

City sued in unfair labor practice charge

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

The unionization of several city employees has caused issues within the city government recently.

Currently, the city is being sued by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 876 (IBEW).

An employee at the water department passed an F-4 drinking water operator state water licensing test. Per a city policy signed by

former city manager, David Pasquale in 2008, any employee passing this state test is entitled to one dollar an hour raise. The IBEW states that since January 28, when the employee passed the test, the city has refused to give the employee the raise. The IBEW claims in their charge sent to the Michigan Employment Relations Commission, the wage increase was "denied by the respondent because

of union activity."

The union sent a letter to city manager Mark Howe asking the pay increase be implemented retroactively for the employee. The union never received a response in the allotted time, so they took further action.

In a recent meeting of the IBEW, they stated Howe told the employee that he could not give the raise because the union would not allow it. The

union countered this saying they sent a letter to Howe on February 26 asking for the raise be implemented.

The IBEW then filed an unfair labor practice charge because the city refused to grant the pay increase, thus violating part of the Public Employment Relations Act.

When contacted, city manager Howe stated the matter has been handed over to the city attorney. Further, he says that the wage increase must be discussed "at the bargain table."

A hearing is scheduled in Lansing for May 14.

local pastor takes a stand



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michigan's endangered owl



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Sign ordinance under review at planning commission meeting

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

The planning commission met Monday night to discuss the sign ordinance. They will continue to discuss the ordinance at next month's meeting and are likely to hold a public hearing regarding the changes the following month.

Several changes were proposed in the ordinance. Because of issues in the past, the planning commission decided to add a stipulation requiring signs be no closer than two feet to the public right-of-way or property line. This allows motorists an unobstructed view.

The commission spent the majority of their time discussing political signs. Rather than limit the number of signs a person can have on their property, they limited the number of total square footage that can be on one property. In commercially zoned areas, the total area of political signs cannot be larger than 32 square feet. In residential areas, political signs cannot be larger than a total of 12 square feet. This means that one property could have three average sized political signs in their yard. Further, the signs cannot be placed in the yard until 90 days before the election and

must be removed within ten days of the election.

The commission chose these standards so the political signs would not be more strictly regulated than other signs.

The commission meets May 13 to finish discussions on the sign ordinance.

In other news, the planning commission will be meeting with other municipalities April 29 at 7 pm to have a planning work session. This will bring Lowell and Vergennes Townships up-to-date on what is happening within the city.

New bed and breakfast to open in summer

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

Bill and Brenda Schreur will be opening a bed and breakfast later this summer. Bill Schreur is the owner of Schreur Builders. This new bed and breakfast will be located at 786 Flat River Drive, along the Flat River. It will be located next to the property the Schreurs live on currently.

The location is a perfect area for travelers to visit. It borders the river and offers a beautiful, serene view of the countryside. The bed and breakfast will also have a recreation area and it is conveniently a short drive to Grand Rapids.

The rural recreation area will be on Schreur's and the bed and breakfast's property

The venue will be set up to host private activities as well, including hay rides, weddings, family reunions and cross country skiing.

Guests will be able to walk along trails throughout the woods.

They are looking at a June or July open date currently. Schreur's experience and expertise in building have come in handy as several repairs are being done on the house now.

There will be three rooms available for rent.

Hobby farming emphasizes honey for health

by Theresa Heethuis
contributing reporter

For the last 14 years, Robert Johnson has been keeping bees in Clarksville. He and his wife, Wanda, bought their Clarksville farm in 1997 and knew they wanted to start a hobby operation of honeybee farming.

Johnson had worked with his uncle's bee operation in Southeast Indiana as a teenager and he knew it would be a great use of the farmland he and his wife had just purchased. They thought it would be a great way to use the vast

landscape without the full intensity and time needed to maintain a traditional farm.

Since that time, the Johnsons have maintained their hobby farm and have supplied the local farmers' market and residents with locally raised honey. The benefits of locally raised honey are not simply found in the sweet taste, but go far beyond. Honey produced by bees in or near the area in which you live can help with allergies and have other immune stimulating benefits.

Johnson maintains



hives in seven different locations to ensure the continued production of honey. In case hive health issues do arise, having the hives in different locations means that all of the bees will not die at once.

In order to maintain this bee supply Johnson relies on many different sources for his honeybees.

"I buy packaged bees from Don Lam in Holland, Michigan. He drives to Georgia to pick them up in late April and early May. I collect swarms from local people that call and I will

Honeybees,
continued, page

Robert Johnson is cutting out a new found honeycomb on Jackson Road.



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Honeybees, continued

do cut outs depending on my work schedule,” said Johnson. “I have also put the word out to the local government units and DPW departments to call when they find them,” he added.

Johnson’s hobby has also become his passion. “I love explaining the impact that bees make on our daily lives. One third of our food source is impacted by pollination services,” Johnson said. “I enjoy explaining the calm nature of bees and the tendencies of bees to not sting unless provoked.”

All year long, Johnson and his family are working to keep their honeybees. “There is something to do

every month for keeping bees,” said Johnson.

Not only are honeybees responsible for one third of our food sources, they are also responsible for maintaining the food sources of many birds, rodents, insects and other animals by making wild plants more productive and nutritious.

The process of harvesting honey is just as fascinating as the honeybees themselves.

“The process of harvesting honey starts with robbing the hives, then extracting the honey, straining the honey, bottling it and storing it for sale. From start to finish this

process can take one to three days and yields the sweet treat so many love. Primarily, harvesting is based on the bloom cycle. I take honey off typically around July 4th and Labor Day,” said Johnson.

It is because of Johnson’s dedication to his hobby farm that many local residents can reap the health and other benefits of locally raised honey.

“We sell our honey at the Lake Odessa farmers’ market, I sell from the house, and at Portland Iron & Metal in a small display,” said Johnson.



For the last 14 years, Robert Johnson has been keeping bees in Clarksville.

Raising honeybees is not always easy. Educating people on bee stings and other bee issues, keeping bees and having all of the necessary protective equipment and bee hive health issues can be a trying and tedious aspect of a hobby farm.

Although it may not be easy, Johnson said, “The biggest reward has to be the lifestyle and quality of fresh food.”

The Johnson farm is located at 9255 and 9179 Jackson Road, Clarksville, and is open by appointment.

MEA president feels NRA proposal to arm school employees is ‘dangerous and reckless’

MEA President Steven Cook issued the following statement Thursday in response to the National Rifle Association’s new report that recommends school employees receive

firearms training and carry guns in schools:

“The National Rifle Association this week issued a report that recommends arming school employees as a way to prevent gun

violence - a dangerous and reckless move that would place an undue burden on teachers and education support staff.

“Support for the Second

Amendment should go hand-in-hand with common-sense public policies that will help prevent gun violence and keep our schools safe.

It’s time for our leaders in

Lansing and Washington to get their priorities straight, and start working together to put more teachers and textbooks in our classrooms, not more guns.

“School employees have enough on their plate, with constant job cuts, increasing class sizes, the slashing of pay and benefits, changing curriculum, the threat of privatization and much more. They shouldn’t have to also be responsible for arming themselves and potentially making the decision whether to shoot a student or adult.

“On Feb. 29, 2000, 6-year-old Kayla Rolland was shot dead by a classmate at Buell Elementary School in Mount Morris Township. Rolland and a group of more than 20 other students were

walking up a flight of stairs. The shooter, also 6, told Kayla, ‘I don’t like you,’ before pulling the trigger.

“Imagine if the NRA’s plan had been in place that day, and a school employee walking with the children pulled out his or her weapon and returned fire. Buell Elementary would have had an additional dead child — perhaps more.

“MEA strongly supports increasing school safety, and that’s exactly why we don’t support arming school employees.

“Armed security should be left to law enforcement professionals. After all, we don’t ask police officers to teach AP biology — we shouldn’t ask school employees to carry firearms.”



along main street

GILDA’S CLUB ACTIVITIES

Book Club, Tues., April 16, 4:30-5:30 pm. Join Kathy Mieras for a relaxing and cozy book club. This month’s read is “March” by Geraldine Brooks. Pick up your book to borrow at the parlor desk. **Cancer - New Member Meeting**, Tues., April 23, 2:30-3:30 pm and 7:15-8 pm. Introductory meeting for those who wish to join the cancer support program. **Laughter Yoga**, Tues., April 23, 4-5 pm. Come exercise your laughter muscles! Join us for this wellbeing workout that encourages laughter for no reason. No yoga mat or experience is required. Please wear comfortable clothes and prepare to leave happy, healthy and energized! **Woodcarving**, Tues., April 16, 4-5 pm. Learn how to make easy and beautiful wood carvings with Doug Shassberger. Beginners are welcome and supplies are provided. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

TOTS 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. Free to shop. 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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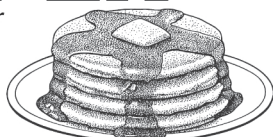


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The History Of Barbie With Afternoon Tea -

The history of the iconic Barbie doll will be presented as afternoon tea and treats are served in an informational celebration of this well-loved toy. The program will include displays of collectible dolls, informational books and door prizes. This event is jointly sponsored by the Friends of the Englehardt Library and the Lowell Historical Museum and will be held at the Lowell Township Hall (2910 Alden Nash SE). Saturday, April 20, 2:00 pm.

