

ml volunteer of the month



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maple syrup festival



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odyssey of the mind



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Gary Valentine brings laughs to Lowell, ends weekend full of comedy and art

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

This past weekend was busy and full of grins. LaughFest was coming to a close and Lowell hosted a number of events. LaughFest is a “festival of laughter.” In its third year, it is an event that brings comedians to the Grand Rapids area and raises money for programs that are offered at Gilda’s Club.

LowellArts! ended their second PunchLine arts exhibit. The gallery opened February 12th and ended Sunday, March 17th. 25 area artists entered their artwork into the show for five dollars per item. The public was welcome to vote on their favorites for one dollar per vote. Winners for the People’s Choice awards were announced Sunday afternoon. First place was Dave Tulos for his oil painting entitled “Sliced Apple” and runner-up was Bonnie Grooters with

“They’ll be a Hot Time In the Old Town Tonight,” a mixed polymer clay piece. Both won a bag of LaughFest merchandise.

In total, 105 votes were cast. Combined with the \$125 in artist fees, Lowell Arts is writing a check for \$230 to Gilda’s Club.

All the participants were pleased to be a part of an event that helped Gilda’s Club.

Last year, LowellArts! only hosted the PunchLine arts exhibit as their way of showing support for the organization.

This year, LaughFest asked them to host several stand-up shows this year as well. Kacey Cornwell, LowellArts! project director, was excited their exhibit had garnered support and couldn’t have been happier to host comedy events for LaughFest.

LaughFest, continued, page 9



Gary Valentine during his stand-up performance Sunday night at Lowell High School Performing Arts Center.

Disabled Lowell resident featured in upcoming film Our Beautiful Secret

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

Jonathan Peavey is a Lowell success story. He competes in marathons, has mingled with many of his favorite NASCAR racers and he’s the star of an upcoming film titled Our Beautiful Secret. Jonathan is young and successful, but he also suffers from cerebral palsy.

“People just don’t understand what a family goes through,” Angela Peavey said. She is the director, executive producer and co-screenwriter of Our Beautiful Secret, the owner of Big Shoes Productions LLC and the loving sister of Jonathan.

Angela is no stranger to success herself. She’s been a professional actor for 20 years, an acting instructor for 14 years and she’s directed

commercials, movies and a TV show on ABC, but her real passion is disability education and awareness.

“I want to work on things that promote

wholesomeness and family values,” Angela said. She decided to start with a full-length film devoted to the

Film, continued, page 3



Behind the scenes of Our Beautiful Secret.

Fracking concerns addressed at town hall meeting

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

The township offices in nearby Ada were filled beyond capacity at 6:30 pm on Mon., March 18, for the “Hydraulic Fracturing Informational Town Hall Meeting.” State representative Lisa Posthumus Lyons called the meeting in response to numerous emails and telephone calls from locals concerned with the possibly disastrous results of natural gas drilling in Kent County. In order to educate the community, Posthumus Lyons was accompanied by Thomas Hane of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Bill Mitchell of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Hydraulic fracturing, or in the popular nomenclature “fracking,” is a hot topic and since it can be politically divisive, Mitchell was careful to delineate exactly what the process entails. Mitchell explained that the process is different from processes like drilling or methods of oil transportation, like the Enbridge Energy pipeline that caused massive ecological damage after rupturing in July 2010. Hydraulic fracturing is a process of nonconventional completion, which means that it prepares the oil or gas well for production. This is done by shooting high-powered water into porous rock in an attempt to connect the tiny pores so fluids can pass easily from the bottom of the well to the top.

Fracking, continued, page 2

50 CENTS



Ockaskis named Volunteer of the Month

Steve Ockaskis was named Murray Lake's Volunteer of the Month for February. Ockaskis has been volunteering at Murray Lake Elementary (MLE) a couple days each week for the past three years.

"He does such an awesome job for my students. He is dependable and shows up twice a week rain or shine. It is great to have an extra set of hands to help with all sorts of things in my classroom," commented Robyn Anderson, a kindergarten teacher at MLE.

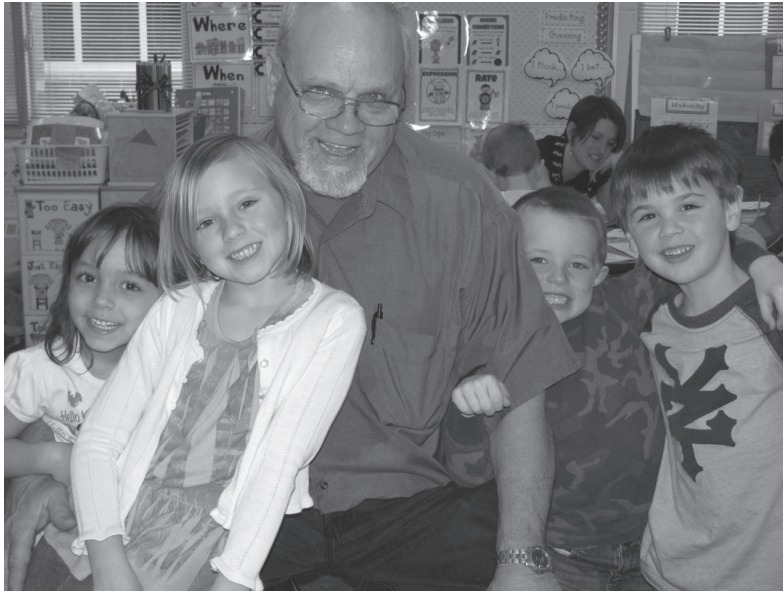
Ockaskis, better known as Mr. "O" around MLE, is a father, grandfather and a retired Northview Schools' employee. He enjoys volunteering and also fishing. He has caught

and given away over 1,500 bluegill and perch over the past year.

"I have been around teachers at all grade levels and nobody works harder than elementary teachers.

I truly enjoy working with these teachers and their students and they seem to appreciate my help," commented Ockaskis.

"Mr. "O" is a mainstay at MLE. Everyone knows Mr. "O." It is great to see people like him be so unselfish with their time. He has had a positive impact on many of our students here at MLE," said MLE principal Brent Noskey.



Pictured is Mr. "O" with some of Mrs. Anderson's kindergarten students.

Fracking, continued

Hane explained that there are financial benefits to leasing mineral rights to oil and gas drilling companies. In 2010 alone, the state of Michigan made over \$178 million on leasing mineral rights with minimal disturbance to surface property. This is more than the previous gains from similar land lease from 1927 until 2010 together. Most of this money goes into the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund which provides grants for public parks and other such expenses.

As for the environmental concerns associated with "fracking," Mitchell said that Michigan has some of the strictest regulations in the country in order to keep hazards to a minimum.

"We ask them to do things that are not required in other states," Mitchell said.

The description of these regulations was not enough to keep many concerned citizens from voicing their fears, from poisoned well water to deforestation to the potential for earthquakes. Posthumus Lyons and staff streamlined the question and answer session by making note cards available for those who wished to write out a question. Some were vocal and still others were vocal about letting others be literally vocal. There was anger and comedy and even some understanding.

Ultimately, Mitchell had to admit that the best efforts of the state of Michigan cannot prevent every possible problem.

"Even with the best practices, the best regulations, the best intentions, accidents can happen," Mitchell said.

In the name of democracy, the town hall meeting went well past its predicted ending time of 8 pm.

"If they kick us out to the parking lot, I will answer questions as long as there are more to be asked," Mitchell said.

