

also reminded everybody that they will accept donations through August for the

event and asked that everybody urge more teams to get involved next year.



Co-chairs Melissa Carey and Paul Mundt kick-off the event.



Roger and Marylou Bullen, of Portland, walked for the Lowell United Methodist Church team and are both survivors. Marylou was diagnosed in 1987 with melanoma and Roger was diagnosed with skin cancer in February of this year and had to have radiation. He goes back in August to see if he's cancer-free.



Cossar carries the "remember" flag for the opening lap.



VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

July Board Meeting Changed to Monday, July 23, 2012, 7 PM

The Vergennes Township board has re-scheduled its Regular July 16, 2012 meeting to July 23, 2012 at 7 pm. The meeting will be held at the township hall located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, at the intersection of Bailey and Parnell NE.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

Crews will survey the Grand River deep water areas to find sea lampreys

The continuing battle against sea lampreys soon will come to locations in Kent and Ottawa counties.

A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assessment crew will conduct surveys in the Grand River during July 5 - July 12, 2012, to estimate the abundance of lampreys in these deep water areas. The information gathered will be used to determine the need for sea lamprey control.

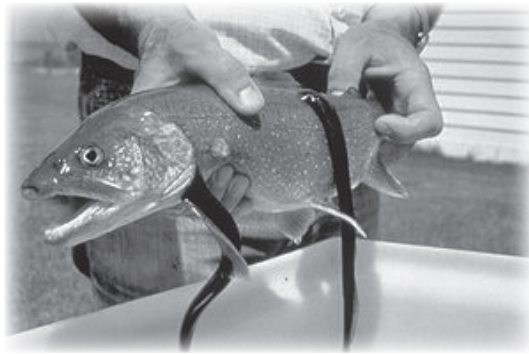
Exact timing of the surveys depends on local weather conditions.

A first step in the control of sea lampreys is to survey streams tributary to the Great Lakes to determine the presence of sea lamprey larvae. Sea lampreys invaded the Great Lakes in the 1920s and have been a permanent, destructive element of the fishery ever since. Sea lampreys attach to fish with a suction cup mouth, rasp a hole through the fish's scales and skin and feed on blood and body fluids. The average sea lamprey will destroy up to 40 lbs. (20kg) of fish during its parasitic phase.

Sea lamprey larvae hatch from eggs laid by adult lampreys in gravel nests and drift into silty bottom areas where they burrow and live for several years. Also, larvae sometimes drift out of streams and settle in the immediate offshore areas near stream mouths. Failure to detect and subsequent-

ly eliminate larvae allows the lampreys to transform into parasitic adults and kill Great Lakes' fish.

Fishery biologists and technicians conduct surveys for sea lamprey larvae in hundreds of Great Lakes'



streams each year. Most surveys are conducted by electrofishing, but in deep waters crews use Bayluscide 3.2 percent granular Sea Lamprey Larvicide, a lampricide approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency. This lampricide is specially formulated onto sand granules and covered with a time-release coating. The formulation is sprayed over a measured surface area of water where it sinks to the bottom, rapidly dissolves and causes the larval sea lampreys to leave their burrows and swim to the surface where they are collected.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency have reviewed human health and environmental safety data for lampricides and in 2003 concluded that Bayluscide poses no unreason-

able risk to the general population and the environment when applied at concentrations necessary to detect larval sea lampreys. Applications are conducted in accordance with state permits.

The sea lamprey control program is formulated and implemented by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, in partnership with many groups, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, as well as Native American Tribal authorities and state and local governments. The commission initiated chemical control of

sea lampreys in 1958. Since that time the highly successful program has contributed significantly to the maintenance of the \$7 billion Great Lakes' sport and commercial fisheries.

The commission is committed to delivering a sea lamprey control program that practices good environmental stewardship. To support the continued safe use of lampricides, the commission recently conducted a series of studies at a total cost of \$6 million to assess the effects of the lampricides on human health and the environment. In addition to these studies, the commission has implemented a research program to develop alternative control tech-

niques. The commission also is developing a strategy to increase the number of barriers on sea lamprey-producing streams and is conducting research into barrier design, traps, attractants and biological controls.