Lily Of The Valley Is For Happiness -

Learn the Victorian language of flowers. Wendy Batchelder from "Lost Arts" will appear in full Victorian costume to talk about the meaning of flowers while you make a simple tussie mussie to give to someone who makes you happy! Pre-registration is required and class size is limited. For teens and adults. Monday, April 22, 6:30 pm.

Statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan approved by National Park Service

The Department of Natural Resources today announced the National Park Service has approved the department's 2013-2017 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). With this important approval in place, the state of Michigan and its partners throughout local units of government are now eligible to receive funding under the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation resources.

The state and its local outdoor recreation partners

use the SCORP as an ongoing framework and action plan for guiding their decisions on outdoor recreation management and policy. This updated plan focuses on leveraging Michigan's diverse, abundant natural resources to meet residents' relaxation and health needs, as well as the economic development needs of the state and local communities.

"This Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan provides strategic direction about how to make the most of our state's outdoor recreation opportunities for the people of Michigan," said DNR

Director Keith Creagh. "The information collected in preparing the SCORP helps us understand trends, needs and emerging issues that affect outdoor recreation. The SCORP priorities reflect this information and will help inform recreation decisions."

The LWCF program, established in 1965 and administered in Michigan by the DNR, supports the state and cities, counties and townships in their efforts to provide better public outdoor recreation opportunities for their residents. In order to be eligible for LWCF grants, states must prepare and gain

approval of a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, which needs to be updated every five years. LWCF grant dollars are derived from royalties on oil and gas off-shore production at the federal level. Approximately \$40 million is available for projects annually nationwide.

As part of Michigan's recreation grant program, local units of government that prepare five-year recreation plans for their communities are eligible to receive portions of the

Recreation plan, continued, page 6

Two injured in dirt bike crash

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

A dirt bike crash shortly before midnight on Friday, April 5, put two young men in the hospital. The crash occurred near the intersection of Parnell and Two Mile Road

According to deputies, the two hit head on while riding dirt bikes. Beau Heimer, 22, from Lowell Township, suffered severe injuries and was transported via Aeromed. He had leg

and head injuries. Anthony Larkin, 21, from Vergennes Township, suffered non-threatening arm injuries. Both were taken to Spectrum Downtown. Larkin had surgery Saturday and was released from the hospital Sunday. Heimer is still in intensive care. He has severe head injuries and according to Facebook posts, was in and out of consciousness.

Heimer was seriously

injured in a previous crash two years ago when a woman ran a red light and smashed into his truck.

Police believe alcohol was a factor in the crash and neither were wearing helmets.

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Look Memorial Fund Board in now accepting grant application for 2013. Grant applications are available at Lowell City Hall.

Grant applications should be submitted to Betty Morlock, City Clerk, 301 East Street, Lowell, MI 49331. The deadline for submitting 2013 applications is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 2013.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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outdoors

get ready

Dave Stegehuis

Spring has reluctantly arrived, and after the long Michigan winter most of us are eagerly anticipating the new season. The advantage of living at this latitude is experiencing changes in our lifestyle from one season to the next. These transitions are more than just air temperatures variations; the transformed landscape provides a special background for outdoor activities unique to each season. So for many of us, our interests, and how we spend our time, changes significantly with the seasons. For outdoor people, things really break loose in the spring. There is always something to look forward to which keeps life interesting.

Life cycles of wildlife affect resource management decisions, so hunting and fishing seasons open up for a number of species in the spring. Hunting for

strutting tom turkeys has become very popular and is second only to deer hunting in participation numbers. Spawning runs of steelhead draw anglers to Great Lake feeder streams and rivers. Schools of suckers provide fun and food for folks seeking a laid-back fishing style. Walleyes congregate in rivers and lakes while eager fishermen await opening day in their part of the state. Inland trout fishermen must show the same patience. Although designated stream sections are open all year for some species, everything eventually becomes fishable in the spring. Micro management of our natural resources has resulted in complicated and lengthy regulations, so be sure to get a fishing guide or go online to check on rules for your favorite spot before venturing out.

For those who gather wild food, the growing

season has begun. Maple sap runs best during warm days and cold nights, so I would guess most has been collected by now. Buckets were hanging on trees two weeks ago. When the earth warms, Morel mushrooms pop-up in places mostly known to others. Picking mushrooms is interesting and productive and allows outdoor people to wander the backcountry in comfortable weather without bugs. Some mushrooms are dangerous to consume, so one must know how to identify what is safe. There are other edible plants to be gathered if one makes the effort to learn what is available.

Hiking, biking, and camping like many other outdoor activities are more enjoyable when the weather turns mild. Make sure to collect your reward for enduring the long winter by taking advantage of a vast number of outdoor opportunities during a great time to be outdoors in Michigan.

More progress in the fight against tax abuses



Sen. Carl Levin

In March, the Senate passed a budget resolution. This blueprint for the fiscal year that begins in October represents an important step forward on an issue of great significance to American taxpayers: the need for balanced deficit reduction.

An important part of balanced deficit reduction is reducing the deficit without severely damaging important protections for and investments in American families. One way to do that is by ending unjustified tax loopholes and ending the damage they have inflicted on our budget. The budget summary released by Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, decried “the sheer magnitude of the revenue lost to off-shore tax abuse, wasteful and inefficient loopholes, and other business tax breaks.”

For many years as chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations I have focused on the maze of offshore schemes and complex gimmicks that are concocted to allow a privileged few to avoid paying the taxes that they owe. Our subcommittee has, on a bipartisan basis, filled volume after volume with damning detail on how

these schemes work and the damage they cause.

Now we are at a moment in history when we can remove this blight. The pressures on the federal budget and the threat to economic growth and prosperity that they represent require action. We must close these loopholes. The relentless arithmetic of our budget situation compels it; fairness and justice demand it.

During the budget debate, a number of senators joined me on the Senate floor to speak about the need to close tax loopholes. We outlined the preposterous contortions that too many corporations and wealthy individuals employ to avoid paying taxes, and how those contortions contribute to a shift in the tax burden from corporations and the wealthy to middle-class families and small businesses.

The case for additional revenue and for closing tax loopholes as a source of that revenue is overwhelming. Serious deficit reduction requires more revenue, as everyone from the Simpson-Bowles Commission to the Domenici-Rivlin task force to the Concord Coalition to Fix the Debt, has recognized. Federal revenue remains significantly below its historic average as a

percentage of the gross domestic product of our economy, and that revenue is, and under current trends will continue to be, below the levels we have needed in the recent past to balance the budget.

In particular, the loss of corporate tax revenues is an ongoing cause of deficits. In 2006, corporate tax revenue made up about 15 percent of all federal revenue. In 2012, it had fallen to 10 percent. Somebody has to pick up the slack. In this case it has been average American families.

Why is corporate revenue a shrinking share of our Treasury even though the U.S. corporate tax rate, at 35 percent, is one of the highest in the developed world? It is because the top tax rate doesn't tell the story. While our tax rate at the upper limit is 35 percent on corporations, the average U.S. corporate taxpayer's effective tax rate was just 12 percent in 2011, which is the lowest in generations.

A recent study by two think tanks found that 30 of our largest corporations with combined profits of more \$160 billion paid no income tax, zero, from 2008 to 2010.

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations outlined in a report last year how three U.S. companies — Apple, Google, and Microsoft — used offshore gimmicks to avoid taxes on almost \$80 billion in profits.

Levin, continued,
page 6

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viewpoint

to the editor

taking the time to be honest

To The Editor,

I was running late, really late. I had to be home, unload, chop the potatoes and have dinner in the oven for company. There was no way I could spare the extra seven seconds to return my cart to the corral, two spots over. I mean really, I was in a hurry!

You can imagine my surprise however, many hours later, when a young woman knocked on my door. She asked if I was "Alana" I said I was, and she handed me my wallet. The wallet I didn't realize I was missing. Because of my selfish haste, I hadn't noticed I left my wallet behind.