Sadly, neither Hane nor Mitchell had all of the answers. Those interested in more details about hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling in the state of Michigan can enter the search term "office of oil, gas and minerals" at www.michigan.gov, search for the Michigan State University extension oil and gas portal or visit geology.com/oil-and-gas, www.epa.gov/hydraulicfracturing or fracfocus.org



along main street

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries will be Thurs., March 21, from 1-2 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional questions.

LOWELL AREA FIRE

DEPARTMENT'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee and milk on Sat., March 23, 7 to 11 am at Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson. Cost: donations at the door; proceeds to go toward fire equipment.

SEED SWAP

The Wittenbach/Wege Center (WWC) will be hosting a seed swap on Sun., March 24 from 2-3:30 pm at the center. Bring out any seeds you have to swap. Seeds can be up to four years old but please don't bring anything you know isn't viable. Make sure all packets are labeled with type and variety name. The WWC will have heirloom and traditional varieties available for a small donation. For more information call 987-2565.

TOTS SPRING PRESCHOOL ALMOST NEW SALE

Do you have outgrown infant, toddler or preschool clothing, toys, books and baby essentials? Help area young families by participating in our sale. Stop by if you are looking for items for your family. April 27 from 9 am - 1 pm, setup 8-9 am at Cherry Creek Elementary. Free to participate. Call Lori at 616-987-2532 or email lbuys@lowellschools.com to reserve a space. TOTS is an early childhood project of Lowell Area Schools and the Lowell Area Community Fund.

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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Film, continued

trials and triumphs of her brother Jonathan.

Our Beautiful Secret is a docudrama, which means that it incorporates documentary footage with dramatic interpretations of Jonathan's story. While Jonathan's mother was pregnant, she was infected with toxoplasmosis, a parasite carried in cats. As a result, Jonathan was born with cerebral palsy. Despite many setbacks, requiring Jonathan to need a wheelchair, ventilator, oxygen, and a feeding tube, the boy who lived through all of this became the man who has inspired everyone around him.

"If he can do it, I can deal with the little troubles in life," Angela said.

The bulk of the talent and crew for Our Beautiful Secret were hired locally. Nearly 350 people from Michigan auditioned for this film. The actor who plays Jonathan, Elonzo Peavey, is a freshman at Lowell High School. He is joined by accomplished actors like Scott Goudie, who plays Jonathan's father and has been in blockbuster hits, such as Transformers: Dark of the Moon, Real Steel and Machine Gun Preacher.

Working on Our Beautiful Secret didn't put any extra strain on the relationship between Angela and Jonathan Peavey.

"He would say, 'Hey, you could do it this way' and I would say, 'No, I'm going to do it this way' and I won out in the end," Angela said, recounting the many comedic exchanges that took place in the making of the film.

Our Beautiful Secret premieres Wed., April 10 from 6 to 9:30 pm at Celebration! Cinema North. Tickets are not available at Celebration! Cinema North, but can be purchased for \$8.50 via PayPal at www.ourbeautifulsecretmovie.com. Attendees are asked to print their PayPal receipt, which will serve as the ticket to the event.



Jonathan with Team Peavey at a racing event.

Progress on King Milling's new flour mill

These photos show the progress of King Milling's new flour mill and loadout building. It is the first new building of its kind in the state of Michigan since the 1950s. Capacity for storage will be greatly increased so King Milling can sell more

flour products. They won the Brick Award this year for their renewed commitment to the community with their recent construction projects.



**A day without
sunshine
is like, you
know, night.**

- Steve Martin

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Lowell designated a North Country Trail Town

by Ellen Mork
 contributing reporter

The Lowell City Council voted Monday to become a North Country Trail Town (NCTT). The North Country National Scenic Trail runs from North Dakota east then south in Michigan and east, again until it ends in New York.

A trail town supports those using the trail with services. The trail is also promoted to citizens and is embraced “as a resource to be protected and celebrated.”

The trail town is a relationship between the community, the trail and the North Country Trail Association.

There are several benefits to Lowell becoming a trail town. The trail will be protected when city planning occurs, amenities will be available for hikers and awareness of the trail will grow. Lowell also has the potential to become a tourist destination. More outdoor activities for residents may be available and the overall

health of the environment will be improved. There will be opportunities for programs associated with the trail. The city can host hikes, classes such as “backpacking, snowshoeing and bird watching” and have a festival.

The city council voted unanimously to become a NCTT. There are many benefits to the community. It is also a great promotional tool that can bring people into the community.

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Get ready for some (financial) spring cleaning

Spring is in the air — or, at the very least, it’s on the calendar this week. And if you’re like many people, you may be looking forward to doing some spring cleaning around your house and yard. But this year, why not go beyond your physical environment and do some “sprucing up” of your financial situation?

Here are a few possibilities to consider:

- Clean your portfolio of “clutter.” When you go through your house, you may find some clutter in closets, storage areas, on top of desks, under beds or just about any other place. Your investment portfolio also may contain clutter, in the form of investments that no longer meet your needs. Consequently, it’s a good idea to “de-clutter” your portfolio periodically by selling those extraneous investments and using the proceeds to help purchase others that may be more effective in helping you make progress toward your financial goals.
- Consolidate your investments in one place.

As you clean your house, you may find that you have many common items, such as brooms, hammers, duct tape and so on, scattered among various rooms. It might be more efficient to keep all such objects in one central location; this can help prevent you from needlessly replacing or duplicating them. As an investor, you may have an IRA with one financial services provider, an old 401(k) with a different one, and some other investments with yet another institution. If you consolidated all these investment vehicles with one provider, you might be able to save some fees and expenses. Perhaps even more importantly, by uniting all your investments in one place, you may find it easier to follow a central, unified investment strategy.

- Check for “gaps” in your financial strategy. Every spring, it’s a good idea to check your gutters for leaks, your sidewalks for cracks and your paint for chips. By doing so, you’ll help protect your home and surroundings. To help protect your family’s

future, it’s important to have adequate life and disability insurance.

- Plant seeds for growth. When spring arrives, it’s time to plant the seeds for your flowers and vegetables. As an investor, you also have to be concerned about growth. Specifically, you’ll want to consider investments that have the potential to grow enough to help provide the financial resources to meet your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement. Consequently, you should review your portfolio to determine if it contains an appropriate amount of growth-oriented vehicles for your individual objectives, time horizon and risk tolerance.

- Seek professional assistance. When you’re tidying up for spring, you may find some jobs that you can’t do alone, such as cleaning a heavily stained carpet, unclogging a blocked drain or trimming the highest branches on a tree. For these tasks, you might need to call in trained professionals. It’s the same with investing: You can do some things on your own, but for complex tasks such as creating and maintaining an appropriate investment strategy, you may need to work with a financial professional.

Consider putting these spring-cleaning tips to work soon. They may just help put some sparkle and shine into your financial “house.”

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viewpoint

to the editor

reader stands by last letter

To The Editor,

Several weeks ago I wrote a letter to the editor expressing my concerns regarding the prospect of arming teachers and other school employee volunteers in the classroom. To those of you who actually read the letter, you know that my choice of the word "concerns" doesn't begin to express my true feelings on this issue. If you didn't read it, this article may seem confusing, so feel free to skip to the "Looking Back" section, or better yet, dig up the Feb. 6 Ledger. I would even suggest that the Ledger send a copy of my letter to our local Home Boy and Girl legislators. Based on what I read in the Feb. 27 Ledger, these two may be leading the breakout from the asylum. Truly a "One Flew Over the CooCoo's Nest" scenario.

