

community day

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The Kent County fair is officially open for fun

by Will Greenberg
contributing reporter

The Kent County Youth Fair (KCYF) is finally here as exhibitors are competing for ribbons and fair goers come for fun.

The fair started off Sunday evening with the official opening ceremony, royal court coronation and dedication of the memorial play structure.

Monday had most of the horse showing events along with goat and rabbit judging and swine showmanship. The exhibitors of all age groups could be seen either in the barns or tents with

their animals, reviewing showmanship with parents or coaches or else strolling around the fair and observing the wide variety of entries.

Natalie O'Connell is 13 and competing in novice advanced in horses. Despite being her first year at the fair, O'Connell took third in showmanship and has more competitions to come this week.

"It's been fun so far but I think I'm going to get a little bit nervous when there are days when I have a lot of classes," O'Connell said.

Being a newcomer to the KCYF can be extremely intimidating given the high level of competition and deep family roots in the fair.

The Nugent family from Clarksville has been coming to the KCYF for generations, said Tom Nugent, father of Connor Nugent who is competing in cows this year. Nugent said that from his family farm alone there are 33 animals: combination dairy cows and steers, competing in this year's fair.

Fair, cont'd.,
page 3



Natalie O'Connell pets her horse after taking 3rd place for showmanship on Monday.



Connor Nugent proudly stands with his cow "Godzilla," who weighed in at 1,695 pounds, Nugent said.

Crowley named new athletic director

by Karen Jack

Although she'll be a new face at all Lowell athletic events, her face isn't new to Lowell Area Schools. But Dee Crowley is going to be playing a dual role this year and many years to come – both as high school assistant principal and the new Lowell Area Schools' athletic director.

Crowley has been a part of Lowell schools for 15 years, starting as a teacher at the high school, teaching all the business classes. She was then named assistant

principal of juniors and seniors in 2010.

Crowley cont'd.,
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Dee Crowley

City council discusses BP station expansion, police chief Getzen announces fall retirement

by Will Greenberg
contributing reporter

Monday nights' city council meeting saw two major developments with another checklist item for the BP gas station's expansion project crossed off and an announcement from chief of police Barry Getzen of his plan to retire.

The BP gas station on the corner of Main and Hudson streets got approval for the six variances requested to allow for the expansion of the station into a 3,000 square foot gas station and 680 square foot car wash. The request was originally submitted by Dalane Vandenberg

of Beacon Blvd Corp to approve variances on the setback requirements, the additional driveway along M-21 and the spacing between the drives.

John Tenpas, engineer hired by Beacon to design the expansion, said that without the variances the station could not be built. Currently, according to city manager Mark Howe, the station already does not meet all the code requirements for setbacks and other areas. Howe and councilmembers reasoned that since the new expansion would actually be an improvement to meeting those requirements that even

with the new variances it would be a better situation. Councilmember Jim Hall said the new plan is a "significant improvement."

The request was approved in a 5-0 vote.

In one of the concluding statements of the meeting, Lowell chief of police Getzen announced that he intends to retire from the force in November of this year.

Getzen has been the Lowell chief of police since 2011 and was with the Michigan State Police before that.

Getzen actually retired from the state police in 2010

but came out of retirement with the caveat of "as long as I'm having fun."

Getzen said he has enjoyed his time with the Lowell Police Department and said that despite working in a small town he took on extra responsibilities as chief.

"It's a full-time job. It's not a part-time, retirement job where you can devote a few hours here and a few hours there," Getzen said. "It's been a very busy position."

His decision to retire was in part because he hopes to travel abroad with

his wife to Europe and the southern United States. Getzen said that as chief he didn't have enough time to enjoy his hiking and sailing hobbies as well and is looking forward to enjoying them fully.

Because the police department is in a logistical period of transition, Getzen said he is staying on until November to help finish those projects.

City manager Mark Howe said the city will be taking applications until mid-September and then hope to have a new chief selected by early November.

Changes designed to avoid confusion at livestock auction

by Will Greenberg
contributing reporter

As usual, the fair will feature the livestock auction on the Thursday of fair week. This year, however, the auction has been reorganized into sections

to avoid the confusion it's dealt with in the past.

The auction will have two different times for the sale of small animal champions and large animal champions and then two

more times for the small and large non-champions.

Fair director Jessica Marks said the goal was to make sure buyers knew when exactly the champions were being sold. The 12 grand animals will come with a banner to indicate they were champions and the first sale money goes to the exhibiter, Marks said.

"We're just trying to showcase those people who are buying the grand animals," Marks said.

If the buyer re-sells the animal, that money then goes to Kent County Youth Fair (KCYF) unless it is an FFA animal, Marks said. Marks said that last year the fair was able to bring in around \$3,000 for KCYF.

Marks explained the requirements for an exhibiter to sell their animal; the animal must make weight for its species, the exhibiter must take showmanship class and turn in a record book.

Following the auction there will be the usual

buyer's dinner, Marks said. This year the food is donated by Pinckney Hill.

The first auction, the general sale of small animals, will be at 2 pm; followed by the small animal champions at 3:15 pm; the general large animals at 4 pm and large animal champions at 6 pm.

Crowley, continued

Crowley is no stranger to sports. She started as an athlete herself playing basketball and softball in high school for Lakewood High School. She competed against Lowell back then and was named all-conference. She then went on to coach Lakewood's middle school and freshman basketball teams 25 years ago.

