

pink arrow community day



9.7.12

page 8

lowell girls play for the blaze



page 11

And the rains came

by Emma Palova

The greater Lowell area finally got some much needed rain as it cooled down after another week of hot and dry weather. Ducks on the Flat River by the Riverwalk enjoyed the rain puddles casting their own reflections in the water. Further down town on the Pebble Beach, a group of youngsters learned how to kayak as the rain stopped. In Vergennes Township, the Kent County Road Commission crew cleared Bailey Road from a fallen tree during a storm last Thursday.



It's time for the fair!

2012 Kent County Youth Fair celebrates agricultural heritage and 4-H tradition

by Emma Palova

"Come to the fair, the sun is arising to welcome the day." So the song invites folks to some home grown fun at the height of summer.

The 78th Kent County Youth Fair starts this weekend with opening ceremonies set for Sunday.

This year's theme the "Bounty of Kent County" reflects on the rich agricul-

tural heritage of the area and the 4-H tradition.

"When you come to the fair you get to see everything these kids have been working on for the past year," said fair manager Jessica Marks. "The fair offers good wholesome family fun."

And the hope of the fair officials is that fair goers

arrive in short sleeves and leave in long sleeves.

"That means they stayed all day," said Marks.

The saying also expresses the wish for ideal fair weather; warm and sunny during the day, a cool down in the evening and rain at night to wash off the dust.

Youth Fair, continued, page 16



Fair manager Jessica Marks by new picnic park sign dedicated to original exhibitors E.L. and Wannetah Phelps.

Three vie for 86th Michigan House District seats

by Emma Palova

Tom DeVault, a school teacher in Lakewood Public Schools and a fellow Republican, is running against incumbent Lisa Posthumus Lyons in the Aug. 7th primary. Democrat Brian Bosak will challenge the winner in the Nov. 6th general election.

DeVault, resident of Caledonia, considers himself a moderate Republican and he believes the state should be governed from the center.

"I am unhappy how I am being represented," he said.

House race, continued, page 3

by Emma Palova

The Aug. 7th primary election has enticed only a few candidates to put their names on the ballot.

In Lowell Township, treasurer incumbent Leslie Stougaard is challenged by newcomer Ronda Benedict on the Republican ticket. Incumbent supervisor Jerry Hale and clerk Linda Reagan are running unopposed for four-year terms.

Benedict, a lifelong resident of the area, has worked as an election inspector at Lowell Township. For the last 12 years, she has worked for Benedict Drywall Inc. overseeing payroll, human resources and customer service. She is vying for the treasurer's seat to strengthen cooperation in the township.

"You need to have cooperation in the office for the township to run smoothly," she said. "It's something I've always wanted to do and I have been encouraged to run."

Benedict said that what sets her apart from her opponent is being from the area.

"I have a better understanding of the issues and the people," she said. "I feel I have the ability to understand the issues that confront our unique township."

On the state of the township finances, Benedict does not see any issues at the moment.

On the issue of growth in the township, Benedict said it has had positive impact, but the townships have

lost money in revenue sharing.

"I want to be available to the residents and to the board and trustees," she said. "I will be able to listen to the concerns and to discern what's best for the township."

Her goals include making information more accessible, balancing the budget and looking into cost savings.

"I have no specific agenda and I don't plan any big changes," she said. "I encourage people to vote."

Incumbent treasurer Stougaard is running for her third four-year term.

"I like the job. I like being a servant of the com-

Primary, continued, page 2

50 CENTS



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Primary, continued

munity," she said. "I enjoy working with people and the job of investing."

Stougaard wants to continue her stewardship of the community's money.

Her accomplishments include setting up systems in investing the township funds to maintain their security and obtain the best return on the investments.



Ronda Benedict

"I have developed investment management tools to provide accountability to the board and the community," she said.

"I have developed and maintained accurate records of accounting of all of the township's money."

On the issue of other sources of revenues, Stougaard said the township



Leslie Stougaard

will seek available grants. Most recently, the township received an LCTV grant which will go toward parks and recreation.

"We will generate revenue through development of new businesses and residences," she said.

Currently, the township finances are in good shape with a healthy general fund in the amount of \$600,000. And although there has been growth in the township because of property values coming down, the income from tax revenues has been stable and solid.

"Growth and valuation offset each other," she said.

Her public service philosophy is to continue to protect and promote the rural integrity of the community and to manage growth properly, within the structure of the township masterplan.

Trustees running for office are incumbents Mark Anderson, Carlton Blough, William Thompson, Steve Vanderziel and newcomer Monica Burt.

Newcomer Monica Burt is running for a trustee seat on the Lowell Township Board because she wants to have a voice in the community.

She has served as deputy clerk in Grattan Township since 2006.

"I have experience in



Monica Burt

many areas in the township that offer insights into the performance of municipal organizations," she said. "In these economic times budget issues are always prevalent."

Her goal is to serve the residents and the community.

"It's about service, not politics," she said.

Burt said specific goals for the township should be maintenance and enhancement of township infrastructure, long-term planning and asset management and budget management to achieve long-term goals of the community.

In Vergennes Township, running unopposed are incumbents supervisor Tim Wittenbach, clerk Mari Stone, treasurer Jean Hoffman, and trustees, Allan Baird and Richard Gillett.



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.

GILDA'S CLUB EVENTS

Cancer - New Member Meeting, Tues., Aug. 14, 2:30-3:30 pm and Tues., Aug. 28, 2:30-3:30 pm and 7:15-8 pm; "Look Good, Feel Better," Tues., Aug. 14, 1-3 pm, this program will help women in treatment for cancer with appearance-related side-effects, sign up requested as class size is limited; Sit & Be Fit, Tues., Aug. 14, 21 and 28, 4-5 pm, sit your way to better fitness; Summer Social: Mexican Fiesta! Tues., Aug. 14, 5:30-8 pm, join your friends in Lowell for a Mexican Fiesta, all members are invited, sign up requested; Book Club, Tues., Aug. 21, 4:30-5:30 pm, join Kathy Mieras for a relaxing and cozy book club; Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

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.

SHOWBOAT PICTURES REQUESTED

The Lowell Area Historical Museum is requesting pictures of the Showboat from the 50s, 60s and 70s. The Showboat's 80th birthday celebration will be August 23 at the Sizzlin' Summer Concert. A special exhibit with the history of the Showboat with pictures will be available for viewing. We can make a copy of your original photo to complete this exhibit. Call the museum at 897-7688 if you have any questions.

BLUES, BIKES & CARS

If you like good music, beautiful motorcycles, old and fancy cars, beer and good food, you will want to be at the First Congregational Church, UCC, 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. on Sat., August 25, beginning at noon.

PRIMITIVE WOOL RUG HOOKING

Artist Sue Clay will teach "Primitive Wool Rug Hooking" at LowellArts!, 149 S. Hudson, Tuesdays, Sept. 18 and 25 from 6 - 8 pm. Students will learn the step by step process, covering the layout, technique and finishing of a hooked wool project. This is a hands-on workshop where you will learn techniques to practice for a week and then come back for a second session to ask questions and continue practicing techniques. Adults Only. For more information, call 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartsmi.org

LHS CLASS OF 1992

The Lowell High School Class of 1992 20th reunion committee is looking for updated addresses. Please contact Betsy Nugent Wieland at lowellclassof92@gmail.com or (616) 374-7646 for information.



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I hate women because they always know where things are.

~James Thurber
(1894 - 1961)



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House race, continued

"Our politics are far to the right and to the left. We've been polarized. Both parties have extreme wings."

DeVault is discontented with the current leadership that has raised taxes on seniors and retirees.

"That's not the party I grew up with," he said. "We should try to limit taxes and have small government. The state government has undergone one of the biggest power grabs, especially with education."

DeVault was referring to the last two education budgets where school districts had to jump through 10 to 12 different hoops to get a little bit more of foundation increase.

"That is a burden on schools; the government should let communities decide about their school districts," he said. "The Republican leadership has done quite the opposite."

DeVault has a bachelor's degree in public administration, but very little political experience.

He proposes to pull everybody back together to the center, to lower taxes for families and seniors, put a cap on charter and cyber schools and to create more honesty in government.

What sets DeVault apart from Lyons are his views on education policy and taxes.

"Local school districts should be making the policy decisions, such as on all day kindergarten," he said. "My opponent is for state controlled decisions."

DeVault said the government raised taxes on the middle class to compensate for tax cuts for businesses.

"We need to look at closing loopholes," he said, "and expand the sales tax to more services and direct the money to educational funding and tax cuts for families."

The government has cut \$1.8 billion in taxes to



Tom DeVault

businesses to create a better friendly environment for them, but on the other hand increased income tax on families and seniors, according to DeVault.

"I think that's unfair," he said. "We need to hammer out the best solution possible."