For additional information in the U.S. call 1-800-472-9212. TTY users may reach the Marquette or Ludington Biological Stations through the Michigan State Relay Service at 1-800-649-3777. Information about sea lampreys and sea lamprey control is available online at www.glf.org

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and

their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. They are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on their work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov>

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New Social Security compassionate allowances conditions mean faster decisions

Social Security announced 52 new Compassionate Allowances conditions to the growing list of severe medical conditions that qualify for expedited medical decisions. The new conditions include many neurological disorders, cancers, and rare diseases.

The Compassionate Allowances initiative is a way of quickly identifying diseases and other medical conditions that invariably qualify as "disabled" based on minimal medical information. Compassionate Allowances allow Social Security to quickly identify

the most obviously disabled individuals for allowances based on objective medical information that we can obtain quickly.

The announcement of 52 new conditions, effective in August, will increase the total number of Compassionate Allowances conditions to 165. That list continues to grow as Social Security, the National Institutes of Health, and a number of patient organizations help identify new conditions that clearly warrant quick approvals.

"Social Security will continue to work with the

medical community and patient organizations to add more conditions," Commissioner Astrue said. "With our Compassionate Allowances program, we quickly approved disability benefits for nearly 61,000 people with severe disabilities in the past fiscal year, and nearly 173,000 applications since the program began."

Social Security develops the list of Compassionate Allowances conditions from information received at public outreach hearings, comments received from the disability community, counsel of medical and scientific

experts, and research with the National Institutes of Health. Also, we consider which conditions are most likely to meet our definition of disability.

For more information on the Compassionate Allowances initiative, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

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

Financial Focus, continued

- Keep your focus on the long term. As an investor, you need to look past those events — such as natural disasters, recession fears and political instability abroad — that may have noticeable short-term effects on the financial markets but little impact over the longer term. So instead of making investment decisions based on today's headlines, think

about what you want your financial picture to look like in 10, 20 or 30 years — and take the appropriate steps to help make that picture materialize. These steps include following a long-term, disciplined investment strategy that's suitable for your individual needs, making adjustments as time goes on and working with a professional financial advisor who knows your situation and can help you make the right choices.

- Keep looking for

growth opportunities. To achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you'll need to own growth-oriented investments, such as stocks and other investments that contain equities. The percentage of your holdings devoted to stocks should be based on your risk tolerance, time horizon and proximity to retirement. But no matter what your situation, you want a portfolio that's designed to help you meet your investment goals.

- Keep relying on "hardworking" investments. To help ensure your investments are working hard for you, choose those vehicles that can help you in multiple ways. For example, when you invest in a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, your money grows on a tax-deferred basis, which means it can accumulate faster than if it were placed in an investment on which you paid taxes every year. (Keep in mind that taxes are due upon withdrawal, and withdrawals prior to age 59 1/2 may be subject to a 10 percent IRS penalty.) Plus, you typically fund your 401(k) with pretax dollars, so the more you put in each year, the lower your taxable income. Furthermore, with the choices available in your plan, you can create a good mix of investments.

Enjoy your vacation this summer. But no matter what the season, don't take a break from investing. Your efforts may pay off nicely for you in the future.

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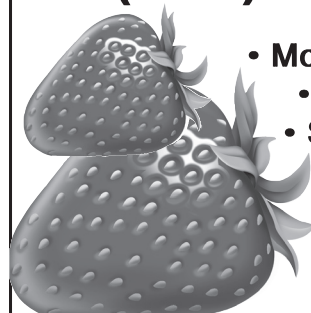
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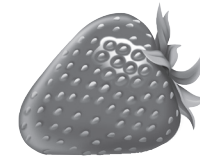
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Red Arrow - SOFTBALL SPORTS

Varsity softball coach resigns

by Karen Jack

Bill McElroy, the Lowell varsity softball coach, has resigned his head coaching position. He originally resigned when he realized the team was going to have to forfeit their run in the state tournament over playing one too many games, but athletic director Barry Hobrla asked him to hold off because emotions were

running high at the time. And then, after conversations with parents, the administration accepted his resignation. With six starting seniors this year, it was a disappointing end to a great season. The team won the OK White title and would have been in contention to run all the way to the state title this year.