When these two women saw my wallet sitting in a shopping cart, they could have just shrugged and kept going. They could have stopped, retrieved it, and taken it to the courtesy desk. That would have taken more than seven seconds.

But they didn't. Instead, they found my address, drove around the back 40 of Lowell, found our poorly marked house and brought it back to me themselves. I'm sure they had better things to be doing that gorgeous evening. I know they went more than "seven seconds" out of their way. I'm sure my house was not on their way home that night. Yet

they took the time to do a favor for an undeserving stranger.

You see, had I taken the extra seven seconds to return my cart to the corral, I would have seen my wallet. How humbling to realize that although I felt I was too busy to be kind, two other members of my community saw the value of paying it

forward to someone they had never even met.

I'm writing this letter to the editor hoping these women, or someone they know, is reading it. I failed to get their names that evening and am unable to properly thank them myself.

Alana Acheson
Lowell

city maintenance should come first

Dear Editor,

It was brought to my attention that the city council adopted a new eight-page strategic plan for Lowell to become the vibrant core of a thriving community.

I read the eight-page plan and it reminded me of when an administration fee or a tax-on-a-tax,

that some would call it, was implemented on last summer's tax bill without first getting the approval of the constituents.

I believe somewhere along the line the newly adopted strategic plan will need tax dollars the city does not have or will not

have unless there's new taxation. So I say buyer beware – beware of what you buy into.

The city council or the city manager should not be the sole decider.

The maintenance of the city should come first and then only with what the general fund will bear without an increase in taxation.

Any new project that will affect the city's general fund now, or in the future, shouldn't be adopted by the city council without first having a public hearing or a vote by the constituents. I believe a new taxation or new or higher administration

fees shouldn't be considered until Michigan comes out of its recession and there is a substantial increase in Michigan's median household income. But whatever the decisions are they should be made by the constituents of Lowell and not just by the city council or the city manager. The city council was voted into office to be the servant, not the sole decider.

The reason Lowell has roads twice the age of replacement is because of decisions made by a few.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard
Lowell

off the cuff

Jeanne Boss

Equality. It's in the news a lot lately. I can't help but wonder, why? Isn't this a no-brainer?

Because of the cases that the Supreme Court is in the process of hearing, the topic of same sex marriage has been in the news a lot lately. I find it alarming that we are still struggling with this issue.

It seems to me we're discussing 'equality' as in "having the same value" not being the same. I mean, really is anyone against equality? Is anyone against fairness?

The word marriage was once a sticking point for me and I think for a number of people it still is. If you stop to think about it you can "marry" a lot of things. You can have a marriage of ideas, of minds, of convenience and of melodies for example. So using the word marriage cannot solely be the reason for the discomfort or can it?

Personally, I think it boils down to (when you remove religious doctrine), the word equal. I know, bear with me here, I think deep down, a good number of people just equate the word equal with the word same.

We are accustomed to the word marriage meaning a man and a woman and it sticks in the craw of our sub-conscience because

"that" kind of marriage isn't the same.

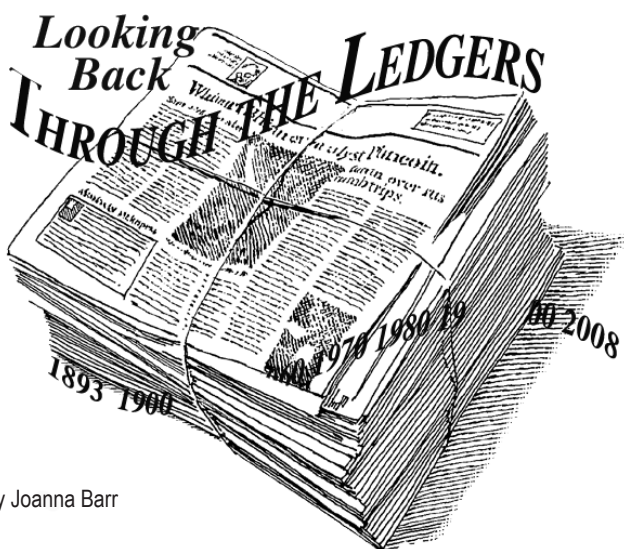
We need to be able to celebrate our individuality without losing site of our dignity or our equality. No one is the same as anyone else. A homosexual marriage is not the same as a heterosexual marriage but both can be valued equally.

It just may be because of past prejudice or fear on both sides that at this point giving an inch on either side is objectionable.

Are a large number of us merely stumbling over semantics? Could it be that we just simply need to embrace a different label in order to accept our equality?

Trust me when I say that I'm painfully aware that there are other issues at play here. But whenever the subject comes up socially, I do find that a lot of people don't object to equal rights but the idea that it needs a different label than marriage seems to quell disagreement.

Just a thought but, if we are wedded to the idea of equality, we might just as well abide by the marriage of two people who want to devote their lives to each other. After that we can start concerning ourselves with words like caring, faithfulness and honor. Seems to me in any marriage those words are not being discussed nearly enough.



By Joanna Barr

140 years ago Lowell Journal April 16, 1873

The occupants of Graham's block rejoiceth muchly at the prospect of a tin roof. Water and profanity will be out of order now.

Boehler has moved his keg of lager to a point nearer Flat River. This does not imply that the price of that beverage has come down.

Some lunatic reports having seen an alligator in Grand River, between this place and Ada. The same party could probably find a variety of snakes in his boots.

Flat River is full of logs, in some places three deep. Two hundred men are employed on the drive from Greenville. All of the new cut as well as those left last year will be got over.

Train's Hall is finished and will be dedicated May 1st, by a grand ball.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 17, 1913

Edwin Fallas is conducting his own defense in a trial of suit brought by the Wolverine Spice company for an alleged unsatisfactory order of canned apples. The Herald's circuit court reporter says that Mr. Fallas "proved himself a shrewd examiner."

The fire alarm sounded Saturday afternoon on account of blaze in the dust arrester at the Cutter factory. The flames were easily extinguished by some of the factory men and no damage done. Other of the factory men, hearing the alarm and not knowing the cause, joined the firemen in a run to the west side, where they learned that the alarm came from their own factory. On their way over they met the west side hose cart and attendants on its way to the factory. No harm done and the boys got the exercise.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 14, 1938

Headline: The Lowell Ledger invites local women to see "Star In My Kitchen" Cooking school in motion picture form will provide instruction and entertainment. The Lowell Ledger has scored again! This newspaper has just been successful in securing the new Motion Picture Cooking School, "Star in My Kitchen," which will be presented at the Strand Theater. The Motion Picture Cooking School is a brand new idea. First conceived last year, it has met with acclaim from

Looking Back, continued, page 7

Letters To The Editor:

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

Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331. Also, our website, www.yournews.com select "submit news" icon on the top left, then select "opinion".

anniversaries

Crosby



Jane and Gary Crosby, Sr.

Jane and Gary Crosby, Sr. were married February 16, 1963 in Caledonia. Gary and Jane have lived most of their married life in Alto. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their children, Cheryl (Jamie) Poll, Chad (Mary) Crosby, Gary (Cheryl)

Crosby, Jr., Amy Crosby, and David (Sara) Crosby; along with their 13 grandchildren, Amber, Jerry (Heather), Sean and Jacob Poll, Jim, Bob, Sarah, and Paul Crosby, Kate and Cody Crosby, Jadyn Hopkins, and Abby and Erin Crosby.

...

A conservative is a man with two perfectly good legs who, however, has never learned to walk forward.

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882 - 1945)

health

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



allergic rhinitis

Allergic Rhinitis is commonly known as "hay fever." It is caused by a reaction to allergens such as pollen or mold. Once inhaled, a reaction occurs due to the release of histamine and other chemicals.

Symptoms include itchy nose, itchy eyes, itchy throat, runny nose, sneezing, stuffy nose, cough, sore throat, headache, fatigue, and decreased sense of smell.

The diagnosis is made by clinical exam and history.

Formal allergy testing may also be done.

The best treatment is avoidance, but this is frequently not possible. Antihistamines like Claritin or Zyrtec are the cornerstones of treatment. There are also antihistamine nasal sprays.

Nasal steroid sprays are very effective as well. These work best when used nonstop. These are available by prescription only.

Allergy shots may be needed if relief is not achieved by the above.

Museum offers program on railway post office

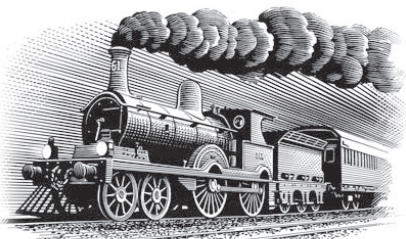
Join the Lowell Area Historical Museum and program presenter D. White for an informative program on the Railway Post Office.