DeVault set forth a few examples of how extreme the government has become.

There will be the most recall elections for state representatives on the Nov. ballot in 30 years.

"We've become so polarized that 'it's my way or you don't exist,'" he said. "There is no compromise."

DeVault's goals are to focus on real education reform, not just opening up a bunch of schools. He would like to look at expanding the sales tax, so there is money for revenue sharing and find a way to lower the tax burden on seniors and retirees.

His public service philosophy is to be responsible to the electorate, to put constituents above the party

and special interests and being genuinely committed to working with others.

Incumbent candidate Lyons, resident of Alto, is running for her second two-year term.

"I am proud of the results we've been able to achieve," she said. "Michigan is beginning to turn around. We've gone from 14 percent unemployment down to 8.2 percent."

Posthumus credits the elimination of the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) to attracting more employers to Michigan, bringing jobs and making the state more competitive.

"We've reformed taxes and cut income taxes for individuals," she said.

This has been replaced with a six percent corporate tax and the legislature has eliminated tax credits and exceptions that made the tax code more complicated, according to Lyons.

However, the tax exemption on senior pensions has been eliminated.

"We wanted to level the playing field," she said.

For all seniors, 67 and older, their pension will not be subject to income taxation. However, for those born between 1957 and 1961, their pension will be subject to income taxation as part of a phase-in plan.

Lyons is proud of being part of balancing the budget and being able to put \$200 million into the school aid fund.

"We've been able to pay long-term deficit and create



Lisa Posthumus Lyons

half a billion surplus," she said.

The budget was signed by the governor early in June.

The legislature, according to Lyons, has expanded on educational opportunities for parents and students with charter and virtual schools.

"We've been working with public schools to cut administrative costs," she said.

The schools, according to Lyons, have been saddled with a \$46 billion debt in the retirement system. The legislature is working on a 25 percent cut to the retiree health care benefits. Much like in the private sector, employees will have to contribute 10 percent toward their pension while working and toward health care benefits.

"It's been an honor to serve," she said. "I would like to continue to protect hardworking taxpayers and putting Michigan back to work."

Lyons graduated from Lowell High School in 1998 and she has a bachelor's degree in agriculture and natural resources communication from Michigan State University. She worked in public policy and community outreach for the Grand Rapids Association of Realtors for six years.

Her goals include that every person in Michigan who wants to work can find a job, to keep the fiscal House in order and quality education for kids.

"Michigan needed bold leaders," she said. "We had to do things different. We've come from near the bottom to the top 10 states with our tax structure. I am going to work hard to keep the government effective and limited and that job providers come here."

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ABSENTEE VOTER INFORMATION

The City and Township Clerks will be available at the following locations on Saturday, August 4, 2012 for any registered voter who would like to apply for or return an absentee voters ballot for the August 7, 2012 Primary Election.

Sandra Kowalczyk Bowne Township 11 am - 2 pm 8240 Alden Nash Alto, MI 49302 616-868-6846	Betty Morlock City of Lowell 11 am - 2 pm 301 East Main Lowell, MI 49331 616-897-8457
Linda S. Regan Lowell Charter Township 11 am - 2 pm 2910 Alden Nash SE Lowell, MI 49331 616-897-7600	Mari Stone Vergennes Township 11 am - 2 pm 10381 Bailey Dr. Lowell, MI 49331 616-897-5671

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outdoors

trail cameras

Dave Stegehuis

Electronic games, media, and social communication technology have been blamed for the lack of participation in outdoor activities on the part of adults and especially children. The digital age has provided at least one spin off which is designed to be useful out in the countryside. Trail cameras have now become standard equipment for many hunters. Also, anyone who is interested in or curious about nature can use a trail camera to find out what goes on when no one is there.



These cameras operate similar to any digital camera. They record images on a memory chip which can be downloaded to produce hard copies, viewed on a monitor, seen on an intergraded viewer, or sent to your cell phone. Cameras vary in these functions and quality of photos which are related to the cost of the unit. An infrared flash will not spook game after dark. Some can be set to record short videos or fire at predetermined intervals during a designated period, so the subject need

not be close enough to activate a motion detector.

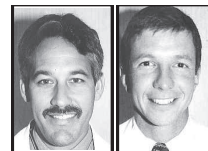
Like phones and other digital devices, camera performance and features improve with each new upgrade. At this time, competition between a host of manufacturers is keeping prices down. Eventually, only a smaller number of brands will probably survive.

The more the photographer knows about the life cycle and habits of the in-

tended subject, the more success he or she will have getting the desired pictures. If one is planning to use trail cameras to locate and pattern game for the purpose of hunting, the issue of hunting ethics and fair chase must be considered. Advanced technology found in modern hunting gear provides the hunter with a number of choices which are legal but do give the hunter additional advantages over game. If a method is legal and the end result is to harvest an animal, then it is up to the hunter to look within and decide what is right for him or her. Pursuing non-game species with a trail camera is interesting and a lot of fun. There is always great anticipation when reviewing the images from a camera which was set out in a promising location for a while.

Like all the other technology available today, how we use these things will determine if they are a problem or a solution. Maybe trail cameras would be something to consider. Like they say, a picture is worth a thousand words.

health



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



shingles

Shingles is a painful, blistering rash that can occur in people of all ages. It always presents on an area of skin that is on one side of the body. This means the rash does not cross the midline of the body. It usually starts with a tingling or burning sensation on an area of skin that turns into painful, small red blisters by the second or third day.

Shingles is a reactivation of the chicken pox virus. Anyone who has ever

had chicken pox is susceptible to developing shingles. Shingles is not contracted from another person, rather it is a reactivation of the chicken pox virus that has been lying dormant in the body.

An outbreak of shingles tends to occur more often in the elderly and in people who may be immunocompromised. An immunocompromised person is someone who may be receiving chemotherapy or

someone whose immune system is worn down. A person's immune system can be temporarily worn down from emotional stress or physical stress, like another infection or illness.

Exposure to someone with shingles will not cause shingles, however it can cause chicken pox in those who have never had chicken pox. Shingles may also be contagious to someone who is immunocompromised. Therefore, it is important that a person who has shingles avoid those who: have not had the chicken pox, may be receiving chemotherapy, may be ill or may be pregnant.

If you think you may have shingles it is important to visit your health care provider immediately. There are antiviral medications which can decrease the severity and length of the outbreak, but they must be started within the first three days to be most effective.

There is a vaccine available to decrease the risk of a shingles outbreak. It's called Zostavax and it's available at most pharmacies without a prescription. It is recommended that all men and women receive Zostavax at age 60 or sooner for those who may be at higher risk of a shingles outbreak.

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viewpoint

to the editor

still in need of kfc

Dear Editor,
The following was sent to the Omega architect Joe on behalf of a secret Lowell organization... Namely the LAKFCJL...

a new franchise. One that Lowell residents have wondered why... why.. why.. we have been denied.

Yes, I speak of a true American franchise, founded by a true American leader... a patriarch of fast food... I speak of the Colonel Sanders - Lowell needs, no, cries out for KFC... Please join us in the L.A.K.F.C.J.L. (Lowell Area KFC Justice League) in lifting this cloud of fried chicken and biscuit oppression.

Thank you for our support!

Jim Redd
Lowell

Dear Omega Architect Joe,

I read an article on your J&H project at the corner of Vergennes and Lincoln Lake. I live a mile away and love the idea! Now when considering restaurants, you must realize we have several Subways around the area and Tim Horton is a foreigner from the frozen wastelands in the north...

No, what you need is

supports workers

Dear Editor,

I didn't want to get involved in whatever is happening at Lowell Light and Power but with all the secrecy surrounding this I feel I have to say something. I am shocked that even numerous attempts on the part of our local reporter failed to get us any information.

I am so grateful to have our own small company in contrast to Consumers Energy. Every time there is a large outage and people are without power for days at a time, I wonder where would we be without Lowell Light and Power - certainly not back on in less than an hour! We have such wonderful service because we have a small company with local community based employees.

I always think of Dr. Phil's comment, "People who have nothing to hide, hide nothing." After all the behind-closed-doors decisions that have affected the citizens of this community, I'm very concerned and suspicious.

I wonder, are decisions being made that will cause us to lose our full time dedicated employees? Or even worse, is there the possibility that there are negotiations going on for the possible sale of the company? We've seen this before - being told of nondisclosure requirements until the completion of the sale of "our" company. Could this happen again, this time with our power company?

In either case, do we

think we'll get the prompt and efficient service and support that we now get with our local company?

I don't mean to start rumors, but if no one will give us the truth - even when we are admonished to get both sides - it certainly raises questions. So where do we go for answers?

