

rainy  
GNO

## Record flooding swamps Lowell area

*As floodwater steadily increased, so did Lowell's volunteer spirit and generosity*

by Ellen Mork  
contributing reporter

Torrential rainfall the previous weeks started the flooding. The Lowell area received ten inches of water in the previous two and a half weeks, making it the

wettest April on record. By last Wednesday, city officials knew the Grand River had hit the 15-foot flood level.

The National Weather Service predicted Grand

River to peak at 20 to 21 feet Thursday, but estimates were later reduced to 19 feet.

Sunday morning at 6:35 am, the river crested at 19.02 feet and slowly began

to recede. The previous record for river crest was 19 feet in March of 1948. Since 2000, the highest the river had crested was 17.17 feet.

Had the river crested at the first predicted 21 feet,

much of Lowell would have been affected, including those in the 100-year and 500-year flood plain. The

**2013 Flood,**  
continued, page 8 and 9



page 7

radio day



page 3

lms sports



page 10 & 11



Photo submitted by Modern Photo

## Several businesses affected by flooding

Ellen Mork  
Contributing reporter

City Manager Mark Howe estimated that up to 30 businesses were affected by the flooding over the weekend. Fortunately, the river did not crest as high as anticipated, saving

many businesses from catastrophe. Businesses prepared by sandbagging, removing anything within a few feet of the ground and unplugging all electronic devices. Several Lowell businesses are normally

closed Mondays so they didn't lose business and were able to spend the day cleaning up.

Lowell Granite Company, located across the street from City Hall, only had flooding in a pit in their

workspace. The owner, Jeff Wilterink, said the damage was minimal and he's lucky his product can't float away. They anticipated flooding and moved their paperwork and other valuables off

the floor. Fortunately for Wilterink, he did not have to close for part of the week, like many other businesses.

**Businesses react to flood,**  
continued, page 2

## Kids celebrate Earth Day with art at WWC

by Ellen Mork  
contributing reporter

The Wittenbach/Wege Center (WWC) celebrated Earth Day early Saturday with arts and crafts. WCC Director Meggan Johnson and LowellArts! Project Director Kacey Cornwell collaborated to create fun crafts that were environmentally conscious. Children could make puzzle blocks, pins/magnets, necklaces/bracelets and masks.

From 9-11 am Saturday, eight children and their families cut up magazines, painted and glued up a storm. They used old

magazines and blocks that would have been thrown out. Johnson said this event provided a fun way to use discarded things and reuse old objects. Instead of throwing the items out, the kids now have art to cherish.

This was the first year the two have run this event. Johnson said she is always looking to have partnership opportunities with different groups.

Earth Day was Monday, April 22 and the WWC held a variety of other events to celebrate the day earlier this week.



Reid Eldred cuts circles from an old magazine for his necklace.



Above, Paige Wilcox proudly shows off her painted mask.

At right, Gavin Mazark Eldreda displays his artwork.



50  
CENTS



# Businesses react to flood, continued

The Englehardt Library was extra cautious and began moving furniture and books Thursday afternoon. Library employees moved all books off the bottom

two shelves. Heidi Nagel, the Kent District Library communications manager, said the library had to cancel two events and close for two and a half days. They

kept the public informed by updating their website and facebook page. Nagel thought ahead and moved books on hold to the Alto Library so patrons could

get their books if they really needed them.

The Flat River Grill, located next to the Flat River dealt with minimal basement flooding. Manager

Rob Leonard was glad their sump pump did not break, keeping flooding at a lower level. Water came in through the walls and reached two to three feet. The restaurant only had about an inch of water in their basement by Monday afternoon. They raised their product three feet off the ground and closed down for Saturday and Sunday. Unfortunately, the water damaged their internet connection and managers were scrambling to fix their issues. Leonard said the restaurant was "well prepared" for the flood, and by taking precautions, they avoided costly damage.

Sneakers owner Casey Catlin said the earliest

they would be back open is Wednesday. Like most businesses on Main Street, they closed Saturday and Sunday. Catlin had 18 inches of water in their basement and started pumping the water out Monday morning. By the afternoon, he'd gotten it all out. Catlin had to remove the water and get approval from the Kent County Health Department to reopen. He placed sandbags around his building but it didn't stop all the water. Catlin was happy to see the community help out. "Everyone chipped in. The reactions of everyone were phenomenal," he explained.



Photo submitted by Kurt Hieshetter



## along main street



### At Your Local Library

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

#### Garden Fun Storytime -

Celebrate the excitement of spring with garden-themed stories, crafts and activities! For ages 6 and younger. Thursday, May 9, 10:30 am.

### college news

Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design have announced the graduates for the semester that ended in December 2012. The following are local graduates, their degrees, majors and honors:

Ada: Brian Clark, Bachelor of Science

in Business, business administration; Bradley Dempster, Bachelor of Science, surveying engineering; Justin Holmes, Associate in Applied Science, HVACR technology, cum

College news, continued, page 3

#### 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.

#### FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries will be Wednesday, May 1 at 6 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

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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Published every Wednesday

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# High School Radio Day unites radio stations nationwide

High School Radio Day (HSRD) will be held Wednesday April 24. High school radio stations in the United States will come together for one day of celebration that organizers hope will raise a greater awareness of those high schools that are presently broadcasting.

A website has been created to publicize the

activities. You can go to [www.highschoolradioday.com](http://www.highschoolradioday.com) to learn about the activities planned by participating stations.

The day will include live broadcasts from different high school stations around the country. A link to station streams can also be found on the HSRD homepage.

WLHS, the internet radio station located at

Lowell High School, also feeds its audio onto the local Comcast public access channel 25. The internet radio station can be heard by going to [www.wlhsradio.org](http://www.wlhsradio.org)

**Jake Plunkett and Joe Ryder at the station.**



# Deadly weekend house fire on Grindle Street



Ellen Mork contributing reporter

There was a house fire at 743 Grindle Street Sunday evening.

The fire occurred at 9:50 pm Sunday, starting in

**Although little damage is apparent on the outside, this house was the scene of a deadly fire on Sunday.**

the living room, but it did not spread to the rest of the house or cause significant structural damage to the house.

When the Lowell Police Department and Lowell Area Fire Department arrived on scene, they saw "heavy, black smoke coming from one end of the house."

They entered the house through a window and the door. Upon arrival, fire fighters found a man lying unresponsive on the

floor, took him outside and applied emergency first aid including an AED. At 10:38, he was pronounced dead.

The victim was Richard Eugene Owens, Sr, 58. Owens was the owner of the house.

An autopsy was conducted Monday to determine whether the cause of death was related to the fire. Results from the autopsy show Owens died of smoke inhalation. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

# College news, continued

laude; Evan Hyma, Bachelor of Science, professional golf management, cum laude; and Cameron Raterink, Bachelor of Fine Arts, graphic design.

Alto: Jackson Botsford, Bachelor of Fine Arts, illustration; and Justin Havard, Bachelor of Applied Science, digital animation/game design.

Lowell: Joshua Blanding, Bachelor of Applied Science, digital animation/game design; Gordon Carpenter, Bachelor of Science, criminal justice/generalist; Tammy Garcia, Bachelor of Science, nursing, magna cum laude; Rex Jernigan, Certificates, performance machining, performance motorsports, and quality technology, and Bachelor of Science, automotive engineering tech; and Kyle Wittenbach, Bachelor of Science, professional golf management, cum laude.

must have accumulated at least 12 credit hours of graded coursework at the 100 level or higher with a 3.5 semester GPA and a 3.3 cumulative GPA.