The early Railway Mail Service delivered mail to stagecoaches and the Pony Express.

The program will be presented on April 16 at 7:00

pm at the Lowell Township Hall.

Light refreshments will be served following the program.



Levin, continued

But momentum is building to stop these abuses. Earlier this year, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island joined me in introducing the Cut Unjustified Tax Loopholes Act. Our bill would help address some of these tax schemes and others as well. It is a powerful weapon in our deficit-reduction arsenal if we will use it.

During the budget debate, Sen. Whitehouse and I were joined by Sen. John McCain of Arizona in introducing a bipartisan

amendment recognizing the need to close corporate tax loopholes. The Senate approved our amendment, putting the Senate on the record on the need to end offshore tax abuses by large corporations.

We can't afford these loopholes. We can't afford the budget deficits they help cause, and we can't afford the damage they do to ordinary families and small businesses. I'll keep working to strengthen the momentum for reforms that end these abuses.

Recreation plan, continued

LWCF grant dollars. In Michigan, approximately 50 percent of LWCF grant dollars goes to local units of government and requires a 50 percent match.

Committed to ensuring broad public input on the development of the 2013-2017 SCORP, the DNR provided many opportunities for feedback, including presentations at five public workshops and eight stakeholder meetings around the state. Additionally, the draft SCORP was available on the DNR website for review and feedback.

The 2013-2017 SCORP identifies six key objectives:

- Improve the collaboration and cooperation between all outdoor recreation providers in Michigan;
- Ensure the main-

tenance and continuous improvement of outdoor recreation facilities;

- Improve access to and connectivity between recreation opportunities;
- Integrate the provision of outdoor recreation with economic development plans and activities to advance economic prosperity;
- Market outdoor recreation opportunities and their associated amenities; and
- Contribute to the protection of Michigan's high-quality natural and cultural resources.

The final plan is available on the DNR's website at www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants.

More information on the Land and Water Conservation Fund may be found at www.nps.gov/lwcf.

area churches

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 (Nursery available)
 Sunday School.....9:00 A.M.

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 Pastor Wes Hershberger

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 Celebration.....10:40 a.m.
 Wednesdays - Kid's Service, Teen's Service,
 Adult Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn
 Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
 Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.
 AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.
 Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times
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happy birthday!

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

APRIL 14
 Phyllis Jones, Dennis Rasch, Joshua Anderson, Nichol Gurney, Bernie Boersma, Brenda Stuart, Cole Wade, Stephanie Ossewaarde.

APRIL 11
 Toni Blough, Delores Gabrion, Adaline Thaler, Al Roe, David Johnson.

APRIL 15
 Craig Yeiter, Margaret Yoder, Charles Behnke, Fred Oesch Jr., Dave Carpenter, Terry Kinsley.

APRIL 12
 Sarah DeShane-Dalga, Jesse Lewis-Anes.

APRIL 16
 Sam Roudabush, Kathleen Zywicki, Jack Ryder, Jacob Billingsley, Lori Gerard, Steve Kropf, Angie Farrell, Kristin Lee, William Mitchell, Rayce Darby, Olivia Foster.

APRIL 13
 Addie Abel, Pete Baker, Marv DeVries, Carol Brzezniak, Melissa Quada.

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Is your portfolio truly diversified?

Life is full of ups and downs — and the financial markets are no different. As an investor, you're no doubt happy to see the "ups" — but the "downs" can seem like a real downer. Isn't there any way to help smooth out the volatility in your investment portfolio?

First of all, to cope with volatility, it's helpful to know what causes it — and there can be many causes. Computers that make trades in milliseconds, based on mathematical models, are sometimes blamed

for intraday volatility, but large price swings can also occur following the release of government economic reports, such as those dealing with unemployment and housing starts. Global events, such as the European economic malaise, can also send the financial markets into a tizzy.

By being aware of the impact of these events, you can see that the workings of the markets — especially their volatility — may not be as mysterious as you thought. Still, while knowing

the causes of volatility can help you prepare for market swings, it won't blunt their impact on your portfolio. To do that, you need to create a diversified mix of investments because your portfolio can be more susceptible to negative price movements if you only own one type of asset.

To illustrate: If you owned mostly bonds, and interest rates rose sharply, the value of your bonds would likely drop, and your portfolio could take a big hit. But if you owned stocks, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit (CDs) and other investment vehicles, the rise in interest rates would probably affect your portfolio less significantly.

Unfortunately, many investors think that if they own a few stocks and a

bond, they're diversified. But you can actually extend your diversification through many levels — and you should. For the equity portion of your portfolio, try to own stocks representing many market sectors and industries. Also, consider international stocks. And rather than just owning U.S. Treasury bonds, consider corporate bonds and municipal bonds, and diversify your fixed-income holdings further by purchasing short-term, intermediate-term and long-term bonds. Work with your financial advisor to determine the mix of asset classes and investments that are appropriate for your financial goals and objectives.

How you ultimately diversify your portfolio depends on your risk

tolerance, time horizon and long-term goals — there's no one "correct" asset mix for everyone. And over time, your diversification needs may change. To cite one example, as you enter your retirement years, you may need to increase your percentage of income-producing investments while possibly reducing the amount of growth investments you own. These growth-oriented investments tend to be more volatile, and you may want less volatility during

your retirement. However, even during retirement, you will need to own a certain percentage of growth investments to provide you with the growth potential you'll need to stay ahead of inflation.

Keep in mind that diversification can't guarantee a profit or protect against loss. Nonetheless, building a diversified portfolio may help take some of the volatility out of investing — so look for diversification opportunities whenever possible.

Looking Back, continued

women throughout the country, who like the happy combination of sparkling entertainment and close-up cooking instruction. Seats in the back row are as good as those in the front row—the motion picture permits everyone to hear and see every trick in frosting a cake, making a pie, or cooking bananas. "Star in My Kitchen" was produced in Hollywood and the audience will recognize many of the rising young actors and actresses who take part in it. Women young and old will appreciate the humanness of the romantic story, in which home problems are approached from an entirely new angle.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 18, 1963

Lowell ladies in the Easter parade wore more corsages this year than ever before local florists reported. Over 100 orchids were sold by one florist and some 600 carnations were used in other floral displays.

The sonic boom of a passing jet shook Lowell Thursday afternoon bringing citizens running into the streets. The only damage reported was the shattering of a 6 x 8 foot plate glass window at the House of Townsend on West Main Street. An attempt is being made to pin-point the responsibility for the damage caused by the Air Force Jet.

Joe Vargo of Grand Rapids thought he had put out the fire in his car seat Saturday night, before entering the Riverview Inn. Lowell firemen were called to extinguish a blaze which destroyed the interior of his car, later in the evening.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 20, 1988

Headline: Ordinance being drafted to stop loitering. There was a friendly new face patrolling the city streets of Lowell Friday. "It was the most positive experience I've had with the Lowell Police Department," said Lowell resident Bill Duncan. "I had a parking problem and there was a policeman there to help. I didn't have to go find an officer." The friendly policeman (Dave VanHoughton) was on foot patrol for selective enforcement as part of an effort to stop and/or control the loitering problem on the city streets. "This is the first time we've visibly patrolled the streets. Prior to this, everything has been undercover and/or incognito," Lowell police chief Barry Emmons said. This is part of an effort to help Lowell merchants with the disorderly conduct on the city streets and bridge. The other part of the effort is a new ordinance that is presently being drafted by the city fathers to help curb the problem.