In Lowell, she was the girls' basketball coach for seven years. During her tenure the team won the OK White conference title six of those seven years, with four titles in a row at one point. Her team also won the district championship twice and made it to the state semifinals in 2006.

"I look forward to working with the coaches, parents and athletes in continuing in making Lowell athletes the best they can be, both in athletics and academics," she said. "This is a great community and I look forward to encouraging good sportsmanship, the importance of academics as an athlete and just being part of the Lowell athletic tradition."

Crowley lives in Lowell with Dale, her husband of 30 years. They have three daughters, two of which graduated from Lowell High School.



along main street

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Great Lakes Photo LLC will present photography enthusiasts of any experience level and nature lovers the opportunity to learn more about photography and the great value in the preservation of natural habitat. Participants will meet at the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center on Tues., Aug. 13, from 10 am to 3 pm for a brief introduction before beginning a two-hour informative instruction and discussion session. After lunch, participants will head out into the field to photograph nature while instructors offer general assistance, tips and suggestions on how to take better nature photographs. To register or for more information, visit www.greatlakesphototours.com

GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

Woodcarving, Tues., Aug. 20, 3-4 pm. Learn how to make easy and beautiful wood carvings with Doug Shassberger. Beginners are welcome and supplies are provided. **Book Club**, Tues., Aug. 20, 4:30-5:30 pm. Join Kathy Mieras for a relaxing and cozy book club. This month's read is "The Amish Midwife" by Mindy Starns Clark. Pick up your book to borrow at the parlor desk. **An Evening of Gratitude**, Tues., Aug. 20, 6-7:15 pm. Join us following supper as we take time to give thanks to our program volunteers for all their gifted time and support of Gilda's Club Lowell. **Drumming Circle**, Tues., Aug. 27, 3:30-4:30 pm. We welcome the ladies hand drum group of Native American drum singers "Summer Cloud Singers" for a special afternoon performance. **Card Making Workshop**, Tues., Aug. 27, 4:30-5:30 pm. Kim Taylor invites Lowell members to join her for a creative card making workshop. Supplies will be provided. Please register in advance. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

HIGH SCHOOL FALL SPORTS

Try-outs and practices for the fall high school sports' teams begin on Wed., Aug. 14 (Aug. 12 for football and fall cheerleading). Athletic physicals must be turned in to the high school athletic office before the first day of practice in order to be eligible to participate. They must be dated after April 15, 2013, to be good for the 2013-14 school year. Contact the athletic office at 987-2907 with questions.

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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Correction:

In our Behind the Scenes feature, (Ledger 7-31-2013) Bruce Doll was reported to have gone to Oral Roberts University when he actually attended New York Institute of Technology.



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Fair, continued

There's an entire half of a cow barn filled with Nugent cows.

Connor's cow, "Godzilla," lives up to its name, weighing in at 1,695 lbs., Connor said. Upon seeing the animal, Connor's fellow exhibitor Weston Hurley said, "Holy crap, it's huge!" While Connor

said he was happy with his animal, he hasn't done as well as he would have hoped at showmanship since he is competing within his own family.

"We're against all our cousins," Connor said. "It's usually first, second [and] third [place] are Nugents."

Sue Clay, a 4H leader of the all-girl group the "Ridge Riders," was also part of a very successful group. On Monday, two-thirds of the "Riders" group qualified in grand and reserves showmanship and two took first place, Clay said.

Despite the success of

the group, Clay admitted that the girls were dealing with some internal disputes from working and being together so much. However, Clay said that it often comes with the territory and offers one of many lessons found when preparing for and competing in a fair.

"You learn how to get along and how to be more responsible," Clay said. "It all goes back to that philosophy of everybody helping each other out in a cooperative environment."

Beyond the animals, the fair, of course, also offered a range of other entertainment

on Monday with the Youth Talent Show and Antique Tractor Pull. Food stands were open for business as well, while rides opened at their latest time of the week, 5 pm. More events and competitions are to come in this busy fair week.

Lowell resident appointed Rotary district governor

Rotary International exists to encourage and foster the ideal of service in individual lives, in business, in communities and throughout the world. The motto, *Service Above Self*, reminds more than 1.2 million Rotarians around the world that they can make a difference locally, regionally and internationally. With 34,400 clubs worldwide, Rotary International relies on a network of leaders to help manage the various service projects designed

to combat hunger, improve health and sanitation, provide education and job training, promote peace and eradicate polio.

One pivotal leadership position in the Rotary network is district governor. The 534 district governors across the globe each serve one year, overseeing clubs in their area. As part of district 6290, the Rotary club of Lowell welcomed one of its own as district governor at a celebration luncheon held at Grand Volute's banquet

center on July 10. This is the second time in the 78-year history of the Lowell Rotary club that it has been home to a district governor.

Jim White, who retired from the Lowell school district in 2003, has been an active member of the Lowell club for ten years. "It's a way to give back," said White. He has seen the impact of Rotary first hand, working on service projects in the greater Lowell community as well as in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Whether it's helping to fund literacy programs here in the Lowell community, feeding children at a school in the Dominican Republic or providing clean water to a family in Haiti with a water filter, for White, Rotary is about saving the world, one life at a time.