It seems there is manip-

ulation being used to prevent signs of support for the employees but no willingness to give us the "other" side. This leads me to agree with Jim Howard and those with the "yellow signs." I support the employees!

Sincerely,
Peggy Covert
Lowell

yellow sign answers

To the Editor,

On July 11, 2012, a letter to the editor raised questions regarding the yellow signs posted throughout the city. The undersigned are all employees of the city or Lowell Light & Power (L&P). We have attempted to reach an agreement with the city and L&P regarding our working conditions. To date, we have had nine meetings with the city and L&P. Both employers hired the same lawyer and have paid him thousands of dollars to represent the city and L&P in discussions with us. To date, despite all the meetings, nothing of any substance has been agreed to. We have not discussed economics.

However, both employers have asked us to agree to proposals such as:

- They want us to agree that the city and L&P can hire temporary employees and lay us off. We have given decades of service to the community and find it difficult to believe they would propose giving non-employees a priority over our jobs. The city's contract with its police union does not give the city a right to use temporary employees to perform a police officer's job if they are on layoff.

- Both employers have proposed that they can deny us the right to work a second job even if there is no conflict of interest with our city job; some of us have farmed the land for years, but could lose that right if we agree to the city and L&P's proposal. The city's contract with the police does not give the city the right to deny dual employment as long as no conflict of interest is present.

- Both employers want us to agree that they can subcontract our jobs without notice or any rights of appeal. The police contract does not have language which would permit the subcontracting of their jobs.

- We have asked for a grievance procedure, like the one in the city and police union contract. The city and L&P have refused.

- We have asked that a number of practices contained in the city and L&P handbooks be made part of any agreement. Both employers have refused.

The above represents some of the positions taken by the city and L&P which adversely affects the morale of city and L&P workers. We have met with a state mediator, thus far to no avail. We want to reach an agreement and we are willing to compromise. So far, the city and L&P have not. We have sent this letter because the citizens have asked us how the talks are going. It is because the citizens want to know what the problem is, that we have responded. We simply want a fair deal. We hope we have at least started a dialogue and given a glimpse of what is going on. If anyone wants to know any more, please just ask us. We appreciate your support and intend to continue providing the best service we can to our citizens.

Very truly yours,
City of Lowell Employees:
Ralph Brecken,
Todd Phillips,
Scott Fosburg,
Joe Baker, and
Brian VanVeelen
Lowell Light & Power
Employees: Simon Kelly
and Jon Francis

high summer water rates

To the Editor,

I recently contacted the City of Lowell Water department regarding my high summer water bills. The rea-

son for this contact was because an individual from Ionia relayed to me that in his area, along with other cities/

city update



Mark Howe, Lowell City Manager

They say time flies when you're having fun. It has been more than a year since the Lowell City Council appointed me as the new city manager and it's probably been the fastest year of my life. I thoroughly enjoy serving this community and am honored to be given this opportunity.

During my first year I have been working hard to balance the budget, implement some strategic planning efforts and getting to know people within the community. It seems that each week I am reminded of the quality of the people who live and work here. I

am excited and look forward to rolling up my sleeves and helping Lowell reach its fullest potential.

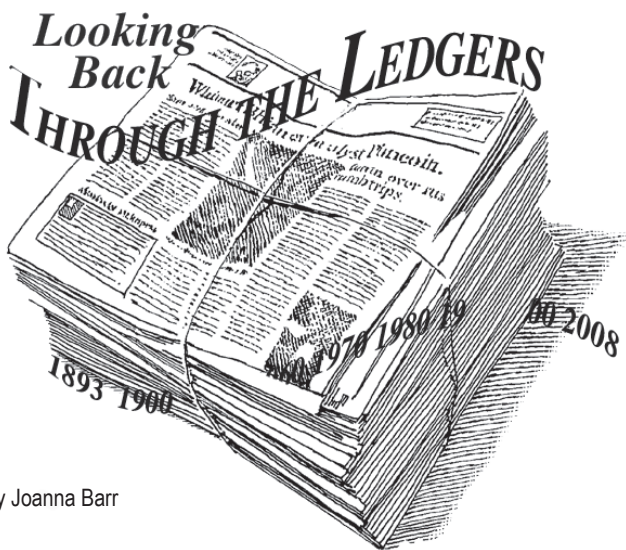
To that end, the folks at the Lowell Ledger have given me the opportunity to communicate with you in this space. We are so fortunate to have a community-minded weekly newspaper dedicated to promoting an open dialogue on public issues. My role in this dialogue is to provide leadership using best management practices and to bring to you the facts and the reasons for decisions that we make.

We have also upgraded the city website and are now using a Facebook page. The city website is at www.ci.lowell.mi.us and you can find us on Facebook by clicking on the Facebook icon at the bottom of our website. You can also contact us by telephone at 897-8457 and you can feel free to e-mail me directly at mhowe@ci.lowell.mi.us

During the next year we will have a lot to talk about.

There is a Community Vision process coming

City Update, continued, page 7



By Joanna Barr

140 years ago Lowell Weekly Journal August 7, 1872

During a trot around the track on Friday evening the axle of Dr. McDannell's sulky broke; the doctor fell to the ground without serious injury and the horse ran two-thirds of the distance around the track when he was brought to a stand still. The sulky was badly demoralized but the horse did not seem much hurt or frightened.

Another unpleasant item was furnished on Monday,

by the "dashing through the street" of a driverless horse, belonging to C. T. Wooding. No serious damage done except to the buggy, which was left - for repairs.

New crossings have been built on the west side. The sidewalks are yet in a horrid, fearful, disgraceful and dangerous condition. - There, now go to work and make us take all this back.

It is "sole" rending to catch the toe of our boot on those spikes in the side walk, but then there is good walking in the road.

THE LATEST - An enterprising neighbor of ours announced as an item of news yesterday, that "the Devil is dead." If he will call again we will give him two cents; not for the information, but simply because we believe it right to do something for the poor orphan. P.S. - Later advice says the devil is not dead, but has been around since Creswell's speech at Lansing trying to learn what has become of the remnants of Austin Blair. The search will undoubtedly prove successful. Austin, thou dissected one - farewell.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger Aug. 1, 1912

Headline: Had Narrow Escape - Auto plunged over high bank into Flat River. William Stowell suffered a

Through The Years, continued, page 7

To The Editor, continued, page 7

engagements

Hauck/Hudson



Nicholas Hauck and Tiffani Hudson.

Tiffani Ranae Hudson and Nicholas Allen Hauck, of Lowell, will be pronounced husband and wife on September 22, 2012. The bride is a graduate of Forest Hills Central High School and employed at Metro Health Hospital. She is the daughter of Brad Hudson

of Grand Rapids and Kathy and Roger Nation of Alto. The groom is a graduate of Lowell High School and is employed at King Milling and Lowell Area Fire Department. He is the son of Chris Hauck of Lowell and Bonita Hauck also of Lowell.

area births

Wojciakowski/Miller



Gabriel Miller and Josephine Wojciakowski

Ed and Sally Wojciakowski of Lowell are proud to announce the blessing of two new grandbabies born 22 hours apart on Mother's Day weekend.

Josephine Wojciakowski was born Saturday, May 12, 2012, weighing 7 lbs. 9 oz. and measuring 20 inches. She was welcomed with love and joy by her parents, Jennifer and John; along with grandparents, Ed and

Sally; and Joe and Sally Flanders of Ionia.

Gabriel Miller was born 22 hours later on Mother's Day, May 13, 2012, weighing 8 lbs. 1 oz and measuring 20 inches. He was welcomed with love and joy by his parents, Lisa and Josh; along with grandparents, Ed and Sally; Barry Miller of Portland; and Teri Miller of Rockford.

college news

Emma Duvernay, a student at North Central College, has been named to the dean's list of scholars for the 2012 spring term. To be eligible for the dean's list, undergraduate students must maintain a grade-point average of 3.6 (4.0=A) for the term and be enrolled as full-time students.

Duvernay is a resident of Lowell.

Hope College has announced the graduates who have been awarded graduation honors for outstanding academic accomplishment during their four years of study.

Colin Rathbun, of Ada, received summa cum laude honors, which are awarded to graduates who achieved a minimum cumulative 3.9

grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Andrea Converse, of Lowell; Bethany Fox, Kyle Josephson, Bryan Kunkler, and Gina Veltman, all of Ada, received magna cum laude honors for achieving a minimum 3.7 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Lerin Bommarito, a student at the School of Education and Human Services, has been named to the dean's list recognizing her studies at Oakland University. To be recognized, a student must carry at least twelve credits for both fall and winter semesters and maintain at least a 3.60 grade point average.

She is the daughter of Joe and Mary Bommarito of Lowell.