Just so there's no misunderstanding, I stand by every word I wrote on Feb. 6. I want to thank officer Chris Hurst of the Lowell PD, first, for his years of service to our country and community; and second, for responding to my letter from an adversarial point of view. Officer Hurst's experience as a soldier, trainer of soldiers and fellow officers will make the point that must not have been clear in my last letter. Regardless of the level of training, it is my humble opinion based on many of the same experiences as officer Hurst plus close combat experience, that a teacher with a gun confronting a bad guy with a gun is far more likely to shoot him/herself, a kid or an innocent bystander than a bad guy. Nobody gets a medal for something like that.

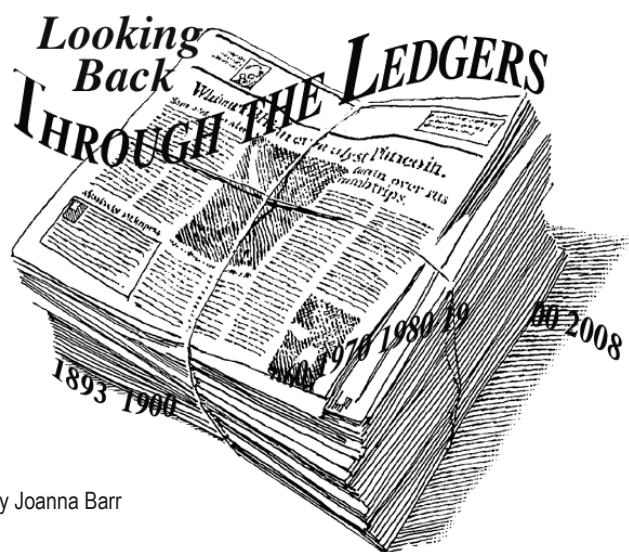
Now, this assertion is impossible to prove conclusively. However, even officer Hurst will have to agree with the points I am about to make. The military and police get the best and most thorough weapons' training and practice one could possibly imagine. Military engagements today generally take place at fairly long distances. Cop and bad guy with a gun engagements usually take place within a few feet. You can prove that by turning on the nightly news. Many of these gun battles are televised.

I'm not faulting their weapons' training in any way, but the fact of the matter is that more often than not, lots of shots get fired with many finding unintended targets. It's the nature of the beast; it's going to happen. Put on your thinking caps and imagine this scenario, let's call it a one-on-one in a 30'x45' classroom with 25-30 kids, a couple other adults and an armed bad guy and armed teacher. You can finish the story. Anyone with an ounce of common sense knows what will happen.

Now, this business of school shootouts is about as likely as getting struck by lightning or winning the lottery. There will always be bad people who will find a way to hurt others.

It just makes sense to me that we not allow them to be armed with military style assault weapons and thirty round magazines to make their job easier. If a person is really interested in home protection more than being a 'John Wayne wanna be,' a 12 gauge loaded with four magnums is a much better and safer choice.

Louie Dudeck
Lowell



By Joanna Barr

140 years ago The Lowell Journal March 26, 1873

March 26th, snow fourteen inches deep and still coming.

We reduced the size of our paper last week simply because the former size was too large for the press and for no other reason. Hold your temper kind friends – if you've lost it we'll endeavor to make it up to you.

Perry & Look – Have you visited their new office? We have and we were pleased to find it, in all its apartments, decidedly well fixed. The office is furnished with handsome furniture and every convenience desirable. The consultation room is a "thing of beauty," which we trust will be a "joy forever." Handsome carpet, curtains, etc., etc. The rooms are most desirable and its occupants are always ready for visitors. The latch-string is always out. Give it a pull.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 27, 1913

Headline: Was she a man or was he a woman? Question as to supposed forger. It is believed that an attempt was made to pass forged checks amounting to \$775.00 at the Lowell State Bank last week Wednesday, when a woman heavily veiled, giving her name as Mrs. J. R. Turner and residence as "near Clarksville" presented two checks drawn on the Edwin Nash Sate Bank of Clarksville, one for \$500.00 signed L. A. Scoville and the other for \$275.00 signed Claude Scoville (cattle buyers at that village.) The size of the checks and the fact that they were signed in the same handwriting induced Cashier Mange to telephone the Clarksville Bank for information before paying the money. Meanwhile the woman demanded her checks,

saying she had shopping to do and would return. That was the last seen of her there, though attempts have been made to trace her. Among several suspicious circumstances were the facts that the checks, which were payable to "Mrs. J. R. Turner," were already endorsed and that she demanded cash in full. She claimed that they were given in payment for live stock. After the supposed forger left the bank she was seen hurrying toward the Pere Marquette depot about train time. Later communication between the banks renders it almost certain that the checks were forged and it is believed by some that "she" was a man in disguise.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 24, 1938

Real summer weather began here last Sunday, with clear skies and [a] temperature of about 70 degrees. Tuesday was a record breaker with [the] thermometer reading as high as 80, which made Lowell one of the warmest spots in the country on this day.

The Down Town Dairy, operated by Winton Wilcox, will move about April first from its present location on Riverside Dr. into the building owned by Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Callier, just east of the Strand Theatre. The move is made necessary because of building operations soon to be undertaken by Frank's bazaar.

A dangerous situation developed Wednesday morning when a truck belonging to Vern Good was cranked while in gear and backed across the road, breaking off the pole carrying current to the Runciman bean picking plant and other high voltage electric lines to the down town industries. Light plant men quickly strung guy wires to hold the broken pole in position until a new pole can be set. It may be part of their job, but light plant men deserve real credit for working around a broken pole carrying high voltage wires.

Gasoline taxes have declined so sharply in the recession that Commissioner VanWagoner has had to lop off 300 employees from the state highway department's payroll.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 28, 1963

John LeBin and a friend visiting from Grand Rapids drew a big crowd Sunday afternoon, when they came floating down the Flat River on a cake of ice. They were drifting helplessly in mid-stream, unable to control their 30-foot cake of ice. Lowell police officer Ray Heck attempted to throw them a line, but they were out of reach. They were finally pulled safely to shore when ex-seaman Dave Clark, jr., got a line to

them as they passed the Lowell Light & Power Plant.

The late model car, owned by Leo Pearson of Route 3, Lowell, was minus a door Sunday afternoon when a passing motorist struck the vehicle, as Pearson was about to get out of his car on East Main Street. The impact crumpled the door on the Pearson car and put a minor scratch on the front fender of the other vehicle.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 30, 1988

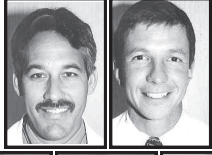
With the exception of the Lowell Showboat, the city of Lowell is essentially without a major event to attract tourists and increase traffic for merchants. Depending on the color of glass you look through, Lowell's image was tarnished somewhat by the departure of Macker, Inc. Or possibly Macker Inc. tarnished its own image with its departure. That, however is neither here nor there. At the March 21, Lowell City Council meeting, Dave Baerwalde, president of the newly formed H.O.O.P (Healthy Outstanding Outdoor Programs) presented a plan before the city fathers to start up a three-on-three outdoor basketball tournament. The tourney would run from June 10 through the 12th. There would be 300 teams broken-down to compete in 15 different divisions. "This would be a service to the city and the participants," Baerwalde said. "The significance to Lowell is obvious. The town is now essentially without a major event and H.O.O.P believes that western Michigan is one of the premier markets to tap due to the intense popularity of the game in the greater Grand Rapids area." Lowell city manager David Pasquale added that the initial response from the council on such a proposal was positive and that no reservations about such a tourney were expressed at the meeting.