White admits that his own life has been changed by Rotary. Recounting his 2012 trip to Haiti where the Lowell Rotary club installed water filters in 65 homes on the island of La Gonave, he marvels at the willingness of a family "to give up two square feet of space for a water filter they know can save their child's life."

As district governor, White will have the opportunity to engage others in changing lives. As the official district representative, he will help local clubs connect to Rotary International, leveraging resources and connections to support the 61 clubs in district 6290. It's a role that began two years ago and will continue for two more years after White's year as district governor ends. To

help local clubs succeed, Rotary International invests two years into training a district governor prior to their year of service. "When my term is over I will serve two years as past governor, heading up committees and helping to train future leaders," White said.

"It really takes two people," said wife Bobbie who has been by White's side throughout his training. Rotary spouses have several opportunities for training to support their loved ones in leadership roles. For Bobbie it has been a hectic, yet enjoyable experience as they have traveled throughout the district and throughout the world, recently attending the Rotary International conference in Lisbon, Portugal. "Our Rotary family has expanded by leaps and bounds," Bobbie said.

In the coming year White's travel will be limited to the 61 clubs in his district, which encompasses western Michigan through the Upper Peninsula and includes four clubs in Canada. He is charged with visiting each club at least once in his 52 weeks as district governor. Bobbie and Jim agree that every experience offers something new and both are ready to embrace this year serving Rotary.

While it means time apart, Bobbie has found inspiration in her husband's service and has pledged to join his home club of Lowell before his term as district governor ends in June 2014. You can be part of saving the world by joining the Rotary club of Lowell, which meets every Wednesday from noon to 1:30 pm in the city hall chamber room.

Grattan woman arrested on larceny charges

On Tuesday, July 23, Tracy Gaye Mata, 48, of Grattan Township, was arrested by the Lowell Police Department for one count each of larceny in a building and larceny from the person.

She was lodged in the Kent County jail and arraigned before Judge Sara J. Smolenski in the 63rd District Court on Wednesday, July 24. Mata's next court appearance will be a preliminary examination on Aug. 7 at 2:30 pm.

Mata is alleged to have acted as a volunteer caregiver to a 91-year-old Lowell woman for the purpose of stealing money and other valuables from the woman.

During the course of the last 18 months it is alleged

that Mata stole several thousands of dollars from the Lowell woman. Much of the money was stolen from the victim's purse in her home.

Larceny in a building is a felony punishable by up to four years in state prison and/or a \$5,000 fine. Larceny from the person is a felony punishable by up to 10 years in state prison.



Gaye Mata

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bee stings

Most of us have been stung by a bee at one time or another during our lives. Most people will have a local reaction immediately after being stung. This consists of a sharp burning pain at the site, followed by localized swelling and redness that improves

within a few hours. About 10 percent of people will experience a large local reaction at the sting site; more swelling and redness will develop over a couple of days and then slowly resolve over five to ten days.

Treat local reaction to a sting by applying a cold compress directly to the site. Take an over-the-counter antihistamine, like Benedryl or Zyrtec to relieve itching. Take ibuprofen to help relieve pain.

Some people have severe allergic reactions to bee stings called anaphylaxis. Symptoms of severe allergic reactions include hives or swelling that is generalized or away from the area that was stung. Abnormal cramping, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea can also occur. Respiratory symptoms include hoarseness, wheezing, difficulty breathing and shortness of breath. Other symptoms of anaphylaxis are lightheadedness, dizziness, rapid heart rate and passing out.


If you experience symptoms of a severe allergic reaction to a bee sting get medical help right away. Call 911 and do not attempt to drive yourself to the emergency room or doctor's office as complications can occur on the way. Treatment can be started as soon as an ambulance arrives. A shot of epinephrine is the most important treatment for severe allergic reactions.

Patients with a known history of bee sting anaphylaxis reaction should carry an epinephrine auto injector with them at all times. If you have this type of allergy you should be seen by an allergist for testing and immunotherapy to reduce your chances of a life-threatening reaction in the future.

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CITY OF LOWELL
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND IN ITS ENTIRETY CHAPTER 20, "SIGNS," OF APPENDIX A, "ZONING," OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL
The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 13-03 amending in its entirety Chapter 20, "Signs," of Appendix A, "Zoning," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell on August 5, 2013. Ordinance No. 13-03 regulates the use, location, size and type of signs within the City and its zoning districts. A copy of Ordinance No. 13-03 is available for inspection at City Hall, 301 East Main Street in the City during regular business hours of the City.
Ordinance No. 13-03 is effective 10 days after this publication.
Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk



SAVE OUR CITY!
Are you saddened with the lack of openness in our city government? Upset with a 1% property tax hike without a vote of the people? Troubled by the fact that our citizens were lied to by our current city administration? Alarmed by comments made by Ionia County residents warning us about one of our leaders? Well so are we. The members of VOICE invite you to a public meeting Tuesday, August 20, 2013, 6:30 pm at the Englehardt Library to discuss the recent revelations of our current city manager, Mark Howe.
A recent "letter to the editor" in the Lowell Ledger exposed some concerning characteristics about Mark Howe so to find out more we have invited Barbara Trierweller, who served as the former Ionia County Clerk for 16 years, to speak at this public meeting along with others from our community. This meeting will provide the public an opportunity to learn more about Mark Howe, allow for an open Q&A and much more. We will also have city workers present to answer questions regarding current contract negotiations.
Lastly, we would like to extend a special invitation to all city council members and city administration. Please come and join the conversation!