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1:00 PM Shotgun start (check-in open at noon)

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DINNER ONLY PRICE: \$15 per person

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CONTESTS: Longest Drive; Longest Putt and Closest to the Pin

(MEN AND WOMEN)

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Registration limited to first 22 teams

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Team Name: _____ (\$180 per team)

Player 1 (team contact) _____

Contact phone: _____ Contact Email: _____

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SPRING SPORTS

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

CALENDAR

BOYS' & GIRLS' VARSITY TRACK

* Denotes a meet at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

4/11 at 4:15 p.m. at Jenison
 4/18 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Central*
 4/20 at 9 a.m. Caledonia Invitational
 4/23 at 4:15 p.m. EGR*
 4/25 at 4:15 p.m. at Caledonia
 4/27 at 8:30 a.m. Talus Memorial - Lowell Invitational*
 5/1 at 4:15 p.m. at Grand Rapids Christian
 5/9 at 4 p.m. Conference at Houseman
 5/10 at 6 p.m. Conference at Houseman
 5/15 at 4:15 p.m. JV Conference at Caledonia

GIRLS' VARSITY SOFTBALL

* Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Softball Field

4/11 at 4:15 p.m. Northview* (doubleheader)
 4/13 at 10 a.m. East Kentwood Tournament
 4/16 at 4:15 p.m. at Jenison (doubleheader)
 4/17 at 4:30 p.m. Hudsonville* (doubleheader)
 4/19 at 4:15 p.m. Catholic Central* (doubleheader)
 4/23 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Central* (doubleheader)
 4/26 at 4:15 p.m. at Byron Center (doubleheader)
 4/30 at 4:15 p.m. East Grand Rapids* (doubleheader)
 5/1 at 4 p.m. Wyoming High School* (doubleheader)
 5/4 at 8:30 a.m. Northview Tournament
 5/7 at 4:15 p.m. at Caledonia (doubleheader)
 5/10 at 4:15 p.m. at Greenville (doubleheader)
 5/14 at 4:15 p.m. at Grand Rapids Christian (doubleheader)
 5/16 at 4:15 p.m. Thornapple-Kellogg* (doubleheader)
 5/17 at 4:15 p.m. at South Christian High School (doubleheader)
 5/21 at 4:15 p.m. at Forest Hills Eastern (doubleheader)
 5/22 at 4 p.m. Tichelaar Tournament*

GIRLS' VARSITY SOCCER

* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

4/10 at 6:45 p.m. Greenville*
 4/12 at 6:45 p.m. at Byron Center
 4/13 at 11:45 a.m. at Grandville
 4/15 at 6:45 p.m. at Jenison
 4/17 at 6:45 p.m. Forest Hills Central*
 4/19 at 6:45 p.m. at Northview
 4/22 at 6:45 p.m. East Grand Rapids*
 4/24 at 6:45 p.m. at Caledonia
 4/26 at 6:45 p.m. Fruitport*
 4/29 at 6:15 p.m. at Grand Rapids Christian
 5/3 at 6:45 p.m. Cedar Springs*
 5/6 at 6:45 p.m. Jenison*
 5/8 at 7:15 p.m. at Forest Hills Central
 5/10 at 6:45 p.m. Forest Hills Eastern*
 5/13 at 7 p.m. at East Grand Rapids
 5/15 at 6:45 p.m. Caledonia*
 5/20 at 6:45 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*

For More Information please visit

www.lowellschools.com

Be sure to read the Lowell Ledger for coverage of the LAS Spring Sports.

Brought To You By

the lowell
ledger

BOYS' VARSITY BASEBALL

* Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Baseball Field

4/11 at 4:30 p.m. at Hudsonville
 4/16 at 4:15 p.m. at Jenison (doubleheader)
 4/18 at 4:15 p.m. Jenison*
 4/19 at 4:15 p.m. Rockford* (doubleheader)
 4/23 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Central* (doubleheader)
 4/25 at 4:15 p.m. at Forest Hills Central
 4/26 at 4:15 p.m. Greenville* (doubleheader)
 4/30 at 4:15 p.m. East Grand Rapids* (doubleheader)
 5/2 at 4:15 p.m. at East Grand Rapids (doubleheader)
 5/3 at 4:15 p.m. Grandville*
 5/7 at 4:15 p.m. at Caledonia (doubleheader)
 5/9 at 4:15 p.m. Caledonia*
 5/11 all day Howell Tournament
 5/14 at 4:15 p.m. at Grand Rapids Christian (doubleheader)
 5/16 at 4:15 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*
 5/18 at 10 a.m. Grand Ledge* (doubleheader)
 5/21 at 4:15 p.m. at Forest Hills Eastern (doubleheader)
 5/25 at 11 a.m. Lake Orion Tournament
 5/29 at 4:15 p.m. at Byron Center

GIRLS' VARSITY TENNIS

* Denotes a game at the high school tennis courts

4/11 at 4 p.m. East Kentwood Quad
 4/13 at 9:00 a.m. Lowell Invitational
 4/15 at 4 p.m. at Hudsonville
 4/17 at 4:15 p.m. at Jenison
 4/20 at 9:30 a.m. Caledonia Invitational
 4/22 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Central*
 4/24 at 4:15 p.m. East Grand Rapids*
 4/30 at 4 p.m. Lakewood High School*
 5/1 at 4:15 p.m. at Caledonia
 5/2 at 4:15 p.m. at Portland High School
 5/6 at 4:15 p.m. at Grand Rapids Christian
 5/11 all day Conference Tournament
 5/13 at 4:15 p.m. Greenville*

BOYS' VARSITY LACROSSE

* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

4/13 at 5 p.m. Grandville*
 4/18 at 7:15 p.m. at Holland Christian
 5/7 all day Tier II Tournament
 5/10 all day Tier II Tournament
 5/14 all day Tier II Tournament

GIRLS' VARSITY LACROSSE

* Denotes a home game at Burch Field

4/10 at 7 p.m. at Northview
 4/13 at 3 p.m. Grandville* at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium
 4/17 at 5 p.m. Grand Haven*
 4/19 at 7 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*
 4/22 at 6 p.m. at West Ottawa
 4/24 at 7 p.m. Northview*
 4/29 at 7 p.m. at Grand Rapids Christian
 5/6 at 7 p.m. at Grand Haven
 5/8 at 7 p.m. West Ottawa*
 5/13 at 7 p.m. Hudsonville*

BOYS' VARSITY GOLF

* Denotes a home meet at Deer Run

4/11 at 12:30 p.m. Kent County Classic at the Highlands
 4/13 at 11 a.m. Lowell Invitational*
 4/15 at 3:30 p.m. Forest Hills Northern*
 4/17 at 9 a.m. Preconference at Thornapple Pointe
 4/18 at 3:30 p.m. at Kenowa Hills
 4/22 at 3:30 p.m. Union*
 4/24 at 3:30 p.m. Jamboree at Jenison
 5/1 at 3:30 p.m. Jamboree at East Grand Rapids
 5/8 at 3:30 p.m. Jamboree at Grand Rapids Christian
 5/13 at 3:30 p.m. at Lakewood
 5/16 at 3:30 p.m. at Forest Hills Eastern
 5/20 at 3:30 p.m. Belding*
 5/22 at 8 a.m. Conference at Thornapple Pointe

Local pastor and church in spotlight after same-sex marriage debates

by Ellen Mork
contributing reporter

The topic of gay and lesbian marriage is a hotly contested issue for many people. Many are eager to share their opinions on the news, with friends and on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, while others shy away from taking a public stance on this divisive issue.

With the recent hearings heard by the Supreme Court on Proposition 8, from California, and the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), the issue has reemerged onto the social platform.

Some say this issue is based on religious values, that people cannot push their religious views, albeit it for or against same-sex marriage on the public. Others say the government has no place in regulating marriages, while still others claim it is up to the states, not the federal government to make these judgments.

One local pastor has taken both heat and praise for his stance and

willingness to publicly discuss his beliefs. Pastor Chris Schwab, a Pastor at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Lowell, spoke with WZZM on March 25 and was interviewed by Jesse Lee Peterson on his syndicated program, *Jesse Lee Peterson Show* on April 3.

Schwab is a supporter of gay and lesbian marriage and believes all people are created in God's image. He says, "I think that God had an integral part of creating life and as such, we have a diverse group of people and included in that is people with different experiences and sexual preferences."

He posits that if God created humanity, then we should accept everyone and give all the same rights and privileges.

As far as relationships, he says, "It's about healthy relationships" and "to live as faithful and whole beings." For Schwab, healthy relationships are between two consenting adults and do not contain aspects of

bestiality or polygamy.

"It's important to note that marriage is not grounded in the Bible, it is spoken of but the institution of marriage was formed before," said Schwab, "My understanding is that it began in the agrarian society, and had to do with the passing down of land and property and so while God is tied into that, the faith was not really fully formed when it began."

Schwab's statement refutes the point of those who say marriage is a religious institution and God made marriage to be between only one man and one woman.

Schwab is now in the majority of people that support same-sex marriage, but in the minority of religious officials who support it.

The United Church of Christ (UCC) denomination he belongs to has been an official supporter of same-sex marriage since 2005. The UCC is a left-leaning



First Congregational Church located at 865 Lincoln Lake SE.

denomination at the national level, but has some factions that are more conservative and moderate.

A meeting of the officials of the UCC, called the General Synod, adopted a resolution in 2005 stating marriage and its benefits should be for all couples. The resolution also calls for an end "to rhetoric that fuels hostility, misunderstanding, fear and hatred expressed toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons."

The views of the UCC are certainly not shared

among all denominations of Christianity, or even all UCC churches.

Churches belonging to the UCC are congregational, meaning the members make decisions and dictate the direction their church goes in. While most bodies agree with the stance at the national level, some do not and the General Synod urged all bodies to realize the importance of same-sex marriage.