Each team is allowed up to 56 points each season, which are calculated by days and games played. Each game is one point and each day a game is played is one point. Lowell had 57 points due to a mix-up between the coach and athletic director for the Reeths Puffer tournament. Hobrla thought they only played three games

at the tournament, when in fact, they played four.

"Bill has been a dedicated softball coach dating back almost 10 years, as a freshmen coach and then an assistant coach under Bob Rodenhouse, before taking over the program in 2011," said Hobrla. "This year's team captured an OK White crown and recorded

30 victories. He has devoted much time and energy to helping these young ladies achieve so much. We thank him for his dedication to the program," added Hobrla.

"It's disappointing how our season ended, but I hope that isn't the only thing people remember about the season," said senior pitcher

Morgan Groom. "We had the best season in school history, won the conference championship for the first time since 1989 and won three tournaments. This team was an amazing group of girls who had the will to win and were determined to do so."

Groom throws a one-hitter in all-star game

by Karen Jack

In her final game as a senior, pitcher Morgan Groom showed just how talented

she is by throwing a one-hitter to help her OK White team beat the OK Gold team 8-1. She managed to get 15

strikeouts, with allowing only five hits and one run.

Four of her Lowell teammates were also on the all-star team, including Sarah Mogor, Jenna Smith, Lindsey Crawford and Carrissa Paiz. Crawford went three-for-three at bats, with two runs and two RBIs.

Groom doesn't have much to worry about though, as she will continue playing softball in college at Harvard University. Her impressive accomplishments include being named by the Division I coaches as the top Division I pitcher in the state. She has also been named the Detroit Free Press Scholar Athlete, hold-

ing a 4.156 GPA. Groom is also Division I all-state first team, all-conference, all-district and all-region.

She has set several school records, including season ERA of 0.25, career ERA of 1.132, season strikeouts of 349, most strikeouts in a six- or seven-inning game, season runs allowed of 11, season runs earned of six and total wins of 24.

Her Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) records include 17 strikeouts in six innings in the Unity Christian game, 20 strikeouts in seven innings twice in both the Greenville and Byron Center games.

Groom's overall record is 24-2, two perfect games against East Grand Rapids and Creston, 18 shutouts, seven no-hitters and eight one-hitters. She had two near-perfect games, but one had a hit-by-pitch early on in that game and the other was due to an error when she struck out the last batter of the game, but the catcher dropped the ball and the batter made it to first before the catcher could throw her out. True to Groom mode of operation, she struck out the very next batter to end the game.

She would have had another perfect game with 18

strikeouts on her record, but it was discounted due to the MHSAA violation which declared them ineligible. It was her last game of the season in the finals of the Mandy Tichelaar tournament against Rockford, so according to MHSAA rules, this game didn't count.

"I'm honored that I'm able to continue my education at such a prestigious school. Being able to play softball there too just makes it that much better. I've always worked hard to be the best I can be and I'm excited to take on this new challenging step of life," said Groom.



Involved in sports over the summer?

LET THE LEDGER KNOW!
E-mail us!
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with your story idea OR
send your story and/or picture!
In subject line - "Summer Sports"



What's Your Sport?

Keep Caught Up On All The Lowell High School's Sports Action In

The Lowell Ledger

obituaries

CULBERT

Betty L. Culbert, of Lowell, passed away on Sunday, June 24, 2012, at Pennock Health Services. She was born in Middleville, Michigan, to Raymond and Leila (Haynes) Serven on June 13, 1926. She was a graduate of Middleville High School. She married Robert W. Culbert on July 3, 1945, in California. She and Robert returned to Hastings where they raised their family. They moved to Florida for a short time then returned to the Lowell area. She was employed at E.W. Bliss and Hastings Manufacturing and then was retired from Amway's clerical staff after 12 years of employment. She enjoyed antiquing after her retirement and spending time with her children and grandchildren. Surviving are her daughters, Martha Shattuck of Hastings and Carmen Melkild of Lowell; grandchildren, Paul (Brandi) Melkild of Lowell, Kyle (Alice) Shattuck of Hastings, Jason (Jami) Shattuck of Hastings and Amber Shattuck of Hastings; great-grandchildren, Michael, Megan, Madison, Shad, Cora, Meghan, Kevin and Lylah. Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Robert; son, Jeffrey; sister, Barbara Leary; and brother, Raymond. Honoring her wishes, cremation has taken place; there will be no visitation and a private interment will take place next to her husband in Riverside Cemetery. Lauer Family Funeral Home - Wren Chapel, 1401 N. Broadway in Hastings is entrusted to care for the family's needs. Please share a memory with Betty's family at www.lauerfh.com