The following are local students:

Ada: Evan Hyma, Derek Phelps, Scott Teliczan, Megan Moore, Kristin Dunn, Chelsea Seekell, Brooke Hanson, Anthony Amato, Chelsea Broekema, Kasey Stowell, Charles Alm, Emily Ciosek, Cameron Raterink, Zachary Sturgeon,

Claire Vredevoogd, Daniel Van Otteren, Nicole Finch, Scott Werkema, Kendall Schwartz, Mayra Salguero, Emily Canda, Julie Mooney, Nicholas Szymanski, and Nicholas Dziadosz.

Alto: Steven Sutherland, Bradly Freiberg, Jackson Botsford, April Beresford, Steve Yonker, and Kristin Nagy.

Lowell: Devin DeCator, Megan Willemstein, Matthew Weidman, Matthew Haan, Parker Liu, Tammy Garcia, Renae

Reed, Keith Vandenakker, Jodi Nederhoed, Patrick Vogel, Mitchell Mcrae, Logan DeClercq, Courtney Wierzbicki, Quincee Denault, Mark Preston, Melissa Zuiderveen, and Jacob McVey.

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 With the ups and downs we've shared in learning to be friends, I know that in this heart of mine, I'd marry you again."  
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Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design have announced the academic honors for the semester that ended in December 2012. To be eligible for academic honors, undergraduate students must have accumulated at least a 3.5 GPA in no fewer than 12 credit hours of coursework at the 100 level or higher during the given semester, while part-time students

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## LHS spring play looks at how a small town dealt with tragedy

by Karen Jack

For its first ever spring production, Lowell High School has selected "The Laramie Project." The play is about Matthew Shepard, who was beaten and left to die tied to a fence in the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming in 1998. He was killed by two peers reportedly because he was homosexual.

Although she knows the issues of harassment and bullying are complicated topics, Laurie Summerfield, head of the theater department, feels it would be a great play to showcase.

"I chose this play because it shows how a small town in America deals with tragedy," said Summerfield.

The play is a docudrama where interviews are held with people who live in the town of Laramie. The angst, anger and the sadness, plus

a myriad of other emotions are highlighted throughout the play.

"People often aren't comfortable facing controversial issues head-on, but I know people will love this play because of the raw emotion, and know that we would probably see similarly strong effects here in this town if something like this were to happen. It explores the reaction of the entire town," added Summerfield.

In the play, 13 high school students played 65 parts. The students who are participating include: Monica Bussell, Taylor Doorn, Maddi Emelander, Bailey Loughlin, Moises Kabandana, Emily Mundwiler, Keaton Pomper, Anna Reynolds, Mark Slaktoski, Nick Smith, Danielle Starkey, Michelle Starkey and Paige Wilson.

Stage manager, Hayleigh Borton, has done much of the background work for the play, and has also created the poster for the play.

Performances are scheduled from May 9, 10 and 11 at the Lowell Performing Arts Center and begin at 7 pm. The cost of admission is \$8 and all seats are general admission.

At Thursday night's performance, there will be a talk-back session where participants will interact with the audience to talk about their thoughts or ask questions. Tickets are available at the door and online at [www.seatyourself.biz/lowellhs](http://www.seatyourself.biz/lowellhs)

For more information, you can go to the school website at [www.lowellschools.com](http://www.lowellschools.com) and then link to the performing arts center.

...  
"What a sad era when it is easier to smash an atom than a prejudice."

~ Albert Einstein

## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### Nourish the "roots" of your investment strategy

On Arbor Day, which we celebrate this week, people across the country plant trees. Of course, trees provide us with many benefits, including beauty, fruit and oxygen, as well as protection against land erosion. But the act of planting and nurturing trees can also guide our behavior in other areas of life — such as investing.

First of all, consider the vision and patience exhibited by tree growers when they plant their saplings. As an investor, you, too, need this type of perseverance and long-term outlook. When you invest, you should be focused on the long term yet be prepared for the inevitable short-term market downturns. How long is "long term"? Many investors hold quality investments for decades. It's a long process, but the potential growth you seek will need this time.

What else can you, as an investor, learn from tree planters? For one thing, be aware of how they keep their orchards healthy. By

providing proper irrigation and disease-prevention measures, they help their trees stay on the long path toward maturity. Similarly, you need to nurture your investment portfolio by continually providing it with the financial resources it needs to stay "healthy." During periods of market volatility, it can be tempting to take a "time out" from investing — but if you do, you'll miss out on the potential growth opportunities that may follow. Since no one can really predict the beginnings and endings of either "up" or "down" markets, you're better off by staying invested. Also, just as horticulturalists take steps to keep their trees from being subject to disease, you can keep your portfolio in good shape by periodically "pruning" it of investments that no longer meet your needs.

Here's something else that tree planters can teach us: diversification. Consider an orchard that contains several different

fruit trees; its commercial benefits may be greater than a comparable orchard that only grows apples. Plus, the presence of a variety of trees can prove beneficial if disease strikes one type. In some areas of the country, for example, Dutch Elm Disease wiped out thousands of trees, leaving entire streets treeless. If some other species had also been planted, these streets would still have had the benefits provided by mature trees, even if the elms were gone. As an investor, you don't want to own just one type of financial asset, such as growth stocks, because if a downturn hits this segment, your entire portfolio could take a big hit. A better strategy would be to populate your "financial orchard" with a variety of investments — such as stocks, bonds and government securities — that are suitable for your situation. (Keep in mind, though, that while diversification can help reduce the effects of volatility, it can't guarantee a profit or protect against loss.)

As an investor, you can learn some lessons from Arbor Day that could prove "tree-mendously" helpful to you as you chart your course for the future — and you won't even have to "go out on a limb" to put these strategies in place.

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# viewpoint

## Review shows need for reform of overseas basing costs



Sen. Carl Levin

Recently, the Senate Armed Services Committee, which I chair, completed a year-long investigation into the costs of maintaining our nation's overseas military presence. The investigation produced a bipartisan report that reaches some troubling conclusions.

I directed the review of our costs in Japan, South Korea and Germany. Together, those countries account for 70 percent of the roughly \$10 billion we spend each year on overseas bases – a figure that doesn't include personnel costs to pay and take care of our troops and their families. All three countries are also key U.S. allies. In order to better sustain our presence in these important locations, we need to understand and control our costs.

Our review found that contributions from our allies are failing to keep up

with rapidly rising costs, increasing the burden on U.S. taxpayers. At the same time, allied payments are increasingly coming as in-kind, rather than cash payments.

This shift to in-kind payments makes it harder to monitor how funds are used. In fact, our review found that, in many cases, in-kind payments are spent without proper oversight, congressional notification or approval. In some cases, in-kind payments are being used for projects that simply aren't necessary.

Cost increases and the use of funds on projects that aren't mission critical are unacceptable at a time when there is incredible pressure on the defense budget and the federal budget as a whole, and when cutbacks to bases in the U.S. are under debate.

Our review found that

South Korean contributions are not keeping pace with the growth in U.S. costs. While South Korea's estimated contribution grew by about \$42 million between 2008 and 2012, U.S. costs increased by more than \$500 million.

Japan's contributions also have not kept pace with U.S. costs. For example, at its peak in 1992, Japan's contribution to funding for infrastructure and facilities amounted to more than \$1 billion. That figure has fallen by 80 percent.