The First Congregational Church of Lowell, (FCC) is A2A,

meaning accessible to all. They do not discriminate against age, race, sexual orientation or background.

Schwab said, "It's also important to note that Jesus, the primary character in the Bible, does not condemn gays or lesbians, or any other sexual preference. What Jesus does do is promote healthy relationships and calls for us to love one another and also treat others as we want to be treated. He emphasized, "Those are the fundamentals Jesus speaks of."



Pastor Chris Schwab stands in the sanctuary of the church.



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Michigan's endangered barking owl

The Short-eared Owl is listed as a vulnerable species worldwide and somewhat common in North America, South America, Eurasia and many oceanic islands. However, in Michigan it is listed as an endangered species, having been observed in less than a dozen counties statewide within the last three

decades. The Short-eared Owl has been showing a steady decline in numbers for the past several years in most of its range.

The Short-eared Owl is a medium sized owl, measuring 13-17 inches in length. As the name suggests the owl displays short ear tufts but is accompanied by a heightened sense of

hearing. This owl has a large head with big eyes and a wide wingspan ranging

from 33-41 inches, more than 2.5 times its own body length. The coloration of

streaked brown and buff helps it blend in with its surroundings and can make it difficult to identify. The scratchy barking call that the Short-eared Owl makes is its most distinctive feature and the easiest way to identify the owl.

This species of owl prefers large, open grasslands close to marshes, streams or wet meadows with a good mix of small rodents and insects on which to feed. The Short-eared Owl is unique from most owl species because it hunts both day and night and is not strictly nocturnal. According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources it is likely that the Short-eared Owl was

never overly abundant in Michigan due to the lack of large contiguous grassland habitat in our state. However, the population numbers in Michigan have been rapidly declining due to the loss of habitat to development and succession and the use of pesticides that kill off the owl's food sources.

Luckily, the owl can benefit from many of the management plans currently in use for restoring bird populations in grasslands and marshes. The best techniques to help bring back the Short-eared Owl include prescribed burning

Endangered owl, continued, page 16



A Short-Eared Owl.

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New fishing regulations adopted for 2013-2014 in effect April 1

To ensure Michigan's fisheries resources are managed properly and provide the best benefits to anglers and the public, the Department of Natural Resources annually adjusts fishing regulations. For the coming 2013-2014 angling

year, that started on April 1, the DNR would like anglers to be aware of the following new fishing regulations:

- **Muskellunge Possession Limit Change** – Only one muskellunge (including tiger muskellunge) may be harvested per season per angler. A new non-transferrable muskellunge harvest tag is required to harvest muskellunge in Michigan waters. The muskellunge harvest tag is free and available at all fishing license vendors. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/muskie
- **Northern Pike Fishing Regulation Changes** – Northern pike regulations now include the establishment of a new 24-inch to 34-inch protected-slot-limit with a daily possession of two northern pike on six waters. A new provision has also been added to the no minimum size limit regulation waters

where five northern pike may be harvested daily – only one northern pike greater than 24-inches is now allowed as part of the daily possession limit. The general statewide 24-inch minimum size limit with a daily possession of two northern pike is still in effect for all other waters not listed as an exception.

- **Bow and Spear Fishing Regulations** – Crossbows are included as lawful gear on the waters where bow and arrow use is lawful. The spearing prohibition on Houghton Lake in Roscommon County was removed.
- **Netting Regulations** – Netting regulations have been modified and some season dates have changed.
- **Inland Trout and Salmon Regulations** – There are five new research streams in the Upper Peninsula where an additional five brook trout may be retained for the daily possession limit.

- **Possession Limit Change** – The Platte River daily possession limit is one rainbow trout from the Upper (Hatchery) Platte River Weir downstream to Lake Michigan. The Little Manistee River daily possession limit is one rainbow trout from 300 feet downstream of the Little Manistee River Weir down to Manistee Lake.
- **Spawning Closure** – the lower portion of the Betsie River from the Betsie Valley Trail Bridge (former railroad trestle bridge) west to a line in Betsie Bay between the westernmost dock of the Northstar Marina and the westernmost dock of the Eastshore Marina is closed to fishing until further notice.

These regulation changes are detailed further in the 2013 Michigan Fishing Guide, now available at all major retailers and at the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/fishingguide



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Player Spotlight

Our Spotlight Athletes This Week:

John Fox
Team: Baseball
Grade: Senior



Rachel Walters
Team: Track
Grade: Junior

John Fox



How long have you been playing baseball?

I've been playing baseball since I was four, so basically forever.

What other sports do you play?

I also play basketball, also since I was four.

What is your favorite sport?

Baseball is my favorite sport.

Have you received any awards for any of them?

I was academic all-district in baseball. I was also best defender my freshman year in basketball.

Have you broken any records?

No, I haven't broken any records.

Do you have siblings?

My sister, Rachel, is a freshman at Lowell High School.

What do you like to do for fun?

I like to hang out with friends and play NBA 2k13.

What was your personal best during any of your sports?

I was 10-0 as a relief pitcher my junior year.

What's the best thing about playing sports?

Time stops.

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

I don't plan on playing college. I plan on attending Western Michigan University in the fall.

Rachel Walters

How long have you been running track?

I first started running during a summer track camp after 5th grade.

What other sports do you play?

I began running Cross Country my freshmen year and I started competing in indoor track my sophomore year.

What is your favorite sport?

Track. I really just love competing and the adrenaline rush I get while racing.

Have you received any awards for any of them?

I received All-Conference honors my freshmen and sophomore year for track. In cross country, I received All-Conference honorable mention my sophomore year. Last year in track, I was voted team captain and selected MVP.



Have you broken any records?

I plan to; there are a few I have my eye on. My goal before graduating high school is to break the 400m record which is 58.29

Do you have siblings?

I have a twin brother, Ryan, and a younger sister Sara who is in eighth grade.

What do you like to do for fun?

I am an avid Pinterest-er, I like to sing loudly in my car, and I enjoy spending quality time with my friends.

What was your personal best during any of your sports?

400m- 58.9, 800m: 2:26, 5k (cross country): 20:10

What's the best thing about playing sports?

I love being a part of a team.

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

I am still undecided on where I want to attend college, but definitely somewhere I can compete in track.

What's Your Sport?

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

The Lowell Ledger



obituaries

LIND

Vivian Elaine (Book) Lind, of Lowell, departed this world to meet her Lord on Thursday, April 4, 2013. She was born on February 15, 1923 to Wilbert & Fanny Book in Detroit, MI. The 2nd of 5 girls, Vivian was preceded in death by sisters Dorothy, Thelma, and Betty (Hines). Her youngest sister, Lulu (Burns) is 83. "Viv" met Otto "Bob" Lind, the love of her full lifetime, ice skating at Palmer Park in Detroit. They were married on November 24, 1945, after Otto returned from serving 3 1/2 years in World War II in the Aleutian Islands. Their home for 53 years was the house that Otto built in Commerce Township, Michigan, where they raised their 3 children, Robert, Laura and Elaine. A dedicated daughter, wife and mother, she gave many hours of service to the UMC Women's Circle in Commerce, and to family, friends and neighbors. In their retirement years, Otto and Vivian loved to travel and boast seeing parts of China and all 50 states, as well as having an active role in the lives of their grandchildren, Stephanie (Hamel) Scott, Christopher Greening, Kimberlee (Wenkel) Greening, Joel Meredith, Kate (Mondal) Meredith, and Lindsey Meredith. She and Otto have delighted in their great-grandchildren; Jacob Hamel (WY), Patience, Conner, Trace and Sadee Wenkel, and Caleb Greening (all of northern MI). The Linds moved to their home in Lowell in 2000, where the congregation of the Vergennes United Methodist Church became their extended family. Vivian was loved by many, cherished by her husband, children, grand and great-grandchildren and lived a full life of ninety years. Funeral services were held at Vergennes United Methodist Church. Rev. Matthew Stoll officiated. Interment Bailey Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Vergennes United Methodist Church. LOGO # 391 Roth-Gerst



TOWNSEND

Wayne A Townsend, age 67, of The Villages, FL, formerly of Vicksburg passed away on Thursday, December 20, 2012. A memorial service will be held on Friday, April 19, 2013 at the Vicksburg United Methodist Church at 1 pm. Arrangements by Life Story Funeral Home, 409 S. Main, Vicksburg, 269-649-1697, for more information visit www.lifestorynet.com

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Identity theft – it's no joke

When the first of April comes, you may be on guard to protect yourself from an April Fool's Day prank. But, every day of the year, you should be wary of identity thieves.