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viewpoint

to the editor

Dear Editor,

In regard to filing grievances between the city of Lowell workers of the D.P.W. and the city of Lowell.

The residents of Lowell should attend a town hall meeting to hear what is being said in its entirety.

I have read the proposed contract between the city workers and the city manager; all grievances from the D.P.W. workers go to the city manager in which he has the final say.

Therefore if a grievance is made toward the city manager it cannot be resolved and the grievance cannot be handled properly and justly. I have also read the collective bargaining between the city of Lowell and the Michigan order of police council. The police of Lowell have further steps they can take after presenting their grievance to the city manager, if a resolution is not achieved.

Tabitha Painter

To the Editor,

I am appalled and sickened by all the trash that is left by people that use Stoney Lakeside Park.

All around the lake you see bottles, cans, bait containers, broken glass and even diapers!

This is a wonderful, free resource that we have in Lowell and there are trash receptacles. I have to

ask those who do this, do you care so little about your surroundings or are you so lazy or ignorant to take care of your own garbage? You see this in third world countries, but here? Why?

Remember, you are what you leave behind... trash!

Nelva Walker
Lowell

Dear Editor,

First, I would like to correct a statement made in the July 31, 2013 article "Citizens meet with union workers in public meeting." I was quoted as saying, "After so many times of trying to sit in on the (city council) closed sessions, Barber stopped going..." I never tried to sit in on any closed meetings. I know they are not open to the public. What I said was, and this is not an exact quote because I don't have a recording of the meeting, "I used to go to all city council meetings but stopped because everything of any importance is discussed in closed meetings that citizens are not allowed to attend. There are secret meetings every week. That is not open government."

If the city manager and council think we are stupid enough to believe that the

citizens of this community are not allowed to know what is happening in these negotiations, they are being badly misled by either legal counsel or whoever is feeding them such drivel.

Second, thank you Barbara Trierweiler for your wonderful letter to the editor July 31, 2013. You are absolutely correct about what Lowell citizens face if they don't insist that the current city council take back control of running this city. Lowell is sliding into a pattern of wasteful spending, mismanagement and political corruption that will take years to correct. The sad situation with our loyal, hard-working city employees is just the tip of the iceberg folks. Wake up and smell the coffee before it is too late.

Barb Barber
Lowell

To the Editor,

While I generally oppose worker's unions (the overpaid union officials and thugs that support them) I must say that I support the (union) workers of the Lowell Department of Public Works based on what they've openly presented and the Lowell City Council has not.

What these workers are asking for is nothing more than what a conscientious employer would do for their employee, leaving me to wonder what the real issue

is with council members.

While I do not live within the city limits (but do own a business here), and really have no say, I hope I project the feelings of the residents of the city. It's sad that such a tight-knit community can't hash out what appears to be a reasonable agreement.

Remember, citizens of Lowell, you have a voice not only at council meetings but the voting booth as well.

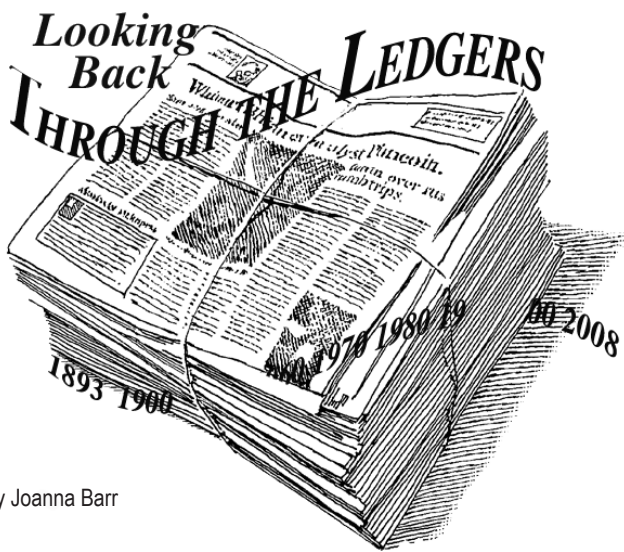
Nancy Stroosnyder

Dear Lowell Citizens,

We actually had someone speak out about what the city manager did at his last job. Thanks to Barbara Trierweiler for the letter she wrote regarding our city manager who was previously the administrator of Ionia County. Yes, this is just one opinion, but how many more are like it? We owe it to our city to find out. The councilmembers that were elected by the people of Lowell need to

reevaluate and look at what is happening. We don't need a leader that wants to make all the final decisions without communicating and listening to others. We need a city manager that wants to work with the councilmembers and the employees to agree on a contract that is best and fair for all.

Sincerely,
Chris Crawford
Lowell



By Joanna Barr

140 years ago Lowell Journal August 13, 1873

E. F. Doty is the proprietor of a remarkable cat. This cat goes down to Flat River and catches fish in a manner that discourages little boys who wait on a log and wait so long and patiently for a bite. Tabby Tom sits on a log and whenever a fish ventures his way, he dives in and takes that fish for his next meal. He has caught a host of the finny tribe this summer and always selects the best.