MYERS

Larry S. Myers, age 66, of Arcata, CA, died on Monday, June 18, 2012. He was preceded in death by his father, Dr. H.R. Myers; and brother, John Myers. He is survived by his mother, Florence Jefferies, of Grand Rapids; sister, Joanne (William) Forsyth, of Grand Rapids; brother, Dr. Steven (Alexis) Myers, of Marquette; and several nieces and nephews. Larry was a 1964 graduate of Lowell High School, a graduate of the University of Michigan in 1968 and Wayne State Law School in 1974. According to Larry's wishes, cremation has taken place and no services are planned.

RYDER

Louise Mary Ryder, age 77 of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, June 20, 2012. She was preceded in death by her husband, James. She is survived by her son, Dennie Ryder of Lowell; also sisters, brothers and many friends in the Lowell area. Louise was an active member of St. Mary Catholic Church where a Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday with Rev. George Fekete presiding. She was very involved in TOPS, Lowell Senior Neighbors, Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW and loved to follow Lowell School sports events. Memorial contributions to help the family with funeral expenses may be directed to Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331



SAROLI-TAYLOR

Diane Saroli-Taylor, age 51 of Lowell, Michigan, died June 19, 2012, surrounded by her family, siblings and parents, after a courageous battle with cancer. Diane was born August 30, 1960 in Detroit, Michigan. She is survived by her children, Nathanael Jin Ho, Ana Maria, Cassandra Clare and Elizabeth Mary Taylor, and Jim Taylor, the father of their children. She is also survived by her parents, Ida and Richard Saroli; siblings, David (Susan) Saroli, Mark (Michelle) Saroli; nieces, Serafina and Brianna; nephews RJ and Michael. Diane worked as a Speech Language Pathologist since 1983 in private practice and most recently with the Ionia Intermediate School District. She received her Bachelor of Arts in 1982 from Michigan State University and in 1983 received her Master of Arts from Central Michigan University. She is a member of American Speech and Hearing Association. A lover of animals, she was an avid rider and spent many hours with her horse, Emma, and time with the family dog, Sparky. Diane's deep Catholic faith was evident in her devotion to her church and to her family, and her total, peaceful acceptance of God's will in directing her life. May God bless her beautiful spirit. Mass of Chirstian Burial was held Saturday, June 23 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 Amity Street, Lowell. Rev. George Fekete presiding. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Friends of the Missionary Servants of the Poor c/o Our Lady of Clear Creek Abbey, 5804 West Monastery Road, Hulbert, OK 74441 or Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook Suite 300, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



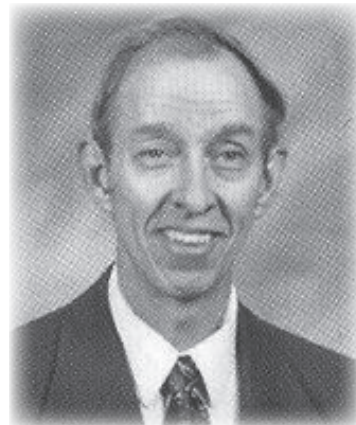
SMITH

Michael K. Smith, age 63 of Lowell, passed away Thursday, May 24, 2012 after a short battle with cancer. He was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Annie Smith. He is survived by his daughter, Jill (Christopher) Deamud; sister, Carol (Al) Hovinga; granddaughter, Abigail Deamud; long time partner, Cindy Van; nephew, Jeff Hovinga; niece, Emily (Nathan) Brandner; grand niece, Lilliana Brandner; and lifelong buddy Rick (Carol) Briggs. Mike was a Vietnam Veteran and an active member of the First Congregational Church of Lowell. Following Mike's wishes there will be a celebration of his life Saturday June 30, 2012 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Alto. Memorial contributions may be made to Gilda's Club, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331 or Boy Scouts Troop 102 c/o Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell.