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.

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health



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

insomnia

Insomnia is a sleep disorder experienced by 12 to 20 percent of the general adult population. Insomnia is the inability to fall asleep and/or frequent awakenings with an inability to return to sleep. It is associated with daytime symptoms such as irritability and fatigue. Anyone can have sleepless nights, but the following

can increase your risk of developing ongoing insomnia, female sex, age older than 60 years, mental and medical disorders, stress, night shift work or rotating shifts, changes in evening and day shifts at work and traveling across multiple time zones.

Insomnia commonly interferes with personal

relationships, job performance and daily functions. Symptoms of insomnia can include difficulty falling or staying asleep, nonrestorative sleep – individuals feel that sleep is unrefreshing or of poor quality; daytime fatigue and/or sleepiness, difficulty concentrating and remembering, changes in mood – irritability, anxiety, depression; or reduced motivation and energy.

Insomnia can be treated with behavioral and medication strategies. Behavioral therapy can assist a patient in developing new sleep behaviors to improve sleep quality and consolidation.

Behavioral therapy may include learning healthy sleep habits to promote sleep, relaxation and worry-reduction strategies, restricting time spent in bed, establishing a regular wake-up time, and light therapy to adjust and regularize the biological clock. Several different types of medications are also effective for treating insomnia; however, many doctors do not recommend relying on prescription sleeping pills for long-term use. It is also important to identify and treat other medical conditions that may be contributing to insomnia, such as depression, breathing problems and chronic pain.



At Your Local Library

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

Family Building Bricks Party

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Ultimate Beyblade Battle

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Minecrafting at the Library

Get your Minecraft fix and show off your world-building skills during a creative building competition. Please bring a personal laptop if possible. Newbies are welcome to use the library's Minecraft license during these events. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. For teens and adults. Thursday, April 4, 1:00 pm.

Lowell Family YMCA receives funding for senior programs

The Lowell Family YMCA will continue its efforts to promote health and wellness for Lowell area seniors, thanks to a \$14,100 grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund.

Now in its second year, Lowell Family YMCA's Ready, Set, Move Seniors program enables seniors to make healthy lifestyle changes through exercise and nutrition education. This program provides participants with the tools and knowledge necessary to

build and sustain functional fitness and healthy lifestyles, thereby reducing the risk of developing numerous chronic illnesses. Classes meet for one hour, twice a week for 12 weeks. Participants also receive a YMCA membership for the duration of the program.

"We are so thankful to continue this essential programming for Lowell seniors," said Staci Chambers, Lowell Family YMCA program director. "At the Y, strengthening community is part of our

mission and offering this program to Lowell area seniors will have a lasting impact on our community's well-being."

In addition to Ready, Set, Move Seniors, the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids promotes healthy lifestyles for seniors through a number of initiatives, including The Healthy Living Healthy Hearts program, a supervised cardiac rehab phase III program that helps individuals learn to self-manage their

overall cardiovascular health; Return to Wellness program, a 12-week wellness program suited specifically to the needs of cancer survivors; and Sit and Be Fit, a senior fitness class offered free of charge in urban Grand Rapids.

Three sessions of Ready, Set, Move Seniors will be offered in 2013 to anyone living in the greater Lowell area. For more information regarding specific dates and times of the program, please contact the Lowell Family YMCA at 616-897-8445.



happy birthday!

- MARCH 20**
John Roudabush, Cody Moore, Denise Fyan.
- MARCH 21**
Terry Raymor, Ardis Barber, Gary Yeiter, Molly Clark, Steve Kovacs.
- MARCH 22**
No local births.
- MARCH 23**
Brian Gabrion, Richard King, Brendan Lally, Caleb Koepfel.
- MARCH 24**
Joe Vezino Jr., Candy Speerstra, Angela Titcombe, Marian Rutherford.
- MARCH 25**
Chris Yeiter, Shirley Carigon, Sari VanKeulen, Andy Quada, Troy Sloan.
- MARCH 26**
Margaret Hoats, Carol Maynard.

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Maple syrup festival a huge success

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

The Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center is normally a place where grade school children gather to learn about the wild and how it impacts everything we know. Judging by the amount of cars parked in the center's meager parking lot on Sat., March 16, one might think that the state began issuing driver's licenses to eight-year-olds. In fact, Wittenbach/Wege was the locus of this year's Maple Syrup Fest and Pancake

Breakfast co-sponsored by the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

Inside, Wittenbach/Wege director Meggan Johnson and a team of skilled volunteers served delectable pancakes with maple syrup to anyone interested, at a cost of \$5 per adult, \$3 per child and free for children five and younger. Johnson has been involved in Maple Syrup Fest for the last five years, but the event itself has taken place for at least 10 years.

Prior to the event, second graders from Lowell

Area Schools came to Wittenbach/Wege on Friday and Saturday in order to learn about how the native

family-owned organic farm in nearby Ada that sells locally grown maple syrup and honey.

handled the situation like a pro. It is, after all, in her job description as an educator at the Wittenbach/Wege center.

Near the barn, children learned not only about how the natives used all-wood instruments to harvest sap and turn it into syrup, but also took part in native American games, such as throwing darts made of corn cobs and turkey feathers and sliding carved wooden "snakes" through snow tubes. Further down the trail, the Lowell Historical Society ran a

mock sugar shack for maple syrup processing from the Wittenbach/Wege cabin.

Families in attendance gained a thorough knowledge of past and present methods of maple syrup production, filled their bellies with pancakes and syrup and had a chance to take part in games that took place before European settlers came through the area. It is safe to say that this year's Maple Syrup Fest and Pancake Breakfast was a success.



Jake Nobel and Kathryn VanEck brought local maple syrup and honey from Melody Bee Farms in Ada.

Americans may have made sugar and syrup from maple sap.

"We don't have a ton of maple trees, so we have to improvise," Johnson said.

It looked as if the entire community of Lowell was gathered in the classroom-turned-cafeteria for the pancake breakfast. They were joined by Jake Nobel and Kathryn VanEck, representatives from Melody Bee Farms, a

"I don't know that locally grown honey has any benefit beyond helping the community," Nobel said, "but local honey helps with allergies because it's made of the nectar of local flowers."

Outside, Sheryl Helmus was constantly surrounded by curious children while tending a fire intended to resemble the devices native Americans may have used to boil and reduce maple syrup hundreds of years ago. She



Children had the chance to make their own maple sap spiles by pushing the pith out of elderberry branches.

Native Americans would trade pelts like these in order to acquire metal pots and tools from the Europeans, which assisted in the creation of maple syrup.



Volunteers help families enjoy pancakes covered in maple syrup.



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LOWELL

Starbard Farms Feed opened in November

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

Starbard Farms Feed started as a family business selling vegetables out of a wagon on their property. They are now selling livestock, cat, dog and bird feed, their vegetables and a variety of other products. They opened their full store in November of 2012, but had been selling produce for ten years.

Simon and Kara Kelley own the family-run business. It is located at 11931 Riverside Drive. Their hours are Tuesday 4-8, Thursday and Friday 8-6 and Saturday 8-2. Starting April 1st they will expand hours, only closing on Sundays and Mondays.

The Kelley family shopped at Blue Ribbon Feed and when the store went out of business, they wanted to shop at a similar store. Kara Kelley said, "The people in our area needed a place to go." They decided to meet this need, expand their business and sell products similar to Blue Ribbon.