Our use of in-kind payments from South Korea and Germany is especially worrisome.

South Korea's contributions to a program that supports the construction of U.S. military facilities amounted to about \$339 million in 2012 alone – all of it in-kind. But projects built using these in-kind contributions are not reviewed at all by the Department of the Army and only undergo limited review at higher headquarters or at the Pentagon. Congress isn't even notified, let alone given a chance to review and

approve these projects. That lack of oversight increases the chance that funds will go to non-essential projects. In fact, our review found that plans for using in-kind contributions include a \$10.4 million museum.

In Germany, we receive in-kind payments as compensation for facilities that we turn over to the German government as we reduce our military presence there. We found millions of dollars of in-kind payments from Germany earmarked for projects that simply don't make sense. For example, \$200,000 was spent on sunroom additions for senior officer homes.

We also have to take a hard look at the cost of our future commitments.

In South Korea, the Army has proposed a public-private venture to build housing for military families that, if approved, would add hundreds of millions of dollars to our costs. Setting aside questions about the wisdom of bringing additional families in the region while

Levin, continued, page 14

## outdoors



gone fishin'

Dave Stegehuis

Fishermen talk about how many fish they caught, exaggerate the size of the fish, and have an excuse for the one that got away. That's understandable because the objective of going fishing would seem to be to catch fish. But the truth is that fishing is so much more.

Fishing requires traveling to different places. Water temperature, available food, spawning habits, and cover to hide in influence fish behavior.

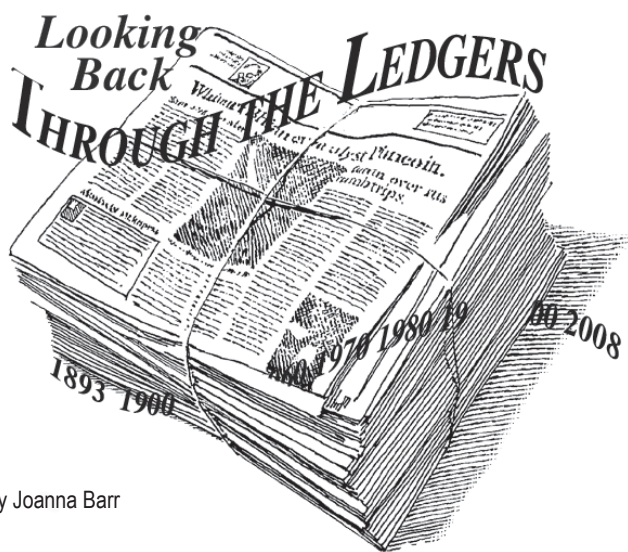
Some folks concentrate their efforts on one species while others try to do it all. A fisherman's travel destination is determined by the fish and not a glossy travel brochure. It could be on a river flowing through a large city for steelhead trout or on a quiet inland lake for bluegills. Salmon are caught using big boats with big tackle on the Great Lakes. Brook trout live in small cold remote streams and beaver ponds where the landscape is as beautiful as the fish itself.

When spending time in these unique places, it is common to meet interesting people. It is easy to strike up a conversation with strangers because most fishermen like to talk and are bonded by a common passion. A twelve month fishing circuit takes us all over the state and although

there is no attempt to stay in touch, we meet the same people in the same places a year later, and it seems like we never left. Aside from meeting interesting people, fishing presents the opportunity for new experiences and sometimes high adventure. Fishermen are at the whim of nature and not in control of their environment so must pay attention and always be prepared in order to stay safe and fish effectively.

All of these places, people, and experiences come together to make memories. Memories of the first big fish caught by a daughter or son or a special day on the lake with an old friend who has passed. Memories that will be shared over the years with acquaintances, friends, and family.

The late author, Michigan Supreme Court justice, and avid fly-fisherman from the U.P. John D. Voelker (pen name Robert Traver) wrote in his Testament of A Fisherman: "I fish because I love to; not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant—and not nearly so much fun." Good Fishing!



By Joanna Barr

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 17, 1913

Suit for \$6,000 damages was begun this morning by Attorney A. R. Locke for Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor of Saranac against three Lowell saloon keepers, James Davern, Fred Hosley and Frank Gould and the Michigan Bonding and Surety company. Mrs. Taylor is the widow of Benjamin Taylor who suffocated in the Lowell jail on April 1. This is the first of three suits which will be filed. The other two will be in behalf of Taylor's four-year-old daughter and his mother who are dependent upon him for support.

"Millinery" for men, is the latest threat against the peace and good name of the community. "Men" is a misnomer for any who will follow such a lead. Let us hope there will be no sissys in Lowell.

"Come on back home," will be Lowell's best word to former residents from now until August 6 and 7. The old town will have on its best bib and tucker and extend a royal welcome to all the old boys and girls at that time. Get out your calendars and diaries and in the August 6 and 7 blanks write "Lowell Home Coming for Me."

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 28, 1938

Swindler uses local firm names. A contemptible swindler operating in Grand Rapids recently successfully walked away with money and goods from several wholesale concerns there using the names of two local businessmen in his dirty work. This man, representing himself as associated with the L. A.

Looking Back, continued, page 14

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# area births

## Klahn



**Ava Jean Klahn**

Kevin and Andera Klahn, of Lowell, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Ava Jean Klahn. She was born February 18, 2013, weighing 6 lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 19 inches. Grandparents are

Wayne Sohlden of Kalamazoo and Kathy and David Hoseth of Lowell. Great-grandparents are Wayne Sohlden of Lapeer and John and Gail Doran of Belding.

# health



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

## cubital tunnel syndrome

Cubital tunnel syndrome is a condition like a more familiar problem called carpal tunnel syndrome. Cubital tunnel syndrome affects the ulnar nerve of

the arm and hand. This nerve supplies sensation and muscle control to the fourth and fifth fingers. Most people with this condition

experience numbness in these digits progressing to weakness if untreated. Pain and aching of the inner elbow and forearm are also common.

The ulnar nerve is the nerve that is hit when we "hit our funny bone." The nerve lies in a tunnel located at the bend of the elbow. At this specific point it is not very well protected and is prone to trauma. The nerve can be "trapped" in the tunnel by scarring or repetitive trauma. Many people rest their

elbows on a table or desk all day long. Others will sleep with their elbows bent fully flexed. These can irritate the nerve and cause problems.

Common treatments include NSAID's (like Motrin or ibuprofen) and certain elbow splints to prevent extreme flexion at the elbow. Physical therapy can also be helpful. Sometimes, surgery may be required. It typically involves releasing and repositioning the nerve away from the entrapment/offending region.

# Surprise donations for FROM

The Lowell Women's Club was honored to have Tamela Spicer, the executive director of the Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM), as their speaker in April. After her remarks, club members surprised Spicer with an outstanding collection of food items for the FROM Food Pantry.



Pictured from the left are Tamela Spicer, Barb Mulnix and Chris Parks with the food donation.

...  
**Any man who afflicts the human race with ideas must be prepared to see them misunderstood.**

- H. L. Mencken  
(1880 - 1956)

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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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# happy birthday!

### APRIL 24

Gary Goff, Trevor Foss, Nichole Hoag, Don Shaffer, Logan Propst.

### APRIL 28

Terese Brown, Timmy Vezino, Shawna Austin, Kattie Hildenbrand, Beth Weston.