- AUGUST 1**
Barbara Callihan, Bailee Emelander.
- AUGUST 2**
Carolynn Kline, Hayley Woolfenden.
- AUGUST 3**
Rebecca Heinicke, Kelsey Brenk, Hillary Smith, Becky Lamberson.
- AUGUST 4**
Irene Willmarth, Scott VanDyke, Cody Bieri, Nick Tykocki, Thomas H. Mahalic, Joann Childs, Kayleigh VanKeulen.
- AUGUST 5**
Robin Abel, Stephen Martin Jr.
- AUGUST 6**
Jessie King, Kim Foster, Steven Vickers.
- AUGUST 7**
Barbara Wright, Don Grummet, Jaimi Smith, Steve Newell.

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11:00 A.M.Worship

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Celebration.....10:40 a.m.
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Adult Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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Robert Holmes, Pastor

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WEDNESDAYS:
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Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn

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Sunday School Hour/ABF.....11:00 A.M.
AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.
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MAY 27 - JULY 8 - Summer Worship.....9:30 a.m.
JULY 15 - AUGUST 26 - Summer Worship @ the Riverwalk . 9:30a.m.
Rev. Rick Blunt



...
People might not get all they work for in this world, but they must certainly work for all they get.
~ Frederick Douglass (1817 - 1895)

A HUGE THANK YOU



to Doug & Carol McGregor
for spending their time Saturday power washing the Lowell Senior Neighbors/Gilda's Club/Lowell Clubhouse for Pink Arrow Community Day.
The house looks so nice. Thanks a lot!

to the editor, continued

counties/townships where he has lived, they only have to call the water department and with a simple request, they are only charged for the extra water used to water lawns/plants during the summer and not the extra sewer costs. Yet Lowell charges an equal amount of sewer costs for each gallon of water used, even though the water for lawns/plants is not going into the sewer system. The cost between the amount charged for water and the amount charged for equal amounts of sewer is almost triple. Just check the rates on your bills. So we are being seriously overcharged for watering our plants and lawns with sewer services that we are not even using.

However, Lowell has offered a remedy. If a homeowner wants to pay \$335 to install a separate meter and then pay an additional \$22.50 per month fee when the extra meter is in use, they will put in this second meter so the separate usage can be tracked. I feel this cost is extreme to burden the homeowner with, to correct their problem of overcharging residents. Other smaller and even larger cities/townships do not require this extra meter at such a high cost.

So my point is this. What other business do you know that can charge for

services not being provided/utilized? None that I know of that would be in business for long. Why should the homeowner have to pay all the extra costs of a separate meter when business ethics and integrity dictate that this should not be occurring? Yet, this is exactly what the City of Lowell Water department is doing. They tout many reasons for our higher water costs, none of which I feel are relevant. We pay almost triple what many other areas pay for water during any season. They will tout that our higher costs are due to the water treatment plant, but this plant has been in use since the 70s and should be close to paid off, if not paid off by now. Additionally, they state that our water is softened, which costs more. Yet this softening doesn't seem to show a difference with the hard water problems that I have in my home.

If you agree with me, all I ask is that you send a message to our water company that they are too expensive for the service they provide and it is not right to charge residents for a service that is not even being utilized! Our City Water department needs to start charging residents in an ethical manner.

Melissa Spino
lifelong resident of Lowell

Through The Years, continued

narrow escape from drowning Tuesday morning about 11 o'clock while driving his automobile northward along River street. He suddenly lost control of the machine and it swerved to the right and plunged over the high bank just north of the "flat iron" into water ten or twelve feet deep. Mr. Stowell was at first caught beneath the machine, but soon extricated himself and stood upright upon it until rescued by E. F. Denny. Onie Wingate and several others who saw him go over, ran to his assistance. The men formed a human chain and drew him out of the water almost immediately and he escaped serious injury. The auto, although entirely submerged, was hauled from the water within a few hours with no very serious damage.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo August 5, 1937

The State Police radio last week Thursday broadcast the news that the sedan belonging to N. E. Borgerson of Lowell, which was stolen from Main-st. on the evening of July 26, had been located in Grand Rapids and the car is again in the hands of its owner. Mr. Borgerson's keys were still in the car where he had obligingly left them.

The unfolding of a night-blooming cereus attracted many friends and neighbors to the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Borgerson last Saturday evening to witness this uncommon sight. The unfolding of the flower, which occurs at intervals of about one year, lasts for about but a few hours, then folds up to await another twelve months before exhibiting its rare beauty.

By an odd coincidence, tickets for the "Robert E. Lee" 1937 Showboat were sold by George Well's, a real life nephew of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. Wells, a widely known writer of outdoor articles, is the fishing tackle expert at Goebel & Brown Inc., 12 Monroe Ave., NW, Grand Rapids. The firm acted as distributors of Showboat reservations, incidentally doing a good job, selling more than 1200 tickets.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger Aug. 2, 1962

Traffic jammed the streets of Lowell Monday evening as an estimated 5,700-6,000 people attended

a "Back To God" Evangelistic rally in the Showboat stadium. Extra police were called in from Grand Rapids to handle the increase in automobile traffic. Rev. Peter Eldersveld, radio pastor of the "Back To God Hour" of the Christian Reformed Denomination was the main speaker at the rally. Music was provided by a 30-member male chorus, the King's Choraliars and by audience participation hymn singing, led by Peter Vanden Bosch. The "Back To God" rally was sponsored by the Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, working through the Calvary Christian Reformed Chapel of Lowell. Henry Buikema, pastor of the Calvary Chapel, said Tuesday that the rally was very successful. "We hope to do it another year," he said, "if we can secure the Showboat stadium." For the past 31 years the Showboat stadium has been used exclusively for the Lowell minstrel show.

25 years ago The Grand Valley Ledger August 5, 1987

To better serve the citizens of Lowell, a new piece of equipment was recently put into service by the Lowell P.D. The Lowell Police Reserves, in conjunction with the Lowell Police Department, have nearly completed an Emergency Mobile Communications Center. Partial funding for the renovation of the van was contributed by the Helen Look Daley Memorial Fund. Monies were donated by the Lowell Police Department through fundraisers. This week the vehicle can be seen at the Kent County Youth Fair. When fully equipped, the step van will be capable of supplying communications to any site away from the Lowell Police Department (L.P.D.) offices. 'On Board' will be a generator capable of changing A.C. current to D.C., a ten-channel programmable transceiver, two portable transceivers, a permanently mounted telephone, a cellular telephone and a planning area. The unit will be used when any emergency occurs that requires communications 'on site,' away from L.P.D. offices.

City Update, continued

up where you will be asked to help shape the future of the community. This effort is being led by Lowell and Vergennes townships, the City of Lowell, Lowell Area Schools and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, the city council is currently undergoing a strategic planning process so that we can focus our efforts efficiently toward a set of goals established by the people who represent you, the city council. Of course, we do not need a strategic plan to know that streets, for example, are among the top items needing attention; however, a strategic plan will help us sort out the various other items where we need to focus some attention.

Speaking of streets, I have been doing a lot of work behind-the-scenes to create a long-term street improvement plan. That will likely be a topic for a future column that will involve some explanation about PASER ratings, funding opportunities and various other issues related to streets.

These are just a few items. An exhaustive list would probably fill the next few pages and it will certainly take more than a year to do all that needs to be done. In the meantime, please check in monthly as

I keep you updated and feel free to keep an eye on our website and Facebook page too.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our wonderful community.

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Pink Arrow Community Day brings home the idea of health

by Karen Jack

Pink Arrow Community Day, the kickoff to Pink Arrow season, was a great success this year. Although, as in past years, there was lots of fun and games, the focus for the day was a wellness program for the community.

This year, they had a tent with wellness components, including two dermatologists from The Lacks Cancer Center doing free skin assessments and volunteer nurses taking blood pressure, as well as many other health related booths. The coordinators asked the Lowell Community Wellness to move their venue from Riverwalk to the Pink Arrow Community Day because they thought it would be a great fit.

Three other large organizations were there promoting the idea of wellness, including Michigan Blood, Be the Match and Gift of Life.

Michigan Blood began participating three years ago and brought one mobile unit at the time, but they had to turn people away. So last year, they brought two and still had to turn people away. This year, they brought three. True to Lowell nature, people still kept coming. This is the largest blood

drive in the West Michigan area for the year.

Be the Match was new this year and they were doing cheek swabs, looking for bone marrow donors. One particular participant, Donna Brinks from Comstock

Park, was there waiting to see if anybody could possibly be a match for her. Although the test usually costs \$100, at this event there was no charge for participants.

The final organization was the Gift of Life. Ray and

Rhonda Benedict, who got involved with the organization after the tragic death of their son Andrew, in 2008, are heavily involved in the organization. In fact, their daughter Jacquelyn sits on the board of directors of the local organization. Rhonda was there signing up people to get on the donor registry.