During the time Blue Ribbon was closing, the Kelleys handed out

business cards in the parking lot and took note of the products people wanted to buy. They were able to

Starbard also sells Canidae and Nutri Source pet foods. Kara Kelley is glad to offer products that

Because the Kelley family did not have a building they sold produce from, they needed a space

to sell their expanding supply of products. They chose to renovate their existing garage and operate their store from there for the winter months.

Business has been booming and Starbard will be moved to a new building on the property to meet the needs. Construction began in late February on a new retail space. Kara Kelley hopes the building will be completed by June.

She describes the building as a "drive thru feed store." If a customer is ordering a large quantity of feed, they can pull up, place their order and have it loaded into their car. Kelley says, "You would never have to get out of your car." It is a quick and efficient way to help the customers. People will still be able to walk into the store and purchase smaller quantities of feed and produce.

Starbard Farms Feed will be at the Lowell Expo Saturday, March 23rd, from 9-3. They will be giving out free dog biscuits and hold a contest to win some bags of dog food. They hope to meet many people and show them the quality products they sell.



Construction began a month ago on the new drive thru feed store

retain many of Blue Ribbon Feed's customers this way.

They now sell many of the same brands of livestock, bird and pet feed that Blue Ribbon sold. Starbard is a Kent Feed dealer. Kent Feed is based in Mason, Michigan and the Kelleys are pleased that buying the products helps Michigan's economy grow.

are healthy and good for animals.

They will also sell seed packets so families can grow their own gardens. Customers can also buy chicks until Friday, March 22nd. They will be delivered April 11th, in time for kids to start raising them as 4-H projects for the Kent County Youth Fair.



An aerial view of the Starbard Farms Feed property in the summer.

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LaughFest, continued

Friday was kids' joke night. Children, fifth grade and younger, were invited to perform. Five kids participated and Mr. Picklehead, a singer/songwriter who sang silly songs, emceed the event.

Adult amateur stand up and late night semi-pro stand up took place Saturday night. Comedians from around the country came to share their jokes. The amateur hour had 15 acts that were four minutes each. Semi-pro had ten performers who had about six minutes.

Close to ninety people attended the free events.

Comedians could sign up on the LaughFest website and were given up to two venues throughout the festival. Lowell had comedians from Ohio and as far as Kentucky.

LaughFest ended with Gary Valentine's show Sunday night at the Lowell High School Performing Arts Center. D.K. Hamilton, a West Michigan native, opened the show. He joked about his wife, daughter, Kim Kardashian and the lack of diversity in the crowd. He referenced the popular British group, One Direction saying, "their song 'That's What Makes You Beautiful' is for ugly people because pretty people already know

they're pretty." After his short but hilarious set, he introduced Valentine.

Valentine is best known for his role as cousin Danny on The King of Queens. He has also appeared in Paul Blart: Mall Cop, Zoo Keeper and is a regular on Chelsea Handler's show "Chelsea Lately."

He had the crowd laughing his entire show. Valentine referenced his wife, past experiences and his weight. He had the crowd roaring



Bonnie Grooters' "They'll be a Hot Time In the Old Town Tonight" won second place.



Dave Tulos stands by his winning painting "Sliced Apple."

with his imitations of southern waitresses selling sweet tea, his German grandmother and Hispanic hotel employees.

He made a few jabs at Lowell's less than diverse crowd, a popular topic throughout the night. He joked about Starbucks and then asked if Lowell had one. "Has Starbucks made it to Lowell yet?" he

asked, to which the crowd laughed. Valentine then decided Amway must have one, which was a correct guess.

There was a great turnout for the show.

Throughout the evening, LaughFest sold merchandise and stressed their five dollar "high five" buttons. For each five dollars donated, the Wege

Foundation matched it. The money raised is going to the children's grief program, which has been a success at Gilda's Club.

King Milling and the Lowell Area Community Fund underwrote Valentine's performance, so all the money raised that evening went directly to Gilda's Club.

You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.

- Mae West

Murray Lake Elementary family festival

Murray Lake Elementary once again held its ninth annual Family Festival. It was a fun event for all involved evidenced by these pictures that were submitted by principal Brent R. Noskey.



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Red Arrow SPORTS

Twenty-six youth wrestlers place at regionals to move on to state

by Karen Jack

The Lowell youth wrestling program has had a great year, sending 41 kids to the Michigan Youth Wrestling Association (MYWA) regional championships last week. Of the 41 that went, 26 of them placed, including twelve champions and six runners-up. Any wrestler who places first through fourth qualifies to move on to the state championship.

The state championships pit wrestlers, by age and weight group, against each other from eight different MYWA regions, including the west, southwest, north, northeast, metro, far-north,



Jacob Lee goes for the pin.

central, and east regions. The top four from each region, age and weight class will compete against each other for the state title.

Regional champions from Lowell include

first place. In the 2000-2001 age group, Austin Boone (80 lbs.), Avry Mutschler (105 lbs.) and Austin Engle (126 lbs.) were champions. David Kruse (122 lbs.), Keigan Yuhas (130 lbs.) and Eli Boulton (145 lbs.) were the champions in the 1998-1999 age group.

The regional runners-up include Casey Engle (08-06, 58 lbs.), Jacob Lee



Landon Miller takes control.

Brenden Hill from the 2006-2008 age group, at 43 lbs. In the 2002-2003 age group, Ramsy Mutschler (51 lbs.), Jarrett Hutson (80 lbs.), Carter Blough (85 lbs.), Doak Dean (90 lbs.), and AJ Chertos (95 lbs.) all took

(03-02, 80 lbs.), Zeth Strejc (01-00, 70 lbs.), Jeffrey Leach (01-00, 75 lbs.), Jacob Rau (01-00, 105 lbs.), and Logan Wilcox (98-97, 288 lbs.).

Third place finishers include Landon Foss, Jared Boone, Carson Crace, Max Brown, Dawson Jankowski, Mason Potter, and Channing Perry. Tom Mahalic finished in fourth place.



Ramsy Mutschler puts his opponent on his back.

Powerlifters place at state

by Karen Jack

Lowell's powerlifting team may be small in numbers, but the talent they have packed a punch at the state championships this past weekend. Four of the six powerlifters on the team competed at the state championships and two of them placed. Dylan Brower took third at the 181 lb. weight class and Brady Schaefer took fourth in the 132 lb. weight class.

Besides Brower and Schaefer, the team is made up of Tony Juarez (165 lbs.), Kyle Blough (181 lbs.), Zach Kaywood (181 lbs.), and Josiah Buis (195 lbs.). The lifters compete by weight class, which evens the field to make it fair.

The four who qualified for state were Schaefer, Brower, Blough, and Buis. Scores are calculated based on the total amount of weight lifted from three different positions: squat, bench press and dead lift.

Brower lifted 415 lbs. in the squat, 290 lbs. in the bench press and 480 lbs. dead lift, for a total of 1185 lbs. Schaefer lifted 315 lbs. in the squat, 175 lbs. in the bench press and 375 lbs. dead lift, for a total of 865 lbs. Schaefer actually tied for third place, but weighed in at exactly 132 lbs. and the other third place finisher weighed in at 130.5 lbs., so third place was awarded to the other person because, technically, he lifted more pounds for his body weight.

Coach Tom Kaywood said he was proud of the kids because they pretty much coached themselves. "I'm proud that these kids took the initiative to work out by



Dylan Brower performs during the dead lift spotted by Kyle Blough.

themselves and formed this team all on their own. I'm technically their coach because they have to have one to compete, but they are pretty much a self-coached team and that's impressive," said Kaywood. "They take the initiative to practice and work out together and they found the various competitions. They literally formed this team."