Mr. Halstead, while at work in King, Quick & Co.'s saw mill the other day, had the end of one of his fingers cut nearly off. He was fortunate to escape without more serious injury.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 7, 1913

Headline: Lowell Home Coming now on. Event a grand success. Big crowds gather. Reception a brilliant affair. Band music, vaudeville, base ball and

other amusements. Lowell's third Home Coming celebration is a great success. Opening under cloudy skies Wednesday morning, the entire day passed without rain; the crowds came from East and West and North and South; and the program of events passed off according to schedule. The forenoon was spent in "make, ready" in arrival and greeting of guests; and by noon the streets were thronged with home-comers, sight-seers and fakers of all sorts and sizes, from the popcorn, peanut, lemonade. and ice cream cone venders.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 11, 1938

Charlie Cook, who has charge of the [Showboat] engineering, has used oily rags, tar paper, wet straw, rubber tires, sawdust, old linoleum, crankcase oil, beech shavings, dry ice, wet newspapers, chemical smoke and dozens of other items to produce black smoke from the Showboat smokestacks. This year he invented a new idea. He had a fireworks' company in Cincinnati, Ohio, make him up a number of smoke bombs. Charlie said they work swell when setting out on the ground but when confined within the smokestacks of the Robert E. Lee, they caused miniature explosions which shot sparks into the air twenty feet above the boat. He finally discovered, however, that by drilling the bombs to give them a little air through the bottom that they would behave like a good smoke bomb ought to.

While Will Keech and family were absent from their home about four miles southwest of Lowell on Sunday afternoon, lightning struck the residence tearing the telephone from the wall, burning out the radio and burned a hole in the floor which was about six inches across, according to Mr. Keech. It also struck and fell a tree which hit the porch and took a corner of the house off. The seat of a pair of pants belonging to one of the Keech youngsters was burned out. The pants were lying on the floor at the time. Fortunately the youngster

was not in them. Everyone who had seen the damage to the Keech home was surprised that it was not set on fire.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 8, 1963

"No Lawn Sprinkling" is still in effect in the city of Lowell. Bernard Olson, city manager, emphasized this week. While rains have helped cut the water situation it is still critical and it is very important that citizens respect the ban on lawn sprinkling. Persons not obeying this ban could be punished by the law.

Marble Cemetery damaged by vandals last week. Under investigation by Ionia state police is a report of malicious destruction at the Marble cemetery in the Lowell vicinity. Ed Thompson, caretaker, told police Wednesday the vandalism occurred since last Sunday with numerous gravestones damaged. Investigating troopers said 20 markers had been molested with several tipped over and others broken.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 10, 1988

Headline: Showboat profit reaches \$10,000. As it appears now, the profit excess from the 1988 Lowell Showboat extravaganza is \$10,000. "The Showboat committee would have considered the Showboat a success if we had broken even," Showboat president Ray Quada said. Quada feels the success should help nurture the quantity of volunteer help, "I think the prospects for volunteer help is greatly enhanced when the image portrayed is of an organization in good shape," he said. "

happy birthday!

AUGUST 7
Barbara Wright, Don Grummet, Jaimi Smith, Steve Newell.

AUGUST 11
Mike Wilzcewski, Jordan Warren, Nicholas Brzezniak.

AUGUST 8
Jennifer Kimble, Chris Goggins, John Rasch, Allen Hoekstra, Sharell Wolf, Debra Lenneman.

AUGUST 12
Robin Briggs, Linda Uzarski, Steve Martin Sr., Gaylord Heaston, Alex Richmond.

AUGUST 9
Pamela Esparza, Steven Burrows.

AUGUST 13
Robert Hewitt, Ryan Christenson, Ryan Roe, Mike Roth.


AUGUST 10
Madeline Scott.

Happy 40th Birthday

BECKY LAMBERSON

AUGUST 3

Love,
Your family



Bands, Bikes and Cars benefit show slated for next week

by Will Greenberg
contributing reporter

On Saturday, Aug. 17, the First Congregational Church of Lowell will host their third annual Bands, Bikes and Cars (BBC) benefit show.

This church fundraiser is open to the public and offers a car show, bike rally, live music and kids' games. The day begins at noon and continues in open house fashion until the final band finishes at 8 pm.

Kelly Holst, who is organizing BBC, said the idea was to have a fundraiser simply with events that people enjoy and will want to come out to see. Holst said the real goal is to generate money that the church can then return to the community through the various organizations the church is involved in.

"The underlying theme is hospitality, hospitality and welcome," said pastor Chris Schwab of the church. "In my three and some years here that's one of the things this church has really promoted."

The church has opened their car show and motorcycle rally to anyone who wants to contribute, member or not, Schwab said. Brian Kelley, who runs the car show, said that the show receives a variety of vintage and new cars from all around the area with just under 50 cars presented last year. Kelley hopes to have more cars this year and



From left to right: Brian Kelley, Chris Schwab and Kelly Holst have been preparing for their BBC event.

encourages "anybody that's proud of what they own" to contribute their car. Holst said the bike rally is also another popular event, also open to any participants.

The ride starts and ends with a blessing of the bikes and lasts for an hour.

BBC day will also feature free live music from four different local or start-up bands. Holst said the bands are of various genres that should appeal to the musical taste of all attendees.