"Seeing the difference it's made for us and knowing that Andrew continues to live in someone else,

helps us heal. It keeps us fueled to get the word out to people," said Ray Benedict.

The day was also a success in selling the Pink Arrow V t-shirts. This year, Harold Ziegler Ford and All-Weather Seal, both in Lowell, each offered up a \$1 match for each t-shirt sold for the day. Last year, they sold 1,293 shirts. This year, the goal was 2000.

Theresa and Perry Beauchum were approached by

Noel Dean five years ago and they've been organizing the event ever since. "This wonderful community of Lowell embraced the idea of fighting cancer and supporting our neighbors. These t-shirts mean a lot more than game admittance. They mean that we support our local families," said Theresa.

More Community Day pictures next page



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Creolization plays for the crowd.

Sizzlin' concert cools down with zydeco music, fans sign card for Magic Bus musician

by Emma Palova

The Sizzlin' Summer concert series continued with Creolization zydeco band on the Riverwalk stage last Thursday. There were less concertgoers due to previous heavy rains and storm. The music was easy going and while the band played, fans signed a large card for Steve Richards, a member of the band Magic Bus. Richards collapsed at the July 5th tribute concert to Woodstock. He was discharged from the hospital last week.

The Kari Lynch Band will perform country rock music this Thursday. There will be no concert on the Riverwalk during the fair week. Instead there will be a concert by Steam Powered Blue Grass & The Patchwork Band at the Free Entertainment tent at the fairgrounds.



Fans sign card for Steve Richards.

Community Day, continued



Tom DeVault

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ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouter Ph.D.

This article discusses how an individual is diagnosed with ASD (autistic spectrum disorder). The DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) is published by the American Psychiatric Association. It is used by clinicians, researchers, health insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies and other governmental agencies. Currently, the DSM-IV is being used and clinicians and other health professionals are anticipating the DSM-V which will be replacing the DSM-IV in 2013.

At this time, there are no medical tests that can be given to determine the pres-

ence of autism. Typically what happens is that the mother or a primary caregiver senses something is wrong because the child is not reaching the developmental milestones. Often the child is brought to the doctor and then referred to a child psychologist or another mental health professional. The diagnosis is made by observing behavioral characteristics in the following areas: 1.) communication, 2.) social interaction and 3.) imaginative play or thought.

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are developmental disabilities because the patterns of development are disrupted. There are five specific developmental dis-

abilities that are part of the spectrum. The first one is classic autism. A child who is diagnosed with this exhibits stereotypical behaviors, interests and activities. They show impairments in social interaction, communication and imaginative play and they are most often diagnosed before age three. Secondly, childhood disintegrative disorder is characterized by the child making all of the developmental milestones by age two, but then there is a significant loss of learned skills. Rett's disorder is another one on the spectrum. This is seen only in girls. The infant develops normally for the first five months and then there is a loss of these developed skills. For instance, good hand and eye coordi-

nation is replaced with severe psychomotor delays and poor gait coordination. Asperger's syndrome is another disorder that is on the spectrum. These individuals have above average intelligence, but they have difficulty with social cues. Finally, the last disorder is known as pervasive developmental disorder (PDD). Most often, those with PDD have a severe and pervasive impairment in specific behaviors that do not fit into the criteria for ASD.

Next month, the article will be titled "What can parents, grandparents and teachers do to help a child with autism?" If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to send me an e-mail at kathryndenhouter@gmail.com



At Your Local Library

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

Rhyme Time Music and Movement

Move and groove together with action rhymes, songs, games and hands-on musical activities that will help children develop motor, listening and literacy skills. For children ages 6 and younger with a caregiver. Fridays, through Aug. 17, 11 am.

Could You Survive the Hunger Games?

Imagine yourself a tribute, randomly selected to participate in the dystopian world that spawned the Hunger Games. Each tribute team will amass points as they participate in several challenges that determine who will survive. For teens, grades 6-12. Tues., August 14, 1 pm.

NOTICE OF HEARING OF PRACTICABILITY AND REVIEW OF BIG CROOKED LAKE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL

TAKE NOTICE that the Big Crooked Lake Improvement Board will hold a public hearing on the practicability of a five-year improvement project for Big Crooked Lake consisting of nuisance aquatic plant control, plant control coordination, administration, and contingencies. The project would begin in 2013 and continue through 2017 and have an annual budget of \$23,500. The hearing will be held at the Grattan Township Hall located at 12050 Old Belding Road at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, August 14, 2012.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a special assessment roll has been prepared and is on file at the Grattan Township Hall for public examination during normal business hours. Said special assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the cost of the improvement project to benefiting properties.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Big Crooked Lake Improvement Board will hold a hearing immediately following the aforementioned hearing of practicability for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and for hearing any objections thereto. An owner of or party with interest in real property to be assessed or his/her agent may appear in person to object to the special assessment or may protest such special assessment by letter filed with the Lake Board at or prior to the time of the hearing. Written objections may be filed with or mailed to the Big Crooked Lake Improvement Board c/o Grattan Township Treasurer, 12050 Old Belding Road Belding, MI 48809. Notice is also given that the owner of any real property within the Big Crooked Lake Special Assessment District who, having made an objection to said special assessment either in person or in writing, may, within thirty (30) days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll, appeal such special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal or other court of competent jurisdiction.

Big Crooked Lake Improvement Board
Kent County, Michigan

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Financial tips for newly single women

Within a marriage, a man and a woman's financial circumstances are generally pretty much equal. But if a divorce occurs, the woman's situation tends to be somewhat more challenging than that of her ex-spouse. And that's why, during this major life transition, you may want to meet with a professional financial advisor to go over your spending needs and your cash flow, so that you know what you ab-

solutely need today — and how you can plan for tomorrow.

But before we get into some possible steps you can take, let's look at some of the reasons that women may fare worse than men, financially speaking, following a divorce:

- Lower income — The average woman's family income drops by 37 percent after divorce, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

And in many cases, divorce exacerbates a situation in which women were already trailing men in earnings. In fact, women still only earn 77 cents for each dollar earned by men, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

- Smaller retirement accounts — The average balance on women's defined contribution plans (such as 401(k) plans) is only 60 percent of men's average balances, according to LIMRA, a financial services research organization.

Of course, "averages" are just that — averages. But whether you recognize yourself in the above numbers or not, consider these suggestions:

Create an emergency fund. Try to put six months' to a year's worth of living expenses in a liquid account. Once you've established this emergency fund, you won't have to dip into long-term investments to pay for unexpected costs, such as an expensive car repair, a new furnace or a large medical bill.

Contribute as much as you can afford to your re-

irement accounts. Even if you will eventually receive some of your ex-spouse's retirement funds, you need to take full advantage of your own savings opportunities — because it's pretty hard to save "too much" for retirement. If money is tight, it won't always be easy, but contribute as much as you can to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. At a minimum, put in enough to earn the employer's match, if one is offered.

Rebalance your investment portfolio. If you are now investing for yourself, you'll want to take a close look at your asset mix to make sure it is appropriate for your situation. For example, your risk tolerance may be quite different than that of your ex-spouse's, so if you now have total control over an investment portfolio, you need to make sure it reflects your needs and preferences. Consequently, you may need to "rebalance" your holdings.

Above all, get some help. As mentioned above, now is a good time to meet with a financial advisor. And if you don't have much experience in managing your finances, you may even find it helpful to work with a trust company, which can collaborate with your financial provider to manage your assets and can also provide a variety of other functions, including bill payment and recordkeeping. A trust company's services can prove especially valuable to you and your family should you ever become incapacitated.

Unfortunately, a divorce may leave you feeling "at sea" in many areas of your life. But by following the above suggestions, you can at least help keep your financial ship in calmer waters.

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ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF



LOWELL

Two Lowell girls get national exposure playing softball

by Karen Jack

Two Lowell High School softball players have been busy this summer.

Julie Smith, who will be a senior and Kortney Beachler, who will be a junior, both are starters on the Grand Rapids Blaze traveling team. With a grueling schedule of practicing during the week, then going out of town every weekend beginning on Thursdays, these players are showing true dedication in the Red Arrow way.

The Grand Rapids Blaze team is made of elite players from teams all around West Michigan, including Rockford, Kenowa Hills and East Kentwood. The idea of the team is to give the players college-level exposure as they travel all over in national tournaments.

They had this past weekend off, but have been playing since school got out. In their most recent tourna-

ment, the weekend before, they took second in the Michigan Blue Chip tournament out of 32 teams. They went 9-2 for the weekend, with six games back-to-back on Sunday.

The weekend prior to that, they took first in the Orlando Park tournament. With the elite of West Michigan playing, they are continuing to make a mark in the softball world. The team's overall record for the season is 29-10-2.