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Red Arrow SPORTS

- SKIING

Lowell skier finishes third at state despite injury

by Karen Jack

Star high school skier, Abi Ellis, surprised the doubters and finished in third place in giant slalom at the division one high school state championships at Boyne Mountain. Although she qualified for both the slalom and giant slalom events, she chose to only ski the giant slalom due to an injury.

At a race in Wisconsin for the United States Skiing Association two weeks

ago, Ellis had a bad crash and nobody gave her any hope of competing, let

alone placing third. Her main goal was to finish in the top ten so she could earn

all-state honors and with the will and determination she's used in all her competitions, she was determined to get out on the hill and compete.

Her knee injury happened before qualifying, so it was questionable whether she would even qualify. She went through the race, gate by gate, with immense pain burning through her knee and managed to finish in the top ten of both the slalom and giant slalom to get her to the state competition. "I wanted to finish up my high school years as an all-stater and I didn't care how much it hurt," said Ellis.

As a junior Olympian at the age of 13, skiing is Ellis' first love. Beginning in her backyard on little mounds her dad built for her, Ellis has been on skis for what seems like all her life.

She said that skiing is her passion, which is evident in all the competitions she's performed in. Finishing up being an all-state skier was just another one of the goals she set for herself.

Another "dream goal," as she called it, is competing in the Olympics someday. She was accepted at the University of Michigan and will be skiing for them. She hopes to finish in the top three in competition, which would send her to nationals, where she would compete with skiers from all over the country and then eventually the world. That's her immediate goal. "I have to take it one step at a time. I have to continue training as I've always trained and then we'll see what happens," added Ellis.

Ellis is now focused on being the captain of the

Lowell girls' soccer team. With her knee healed, she says she can run now and is excited for the soccer season. When asked about how she feels about her high school skiing career being over, Ellis commented, "It's bittersweet that it's all over. I'm sad that there's no more high school competition, no states. But I'm glad that I'll be skiing for U of M, which opens up a lot of different possibilities for me."

Ellis is also an excellent student, carrying a 4.14 grade point average. She's the daughter of Sharon and Dan. Look for her on the slopes around Ann Arbor next winter.



LMS chess club successful in tournament

After an all day competition, the Lowell Middle School chess club brought home six trophies from the Thornapple-Kellogg chess tournament on Saturday, March 16th.

The tournament was held at the Thornapple-

Kellogg Middle School in Middleville. It was open to students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade. Students compete at their own grade level. A player does not have to be a member of a team or chess club to participate. Lowell

Middle School (LMS) has taken a team down every year since the tournament started seven years ago. The LMS chess club is also seven years old and growing every year. There were nine school districts and over 35 schools competing at the tournament.



Pictured, left to right, front row: Denny McNeas, Ryan Roest (runner-up 6th grade), Brianna Roest (runner-up 7th grade), and Hunter Krzysik (runner-up 7th grade); back row: Mitchell Haff (runner-up 7th grade), Joel Fritsma (runner-up 7th grade), Donald Trierweiler, Zach Weston (runner-up 8th grade), and Dakota Henry.

Not pictured: Adam Korzan (runner-up 8th grade) and Jessica James.

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obituaries

COPELAND

Mrs. Janice (Wood) Copeland, aged 84, went to be with her Lord and Savior Tuesday, March 12, 2013. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard; and son, Scott. Surviving are her sisters, Nancy Brown, Kay Wood; brother, Ron Wood; niece, Barb (John) Port; nephew, David (Becky) Brown; great-nieces and -nephews and their children, Amanda (Aaron) Muir (Makayla, Alexis, Kendal), Sammi (Mickey) Marx (Nolan, Lucy), Meredith (Nathan) Tobaben, Derek (Jayce) Brown (Evelynn, Brody). Janice enjoyed the outdoors and working in the vegetable garden and planting flowers. A family dog was always a part of the family and she was a supporter of the Humane Society and Paws with a Cause. She and her husband, Dick, enjoyed road trips to Colorado. In the winter, snowmobile rides were a treat for all in the snow-covered woods near Baldwin. The family would like to thank the staff at Sheldon Meadows Assisted Living Center for the outstanding care and love given to Janice. Funeral services were held Friday, March 15, 2013, at the Ronan-Vanderpool-Stegenga Funeral Chapel, 3131 S. Division Ave., with Rev. Nancy Clodfelder officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society or Faith Hospice. To share a memory or photo and to sign the family's online guestbook, please visit www.stegengafuneralchapel.com



McFALL

James B. McFall, age 69 of Lowell, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Thursday, March 14, 2013. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Sharon L. McFall; children Kim (Russell) Race and Kathy (Thomas) Nugent; six grandchildren Logan, Garrett, Holly & Breyden Race, Connor & Keegan Nugent; mother-in-law Eleanor Dintaman; and sisters-in-law Sue (Rick) Kingsley and Dianne MacNaughton. He was preceded in death by his parents Iman (Mac) McFall and Florence (McFall) Young; half-brother Robert Young and step-father Hugh Young. Funeral services were held Monday, March 18 at Roth-Gerst Chapel. Rev. Jon Pickens of First Baptist Church of Lowell officiated. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Spectrum Health Hospice, 4500 Breton SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508 or the Lowell Pink Arrow Project, PO Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



WELCH

Donald Louis Welch, age 60, of Lowell, went to be with his Lord on March 15, 2013. His wife and son were with him as he took his last breath. Donald was preceded in death by his dad, Albert; son, Shane; and brother, Ken. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Charlene; son, Dale Roe (Doris); brother, Micheal (Rosa); mother, Betty Turk (Welch); and four grandchildren, Blake Johnson, Mackenzie, Megan and Samuel Roe. Funeral services will be held Thursday, March 21 at Ada Bible Church at 11 am.



STEVENS

Norma L. Stevens, age 80, passed away March 9, 2013, at her home in Albuquerque, NM. Born December 23, 1932. She was active in Ladies auxiliary in Roswell, NM, post 2575 of the VFW. She was president for six years. She was an Avon rep. for the last 20 plus years. She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Marjorie Daschner; sister, Noreen Baumgras; nephew, David; her husband of 31 years, Jack; daughter, Judith Ann Morris (Stevens); and grandson, David M. Morris. She is survived by her son, Michael; daughters, Julie (Doug) Snoeyink and Mary (Kevin) Vezino; two grandsons, Major K.J. (Maggie) and George Braun; four great-grandchildren, Maryanne, Joe, Lilly and Jackson Vezino; and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the American Cancer Society. Burial in Roswell, NM.



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It's true of Social Security business, too. You can save a lot of time by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov.

Here, you can handle much of your Social Security business quickly and securely from your home or office computer. At the Social Security website you can —

- create a my Social Security account for quick access to your information;
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If you need to reach us by phone, you can call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213. We treat all calls confidentially. We can answer specific questions from 7 am to 7 pm, Monday through Friday.

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 vondav@ssa.gov

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A BED - A brand new queen pillowtop mattress set in plastic, w/warranty, sacrifice, \$135. Call 989-584-6818.^{TFN}

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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.^{TFN}

8.76 ACRES +/- ON PERE MARQUETTE RIVER - \$169,000 (Baldwin). Approximately 860 feet of frontage on Middle Branch of the Pere Marquette River, South of Baldwin. Clean, 10x50 mobile. Deck is only a few feet from the river. Two sheds, lots of salmon, steelhead & deer. Gorgeous setting, 3/4 miles off main road on a private drive. Furnishings included, ready to move in! Call 616-560-5157.