### APRIL 26

Marsha Ray, Casey Brown, Bonnie Baird, Audrey Bailey, Jonathan Christiansen, Brad Brzezniak.

### APRIL 29

K.J. Vezino, Bryan Roth, Lucy Wade.

### APRIL 27

Janice Ryder, Dennis Pretzel, Debbie Burrows, Ashlyn Karp.

### APRIL 30

Carmen Roudabush, Stacey Irwin, Shawn Dulin, Nancy Leary.

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# 2013 Girls' Night Out "Bling in the Spring"

by Sharon Miller  
contributing reporter

The looming threat of record flooding didn't put a stop to spring 2013 Bling in the Spring Girls Night Out, but there were a handful of business owners that were forced to remain closed so they could take care of their flooded homes. A sign on

the door of Journeys Time Antiques read "No girls nite out here. Flooded at home."

Another damper on the party was the rainy, stormy weather. Springgrove Variety store owner, Mike Sprenger, thought the worst of the rain would hold off till after 9:00

pm because "it won't rain on Liz's parade," referring to Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce director, Liz Baker. And he was right.

There were a few scattered, light sprinkles here and there but the weather did hold out.

Jack Reedy of Rookies said, "If the turn out is real slow today due to weather I might close up early." Reedy, whose shop carries a selection of comics among other items, is already thinking ahead and preparing for annual Free Comic Book Day which will be held on May 4 this year.

Donna Quinlan of Heart to Heart Unique Jewelry normally sells her work at Lowell Floral but, for this event, she shared the space with Nancy DeBoer of Station Salon.

"I thought there might be more foot traffic for this event down on this end of town," said Quinlan.

DeBoer offered bling strands and jewels for the hair at Station Salon to fit the "bling" theme. The strands



Taylor Tannous, events manager (left), Courtney Logan (center) and Jody Herrmann (right) work at All Weather Seal, which has been in business for 32 years. The company will come to you with personalized service and give customers a quote.



This was Nancy DeBoer's first Girls Night Out as owner of Station Salon.

stay in the hair with keratin adhesives. "You can leave the strands on for awhile, and even wash your hair with them in," said DeBoer.

Jeana Schwacha of Nightforest had some exquisite items available, especially the vintage rings, which she loves to collect.

Schwacha's jewelry is sold in a space shared with Rita Reister of Flat River Cottage. Reister has been in business for about seven years. "People continue to buy old furniture. Even the younger people are buying antiques," said Reister when asked how the antique

business has held up during the challenging economic times. Kathleen Mooney, owner of Art Gallery 318 on Main Street, pitched in at Flat River Cottage for this event, helping with refreshments.

Sue Kingsley was celebrating her 50th birthday during Girls Night Out by shopping. "I'm having a good time. This is my second or third time to do Girls Night Out. Love it!" said Kingsley as she shopped at Asylum Antiques. Jo and Steve Johnson, Asylum Antiques owners, were kept busy with a steady flow of customers. They opened the doors to the antique store on February 1 of this year. Joanne Zwarenstejn also sells some items there including old buttons.

One wrinkle in the event was the questionable practice of serving alcoholic beverages without reliable monitoring and labeling of containers. At some establishments anyone, including minors, could easily access and drink alcohol. Several of the stores had someone specifically designated to attend and serve at refreshment tables and counters during the entire event but there were quite a few shops that did not have anyone watching to see how much alcoholic or other beverage was consumed or who was consuming it.

Participation was estimated at roughly 500 attendees. Baker stated, "Things were soft because of the weather. A few of our merchants chose to close and not participate due to issues they were having at home because of the weather. All in all we were happy with the turnout and the ladies that braved the weather. They truly enjoyed the hospitality of our great Lowell merchants."



Kelli Sprenger, daughter of owner Mike Sprenger, at Springgrove Variety was ready for the shoppers.



Journeys Time Antiques remained closed as the owners prepared their home for the record breaking flood in Lowell this spring. No doubt the rain and flooding affected the numbers for this event.



Umbrellas were needed off and on during the drizzly Girls Night Out event.

# 2013 Flood, continued

flood plain refers to an area that is flooded, on average, once every 100 or 500 years respectively.

Friday at 3 pm, the city declared a State of Emergency, allowing the city to suspend some normal activities and implement an emergency plan. They also extended their hours to 8 pm Friday and were open 8 am to 8 pm Saturday. The Lowell Police Department (LPD) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) had extra workers last weekend.

Because of the historic crest predictions, Lowell braced for the worst. Citizens placed sandbags around businesses, houses and roads. The DPW also placed cement barriers

around roads to stop water from running onto the street. The cement barriers were particularly important on Hudson Street because it was the only open way over the river in Lowell. The Showboat was even anchored with a cement barrier.

The DPW spearheaded the effort to make the sandbags. Volunteers began making sandbags Friday morning. Bags were picked up from as far as Benton Harbor. Perry Beachum also played a significant role in aiding and finding volunteers. He estimated 200 people came Friday night and another 100 Saturday morning. Originally the bags were made at the DPW

parking lot, but the large response caused them to move their efforts to Cherry Creek Elementary.

DPW ran out of their 25,000 sandbags at 10:30 am Saturday. They were available to businesses and homes affected by flooding. Volunteers also placed them around streets. After water receded on Main Street, the extra bags were brought down to Grand Rapids to be used.

The Red Cross set up a shelter at the First Baptist Church for those displaced from their homes Friday, but City manager Mark Howe said nobody used it. Instead, residents stayed in their houses or stayed with family and friends. There

were no forced evacuations, although certain areas in the city had recommended evacuations.

Saturday, the city shut down Main St. east of Hudson and advised only residents to drive through. The LPD requested via text message that "NO GAWKERS!" drive through

because it was dangerous and congested traffic.

Water had been predicted to hit a transformer near the library, causing the city to issue a preemptive power outage warning for residents east of the Flat River. Fortunately, the water did not crest that high and

power did not have to be shut off.

After reaching the 19.02 feet record level, the water began receding at a rate of about one foot every 24 hours, but this rate is subject to change based on rainfall later this week.

Continued, next page



Photo submitted by Perry Beachum



Photo submitted by Perry Beachum



Photo submitted by Kurt Hieshetter

The Lowell Showboat.



Photo submitted by Kurt Hieshetter



Photo submitted by Kurt Hieshetter

The Lowell Fairgrounds completely underwater.



Photo submitted by Jim Doyle

Nancy Roth delivering the mail "through rain or sleet."



# 2013 Flood, continued

The river is expected to return to normal water level early next week.

Howe estimated that 100 homes and 30 buildings were affected. Most damage was done to the basements of buildings where water sat for several days.

The city issued a statement Sunday morning saying, "Congratulations to every citizen, volunteer, public worker and anyone involved in responding and preparing for this event. We responded with courage and determination."

The city implemented their emergency preparedness plan to deal with the flooding. As of Monday, the city was assessing for damage. Howe said they are past the response phase and will bring their recovery phase early next week.

Basements will continue to be pumped until the end of this week. After that, insurance assessors will be busy.

Howe said every local organization came and helped in some way. "It would really be a disservice to name any one group in particular, because they all helped," he said. The community came together and lent a helping hand where needed. Due to the preparedness of the city,

significant damage was avoided.

FROM has taken the lead on recovery help, coordinating volunteers and those in need of help. "A lot of kudos goes out to FROM for stepping forward to help," said Howe.