This coming weekend, they're heading out to York, Pennsylvania, for the Eastern Nationals, where there's sure to be fierce competition from players of the eastern United States.

"It's a lot of fun, but you have to be pretty dedicated," said Beachler. "I love it, though, because I have made a lot of friendships from my teammates. It's like playing with my family," added Beachler.



Some of the Blaze players celebrating after their win.

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lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

tutors needed

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Thursday, August 9, 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 Michi-

gan, located at 1120 Monroe Ave., NW, Suite 240, Grand Rapids, MI. Please call us at 459-5151 (ext. 10) to register.



RE-ELECT LESLIE STOUGAARD



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REMEMBER TO VOTE ON AUGUST 7 - PRIMARY

The primary election will determine your candidate for office

Paid for by the committee to elect Leslie M. Stougard for treasurer.
12618 Grand River Dr., Lowell, MI 49331

LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

All Proposals Must Be Submitted Online No Later Than August 17, 2012 to be considered.

Visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell to submit your application.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

obituaries

SCHUELKE

Dalbert Gustav Schuelke, age 83 of Rockford, passed away Thursday, July 26, 2012. He was preceded in death by his son Kurt Jon Schuelke. He is survived by his children, Karl (Sandy) Schuelke, Karen Jacquain, Kelly Chase; grandchildren, Kristina (Ryan) Zimmerman, Melissa Schuelke, Vicky Rae Chase; and great grandchildren, Noah and Juno. Dalbert served in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict. Private services were held by the family.



TEETER

Patricia Ann Teeter, age 54 of Lowell, passed away Saturday, July 28, 2012. She was preceded in death by her father, Roger Beaulieu. She is survived by her husband of 11 years John; mother, Theresa Van Ee; brother, William (Sharon) Beaulieu; sister, Cathy (Jerry) Baldwin. A Memorial Service will be held Wednesday August 1, 3:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. The family will meet with friends and relatives Tuesday 2-4:00 and 6-8:00 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made in care of Roth-Gerst Funeral Home to help with funeral expenses.



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 12-192428-DE

Estate of STELLA
MALCOLM. Date of
birth: 12/12/1922.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

presented to Jerry
Malcolm, named
personal representative
or proposed personal
representative, or to
both the probate court
at 180 Ottawa Avenue
NW, Ste. 2500, Grand
Rapids and the named/
proposed personal
representative within 4
months after the date
of publication of this
notice.

July 17, 2012

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS:
decident,
Malcolm,
06/09/2012.

TO
The
Stella
died
Mary L. Benedict
(P45285)
4519 Cascade Rd. SE
Ste. 14
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-942-0020

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

Jerry Malcolm
207 Maple St.
Lowell, MI 49331

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 12-192456-DE

Estate of MARY
HOFSTRA. Date of
birth: 01/22/1930.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS:
decident, Mary Hofstra,
died 07/18/2012.

Creditors of the
decident are notified
that all claims against
the estate will be
forever barred unless
presented to Nancy

Krzykwa, named
personal representative
or proposed personal
representative, or to
both the probate court
at 180 Ottawa Avenue
NW, Suite 2500, Grand
Rapids and the named/
proposed personal
representative within 4
months after the date
of publication of this
notice.

July 24, 2012


Mary L. Benedict
(P45285)
4519 Cascade Rd. SE
Ste. 14
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-942-0020

Nancy Krzykwa
8778 Garbow Dr. SE
Alto, MI 49302

Little did we know that morning
God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
in death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you did not go alone.
For part of us went with you,
the day God called you home.
You left us peaceful memories,
your love is still our guide.
And though we cannot see you,
you are always by our side.
Our family chain is broken
and nothing seems the same.
But as God calls us one by one,
the chain will link again.

JERRY STRAUSS
Lost August 4, 2010
Missed by his family

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**Does not include urn or cash advance items.

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Kurt B. Stengena Owner, Manager

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 August 20, 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 Dan Hula, on behalf of 721 Ottawa LLC pertaining to Sections 4.13, C, and 1 and 13.04 for Setbacks for Rear Yard and Street Side Yard of a Corner Lot.

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

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

classifieds

for sale

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

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.

FIREWOOD - Seasoned hardwood, \$75 - 1/3 cord (rick) or \$165 - cord. Delivery available. Multiple cord discount. Call Mike, 616-490-2283.

COUCH, LOVESEAT - sand color, button tufted, modern; 3 tables, dark wood, \$400 for all. Firm. 616-676-0249.

1995 CHEVY 1500 4x4 REGULAR CAB - silver, farm truck, new transfer case/alternator, longbed, towing package w/5-way connector, bedliner, V8, \$1,750 OBO. 616-826-9519.

1961 800 SERIES - Ford tractor, approx. 1300 hrs, \$4200; 12 ft. Sea Nymph flat bottom row boat, \$500; 6'x14' hay wagon, \$400; Winchester manufactured model 42, 1942, \$1500. 350-4750.

TRUCK CAP - 80" x 68", alum., excel. cond., \$400; garage door, steel, 12' x 7', never used, \$200; Dan Wesson 357 mag, s. steel, 2" barrel, \$500. 897-5767.

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.

FOR SALE - Elite tanning bed; antique ivory wedding gown (size 10-12); & 2005 Cadillac SRX, all wheel drive, 88,000 miles, like new condition, \$13,900. Call 897-0791.

TRACTOR FOR SALE - 1949 Ferguson TO-20 includes 6 ft. finish mower, 2 bottom plow & front blade, \$2,750. 616-260-3707 or 642-3645.

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

TABLES FOR SALE - 3 ft. x 6 ft. rectangular, 1 1/2 in. solid hardwood, \$100; 3 ft. x 5 ft. oval wood grain w/3 leaves, \$60. 616-260-3707 or 642-3645.

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.

**SOUND OFF
 PHONE LINE
 897-0787**

wanted

I WANT TO BUY - refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer & furniture in good shape. Have cash. 989-584-6818.

misc.

**SUPPORT THE
 LOWELL AREA
 FARMERS' MARKET
 - Thursdays 12:30-6
 p.m. at the Tractor
 Supply parking lot.
 Call Dave & Betty
 Deans for more info,
 897-9186.**

**HUNTERS SAFETY
 COURSE** - Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club will offer a free Hunters Safety Course beginning Aug. 6, continuing on Aug. 8 & 9. The class will run from 5:30 - 9 p.m. There is no age requirement & you must attend all three sessions to earn a certificate. The class size is limited to 49 & will be first come, first served. No pre-registration. The class will be held at 8731 West Riverside Dr., Saranac. Our website is www.Qua-Ke-Zik.org .

**PFALLER FIRE-
 ARMS LLC - in co-
 operation with Tri
 Town Conservation
 Club will hold an
 NRA Certified "Per-
 sonal Protection in
 the Home" class.
 The class will be held
 over 2 days, Aug.
 13 from 6-9 p.m. &
 Aug. 18 from 8 a.m.
 - 1:30 p.m. This class
 meets the require-
 ments for obtaining
 a Concealed Pistol
 License in Michigan.
 Cost: \$100. For more
 information or to reg-
 ister please e-mail
 jamespfaller@gmail.
 com**

**HELLO TO ALL
 FRIENDS - of our
 mom, Arlene Schwa-
 cha. We just wanted
 to let everyone know
 that she is now living
 at the Green Acres
 facility in Ionia. She
 loves the people &
 food there, but is
 bored... go figure.
 If you wish to give
 her a call, her phone
 # is 616-522-9139.
 If you wish to drop
 her a line, her ad-
 dress is 2550 Com-
 merce Lane, Ionia,
 MI 48846. Thanks,
 Jon & Kim.**

**NEWSPAPER END
 ROLLS AVAILABLE AT
 THE BUYERS GUIDE
 OFFICE - Many uses!
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for rent

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. FREE All Vets Coffee Hour at the center the 3rd Thursday of each month. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

**PRICELESS STOR-
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 door. New Units on
 Alden Nash, 1 mile
 South of I96. Call for
 specials 558-2900.**

sales

MOVING SALE - Aug. 2-5. Thurs. & Fri., 4-7 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Furniture, tools, knick-knacks, collectibles, bicycles, lawn equipment, etc. 10533 Bailey Drive. 897-1163.

2-FAMILY YARD SALE - Antiques, cement mixer, lawn furniture, collectibles, new & used household & hardware. Everything must go! No reasonable offer refused. 318 King St., Lowell. Aug. 2-4, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

card of thanks

THANK YOU
 Celebrating my 80th birthday was so much fun. Thank you for all the beautiful cards, phone calls and well wishes to make my day special and a day I will not forget.