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.^{TFN}

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LUXURIOUS COUNTRY LIVING! - Lovely home sitting on nearly an acre is not just quality but spacious too! Home boasts just over 3,700 square feet! Lovely Chef's kitchen w/corian countertops, formal dining room, master bedroom suite has a whirlpool tub, finished walk out basement, 2 stall attached garage, plus a pole barn! Don't miss out on this classy home for just \$269,900! Call Melinda Robison at 616-648-0151 or visit www.GoMelinda.com City2Shore Real Estate 662-9664.

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

10 WOODED ACRES - Ada Township, \$189,000. 10 acres, mostly rolling oak & cherry woods. Several building sites. Secluded, off private drive - beautiful setting. Appraised in 2012 for \$208,000. Bruce 616-560-5157.

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

help wanted

GENERAL CLEANING - Accepting applications for PT positions, \$9/hr. in Lowell after 3 p.m. Drug screen & FBI fingerprinting required at no cost to you. Must be at least 18, have your own car & have a clean criminal background. Please apply online at www.grbsinc.com

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 (food industry preferred) & strong mechanical skills. Please apply at 115 S. Broadway St., Lowell.

URGENT - HIGHLY SKILLED QUALITY INSPECTORS (LOWELL) - Looking for highly skilled quality inspectors, day shift & 3rd shift, to add to our team. Automotive cosmetic experience a plus. Job starts immediately. \$10-\$12 per hour paid as a subcontractor. Qualifications: Must have a quality inspector background. Must handle & present oneself in a professional manner. Be self motivated, able to work independently & take direction. Have strong communication & interpersonal skills. Please respond w/resume or work summary, as well as contact phone numbers to reellife4us@gmail.com or by mail to PO Box 105, Nunica, MI 49448.

DIETARY AIDE/COOK, P.T. - experience preferred. Apply in person at Emerald Meadows Assisted Living, 6117 Charlevoix Woods Ct. SE, G.R. Behind Cascade Walmart.

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

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SALES REP - Avg. \$20-\$30 /hr! Choose days, control commission. Must have car & cell. Call Face to Face Marketing, 616-644-0659.

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LOWELL MOBILE HOME PARK - Nice 1, 2 & 3 bedroom trailers for rent. Rent from \$350 - \$600. For info call George at 616-813-8041.

FOR RENT - Saranac. One bedroom upper, small. \$425 includes everything. Call 616-890-2594.

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

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.^{TFN}

services

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

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services

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YOGA CLASSES - at 901 W. Main, \$8 walk-in. Mon. 7:30 a.m.; Sat., 9 a.m., Tues. & Thur., 6:30 p.m. Specials. www.thehammockllc.com, 616-893-5661.

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services

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misc.

CONGRADULATIONS to Rebecca Kooistra (Miss Smarty Pants) for being inducted into the Honor Society of Social Work at GVSU. Love, Family & Friends

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR NEW SPRING LINE- UPS - Mon., March 25, 4-8:30 p.m. in Lowell Chamber Building, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. Arbonne, Creative Memories, Lia Sophia, Norwex, Thirty-One. Bring a friend to earn an extra door prize ticket.

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 Rumage 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.

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

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

KNITTING 101 - Tuesday, Mar. 26, 10 a.m. - noon. All levels welcome. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville. 616-693-1001.

WEE WEDNESDAYS - Every Wednesday, 11-11:20. Rhymes, stories, songs & fun for adult & baby. Babies birth to 17 mo. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

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

CANCER-TEEN & TWEENTALK GROUP - Each Tuesday, 6-7:15 p.m. - A group for youth in middle or high school on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

CANCER - KIDS TALK - Each Tuesday, 6-7:15 p.m. - A group for children in first - fourth grade on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, discussion & fun. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

KNITTING - Tuesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. Instructional knitting class by Cathie Richter. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

SUPPER TOGETHER - Each Tuesday, 5:30-6 p.m. Join in a meal together before group begins. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

GRIEF - ADULT GROUP - Each Tuesday, 6-7:15 p.m. A committed group for adults who have experienced the death of a family member or friend. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

THE LOWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 300 High St., Lowell.

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 information.

LILY OF THE VALLEY IS FOR HAPPINESS - Mon., Apr. 22, 6:30 p.m. Learn the Victorian language of flowers & make a tussie mussie. Preregistration required. Class size limited. For teens & adults Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell, 616-784-2007.

GRIEF - NEW MEMBER MEETING - Call the clubhouse to schedule your introductory meeting for grief support groups. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

MOTHERS WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD - sons/daughters serving in the military. We are meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For more info call Sally 616-761-2042.

NOOGIELAND - Tuesdays 6-7:15 p.m. Supervised play for children kindergarten or younger on a cancer or grief journey. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

STORYTIME - Tuesday, Mar. 26, 10 a.m. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

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.

MARCH IS READING MONTH - ends Mar. 31. Pick up a game sheet at Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

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

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

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.

FRANCISCAN LENTEN LUNCH PRAYER EXPERIENCE - held at the Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes St., NE, Lowell. Held on Wednesdays now - March 27 from noon - 1 p.m. There will be a brief prayer experience at 12:45 for those who wish to participate.

Player Spotlight

Our Spotlight Athletes This Week:

Olivia Kaufman
Team: Softball
Grade: Senior

Zach Huver
Team: Baseball
Grade: Senior

Olivia Kaufman



How long have you been playing softball?

I've been playing for six years.

What other sports do you play?

Softball has been my only sport in high school.

What is your favorite sport?

Softball, because when I was younger, I saw my older sister playing and from there on out I fell in love with the sport!

Have you received any awards for any of them? If so, what? (e.g., all-district, all-conference, etc.)

Not yet.

Have you broken any records?

No.

Do you have siblings?

Yes. I have two sisters: Erica who is 24 and Carly who is 12. My brother Isaiah is three.

What do you like to do for fun?

I enjoy hanging out with friends, horseback riding and trying to accomplish things on my bucket list with the people I love.

What was your personal best during any of your sports?

My personal best was just having a positive attitude [and] making those plays that you'll never forget.

What's the best thing about playing sports?

The best thing about playing sports, especially softball, is that not only do I get to do something I love and be active, best of all is the bond and friendship that is created within the team. We become a family and help each other through everything. Our trip we take to Gulf Shore, Alabama, really starts that and that's where the memories we will never forget all start. "We Are Family."

Do you plan on attending college? If so, any ideas on where?

I plan on attending Grand Rapids Community College for early childhood development to become a preschool teacher and photographer on the side. I'm thinking about transferring to Northern Michigan University after attending GRCC for a year.

Do you plan on playing any sport in college? If so, which one?

I don't. But I will be playing on a summer softball league for fun.

Zach Huver



How long have you been playing baseball?

I've been playing baseball since I was five years old.

What other sports do you play? How long have you been playing those?

I also played football and I've been playing since I was about five or six years old.

What is your favorite sport?

My favorite sport would have to be baseball.

Have you received any awards for any of them? If so, what?

I received all-conference and honorable mention all-state for football this year. Last year, I received honorable mention all-conference in baseball.

Do you have siblings?

I have one sister, McKenzie and she is a freshman this year.

What do you like to do for fun?

I like to spend my spare time hunting and hanging out with friends.