As water continues to recede, the LPD will have extra officers on duty. They will continue to ticket those driving around barriers and blocked roads. The LPD also asks that people stay away from the water, as it is likely contaminated, has strong currents and is full of debris.

Police officers have already stopped at least three dozen kayakers, issued six citations for kayakers with no safety floatation device, and had two water rescues. The local news channels even covered one kayaker who got stuck and was rescued by the fire department. They've also given numerous tickets to those driving around barriers.

As the water recedes, the city will continue to look around and help those affected. The marquee Sunday read, "We are strong. We are a community. We are Lowell." Never has this been more true.



Photo submitted by Kurt Hieshetter



Photo submitted by Kurt Hieshetter



Photo submitted by Perry Beachum



Photo submitted by Kurt Hieshetter

Cherry Creek Kingdom.



Photo submitted by Kurt Hieshetter

The Huntington Bank parking lot.



Gilda's Club is an island of hope surrounded by the flooding.



Photo submitted by Kurt Hieshetter

# - TRACK Red Arrow SPORTS

## Red Arrow track teams split opener

by Karen Jack

The weather finally cooperated and allowed the track team to actually hold a contest last Tuesday against

Jenison in the conference opener. The boy's team won 67-66, and the girls lost 88-48.

In the boys meet, Lowell commanded the racing events, taking first place in the 4 x 800m relay,

110m hurdles, 1600m run, 400m dash, 300m hurdles, 800m run, 3200m run, and 4 x 400m relay. In the field events, Lowell took first in the long jump.

Top finishers in the events include Pierce Watson (15.90) in first, and Bryce Hrusovsky (17.30) in third for the 110m hurdles. Gabe Goreman (11.62) took third in the 100m dash. Sean Khodl (5:01:12) took first, Zac Diamond (5:12:40) took second, and Nick MacDonald (5:17:05) took third in the 1600m run. Jacob Khodl (53.4)

took first, and Toby Marks (54.93) took second in the 400m dash. Taking first in the 300m hurdles was Watson (43.61), while Liam Kelley (43.75) took second. Sean Khodl (2:06.9) placed first in the 800m run, and Goreman (23.97) placed second in the 200m dash. In the 3200m run, Diamond (11:11:18) took first and MacDonald (11:29:29) took second. Marks placed first in the long jump with a jump of 19'9 1/4".

The girls' top finishers were Brianna Higgins taking second in the 100m

dash (13.02) and the 200m dash (27.65). Alon Watson took second in the long jump with a 14'6" jump, and placed third in the 100m dash (13.25). Jessica Graves placed second in the 1600m run (5:54.5), and second in the 3200m. Rachel Walters placed first in the 400m dash (1:01:31), and Lauren DeHaan took third in the high jump (4'4"). Maddie Newman placed first in both the discus throw (93'10") and shot put (32'9 1/2").

The next track meet is the Talus Memorial Invitational at Lowell on Saturday. Meet time is 8:00 am.



Jacob Sprague leaps for the long jump.

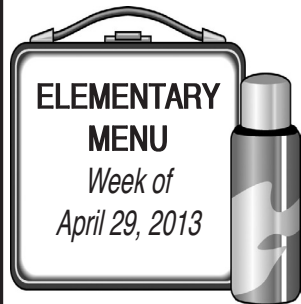


Louie Hart pole vaults.



Alon Watson waits her turn for the long jump.

### LUNCH MENU



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

**TUES:** Beef & cheese nacho, seasoned corn, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, baby carrots, chilled pineapples, applesauce.

**WED:** BBQ pork ribbie on WG bun (WG mini corn dogs offered at Bushnell), baked beans, fruit & veggie bar: fresh red pepper strips, fresh celery, mandarin oranges, fresh pear.

**THURS:** Scrambled eggs w/sausage & biscuit, warm baked apples, fruit & veggie bar: fresh broccoli florets, baby carrots, fresh orange smiles, chilled peaches.

**FRI:** Tony's pepperoni pizza, romain side salad, fruit & veggie bar: romaine side salad, baby carrots, applesauce, fresh pear.



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# Red Arrow - SOFTBALL SPORTS

## Softball team drops two in conference opener

by Karen Jack

In the first conference game of the season, the Red Arrow softball team lost a

double-header to Jenison last week.

In the first game,

the final score was 6-3. Top hitters were Beth Dean with two, Taylare Harris, Julie Smith, Grace Quiggle, Olivia Kauffman, and Kortney Beachler each with one hit. Pitcher Makela Chapman went seven innings, getting four strikeouts, and allowing seven hits.

The second game resulted in a final score of 8-4. Beachler was the starting pitcher, but was replaced by Chapman at the top of the third inning. Getting two hits each were Beachler, Dean, and Sarah Oesch. Harris, Kauffman, Shelby Antel, and Kelsey Mullin each got one hit. Mullin had an RBI as well. Harris and Oesch each got doubles in the game.

The next game is a double-header against Lee High School at Lowell. The first game starts at 4:30 pm.



Taylare Harris bunts the ball.



Makela Chapman winds up for the pitch.




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# obituaries

## GWATKIN

Mary Ann Gwatkin, age 92 of Lowell, passed away Monday, April 15, 2013. She was preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, Orloe. She is survived by son, John 'Orloe' Anthony Gwatkin and daughter Nancie Marie Gwatkin; grandchildren Heather (Shawn) Galinis and Christopher (Ashley Smith) Gwatkin; great-grandchildren Alec, Colten, Aiden, Riley and Khloe; brother Robert Emmet Collins; many nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held Friday, April 26, 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 402 Amity St. SE, Lowell, MI 49331. Interment St. Mary's Cemetery. Visitation will be 1 hour prior to the service at St. Mary's Church. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lowell Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, MI 49331.



## WINSLOW-SCOTT

Arlene Iva (Williams) Winslow-Scott, born January 13, 1928, went to meet her Lord and Saviour and to dance with the angels in heaven, April 17, 2013. She was preceded in death by husbands Clarence Don Winslow and Ray Scott; her two beloved angels Nancy Winslow and Tommy Winslow; along with her 2 sisters and 4 brothers. Survived by 3 sisters; 2 children Richard (Frankie) Winslow, Sharon (Hank) Kartes; 6 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell, MI. Pastor Allen Strouse and Royle Bailard presided. Interment Whitneyville Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Tulip Tree Fund, Hospice of Holland, 270 Hoover Blvd., Holland, Michigan 49423.



# Social Security Q & A

**Question:** I applied for a replacement Social Security card last week but have not received it. When should I expect to receive my new card?

**Answer:** It takes approximately 10 to 14 days to receive your replacement Social Security card. We're working harder than ever to protect you, prevent identity theft, and ensure the integrity of your Social Security number. To do that, we have to verify documents you present as proof of identity. In some cases, we must verify the documents before we can issue the card. For more information about your Social Security card and number, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber).

**Question:** What can I do if I think someone has stolen my identity?

**Answer:** You should do several things, including:

- File a report with the local police or the police department where the identity theft took place, and keep a copy of the police report as proof of the crime;
- Notify the Federal Trade Commission (1-877-ID-THEFT or 1-877-438-4338);
- File a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov); and
- Contact the fraud units of the three major credit reporting bureaus: Equifax (800-525-6285); Trans Union: (800-680-7289); and Experian: (888-397-3742).

If your Social Security card has been stolen, you can apply for a replacement card. You usually don't need a new card as long as you know your number.