Identity theft is no joking matter. Identity thieves victimize millions of people each year.

Identity thieves have some sly tricks to obtain your personal information. They do it by:

- Stealing wallets, purses, and your mail;
- Posing by phone or email as someone who legitimately needs

information about you, such as employers or landlords;

- Stealing personal information you provide to an unsecured site on the Internet, from business or personnel records at work, and personal information in your home; or
- Rummaging through your trash, the trash of businesses, and public trash dumps for personal data.

Don't be fooled by identity thieves; take the proper precautions. Be sure to safeguard your personal information, such as your Social Security number

and mother's maiden name. You can help protect yourself by not carrying your Social Security card with you and not providing your personal information to unknown sources over the Internet or by phone. Most important, never reply to an email claiming to be from Social Security that asks you for your Social Security number or other personal information. If you are contacted by someone claiming to be from Social Security and you have doubts about the validity of the caller, you can call

at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). If you think you've been the victim of identity theft, you should contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338) or go to www.idtheft.gov and click on the link for "Report Identity Theft."

Please don't let an identity thief make an April fool out of you.

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 vantil@ssa.gov

First Adopt-A-Highway litter pickup begins April 13

Spring cleaning begins Saturday for highway roadsides in lower Michigan. Volunteers participating in the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Adopt-A-Highway program will pick up litter along state highways from April 13 to 21, the first of three scheduled pickups this year.

"The spirit of Adopt-A-Highway volunteers is Pure Michigan," said state transportation director Kirk T. Steudle. "They keep our roadsides looking great and help MDOT direct its limited resources to fixing our roads."

In 2012, Adopt-A-Highway volunteer groups

reported collecting about 65,000 bags of trash, a cost benefit to the state of \$5.6 million. Volunteers wear high-visibility, yellow-green safety vests required by federal regulations when working within a highway's right of way. MDOT provides the vests and trash bags for free, and arranges to haul away the trash.

Current volunteers include members of various civic groups, businesses and families. Crew members have to be at least 12 years old and each group must number at least three people.

Sections of highway are still available for adoption. Interested groups should

check the MDOT web page at www.michigan.gov/adoptahighway for more information. Groups are asked to adopt a section of highway for at least two years. There is no fee to participate. Adopt-A-Highway signs bearing a group's name are posted along the stretches of adopted highway.

Due to snow still on the ground, the first Adopt-A-Highway pickup for northern lower Michigan and the Upper Peninsula will be later, from April 27 to May 5. Statewide, there will be a summer pickup from July 13 to 21, and a fall pickup from Sept. 21 to 29.

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MOTORCYCLE FOR SALE - 1984 Goldwing Interstate Honda, midnight blue, vanilla shake white, good tires, daily driver, runs well. Lots of miles left to enjoy the ride. \$2,800 obo. 897-6241 home or 616-862-6478 cell.

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.

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

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wanted

WANTED - 2 bedroom apartment, \$600 or less that will allow 7-year-old boxer. 897-5787.

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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.

misc.

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH VENDOR & CRAFT EXPO - Sat., April 20, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 7000 Myers Lake Rd., Rockford. Great variety of vendors & FREE petting zoo! For more info, email Judy, judyzg@charter.net

CONCEALED CARRY CLASS - is being offered by Pfaller Firearms LLC in cooperation with Tri Town Conservation Club over two days on April 22 and April 27. Cost is \$100. For more information or to register for class email: jamespfaller@gmail.com

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - at 3189 Snow Ave. SE will serve a family style Turkey & Dressing dinner on Wed., April 10, at 5:30 p.m. Adults are \$10 & children 6-12 are \$4, & children 5 & under are free. Take out dinners also available.

sales

BARN SALE - Beds, collectibles, dolls & other furniture. April 12 & 13, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 2991 Alden Nash Ave. SE. Call 616-446-3707.

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. New gentle class, 4/25 at 5:15 p.m. Questions - 616-893-5661.

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in memoriam

In memory of **ETHAN HEDLUND**
 It's not possible, for April 9th, to pass, and not think of you. Your kindness and sincerity, could be seen in your eyes.
 We miss you,
 The Chittenden Family

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 SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB - meets the 3rd Monday in the Church of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 211 N. Washington St. at 6:30 p.m.
BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Randy Jesberg at 897-4569 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.
TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372 - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. Key Heights, 11335 Fulton, Lowell.
CUB SCOUT PACK 3188 - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

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.

QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.quake-zik.org for information. New members welcome.
LOWELL LIONS CLUB - meets third Tuesday at noon at Lowell City Hall.
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.
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

Belding. 616-794-1450.

ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. 11-5 p.m.; Tues. 6-9 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m. 987-9533. Diapers, formula, clothing & free pregnancy testing available.

EVERILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF ADA - 7144 Headley, is open every Friday & Saturday 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Closed Jan. & Feb. 676-9346.
ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Tues. & Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Thurs., 1-5 p.m. Info., call 784-2007.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 784-2007.
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LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM - open Tuesday, Saturday & Sunday: 1-4 p.m.; Thursday: 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individual \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members free. 897-7688.

ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTER - 402 Amity. Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Non-denominational. Help for pregnant women/adolescents in need. Provides support, referrals, food, clothing/infant items. Lowell area. 897-9393.

FRIDAY FUN - Every Friday, 11-11:45 a.m. Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, games & a simple craft. For 3-5 year olds. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.
DOWNTON ABBEY FANS - Free movie about the real Highclere Castle where the hit PBS series Downton Abbey is filmed. Wed., April 10, 6:30 p.m. Call for more details, Alvah N. Belding Memorial Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding, 616-794-1450.

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

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EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: I know that some of us are genetically predisposed to get cancer, but what are some ways we can avoid known environmental triggers for it? - B. Northrup, Westport, MA

Cancer remains the scourge of the American health care system, given that four out of every 10 of us will be diagnosed with one form or another during our lifetime.

Some of us are genetically predisposed toward certain types of cancers, but there is much we can do to avoid exposure to carcinogens in our environment.

According to the Environmental Working Group (EWG), a non-profit working to protect public health and the environment, a key first step in warding off cancer is lifestyle change — “stopping smoking, reducing drinking, losing weight, exercising and eating right.” The American Cancer Society reports that smoking and poor nutrition each account for about one-third of the 575,000 U.S. cancer deaths each year. But smoking and obesity are obvious and other cancer triggers aren’t so easily pinpointed. In 2010 the President’s Cancer Panel

reported that environmental toxins play a significant and under-recognized role in many cancers, causing “grievous harm” to untold numbers of Americans. And EWG reports



that U.S. children are born “pre-polluted” with up to 200 carcinogenic substances already in their bloodstreams.

Given this shocking fact, it may seem futile to try to reduce our bodies’ chemical burden, but it could be a matter of life and death. EWG lists several ways anyone can cut their cancer risk. First up is to filter our tap water, which can include arsenic, chromium and harmful chemicals. Simple carbon filters or pitchers can reduce contaminants, while more costly reverse osmosis filters can filter out arsenic or chromium.

The foods we choose also play a role in whether or not we get cancer. Eating lots of fruits and vegetables is healthy, but not if they are laden with pesticides. Going organic when possible is the best way to reduce pesticide exposure. And when organic foods aren’t available, stick with produce least likely to contain pesticides (check out EWG’s “Clean 15” list of conventional crops containing little if any pesticide residue). EWG also suggests cutting down on high-fat meats and dairy products: “Long-lasting cancer-causing pollutants like dioxins and PCBs accumulate in the food chain and concentrate in animal fat.”

Eliminating stain- and grease-proofing chemicals (Teflon, Scotchgard, etc.) is another way to cut cancer risks. “To avoid them,” says EWG, “skip greasy packaged foods and say no to optional stain treatments in the home.” And steer clear of BPA, a synthetic estrogen found in some plastic water bottles, canned infant formula and canned foods. “To avoid it, eat fewer canned foods, breast feed your baby or use powdered formula, and choose water bottles free of BPA,” reports EWG. Personal care products and cosmetics can also contain carcinogens. EWG’s “Skin Deep” cosmetics database flags particularly worrisome products and greenlights others that are healthy. Another cancer prevention tip is to seal wooden outdoor decks and playsets — those made before 2005 likely contain lumber “pressure-treated” with carcinogenic arsenic in order to stave off insect infestations. Of course, avoiding too much sun exposure — and wearing high-SPF sunscreen — when using those decks and playsets is another important way to hedge one’s bets against cancer.

CONTACTS: EWG, www.ewg.org; President’s Cancer Panel, <http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/pcp>.

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Dress Up DESSERT

FAMILY FEATURES

Classic sweet treats like pound cake are delicious on their own — and with a few simple ingredients, they can be dressed up to make any day more special.