What was your personal best during any of your sports?

My personal best in football was probably the Rockford game this year. I had a few sacks, along with a touchdown. In baseball, I hit over .400 in conference last year.

What's the best thing about playing sports?

Being a part of a team and getting to make some great friendships.

Do you plan on attending college? If so, any ideas on where?

I plan on attending Grand Rapids Community College in the fall.

Do you plan on playing any sport in college? If so, which one?

I'm still undecided as to whether I will play sports in college.

LUNCH MENU

ELEMENTARY MENU
 Week of
 March 25, 2013

MON: Beef & bean chili w/ saltine crackers (Bosco cheese filled breadsticks served at Bushnell), potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber slices, apple, peaches.

TUES: Tony's cheese pizza, seasoned broccoli, fruit & veggie bar: cherry tomatoes, broccoli florets, pineapple, applesauce.

WED: BBQ pork ribbie on WG bun (breaded chicken sandwich on WG bun served at Bushnell), baked beans, fruit & veggie bar: red pepper strips, celery sticks, mandarin oranges, pears.

THURS: Spring break begins.

FRI: Spring break.

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MIDDLE NAMES**

ACROSS

1. Jelly based on fish or meat stock
6. Turkish military leader
9. Genghis _____
13. Russian crepes
14. Spanish for "sun"
15. Elizabeth II's headdress, e.g.
16. Provide what is needed
17. Knot-tying vow
18. Short for Henrietta
19. *Gabriel _____ Marquez
21. *Jack Ruby's victim
23. Technical University of Munich
24. Jesus' first guests
25. Pine juice
28. "Twilight" novels, e.g.
30. Butcher's discards
35. Horsefly
37. HBO's Hannah, Marnie, Jessa or Shoshanna
39. Gin and _____
40. October stone
41. Popeye's sweetie
43. A in A.D.
44. Monotonous sound
46. A-bomb particle
47. *Presidential candidate
48. Jordin Sparks' hit single
50. Declare as true
52. "Is" in France
53. "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" author
55. Summer color
57. Archimedes' exclamation
60. Crooks
63. Defier
64. Hawaiian wreath
66. Bear Down Under
68. _____ donor
69. Political commentator _____ Coulter
70. Literary composition
71. Snow ride

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MARCH 13 - MARCH 19

- Two high school football players from Ohio were convicted of raping a 16 year-old girl.
- Private jet crashes into a neighborhood in Indiana killing two people.
- Ten years ago, on March 19, 2003, President Bush announced U.S. and coalition forces had begun military action against Iraq.
- 106-year-old Reba Williams of Ohio received her high school diploma at her apartment on Wednesday. Williams says she hopes current students realize that learning is important and that they probably shouldn't follow her path.
- Pittsburgh – A federal prison guard has been charged with shooting his own finger in a drunken attempt to remove his wedding ring during an argument with his wife.

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72. *Star of "A Fish Called Wanda"
73. Plunder

DOWN

1. Owned by Disney
2. Ore smelting by-product
3. Greek sandwich bread
4. Slow and apathetic
5. "Water for Elephants" setting

6. Location of Nepal
7. Zeus to ancient Greeks
8. Jeff Spicoli: "_____, Mr. Hand"
9. Capital of Ukraine
10. Type of crime
11. Pretentiously artistic
12. Negative vote
15. America's Cheapest Family's claim to fame
20. Idealized image
22. Gone by
24. Relating to husband and wife
25. *Author of "The Star Spangled Banner"
26. Top dog
27. Brisk
29. Colorado River tributary
31. No-____ latte
32. Broadway's orphan
33. Same as "lint is"

34. *"The Great Gatsby" writer
36. Overeat
38. City in West Ukraine
42. Portray emotion
45. "____ Family"
49. Acorn tree
51. *He preceded Obama
54. Shariah-approved meat
56. Gallows' rope
57. ____ Grey
58. Strong desire
59. The blind do this using Braille
60. ____ print
61. Rover launcher
62. Member of eastern European people
63. As opposed to don'ts
65. Between NE and E
67. "____ aye Captain!"

Puzzle Solutions for this week are on page 12

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Lowell Odyssey of the Mind teams compete at regional tournament

Wouldn't it be great to live under the sea – even if it were only for a day? Imagine the many interesting creatures and other sea life that you would encounter. Technology has made our lives so much easier – or has it? Take email for example, it's easier than writing a letter, but we spend so much time sending communications that might not be necessary. How about examining a balsa wood structure to see how much weight it will hold or building three different vehicles, each with a different propulsion system traveling through obstacles to perform a task or assuming that everyone accepted behavior, which may not always be the case.

These are all parts of solutions to problems used by Lowell Odyssey of the Mind teams at the Region 13 competition at Greenville Middle School.

Lowell was represented by eight teams made up of students from all four elementary schools and the middle school. The teams competed by presenting their solutions to a problem they have been solving since early in the school year, as well as solving a problem that was unknown to them until one minute before they had to solve the problem. The teams are scored by how well their solutions solved the problem, how creative their solutions were and how well they worked together as a team.

Securing first place finishes and qualifying for the State Finals tournament was the Division 1 "Tumblewood" team from Murray Lake Elementary and the Division 2 "Tumblewood" team from Lowell Middle School. For this problem, the teams designed and built a structure made of only balsa wood and glue weighing no more than 15

grams that balanced and supported as much weight as possible. Before these structures could be tested for weight, they had to roll down a team created ramp. The testing of their

structure was presented in a performance that integrated the placement of the weights.

Receiving a third place medal was the Division 1 "Pet Project"

team from Cherry Creek Elementary and Murray Lake Elementary. In this problem, teams had to design, build and run three vehicles that delivered parts to an assembly area where

Middle School student, won an OMER award, which is given to individuals or teams that demonstrate exceptional talent, outstanding sportsmanship or exemplary behavior. The judges in the "Tumblewood" structure problem nominated Thomas for the award based on the talent and workmanship he showed in designing and building a ramp for their structure to roll down before the team could test it and see how much weight it could hold.

The complete list of scores can be found online at www.miodyssey.com under the Region 13 competition page.

The State Finals competition will be held April 13 in Traverse City. Teams that do well at the state competition will be invited to compete at the World Finals competition May 22-25 at Michigan State University. The Odyssey of the Mind program fosters creative thinking and problem-solving skills among kindergarten through college level students from around the world. New teams will be forming in the fall if you have a student that may be interested in participating. Watch for information at your school building in the fall.



The primary division "Top Sea-cret Discovery" team from Murray Lake Elementary, left to right: Elly Looman and Ava Mallindine as cactus heading to the ocean to make some discoveries.

they were assembled into a pet animal.

Other teams that performed at the competition were the Division 1 "The Email Must Go Through" team; the Division 1 "It's How You Look At It" team and three primary "Top Sea-cret Discoveries" teams.

Also at the competition, Thomas Hubert, a Lowell

Sometimes you need to be alone in order to reflect on life. Take time out to take care of yourself. You deserve it.

- Robert Tew

Lowell Women's Club holds Diaper Drive

The Lowell Women's Club and junior members had their annual Diaper Drive last week and collected a ton of materials for the Lowell Alpha Center. Collected were two extra large boxes of diapers, 18 regular size

boxes, 25 packages of baby wipes, baby powder, and 35 homemade shoulder cloths. Each year the club donates materials to both the Alpha Center in the spring and St. Mary's Pregnancy Center in the fall.



Pictured, left to right, are junior members: Chris Kargl and Rebecca Betts.



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