Additional fundraising

elements are the food and beer tent, as well as a 50-50 raffle which is new this year, Holst said.

While fundraising is important, Schwab stated the event should also serve as an advertisement for their church in a time where religion is often overlooked.

"Sometimes I think people's expectations of what they can obtain when they come to church is changing," Schwab said. "We're trying to look

at church a little non-traditionally."

Schwab said that the BBC show serves as a good representation of what the First Congregational Church is trying to do, which is to offer a welcoming, community-focused way to worship.

Holst said that the BBC is open to new events in the future and that the church would continue to add to the itinerary as long as it will draw more people.

...

Those who don't know how to weep with their whole heart, don't know how to laugh either.
~ Golda Meir (1898 - 1978)

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Q & A with Lowell's school superintendent Pratt

by Tony Wittkowski
contributing reporter

Last week I sat down with Lowell district superintendent Greg Pratt to see what is in store for the local schools this year and what each school may be facing. Pratt has been the superintendent in Lowell for seven years and is entering his eighth. Prior to that, he was the superintendent at Kent City for two years.

How many schools do you oversee?

GP: Currently here in Lowell, we have a high school and middle school with four elementary schools.

What is your job description?

GP: We start with overseeing the curriculum and the budget within the district. There is a fiscal responsibility to make sure those dollars are being spent in the appropriate places. A lot of the job entails spending time with staff on professional development and making sure that our students have the best opportunity in front of the best professionals as possible.

Which school in your district has been flourishing the most?

GP: It's hard to say, because I think there is a lot of growth among all of them. I really like what's happening at Cherry Creek Elementary downtown in Lowell because they are seeing so much growth in their scores. That doesn't mean those other schools aren't doing very well. Alto and Murray Lake are among the most highest achieving elementary schools in the county.

I'm glad you brought up Alto Elementary, because we were wondering if there is an update on the school's parking lot?

GP: The Alto DDA and Lowell Area Schools have collaborated on a variety of projects. This was a collaborative moment when we had a parking lot where it was congested and needed some separation from buses and students as far as parent pickup. The community needed more parking as well. Right now the current phase of construction is the removal of some of the trees and so far that's on time. We believe the parking lot on the south will be done before school starts.

You mentioned cutting down trees.

A few residents who live on the street were surprised when construction started and were upset by the trees being cut down. Does the school plan on replacing those trees?

GP: We do. The county elected to come in and widen the roadway to include a left-hand turn lane. That being said, the trees were in the right-of-way and had to be moved. We are seeing an expansion of the road, but once that is



Superintendent Greg Pratt

completed we'll come back in and put those trees in areas where they will not be forced to be moved in the future. There were six large trees there and unfortunately four of the six were diseased so we would have lost them anyway.

Do you guys have any future construction plans at any other schools?

GP: We do not. In the spring we had put out a sinking-fund proposal. It did not pass. It would have included some renovations of roofs and asphalt.

What are some of the budgetary issues that the school district has had?

GP: The school finance situation has been difficult over the past years to say the least. We've trimmed significantly in areas that we could and have been able to maintain the program for students. That is the main issue we have faced. We have trimmed in areas, we have fewer administrators and we have had to hold off on some of those projects.

Since the graduation rate has declined among Michigan high schools and the cost for university tuition continues to increase, what is your school doing to increase its matriculating rate?

GP: One of the things that we've done has been building relations with post secondary institutions like Grand Rapids Community College. They have been hosting classes here in Lowell in the past two years. It's a very inexpensive way for our students to get engaged into a college setting. There has also been talk of how to integrate college coursework into a high school setting.

...

It may make your blood boil and your mind may not be changed, but the practice of listening to opposing views is essential for effective citizenship. It is essential for our democracy.

~ Barack Obama (1961 -)

Some people are arguing that teachers should be paid based on their student's success.

What is your position on the issue?

GP: I think we have a pretty tough standard of accountability for our staff as a whole. We spend a lot of time in evaluation and working with our teachers to become the best in their profession. If what your talking about is merit pay, there is no research that merit pay increases student achievement. I think it should be a component, but I don't think it should be the overriding component of how a teacher is being compensated.

What are some of the things you have learned as a superintendent along the way?

GP: I'm always learning. We are much more involved at a state level than what it used to be. What I've seen over this time frame is that local control in education has diminished. Those that hold the purse strings - legislators in Lansing - make more decisions for local educators and institutions. That's been the biggest learning component for me.

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Dave Thompson speaks to football players about Red Arrow history

by Will Greenberg
contributing reporter

As part of a tribute to the military by coach Noel Dean, the Lowell football program hosted veteran Dave Thompson Tuesday morning to discuss his own experiences and the military connection to the Red Arrow mascot.

Players and coaches gathered near the practice

field as Thompson told the story of the 32D "Red Arrow" infantry division, a division that historically has seen some of the toughest conditions of several wars. Thompson told stories about the division and their many accomplishments, which included 157 Distinguished Service Crosses, 49 Legion of Merit awards and 11

Medals of Honor during World War II.

Thompson himself was in the Navy but did not fight in World War II. Thompson said that he always had an appreciation for the bravery and sacrifice of the "Red Arrow" division.

"They were tough, they were modest, but they got

the job done," Thompson said.