Esther Newell

help wanted

BUSY INSURANCE EXECUTIVE - currently adding energetic and dependable team players. 25K first year pay. Call 616-328-6111 x1 or e-mail aconfer@phase2financial.com

PIZZA STARS WANTED - Vitale's of Ada is looking for drivers & cooks to fill positions immediately! Apply in person at 400 Ada Drive, in Ada. HIRING IMMEDIATELY!

CAREER OPPORTUNITY - King Milling Company is seeking a qualified individual for a second shift (3 p.m. - 12 p.m.) production position (miller). Applicant should have five years of production experience & strong mechanical skills. Please apply at 115 S. Broadway St., Lowell.

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.

COMMERCIAL CLEANING POSITION - Janitorial position available in the Cascade/Ada area. Part-time, 10 hours per week. Reliable transportation & valid drivers license required. We offer competitive wages. Stop in soon & fill out an application: Metropolitan Building Maintenance, 868 Barnum SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49509.

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 Closed Sat. & Sun.**

help wanted

DENTAL ASSISTANT - experience required & Dentrix computer knowledge helpful. Please fax resume to 897-7189 or mail to Dr. James E. Reagan, 207 W. Main, Lowell, MI 49331.

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 ing, trash, junk etc.
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 mates. Contact Doug
 616-295-6640.**

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COMPUTER PROBLEMS? - Call Ryan at 616-890-7979.

services

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

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YOGA CLASSES - Mon. 8:00 a.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 6:30 p.m. Walk-in \$8, located at 901 W. Main, Lowell. Specials & schedules: www.thehammockllc.com or 893-5661.

PROFESSIONAL TREE CLIMBER NEEDS WORK - Fully insured. Removals, trims, chipping, stump grinding. Call Dan for free estimate at 616-970-3832

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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.

LOWELL AREA PRAYER & HEALING ROOMS - located in the FROM building, 11535 Fulton Street, most Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Christian Scripture based. No cost or fees, no appointment necessary, confidentiality respected.

KENT COUNTY NARFE GROUP - for retired & current federal employees meet the 2nd Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton, 1/2 mile west of E. 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

KIDS TALK - Every Tues., in 1st - 4th grade on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, discussion & playtime. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

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.

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.

MOMS IN TOUCH GROUP - forming for Alto Elementary. Call Suzanne for more info, 868-7337.

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

KNITTING 101 - Every Tues., 10 a.m. - noon, Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main St., Clarksville. 616-693-1001.

FIT CLUB - Every Tues. at 9 a.m., Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville. 616-693-1001.

LOWELL ROTARY CLUB - meets each Wednesday at noon at Lowell City Hall. New members welcome.

VERGENNES CLUB MEETS - at 1 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month March thru Nov. Meeting at Schneider Manor Community Room. Program & refreshments. Guests welcome.

NEW ALTO FARMERS MARKET - Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Veterans Memorial Park, downtown Alto. Sponsored by Alto DDA.

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

THE EAST KENT COUNTY REPUBLICANS (EKCR) - meets the

second Saturday of the month at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce (113 Riverwalk Plaza) from 8:30 to 10 a.m. to discuss current events on the local, state & national levels. Bring your concerns & issues to our meeting for open discussion! Share information about what you can do to become involved! For more information, please call Dave Emmette, 644-0759 or Nancy Steckler, 897-6380.

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

FREE ALL VETS COFFEE HOUR - third Thurs. of each month. Bring a friend. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash, Lowell. Call 868-7426 or 897-8303 for more info.

LEGO CONTEST - Thurs., Aug. 9, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Make your lego creation at the library or bring one in for display & voting at Saranac Public Library, 61 N. Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

BOOKWORMS BOOK CLUB - Mon., Aug. 20, 6 p.m. Discuss "Lucky One" by Nicholas Sparks at Saranac Public Library, 61 N. Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

Senate acts to preserve Middle-class tax relief



Sen. Carl Levin

The Senate has taken an important step toward ensuring that middle-class families do not face a tax increase at the end of this year, and in the process, has dealt a blow to a failed policy that emphasized tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans as the cure for our economy.

The Senate voted to approve legislation to prevent a tax increase on taxpayers making \$250,000 a year or less. Some of my Senate colleagues had opposed this legislation, saying they would prevent it from coming to a vote unless we included the wealthiest two percent of taxpayers, those making more than \$250,000.

In the end, those senators ended their obstruction. The Senate rejected a plan that would have continued tax cuts for the wealthy and approved the bill I supported, to prevent an end-of-the-year tax increase on middle-class families.

This was important, first of all, because middle-class Americans are already struggling with the after-effects of the worst recession in decades. Unemployment is still too high, workers have seen little increase in wages, housing values remain depressed. Preserving

those middle-class tax cuts is important to continuing the economic recovery.

But this vote also was important because it represents the first break with what has been a rigid adherence by some of my colleagues to tax cuts for the wealthy as the supreme goal of public policy. Supporters of this policy have demonstrated a willingness to risk government shutdowns, to risk grave economic damage, and to risk rising taxes on the vast majority of Americans in pursuit of their highest of priority: lower taxes on the wealthiest two percent of us.

That policy has already proved a failure.

Income for the typical American family peaked in 2000 – not coincidentally, just before the tax-cuts-for-the-wealthy mania reached its zenith. A June study by the Federal Reserve found that the average middle-class family's net worth had fallen by 40 percent from 2007 to 2010. And in 2010, the bottom 99 percent of income earners reaped just seven percent of total income growth, while 93 percent of all growth flowed to the top one percent.

Now, perhaps this vast

accumulation of wealth would arguably be acceptable if it had resulted in faster economic growth that produced new jobs and helped average Americans prosper. Indeed, since the time of President Reagan, we have been told that the rising tide lifting up the wealthy would lift all boats, that the benefits would trickle down to all Americans.

But policies that are more and more generous to the wealthiest have failed to spark economic growth or create the jobs we need. More tax cuts for the wealthy coincided with the slowest rate of job growth in recent American history. Economic growth, even before the financial crisis nearly sent our economy into depression, was woefully short of historic standards.

And, despite promises that tax cuts for the wealthy would somehow add to federal revenue, these tax cuts have raised the federal defi-

cit by hundreds of billions of dollars. Ending them will reduce the deficit by nearly \$1 trillion over 10 years.

So this policy of tax cuts for the wealthy has failed as fiscal policy, adding to our deficit. It has failed as economic policy, coinciding with weak growth in economic output and job creation. And it has failed a vital test of public policy in a democratic society – it failed the fairness test, facilitating massive accumulations of wealth for a fortunate few while most Americans have struggled to tread water.

So, I'm pleased that the Senate voted to allow middle-class families to keep a few of their hard-earned dollars. Our legislation now goes to the House of Representatives and I hope our colleagues there will soon join us in preserving middle-class tax relief.

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

West Nile Virus activity detected in Michigan

West Nile Virus (WNV) activity has been identified in two Michigan counties. Being the earliest detection of WNV activity in Michigan in several years, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is urging citizens to remember to apply repellents during peak mosquito biting periods (dusk and dawn) and drain standing water around their homes during the holiday.

This past week, a mosquito pool sample collected in mid-June by the Saginaw County Mosquito Abatement Commission tested positive for WNV at Michigan State University (MSU). In addition, a wild turkey in Washtenaw County was submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and also tested positive for WNV at MSU. These findings show the virus is circulating in mosquitoes and birds in the state which could present a risk to human health.

Due to an unusually warm spring, mosquitoes that can transmit West Nile hatched early and are on the rise in Michigan, according to the state's mosquito control districts. West Nile can cause serious neurological illnesses, such as meningitis and encephalitis. Last year, WNV was responsible

for 34 serious illnesses and two fatalities in Michigan. Nationally, 712 WNV cases and 34 deaths were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Hot and dry conditions favor development of the virus and the mosquitoes that transmit it," said Erik Foster, medical entomologist at MDCH. "These mosquitoes may breed near people's homes in storm drains, shallow ditches, retention ponds, and unused pools. When these areas are not flushed out by rains, it becomes stagnant and highly organic, which is appealing to mosquitoes that can transmit the disease."

During the upcoming holiday when people spend more time outdoors, it's especially important to take precautions against mosquito bites. While activity has been detected in only two counties so far, all Michigan residents should follow simple, effective strategies to protect themselves and their loved ones. In particular, citizens are advised to use mosquito repellent products containing EPA-approved active ingredients, such as DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Draining standing water, and making sure door and window screens are in good repair will also help.