VanTIMMEREN

Gordon Jay VanTimmeren, age 68 of Lowell, passed away Thursday, June 21, 2012. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Sharon; children, Tim (Heather), Michael (Misty); granddaughters, Grace and Belle; brothers, Marv (Carol), Ed (Sharon); sister, Joyce (Tom) Root. Gordon was very active with prison fellowship. Funeral service was held at Bible Believers Church, 404 N. Hudson, Lowell. Michael Langdon, pastor officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Bible Believers Church.



LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

NOTICE FOR TESTING OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOR THE AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the August 7, 2012 Primary Election will be conducted Monday, July 2, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., Lowell, MI 49331.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE M-100 TABULATOR TESTING

The public accuracy test of the M-100 Tabulator will be held on Tuesday, July 3, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in preparation for the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 in the Historic Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto, Michigan 49302.

Voters may request absentee ballots in the Township Office on Saturday, August 4, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Monday, August 6, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 616 868-6846.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: Who are the “Clean Air Ambassadors” and what are they trying to accomplish? -- Brenda Coughlin, Pittsburgh, PA

Clean Air Ambassadors are everyday folks from across the U.S. who have committed to speaking up for everyone's right to breathe clean, healthy air. The effort is part of the “50 States United for Healthy Air” campaign, a joint endeavor of Earthjustice, the American Nurses Association, the Hip Hop Caucus, the National Council of Churches and Physicians for Social Responsibility. In the spring of 2011 these Ambassadors — people from all 50 states and every walk of life — convened in Washington, D.C. to ask members of Congress, leaders at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and high-ranking officials in the Obama administration for stronger protections against air pollution.

Earthjustice, which specializes in litigating on behalf of environmental causes, initiated the effort as part of its larger “Right to Breathe” campaign. “Every year, many people young and old get sick because of air pollution,” reports Earthjustice. “Clean air should be a fundamental right.”

According to the American Lung Association (ALA), the most widespread kinds of air pollution are ozone (smog) and particle pollution (soot). “When inhaled, ozone irritates the lungs, resulting in something like a bad sunburn within the lungs,” reports the group. “Breathing in particle pollution can increase the risk of early death, heart attacks, strokes and emergency room visits for people with asthma, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.” In its 2012 “State of the Air” report, ALA reports that 127 million Americans — some 40 percent of our population — live in counties where either ground-level ozone or particle pollution is frequently at dangerous levels, despite significant progress in cleaning up the nation's air since 1970.

While there are many sources of air pollution, dirty power plants are among the biggest culprits. The ALA reports that over 400 coal-fired power plants across the country “are among the largest contributors to particulate pollution, ozone, mercury, and global warming.” In 2011, the EPA issued the final rules that will cut the emissions that create ozone and particle pollution and, for the first time, set national limits on the toxic pollutants they can emit. While Earthjustice and other groups have challenged the EPA for not going far enough, the ALA is defending the plan as significant enough to warrant implementation.

Of course, everyone can play a part in cleaning up air pollution. The ALA recommends driving less, using less electricity, refraining from burning wood or trash, and making sure local school systems require cleaner school buses. Even better, get involved: “Participate in your community's review of its air pollution plans and support state and local efforts to clean up air pollution.” Finding a local air pollution control agency is now as easy as steering a web browser to the National Association of Clean Air Agencies' 4cleanair.org website.

While there are no plans for another visit to Washington, D.C. by Clean Air Ambassadors in the near future, concerned citizens can do their part and join thousands of others in signing on to Earthjustice's “Right to Breathe Declaration” that calls on the federal government to require major air polluters to utilize existing technologies to significantly reduce the amount of air pollution coming out of their smokestacks.

CONTACTS: Earthjustice, www.earthjustice.org; ALA, www.lung.org; 4cleanair, www.4cleanair.org.