Thompson said he felt it was important that the Lowell athletes know the origins of their mascot as a way of motivation for their contribution on a team. Thompson said that recently he feels most citizens don't know or appreciate the work the military does. Thompson said since a national draft

hasn't been imposed for some time that the number of service men and women is lower and that most people don't understand the military because fewer have experienced it.

In his speech to the football players, Thompson said that while not all the student-athletes may attend college, he recommended military service as a way

to gain experience and credentials to build on in future careers.

"If you've got any skills at all, if you've got any smarts at all, you're going to fit into a program and be successful," Thompson said. "I think that the opportunities are much greater now than they were when I was a kid."

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Coach Noel Dean introduces Dave Thompson to the football players at the practice field.

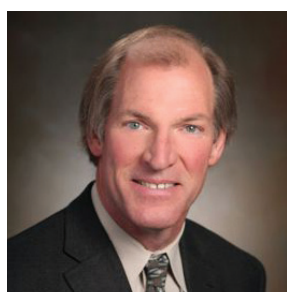
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Growing Community Day is loads of fun with a purpose

by Will Greenberg
contributing reporter

While Community Day may have begun as simply the kick-off for Pink Arrow Pride, the event has since grown into one of Lowell's biggest health awareness days of the year.

Last week Tuesday, Community Day brought a wide variety of games for kids, free lunch and ice cream, a tent full of free health stations and the ever-growing blood drive, along with the usual Pink Arrow t-shirt sales.

While there was no entry fee to help measure the attendance, the Senior Neighbors' building and surrounding yard looked like a carnival. It was jam-packed all day with families and kids, many wearing Arrow Force t-shirts from previous years.

Noel Dean, head coach of the Lowell football team and creator of Pink Arrow Pride, said that enthusiasm for the program has only increased as Pink Arrow and Community Day have both grown.

"The more people that Pink Arrow gives back to, the more people that want to get behind it," Dean said. "And the more people who get behind it, the more people we can give back to so it just kind of escalates."

The Community Day has grown considerably, most notably with the success of the blood drive.

This year, Michigan Blood brought four trucks to help accommodate the 207 people who attempted to volunteer-which also resulted in a pledged donation from MI Blood of 2,070 dollars to the Gilda's Club. MI Blood collected 146 pints by the end of the day, six more than their goal and 31 pints more than last year.

Wendy DeWeerd, a donor relations' specialist from MI Blood, said that through MI Blood's partnership with the Gilda's Club that about a third of the blood donated will go specifically to cancer treatment. DeWeerd said that typical blood drives yield around five to eight percent of a population that will donate, but that Lowell blood drives are closer to 10 percent.

"They (Lowell residents) really get behind the blood drive, even at the high school level; at the community level they have a lot of churches in this area that participate with us, so truly they are one of our biggest donor partners," DeWeerd said.

Another Community Day feature that has exploded in recent years is the health tent. According to Nikki Snyder, vice president of Lowell Community Wellness and coordinator of the tent, since starting last year, the tent has grown to include 35 booths of



The slide was a popular attraction.

various health and wellness businesses in the area offering free health advice and promoting the services available to Lowell. Snyder said having the booths was a great step for awareness, especially for children. She credited the Pink Arrow program for providing the kid-friendly atmosphere with various games and a petting zoo.

With the rapid expansion of Community Day itself, its role as the Pink Arrow Pride kick-off suffered slightly.

According to Teresa Beachum, only around 1,100-1,200 Pink Arrow Force VI t-shirts were sold, a dip from last year's estimated 1,900. Beachum said that the lack in sales was likely the result of the popularity of the other Community Day events- which only lasted one day. This may have created a disincentive to buy the shirts; which can be bought anytime until the Pink Arrow game. Despite the lacking sales, All Weather Seal, who pledged a dollar per shirt sold, increased their donation to an even 2,000 dollars. Overall, Beachum considered this more of a positive result than a negative, saying she was happy to see attendees taking advantage of the various booths and games.

Still, the Pink Arrow impact ran strong last Tuesday with each contributor feeling the benefits of the two-way partnership with the program.

Wendy Wigger, president of the Gilda's Club, said being partnered with Pink Arrow is a blessing for Gilda's and hoped that excitement and involvement in the program continues to remain strong.

"It's really a gift to the community what Pink Arrow provides," said Lindsey Jousma, program manager for Gilda's Club.

Those attending Community Day were also thankful for the support and resources Pink Arrow provides.

Ron and Bonnie Brunsink are both longtime Pink Arrow fans and were at this year's Community Day, the same as they are every year. Bonnie even joked that she will soon be able to make a quilt using all the previous Arrow Force shirts.

The couple shared their stories, saying that they were both each other's second spouses, having both lost their previous companions to cancer years ago. Ron himself has beat cancer in his life, so the two are no

strangers to the struggles and pain of the disease.

While Ron Brunsink said he felt the money should go to research, Bonnie Brunsink said that dealing with cancer before, without a program like Pink Arrow Pride, was noticeably tougher and commended the program for the money and awareness it has raised.

"You need the support," Bonnie said. "You have to talk about it. You can't keep it inside."



Miranda from WOTV 4 chats with Baileigh Ford, a varsity cheerleader from Lowell High School.



Amanita Fahrni, who gave blood on Community Day in one of the buses, said she donates every time she can; once she gave some to her husband while he was in the hospital.