These recipes highlight the classic, homemade taste of Sara Lee Pound Cake. The newest addition, Lemon Pound Cake, is made with real lemon juice, so the bright citrus flavor shines through.

- **Lemon Pound Cake Trifle** — Strawberries, blueberries and whipped topping combine with cut-out lemon pound cake shapes to make a show-stopping dessert.
- **Pound Cake French Toast** — Take the flavors of a favorite breakfast and turn them into a mouthwatering dessert the whole family will love.
- **White Chocolate Ganache Lemon Glazed Pound Cake** — This treat may have a fancy name, but it’s easy to make. And it tastes just as great as it looks.
- **Grilled Pound Cake with Berries** — Grilled slices of pound cake topped with fresh berries and lemon Greek yogurt are the perfect way to end a cookout.
- **Grilled Chocolate Peanut Butter Marshmallow Pound Cake Sandwich** — Bring out the kid in everyone with this delicious twist on a fluffernutter sandwich.

You can find more delicious ways to dress up dessert at www.saraleedesserts.com.



Lemon Pound Cake Trifle

Prep time: 15 minutes
Makes: 8 servings

- 1 regular size package (10.75 ounces) Sara Lee Lemon Pound Cake, thawed
- 3 cups sliced strawberries
- 3 cups blueberries
- 1 container (12 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed, or whipped cream

Slice frozen pound cake crosswise into 3 layers. Using a star-shaped cookie cutter (or any cookie cutter shape), cut pound cake into star shapes. Cut remaining pound cake into 1-inch pieces or into smaller star shapes.

Place half of the cut-up pound cake pieces on the bottom of a trifle or serving bowl. Place star shapes on side of bowl.

Top with half of the fruit and whipped topping; repeat layers. Garnish with small star shapes, if desired. Serve immediately or store in refrigerator, until ready to serve.

Pound Cake French Toast

Prep time: 10 minutes
Makes: 6 servings

- 1 family size package (16 ounces) Sara Lee All Butter Pound Cake, thawed
- 3 eggs beaten
- 1/3 cup heavy cream or 1 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg (optional)
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine
- Powdered sugar (optional)

Slice pound cake into 12 slices, each about 1/2 inch thick. Whisk eggs, cream, extracts and spices in a medium bowl until well blended.

Dip each pound cake slice into egg mixture making sure to coat all sides, shaking off excess batter into bowl.

Melt butter in large skillet over medium-high heat. Add pound cake slices to skillet. Cook 1 to 2 minutes per side, or until golden brown.

Sprinkle with confectioner’s sugar and top with fresh fruit or maple syrup, if desired.

White Chocolate Ganache Lemon Glazed Pound Cake

Prep time: 20 minutes
Makes: 12 servings

- 1 cup (6 ounces) white chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
- 1 regular size package (10.75 ounces) Sara Lee Lemon Pound Cake, thawed

Place white chocolate chips, whipping cream and butter in a medium microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high for 1 minute. Stir until chips are melted and mixture is smooth. If needed, heat 10 to 30 seconds more in microwave to melt chips. Stir in lemon peel. Let cool 5 minutes.

Drizzle ganache over pound cake. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Cut into slices to serve. Serve with remaining ganache.

Variation: Raspberry Filled White Chocolate Ganache Lemon Glazed Pound Cake — Start by cutting the pound cake in half crosswise down center. Spread with 1/4 cup seedless raspberry jam. Continue with preparing the ganache as directed.

Grilled Pound Cake with Berries

Prep time: 5 minutes
Makes: 4 servings

- 1 regular size package (10.75 ounces) Sara Lee All Butter Pound Cake, thawed
- 1 cup Greek style lemon yogurt or ice cream
- Assorted fruit toppers (such as raspberries and blueberries)

Slice thawed pound cake into 1/2-inch slices. Spray both sides lightly with cooking spray. Grill over medium heat until lightly browned (1 to 2 minutes per side).

Top with Greek style lemon yogurt or ice cream, fresh raspberries and blueberries.

Grilled Chocolate Peanut Butter Marshmallow Pound Cake Sandwich

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 30 seconds to 4 minutes
Makes: 1 serving

- 1 slice Sara Lee Double Chocolate Pound Cake Slices
- 1 tablespoon creamy peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon marshmallow cream
- 1 teaspoon mini semi-sweet chocolate chips

Slice pound cake slice crosswise in half forming 2 pieces. Spread one slice of frozen pound cake with peanut butter and marshmallow cream. Sprinkle with chocolate chips and second pound cake slice forming a sandwich.

Spray both sides of pound cake slices with cooking spray. Grill sandwich in a skillet over medium heat about 1 to 2 minutes per side or until crisp and toasted, or place on a microwave-safe plate and heat sandwich 20 to 30 seconds or until chocolate chips are melted.



Pound Cake French Toast



White Chocolate Ganache Lemon Glazed Pound Cake



Grilled Pound Cake with Berries

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**THEME:
EARTH DAY**

ACROSS

1. It's a wrap
6. *A call to being green, acr.
9. Fog effect
13. Solo
14. Mother, sister or daughter
15. "_____ truly"
16. Teacher's pet, e.g.
17. Radio knob
18. Consume
19. Bungle
21. *Biology branch
23. Long time
24. Niels Bohr's study object
25. Cleopatra's killer?
28. _____ Christening acquisition
30. On which Romney and Obama were found
35. It must go on?
37. *Like animal near extinction
39. Marilyn Munster to Herman Munster, e.g.
40. Delhi dress
41. Sends by posts
43. Imitator
44. Are not
46. Mosquito net fabric
47. End of the line
48. Noontime
50. Give _____ certain impression
52. DNA transmitter
53. Boll weevil, e.g.
55. Car display
57. *Garden helper
61. Iron Man's robotic nemesis
64. French farewell
65. Galley tool
67. Vociferously praises
69. Choral composition with sacred lyrics
70. Fix a game
71. He lives on Sesame Street

CROSSWORD

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APRIL 3 - APRIL 9

- The longest serving Prime Minister of Britain, (in the 20th Century) Margaret Thatcher, has died at the age of 87 of a stroke.
- One of the most famous "Mousketeers" from the 1950s, Annette Funicello, died of complications from multiple sclerosis She was 70.
- The Louisville Cardinals won the NCAA men's basketball championship on Monday, beating the University of Michigan 82-76 in Atlanta, GA.



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72. *You do it to your garden's soil before planting
 73. "... ____ he drove out of sight"
 74. Homes are often tested for this
- DOWN**
1. Maple _____ syrup precursor

2. Reunion attendee
3. Lariat, e.g.
4. Used in some liquors
5. *Earth Day founder
6. Please get back to me
7. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
8. Rent again
9. Delivered by a mare
10. *Its emissions are regulated
11. Pharma product
12. Grammy of sports
15. Tower of London guard
20. Render harmless
22. *Corn holder, often left behind to protect soil quality
24. Most aerial
25. Indian state
26. Harry Belafonte's daughter
27. Focused or riveted
29. "Yes, ____"
31. One who fabricates
32. _____ colony, middle ages
33. *An earthly body
34. *Earth to ancient Romans
36. *Prop pusher
38. Do it "or ____!"
42. Beach souvenir
45. To give up or bow out
49. Up and down nod
51. *_____ earth
54. _____ Mercantile establishment
56. Kate Middleton's head gear
57. Barack's David
58. One wafting
59. Possible indoor allergy cause
60. Voyeur's glance
61. Impulse
62. "_____ your manners"
63. Assortment
66. *Clean ____ Act
68. Congressional title

Puzzle Solutions for this week are on page 12

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Endangered owl, continued

and scheduled mowing, done every few years between mid-April to mid-July.

A good place to observe the Short-eared Owl in Michigan is at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw County. The refuge has teamed up with the Saginaw Valley Audubon Society (SVAS) to provide high quality habitat for the endangered owl while also providing unique opportunities to observe this rare bird. Members and volunteers from the

SVAS now host auto tours of the refuge to see the bird without disturbing its habitat. In 2006, the refuge had a record 18 owls observed.

Short-eared Owls are also consistently observed on the Raco Plains in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, near Saulte Ste. Marie according to Tom Funke, Michigan Audubon Conservation Director.

Although the owl was never overly abundant in Michigan, many Short-eared Owls migrated and spent time in Michigan.

Management plans in place for Pheasants will help increase population numbers of Short-eared Owls in Michigan and hopefully remove the bird from the Michigan Endangered Species list.

For additional information or photos to use with this announcement, contact Michigan Audubon's, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Mallory King at mallory@michiganaudubon.org



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