Dear EarthTalk: Renewable energy production in the solar and wind markets currently receives about \$7 billion in government subsidies annually, but is still not competitive against fossil fuels on a large scale. To what ex-

tent should the U.S. continue to prop up these industries as they compete against dirty energy? -- Jack Morgan, Richmond, VA

Given the importance of abundant amounts of energy for Americans, the federal government tends to subsidize all forms of energy development, including fossil fuels and renewables. A recently released report by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) found that in 2011 the federal government spent \$16 billion of our tax dollars in subsidies for the development of renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and only \$2.5 billion in subsidies to the fossil fuel industry in the form of tax breaks. But this breakdown in favor of larger subsidies to alternative renewables is a recent product of President Obama's stated goal of cutting back on subsidies to the hugely profitable oil industry.

Historically the vast majority of energy subsidies have gone to developing fossil fuel resources and reserves. The CBO notes that until 2008 most energy subsidies went to the fossil fuel industry as a way to encourage more domestic energy production. A report by the non-profit Environmental Law Institute (ELI) confirms that, between 2002 and 2008, the federal government provided substantially larger subsidies to fossil fuels than to renewables. “Subsidies to fossil fuels — a mature, developed industry that has enjoyed government support for many years — totaled approximately \$72 billion over the study period, representing a direct cost to taxpayers,” reported ELI. “Subsidies for renewable fuels, a relatively young and developing industry, totaled \$29 billion over the same period.”

Even though subsidies to the oil industry may be down substantially from what they once were, the Obama admin-



istration and many others would like to see any such subsidies to the oil industry stripped completely. This past March the U.S. Senate rejected the so-called “Repeal Big Oil Tax Subsidies” bill that would have eliminated several of the tax breaks still enjoyed by the five largest oil companies — and use some of the proceeds to extend expiring energy tax provisions including tax breaks for renewable energy, electric cars and energy-efficient homes.

A September 2011 report from DBL Investors, a San Francisco-based venture capital fund specializing in renewable energy, backs up environmentalist calls for increased subsidies for renewables by showing how early subsidization of other energy keystone sources helped secure their respective dominant places in the energy marketplace. The report calculates that, in the U.S., nuclear subsidies accounted for more than one percent of the federal budget in their first 15 years, and that oil and gas subsidies made up one-half of one percent of the total federal budget in their first 15 years. Subsidies for renewables, in contrast, have constituted only about one-tenth of a percent, the report concludes.

While the pendulum of energy subsidies may be swinging in favor of renewables in the last year or two, such momentum can be lost easily if lawmakers don't extend various incentives and credits that have helped drive it.

CONTACTS: CBO, www.cbo.gov; ELI's “Estimating U.S. Government Subsidies to Energy Sources: 2002-2008,” www.elistore.org/Data/products/d19_07.pdf; DBL Investors, www.dblinvestors.com.

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

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

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

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

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

I'm 100% for the new bridge to Canada. The guy who owns the Ambassador Bridge became a millionaire on tolls, so it certainly will be possible to pay the upkeep on a new one with tolls.

What a wonderful surprise! Thank you for the price reduction, Crystal Flash!

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6. A light touch
9. Shirley MacLaine's 1963 character
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14. 2016 Olympics host
15. a.k.a Little Mermaid
16. Arabian chieftain
17. Toymaker
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19. *Street of Number 10 fame
21. *England's official language, 1066-1362
23. Romantic destination
24. Antonym of hero
25. School support org.
28. It means lights out
30. Skylight, e.g.
35. Fleshy hindquarters
37. Army beds
39. Approximately
40. *Simon Cowell's gig, "Pop ____"
41. State of danger
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44. Pouting grimaces
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47. *Great Britain, e.g.
48. Misprint
50. Person, place or thing
52. Bro's sibling
53. Highly excited
55. *Petrol
57. *Under Tower Bridge
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65. Apolo Ohno's field
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JUNE 20 - JUNE 26

- A judge in Utah offered to reduce the sentence of a 13-year-old girl if her mother would cut off her ponytail. The girl had been found guilty of cutting several inches of hair from a three-year-old and was sentenced to 30 days detention and 276 hours of community service. The judge offered to reduce it to 150 hours if her mother would lop off her daughter's ponytail right there in court.
- Former Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky, was found guilty on 45 of 48 of the charges in his child sex abuse trial and awaits sentencing. Meanwhile, his likeness is being removed from a mural at the college.
- Labron James and the Miami Heat came out on top in game five of the NBA finals with a 121-106 win over the Oklahoma Thunder.