JULY 25 - JULY 31

- After winning an unprecedented eight gold medals in Beijing, swimmer Michael Phelps has yet to earn gold in London at the 2012 Olympics. Brian Lochte has so far claimed the gold in the 400 IM and Dana Vollmer has broken the women's 100 butterfly world record.
- The opening ceremonies for the London Olympics had a 'cheeky' start when Queen Elizabeth (really a body double) jumped from a helicopter and parachuted into the stadium.
- The man accused of a murderous shooting spree in a Colorado movie theatre was formally charged with 142 offenses including murder and other violent acts.
- Mitt Romney angers the Brits while visiting the London Olympics with several gaffes prompting headlines such as, "Mitt the Twit" before moving on to discuss foreign policy with Israel president Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.
- Former V.P. Dick Cheney, 71, having recovered from a heart transplant four months ago, comes out swinging. He says the choice of Sarah Palin as a running mate for John McCain was a "mistake" and says of President Obama, "I'd be hard put to find any Democratic president that I've disagreed with more." No surprises there.
- Meanwhile, Obama is giving proposed legislation to ban online or mail-order purchases of ammunition a cool response. Obama has called for a common sense response to the tragedy in Colorado and has underlined his support for the Second Amendment. Spokesman Josh Earnest said, "He believes in the second amendment of the constitution, in the right to bear arms. But he also believes that we should take robust steps, within existing law, to ensure that guns don't fall in the hands of criminals or others who shouldn't have them."
- Lieutenant Colonel Jenns Robertson, 45, has spent the past six years working on compiling a database of every bomb dropped by U.S. forces dating back to World War I. "THOR" (Theater History of Operations Reports) is the name of the project and it allows people to mouse-click to nearly any location on the globe and receive an assessment of when and where U.S. bombs were dropped over the past century almost instantly.

DALE MILLER FOR IONIA COUNTY SHERIFF

I would like to say a few words about my friend, Dale Miller, who is running for Ionia County sheriff in our primary election on August 7th. I know that Dale is a man of honor and integrity, a wonderful father and husband (I have been privileged to also know Dale's wife Nancy for many years) and a dedicated professional who has proven to be totally committed to serving the citizens of Ionia County.

I cannot imagine anyone more qualified to be sheriff than Dale Miller. Dale has served in law enforcement for over 30 years, 26 of which serving Ionia County sheriff's office. During that time, Dale gained vast experience and progressed steadily through the leadership ranks, most recently serving as the undersheriff of Ionia County for the past 11 years.

I believe that Dale's knowledge, understanding and involvement in our communities and the respect he shows for his fellow citizens, makes him one of us! His education, experience and professionalism more than qualify him for the job, but it is his caring, dedication and commitment to us, the citizens of Ionia County, that puts him way over the top. I hope everyone will join me in voting for Dale Miller for sheriff on August 7th.

Jenett Patrick

Saranac Elementary teacher for 25 years
Realtor in Ionia County for 16 years

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**THEME:
COUNTRIES**

ACROSS

1. "Angela's _____," memoir
6. Fairytale princess test
9. Mark of a saint
13. Musketeer's hat decoration
14. TV classic "____ in the Family"
15. *Vietnam's capital
16. Like a beaver?
17. Flying saucer
18. Declare invalid, as in divorce
19. Type of agreement
21. *a.k.a. Magyarország
23. Opposite of yang
24. School project, e.g.
25. Tube in old TV
28. Dwarf buffalo
30. A radio or television antenna
35. Strikes with an axe
37. Does something wrong
39. Like a nose reacting to allergies
40. Hipbones
41. Element Xe
43. _____ Jim snack
44. Connected series or group
46. Farmer's storage
47. Bristle
48. Churchill's successor
50. Your own identity
52. Farmer's _____
53. _____ A Sketch
55. Part of a circle
57. *a.k.a. Burma
61. Grows angrily
64. Pertaining to the ear
65. "Without further _____"
67. Hammering spikes
69. Like the color of granite
70. Nada
71. Locomotive hair
72. Wife of Hercules, goddess of youth
73. Da, oui, or si, e.g.
74. *Hosni Mubarak was its former leader

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616-897-0787

To the special lady who was ahead of me at the drive-thru and bought my coffee and egg - a big thank you. What a special surprise when they told me at the window that she had paid for my breakfast. God bless you for the kindness you show to others.
- Lyn VanStee

I was surprised to hear that the new gas station that is going to be built at the corner of Vergennes and Lincoln Lake may have a Subway in it. That would be #3 for the Lowell area. I am hoping for something different that we don't already have.

Has the Farmers' Market on Thursdays thought about extending their hours? Since I work in G.R. I have not been able to shop at and support the local farm market because it closes too early. I did make it there by 5:45 twice and a lot of the booths had already started packing up.

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DOWN

1. King Kong, e.g.
2. Member of eastern European people
3. Immense
4. Manicurist's board
5. *Home to Belgrade
6. McCartney or Anka, e.g.
7. Rudolph's friend Hermy, e.g.
8. Hawaiian goodbye
9. "_____ in there!"
10. "_____ Karenina"
11. Frown
12. Greasy
15. Yearn
20. Building extension
22. *World's oldest surviving federation
24. Caused by oxidation
25. *It experienced a Cultural Revolution
26. Rent again
27. Short for "betwixt"
29. Miners' bounty, pl.
31. a.k.a. Russell
32. Scandinavian fjord, e.g.
33. Hill or Baker, e.g.
34. _____ Frank Baum
36. First king of Israelites
38. The only one
42. Baseball Hall of Famer Ryan
45. Becoming
49. Approximated landing time
51. *Home to famous bike race
54. Patsy Cline hit
56. Owner of famous online list
57. TV classic " _ _ _ _ "
58. Christmastime
59. *United _____ Emirates
60. "Tiny" Archibald
61. Douses
62. Monet's water flower
63. Socially awkward act
66. " _____ Hard"
68. Scholastic aptitude test

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS

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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?

Anthony Kiedis	27%
Noel Dean	10%
Bruce Springsteen	12%
Kid Rock	30%
Prince	2%
Perry Beachum	19%

Editor's note: Looks like you're off the hook Perry!

Youth Fair, continued

“We’re hoping for beautiful weather like we have now,” said Marks.

The fair schedule this year is packed with new activities, including the Exhibitor’s Show & Tell by the Children’s Barnyard. The 4-H kids bring a project or a project animal and talk about it in front of an audience.

“This is generating a lot of interest from the kids that will talk about what is involved in a project,” said board secretary Bruce Doll.

It also helps the outsider to become a part of the fair by being knowledgeable about various fair projects, from still exhibits to animals.

This year the fair exhibitors will get to showcase their work in the “Bountiful Arts & Crafts Exhibition” at the Lowell Arts King Gallery.

Also new is “My Adventure Theatre,” a youth variety show held in the free Entertainment Tent.

Heroes Day on Monday will feature a community cake honoring heroes who will get to park free.

The new Kari’s Konkert for Kids will have music by Kari Lunch after Reading for Rides on Tuesday at 2:30 p.m.

The pony pull will take place at the track on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The Michigan Association of Veterinary Medicine will present the “Science, Animals, Medicine and You” program near the Children’s Barnyard.

The Grillin Guys will be broadcasting live by the fair office on Saturday morning from 9 am to 11 am.

But the fair does not forget the past either. It carries on in traditions, such as honoring those who dedicated so much of their time to the fair, but passed away before their time.

In memory of late fair manager Ron Wenger, who passed away in December, a luminary tribute will be held on the Midway at 9 pm on Tuesday.

On the biggest day of the fair, Thursday, everyone is invited to wear a plaid shirt to honor Wenger.

That same tradition will be reflected in the dedication of the picnic park to the first original fair exhibitors in 1934, E.L. and Wannetah Phelps

during the opening ceremonies.

“The money was donated to the fair in their memory,” said Marks. “We wanted to come up with a fitting memorial.”

The livestock sale on Thursday is the staple of the fair. The auction will be held at the Reath Barn starting with small animals at 2 pm and large animals at 3:30 pm.

“It is the culmination of 365 days of hard work,” said Marks. “I love to see the kids with animals and the buyers who support them. That’s my favorite day of the year.”

There will be other standby favorites, such as karaoke, the talent show and line dancing.

The fair highlights include the new Save a Life Tour (SALT), an alcohol awareness program in memory of Brody Mulnix, killed after the fair by a drunk driver.

No one should miss the competitors’ events scheduled daily, according to Doll. For times, go to www.kcfg.org

The Xtreme Cowboy Race will be held at the horse arena on the closing day of the fair, Saturday, at 11 am.

As in the years past, there will be plenty of entertainment, tractor and horse pulls, carnival rides and food booths.



Special Invitation

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Join us for a carnival-style celebration of our 13-year anniversary! Carnival games, carnival food, and a bouncy house for the kids will make this fun for the whole family. Entertainment by John Amos and a free raffle add to the excitement — come celebrate with us!

Thursday, August 9 — 4:30–6:30pm

Please RSVP to Sylvia by August 6 — 616.954.2366

Mark your calendars! Bring your friends!

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Fri. 10 am - noon

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