To protect yourself in the future, treat your Social Security number as confidential and avoid giving it out. Keep your Social Security card in a safe place with your other important papers. Do not carry it with you. Learn more by reading our publication, *Identity Theft And Your Social Security Number*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10064.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10064.html).

**Question:** What can Social Security do to help me plan for retirement?

**Answer:** Social Security provides great financial planning tools that can help you make informed decisions. Visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) and open a *my Social Security* account to access your online *Social Security Statement*. The *Statement* lists your earnings and the Social Security taxes you paid over the years. It also estimates the Social Security benefits you (and dependent family members) may be eligible to receive.

The *Statement* can help you plan for your financial future.

Also, use Social Security's online retirement planner and our online *Retirement Estimator*. These will give you estimates of your future Social Security retirement benefits. They also provide important information on factors affecting retirement benefits, such as military service, household earnings, and federal employment. You can access our retirement planner at [www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2). Find the estimator at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator).

**Question:** How long must I work to become eligible for retirement benefits?

**Answer:** Most people need 40 Social Security "credits" to be eligible. You can earn up to four credits per year. In most cases, you need at least 10 years to be eligible for retirement. During your working years, you earn credits based on earnings. The amount of earnings needed to earn one credit rises as average earnings levels rise. In 2012 and 2013, you receive one credit for each \$1,160 of earnings, up to the maximum of four credits per year.

If you become disabled or die before age 62, the number of credits you need depends on your age at the time you become disabled or die. You must have a minimum of six credits, regardless of your age. Retire online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**Question:** I heard that my disability must be expected to last a year to qualify for Social Security disability benefits. Does this mean I have to wait until I've been disabled an entire year before applying for disability through Social Security?

**Answer:** No. If you believe your disability will last a year or longer, apply for disability benefits as soon as you become disabled. It can take an average of three to four months to process an application. If your application is approved, we will pay your first Social Security disability benefits for the sixth full month after the date your disability began. For example, if your state agency decides your disability began on January 15, we will pay your first disability benefit for the month of July. We pay in the month following the month for which they are due, so you will receive your July benefit in August.

For more information about Social Security disability benefits, refer to our publication, *Disability Benefits* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10029.html).

## NEAD

Roger Alan Nead, 45, passed away very unexpectedly April 16, 2013 at his home in Van Nuys, CA. Formerly from Lowell he graduated from Lowell High School in 1985. He is survived by his parents, Ron and Rose Nead; sister, Rhonda and Michael Timmers; niece, Haleigh Timmers; nephew, Ryan Timmers; and aunts, uncles, many cousins, and a lot of friends. He was much loved and will be missed. A memorial service is being planned at a later date.



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

# classifieds

## for sale

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

WEDDING INVITATIONS - We offer Carlson Craft wedding invitations! Stop by & check out a book today! Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. 897-9261.

HEAT YOUR ENTIRE HOME - domestic water & more with the Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace from Central Boiler. Spring Sale. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

WHIRLPOOL REFRIGERATOR - and gas range; GE Spacemaker microwave; all 5 years old, like new. 897-7548 or 616-308-8423.

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

PERSONALIZED GRADUATION OPEN HOUSE INVITATIONS - Stop in & let us help you design a one-of-a-kind open house invitation. Prices start at \$30 for full-color invitations w/envelopes. Quick turnaround. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261.

POTTED SPRUCE & PINE TREES - \$5 & up. Call 616-761-7588. [www.your-treelady.com](http://www.your-treelady.com)

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

BOB'S 16TH ANNUAL SPRING BIRDHOUSE SALE - Blue bird, wren & bat houses, wood duck nesting boxes, feeders. All cedar built to last. Great prices, Bob's Birdhouses, 12279 60th Street, Alto, 868-6633.

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. TFN

2003 ACURAMDX - \$7,550. Silver, black leather interior, navigation, heated seats, smart seat, sunroof, towing capacity, good tires, nice condition inside and out. 897-8369 or 443-1546.

JOHN DEERE 245 LAWN TRACTOR - 48" mower deck, spring maintenance done, \$1,300 obo. Call 897-8912.

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

## for sale

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555, fax 897-4809 or email to: [classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com), 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

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

SCRATCH PADS OF PAPER - \$1.50 per lb. Available at the Lowell Ledger office, 105 N. Broadway.

## help wanted

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

PRODUCTION EMPLOYEE - Steel processor is seeking individuals with good work ethic, able to read micrometer, work in multiple departments in an industrial setting. Health insurance, dental, 401(k). Apply in person at: Michigan Wire Tech, LLC, 149 S. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.

KENNEL ATTENDANT - Love dogs? Work hard? Mackenzie's Animal Sanctuary, a non-profit all breed dog sanctuary in Lake Odessa, needs an enthusiastic, versatile, team player for busy kennel. Details at [www.mackenzies.info](http://www.mackenzies.info)

DRIVERS - \$1,000 sign-on bonus! Get home weekly & weekends running dedicated account. Werner Enterprises 1-888-567-4857.

ANIMAL CARE GIVER - An opportunity for a hard working adult to gain a long term position caring for many small dogs at a large facility. Part-time evenings, involves some weekend hours. Experience not required. Must be able to pass drug test. Alto/Caledonia area. 616-437-0342 and send resume: [jenpet.resume@hotmail.com](mailto:jenpet.resume@hotmail.com)

COMMERCIAL CLEANING POSITION - Janitorial position available in the Cascade/Ada area. Part time, 12 hrs. per week. Reliable transportation and valid drivers license required. We offer competitive wages. Stop in soon and fill out an application: Metropolitan Building Maintenance, 868 Barnum SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49509.

## for rent

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. In the sale or rental of housing or residential lots; in the advertising the sale or rental of housing, in the financing of housing, in the provision of real estate brokerage services and in the appraisal of housing. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

**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](http://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

## sales

GARAGE SALE - 3535 Bewell, April 26 & 27, 9-5 p.m. Toys, housewares, men's, women's, teens & kid's clothes, TV's & much more.

ESTATE SALE - April 26 & 27, 9 to 4, 14200 Four Mile Rd. NE, Lowell. Something for everyone. Furniture, tools, appliances, garden tractor, dolls, Barbie dolls, antiques, etc.

NICE SALE - sectional couch, household, clothes, car seats, movies, bakeware, & much, much more. Thurs., 4/25 & Fri., 4/26, 9 to 6, 213 Jane Ellen Dr, off Valley Vista (Riteaid), follow signs.

TOTS SPRING PRESCHOOL ALMOST NEW SALE - April 27, 2013, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cherry Creek Elementary, 12675 Foreman, Lowell. FREE to shop! FREE to sell! To reserve a spot, call Lori at TOTS 987-2532.

800 ROLLING CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD SALE - Off Grindle. Bikes, trampolines, bunk bed, artwork, designer clothes & inspired purses, twin girl clothes 3t-4t, all size clothes for boys & girls up to 14 year olds, and women sizes up to size 12. April 25 & 26, 9 to 6.

2nd BEST SALE - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 10305 Bluewater Hwy., Lowell. Friday, April 26, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Conifer trees, household items, gently used clothing: infant - adult. Something for everyone!

## wanted

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

LOOKING FOR CONSIGNORS - DIVINE CONSIGNMENTS - Coming soon to Lowell! Divine Consignments, a unique boutique! Home decor, vintage goods, art, 217 W. Main St., Lowell. CONSIGNORS NEEDED! Contact us at [Divineconsignments.com](http://Divineconsignments.com), 616-490-8733.