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LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS

www.thelowellledger.com

Gov. Snyder is announcing plans for a new bridge to Canada. What do you think?

Great! It's about time..... 45%

Why do we need two bridges to Canada? 25%

As long as it doesn't cost us anything..... 15%

I wish it was a bridge to Hawaii..... 15%

LATEST ONLINE POLL

The Pink Arrow game is right around the corner. In a perfect world, which artist would be best to sing the national anthem at the game?

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William and Susan Stouffer—Alice and Judy Monks—Larkin's Restaurant

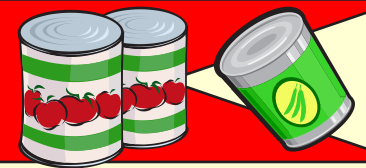
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*DOLLAR GENERAL 413 E. Main St. 897-0945
EJA SALON 204 W. Main St. 897-1700
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FIFTH-THIRD BANK 11915 E. Fulton St. 897-1800
FLAT RIVER GRILL 201 E. Main St. 897-8523

FROM THRIFT SHOP 11535 E. Fulton St. 897-8260
FRY DADDY'S 608 W. Main St. 897-3474
MAINLINE COFFEE 11260 E. Fulton (Drive-Thru)
*GILDA'S CLUB 314 S. Hudson 897-8600
GRAND CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP 930 W. Main St. 897-9281
GREAT CLIPS 11675 E. Fulton St. 897-9521
*GREEN ACRES 11530 E. Fulton St. 897-9115
*GREENRIDGE REALTY 1160 W. Main St. 897-9239
HAIRSTUDIO 216 W. Main St. 987-0222
HAROLD ZEIGLER FORD 11979 E. Fulton St. 897-8431
KEISER'S KITCHEN 700 E. Main St. 897-8455
HEIDI'S FARM STAND 11999 Cascade Rd. SE 897-6707
ICE CREAM CABOOSE 6300 Alden Nash, Alto 868-6602
LARKIN'S RESTAURANT 301 W. Main St. 897-5977
*LOWELL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 897-9161
*LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM 897-7688
LOWELL BUYERS GUIDE/LEDGER 105 N. Broadway 897-9261
*LOWELL CITY HALL 301 E. Main St. 897-8457
LOWELL FLORAL 1004 W. Main St. 897-1300
LOWELL MOBIL 4475 Alden Nash SE 897-8019
*LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS 314 S. Hudson St. 897-5949
*LOWELL SHOWBOAT SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERTS

*LOWELL YMCA 1335 W. Main St. 897-8445
MAIN STREET INN 117 W. Main St. 897-1171
*MODERN PHOTOGRAPHICS 216 W. Main St. 897-5606
MYNT FUSION BISTRO 800 W. Main St. 987-9307
*PAULY'S 11250 E. Fulton St. 897-2669
QUALITY EXPRESS 11729 E. Fulton St. 897-2700
REDFROG TECHNOLOGIES 1400 W. Main St. 897-5814
*RITE AID 1401 W. Main St. 897-9221
ROOKIES SPORTSCARDS 106 W. Main St. 897-5650
SCHNEIDER MANOR 725 Bowes Rd. 897-8908
SMEELINK OPTICAL 505 W. Main St. 897-0330
SNEAKER'S BAR & GRILL 211 E. Main St. 897-6746
SNAP FITNESS 2173 W. Main St. 987-4000
SPRINT OF LOWELL 2050 W. Main St. 365-5760
SPRINGROVE VARIETY 123 W. Main St. 897-9918
SHOWBOAT AUTOMOTIVE 1450 W. Main St. 897-9231
THREE BROTHERS PIZZA 1004 W. Main St. 987-4430
TOTAL TEKNOLOGY 318 E. Main St. 622-4747
TWO SEASONS (M-21 next to McDonald's)
WALGREEN'S 11980 E. Fulton St. 897-3160
WITTENBACH GMC 749 W. Main St. 897-9227
*DENOTES FOOD COLLECTIONS ONLY