## misc.

INTERESTED IN GARDENING? - We can teach you! Do you want customized gardening services? We can make your garden beautiful for you. Call Cheryl Tolley 616-691-8214 for more information or a free estimate.

PAINTING BUTTERFLIES - Watercolor class (step by step). Learn masking technique, May 3, 1-4 p.m., Lowell Arts! Supplies provided, \$30. Must call Cathy Dykstra at 616-292-4122 or email: [cathydykstra@comcast.net](mailto:cathydykstra@comcast.net)

ALLEGAN ANTIQUE MARKET - Sunday, April 28. 400 exhibitors. Rain or shine. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., located at the Fairgrounds, right in Allegan, Michigan. \$4 admission. No pets.

## services

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

TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686. TFN

DISCOVER CARPET CLEANING - \$20 a room. We use only the best truck mounted machines. 6 years experience. IICRC certified. 616-745-9677.

FREE APPLIANCE REMOVAL! - Want it out today? Call J&J! We remove all household appliances, lawn mowers, car, batteries, etc., any metal. 616-719-9742.

THOUGHTFUL THREADS - Clothing alterations and tailoring available. Specializing in formal and special occasion clothing. Like Thoughtful Threads on facebook. Ph. 987-4402.

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105 N. Broadway, Lowell. Phone 897-9261 Fax 897-4809 [www.yournews.com](http://www.yournews.com) There is a Drop Box in the Door Closest to the Post Office if you need to drop something off to us after hours.

Sound Off Phone Line 897-0787

## services

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.

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

BASEMENT WATER-PROOFING - Professional Basement Services waterproofing, crack repair, mold remediation. Local/licensed. Free estimates. 517-290-5556.

DECKS POWERWASHED & SEALED - Houses powerwashed. Quality workmanship! Reasonable rates! Free estimates. 616-577-1072 or 616-755-0683.

## NEED A DUMPSTER?

- 14 to 20 yards available. Garage, attic, household cleanup, roofing, trash, junk etc. Dependable service & affordable prices. Call for free estimates. Contact Doug 616-295-6640. TFN

COMPUTER SALES & REPAIR - Telephone sales & repair. Home or small businesses. Call 616-446-0240, ask for Jim.

# 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](mailto:classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com), by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

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.

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.

LOWELL ARTS! GALLERY HOURS - Mon.-Fri., 10-6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; 149 S. Hudson. Visit [www.lowellarts.org](http://www.lowellarts.org) or call 897-8545.

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.

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.

LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS - (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues. & Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 p.m. & 8-9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m. The first step is always the hardest. If your life has become unmanageable due to alcohol, please join us at 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

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.

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](mailto:missykooistra@gmail.com) with any questions.

ORIGAMI - Each Tuesday, 2-3 p.m. Learn the ancient art of paper folding. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

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.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK - Amnesty on fines up to \$10 per person or \$20 per family. Replace lost or stolen card for free at Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

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.

# Levin, continued

North Korea continues its belligerence, the plan is simply not affordable.

The Defense Department is also planning a series of troop movements in the Asia-Pacific region. We found that rough estimates provided for some items in the plan are highly speculative and do

not account for potentially significant additional costs. Congress already has barred most spending on these projects until the Pentagon produces more detailed and useful estimates, and our review found no reason to set aside those conditions.

The military should always be careful with

taxpayer dollars. There is never a good time for large construction projects to go forward with little or no oversight. But at a time when the military, and the entire federal government, are facing significant budget cuts, cuts that will damage our national security and important

domestic programs, the current situation is simply not acceptable. I'm working with my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee to develop reforms that will increase oversight and help ensure that we only spend money on projects we really need.

# Social Security Q & A, continued

**Question:** I am on disability. I would really like to try to work again. I understand Social Security's *Ticket to Work* might let me try working without jeopardizing my benefits. What can you tell me about it?

**Answer:** *Ticket to Work* is a voluntary program offering disabled beneficiaries a variety of services such as vocational rehabilitation, training, and job referrals. *Ticket to Work* can help you get the support and services you need to help you achieve your employment goals. For more information, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/work](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work) or call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Work Incentives make it possible for you to explore work while still receiving health care and cash benefits designed to give you a safety net:

- You can keep your Medicaid/Medicare while you work;
- You can select part-time or work-from-home alternatives to help you reach your goal of financial independence; and
- You can try work with confidence, knowing your benefits continue during your transition period.

**Question:** What is the difference between Social Security disability and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability?

**Answer:** Social Security administers two major programs that pay disability benefits. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) payments are based on your work and earnings, while SSI disability payments are based on financial need. Both disability programs require that you have a severe medical impairment or combination of impairments that prevents you from working for at least a year or is expected to result in death.

Social Security taxes are paid by workers, employers, and self-employed persons. These taxes fund disability benefits under SSDI. To be eligible for a Social Security benefit, you must earn enough credits to be insured. We pay disability benefits to blind or disabled workers, widow(er)s, or adults disabled since childhood who are otherwise eligible. We base monthly disability benefits on the Social Security earnings record of the insured worker.

SSI is a program financed through general revenues, not Social Security taxes. We pay SSI disability benefits to adults or children who are disabled or blind, have limited income and resources, meet the living arrangement requirements, and are otherwise eligible. For more information, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**Question:** Are Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits taxable?

**Answer:** No, SSI payments are not subject to federal taxes. We will not send you an annual form SSA-1099 to report your benefits to the Internal Revenue Service. However, Social Security beneficiaries may have to pay income tax. If so, you may ask Social Security to withhold your federal taxes from your Social Security benefit payments. For more information, visit our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**Question:** How many parts to Medicare are there?

**Answer:** There are four parts to Medicare:

- Part A (hospital insurance) helps pay for inpatient hospital care, skilled nursing care, hospice care and other services;
- Part B (medical insurance) helps pay for doctors' fees, outpatient hospital visits, and other medical services and supplies that are not covered by Part A;

• Part C (Medicare Advantage) plans, available in some areas, allow you to choose to receive all of your health care services through a provider organization. These plans may help lower your costs of receiving medical services, or you may get extra benefits for an additional monthly fee. You must have both Parts A and B to enroll in Part C; and

• Part D (prescription drug coverage) is voluntary and the costs are paid for by the monthly premiums of enrollees and Medicare. Unlike Part B in which you are automatically enrolled and must opt out if you do not want it, with Part D you have to opt in by filling out a form and enrolling in an approved plan.

More information may be found in our publication *Medicare* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html) or by visiting [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

# Looking Back, continued

Weaver meat market here, called at the Grand Rapids office of Swift & Co. and ordered 42 pounds of choice sirloin of beef billed to Mr. Weaver, saying that it was wanted for a banquet. Along about the same time, it is believed the same person, entered the Michigan Bakery in Grand Rapids one evening and told the bookkeeper he was Robert Hahn of Lowell and that he wanted bus fare home. As Mr. Hahn was a customer there the bookkeeper believed the story and gave the stranger some money. Another time this same person, it is believed, worked the same story at the Herrod Co. office. This time, however, he was known to be falsely representing himself but not until after he had received the money and departed. After an interval of some time he again appeared at the Herrod plant and accosted the order man in the packing room. This workman recognized the stranger and stalled long enough to call the police. However, the swindler became frightened and bolted for a rear door.

## 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 25, 1963

Headline: Prankster plagues country school. By the looks of things, somebody's got a grudge against Alton School. Mrs. Peggy Rose, teacher at the country school in Vergennes Township said the school has been broken into three times in the last week. The first time, the prankster turned off the heat in the building. On the next entry, all the lights in the school were turned on and left burning all night. On Monday, Mrs. Rose and the students arrived at the school and found a large and not exceptionally fresh fish lying on the floor. The State Police from Rockford are investigating the incidents and will be patrolling the area.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 27, 1988

A changing of the guard (high school secretary) has taken place at the Lowell High School office. On April 11, for the first time in 24 years, someone other than Mary Ann Ayres is serving under that title. Lori Van Zandbergen, a 1981 Jenison High School graduate, who also attended Grand Valley State University, enjoys the fast paced, 100 things at once-type atmosphere at Lowell High School. Van Zandbergen's previous job at Western Life Insurance for the past two years was a complete reversal. "Work at the insurance company was slow and relaxing. I prefer the faster pace," Van Zandbergen said. She adds that she always wanted to work in a school system and when the Lowell position opened, she felt it was the ideal situation. Ayres, who first answered the LHS phone in 1963, will use retirement to do some traveling with her husband, Junior Ayres.

...  
**Take care of the luxuries and the necessities will take care of themselves.**

~ Dorothy Parker



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**THEME:  
SAYS WHO?**

**ACROSS**

1. The final frontier?
6. It's between generations
9. Seconds, as in food
13. Man-made stone pile
14. A try
15. Locomotive hair
16. Assistants
17. Big Island necklace
18. Twig of a willow tree
19. "Oh, the places you'll go!"
21. "A house divided against itself cannot stand."
23. Pod dweller
24. Continental currency
25. Male child
28. Bohemian, e.g.
30. Knapsack for a soldier
35. Extraterrestrials' rides
37. Show horse type
39. "Downton Abbey," e.g.
40. Capital of Latvia
41. Interior designer's focus
43. Newton, e.g.
44. "Life was a funny thing that happened to me on the way to the grave."
46. Sign of a saint
47. U2 guitarist
48. TV variety show classic
50. Shining armor
52. Morse code signal
53. A car usually has one to spare
55. Type of dance

**CROSSWORD**

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69						70				71				
72						73				74				



**APRIL 17 - APRIL 23**

- The manhunt for the Boston Marathon bombers has ended with Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, dead and his younger brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19, seriously wounded in the hospital and charged with setting off a weapon of mass destruction. The brothers were both ethnic Chechens from Russia. The younger brother was a citizen. Dzhokhar could receive the death penalty. It remains unknown whether they planned more bombing.
- Huge areas of flooding blanket the midwest. The rain finally let up at the beginning of the week for W. Michigan.
- In the town of West, Texas, a fertilizer plant exploded leveling much of the town and killing several people. A least 14 were killed and over 200 injured. The plant had not been inspected for some years.
- New York City may make it unlawful to buy cigarettes if you are under 21. If this passes it would make NYC the most populous place in America to set the minimum age that high.
- Folksinger Richie Havens has died of a heart attack at the age of 72.

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57. Don't dwell on it
61. "And yet it moves"
65. Muse of love poetry
66. Bubble source?
68. Eye opener
69. Colorado skiing destination
70. American chant
71. Viking, in the kitchen

72. Regard
73. Even, to a poet
74. Klondike river

**DOWN**

1. A large number or amount
2. Batman and Robin, e.g.
3. Gives a hand
4. Do like ivy
5. Comes next
6. "Buffalo \_\_\_\_, won't you come out tonight..."
7. To go gray?
8. WWI French soldier
9. Catchall abbr.
10. Assortment
11. Cambodian money
12. "\_\_\_\_ your keep"
15. Cone shape
20. Tossed starter
22. Rub the wrong way
24. One moved from a dangerous place
25. "You rang?"
26. FlambÉ
27. Motherless calf in a herd

29. Equal to side squared for a square
31. T on some tests
32. Wedding \_\_\_\_, pl.
33. Spanish friend
34. "Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one."
36. Around a window
38. "I wanted to win, even in practice."
42. Indian restaurant yogurt staple
45. "America loves a winner and will not tolerate a loser."
49. Head cover
51. Pay or earnings
54. Scoundrel
56. Pilaff, to some
57. Old paint hazard
58. Gaelic
59. VHS, e.g.
60. A distinct part
61. F.B.I. operative
62. Long and thin
63. "Cogito \_\_ sum"
64. A sign
67. Consume

*Puzzle Solutions for this week are on page 12*

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# The Tri-River Historical Museum Network presents: Spring Into the Past

Tour some of West Michigan's finest small museums as they celebrate the 11th anniversary of this event. The Tri-River Historical Museum Network is planning its annual museum tour Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5 from 11 am to 5 pm each day.

The Tri-River Historical Museum Network of 25 area historical societies provides a support group for these small museums and hosts the annual "Spring Into the Past" tour as a promotional event to raise awareness and generate interest in these small treasures. Admission is free.

Located in quaint depots, churches, town halls, store buildings or houses, each of the museums is unique and you will find something different in each one. The museums are always changing as new displays or acquisitions make each visit a new experience. All will greet you warmly and welcome you into their world of past treasures and local history.

Besides displaying their local history, most of the museums also have ancestral archives where you can search your family history. There is something for everyone. Old and young will enjoy exploring and learning about the past and what it was like for their ancestors

**Tri-River Members participating in Spring Into the Past include:**

Alton Historic Church Museum – in an old church, north of Lowell

Ada's Averill Historical Museum – house and barn

Belding Museum & "The Bel" – in Belrockton Silk Mill Dormitory

Boston/Saranac Historical Society – a depot museum in Saranac

Bowne Township – museum, carriage house, school – near Alto

Cascade Historical Museum – in old township hall

Cedar Springs Museum – in Morley Park, local artifacts and research

Charlton Park Historical Village – a 300 acre complex with museum, reconstructed village and recreation area near Hastings

Clarksville/Campbell Historical Society – has no museum as yet



The Lowell Historical Museum is one of the museums featured on the tour.

Fallasburg Historical Village – near covered bridge, north of Lowell

Fighting Falcon Military Museum – with restored glider, in Greenville

Flat River Historical Museum – with Danish charm - in Greenville

Freeport Historical Society – located in the old Masonic Temple

Grattan Township Historical Society – in 1853 structure west of Belding

Ionia's Blanchard House and Museum – in a stately Victorian Mansion

Ionia Free Fair Antique Village – exhibits only in July during Ionia Free Fair

Lake Odessa Historical Society Depot Museum – displays, archives

Lowell Area Historical Museum – in old home with Victorian flair

Lyons/Muir Historical Museum in Lyons – newly redone in old store

Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Museum in Podunk – west of Greenville

Old Fence Rider Historical Center in Edmore – barbed wire and more!

Pine Forest Historical Museum – variety in an old Edmore church

Plainfield Charter Township's Hyser Rivers Museum – NE Grand Rapids

Rockford Area Museum – opening in new location later this summer

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## New flagpoles at Creekside Park

It's time for Lowell Little League to "play ball" at Creekside Kingdom Park. The new flagpoles were donated by the City of Kentwood Parks and Recreation Department.

rain and flooding opening day has been moved to this Saturday, April 27. This season over 500 boys and girls, ages 4 - 16, will be playing baseball and softball.

With all the recent



Parents and players have their equipment and are ready and waiting to play ball at Creekside Kingdom. At right, players that helped install the new flagpoles.