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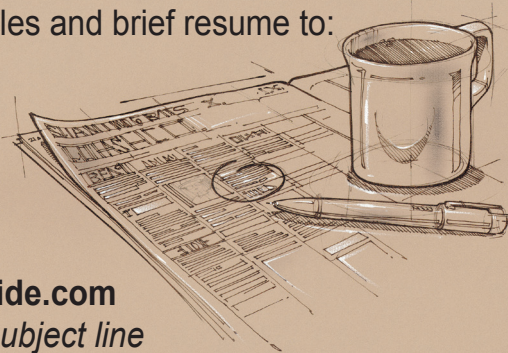
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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Can you benefit from municipal bonds?

Over the past couple of years, the economic picture has brightened for many cities and states — but some of them are still facing potential financial problems. As a citizen, you may well have concerns about these issues. And as an investor, these financial woes may affect your thinking about one particular type of investment vehicle: municipal bonds.

Specifically, given the difficulties faced by a few municipalities, should you consider adding “munis” to your to the fixed-income portion of your portfolio?

It is true that municipal defaults, though still rare, rose in 2012. But we haven’t experienced any sharp increases in defaults in 2013. Overall, default rates for municipal bonds are low — much lower than for corporate bonds of comparable quality, according to Moody’s Investor Services.

Of course, there are no guarantees, but if you stick with “investment-grade”

municipal bonds — those that receive the highest grades from independent rating agencies — you can reduce the chances of being victimized by a default. And municipal bonds offer these benefits:

- **Tax advantages** — Municipal bond interest payments are free from federal taxes, and possibly state and local taxes, too. (However, some munis are subject to the alternative minimum tax, as well as state and local taxes.) This tax treatment means you would have to earn a much higher yield on other types of bonds to match the “taxable equivalent yield” of municipal bonds.

- **Civic benefits** — By adding quality municipal bonds to your portfolio, you can help support worthwhile projects in your community, such as construction of schools and hospitals.

- **Steady income** — Barring a default, you will receive a regular, predictable income stream for as long as you own your

municipal bonds. However, if you currently own many long-term munis, you may want to consider reducing your overall position. Eventually, rising interest rates will push down bond prices, and long-term bonds carry added risk because their prices will decline more as interest rates rise. Work with your financial advisor to determine the most appropriate approach for your situation.

- **Diversification** — Municipal bonds can help you diversify the fixed-income portion of your portfolio if it’s heavily weighted toward corporate bonds. And you can even diversify your municipal bond holdings by building a “ladder” consisting of munis of varying maturities. Once you’ve built such a ladder, you can gain benefits in all interest-rate environments — when rates are low, you’ll still have your longer-

term bonds working for you (longer-term bonds generally pay higher rates than shorter-term ones), and when interest rates rise, you can reinvest the proceeds of your shorter-term bonds at the higher rates.

Consult with your financial advisor to determine if municipal bonds can be an appropriate addition to your portfolio, as investing in bonds involves risks, including credit risk and market risk.

Bond investments are also subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of bonds can decrease, and the investor can lose principal value if the investment is sold prior to maturity.

Investors should evaluate whether a bond ladder and the securities held within it are consistent with their investment objectives, risk tolerance and financial circumstances.



Kathryn Denhouster Ph.D.

ask kathryn

This is the last article on childhood bipolar and it is titled, “What is the Path to Adulthood for the Child with Bipolar?” There are four specific areas that need to be addressed with your bipolar teenager: 1.) teaching your teen “self-advocacy” skills; 2.) helping your teen drive responsibly; 3.) teaching a good work ethic; and 4.) helping your teen establish good friendships.

First of all, typically parents of bipolar children have advocated for their child through their school career. As your teen graduates from high school and moves out on his/her own, you will not always be available to advocate for them. A very important step for parents is to teach their child to advocate for their needs. For effective self-advocacy the following guidelines are helpful: 1.) encourage him/her to avoid using blame; 2.) help your teen to state his/her concerns clearly; 3.) it is usually important that they recommend a course of action; and 4.) stay open to other solutions.

Secondly, driving is an important step toward independence. If your child does not express a desire to drive, don’t push it. Instead, wait until he/she feels ready. If they are motivated to drive, make a list of requirements necessary before they can drive (i.e. medication compliance). You may want them to stay at the permit level longer before you sign off. Another strategy is to

create a “driving contract” that clearly outlines his/her responsibilities as a driver and what would constitute a loss of driving privileges. Proactive parenting is essential here because of the potential danger for your teenager or for other drivers.

Teaching your teenager a good work ethic is also important for their success. A good work ethic is based on a belief system that work is beneficial and is necessary for developing good moral character. Having discussions with your teenager about how hard work has helped your personal growth is important. Then, give your teenager opportunities to work hard. Most importantly, do not look down on his efforts. Remember that his/her ability to perform will be inconsistent at times because of his/her limitations. Remember to encourage their efforts!

Finally, helping your teenager find good friends is important for a healthy adult life. This is often hard because they don’t want their parents meddling in their social life. Arrange social events for peers that have similar values to your family. Of course, the final choice of friends is your teenager, but parents can create situations that would provide mostly good choices.

It is important to remember, as you feel challenged by your bipolar teenager, that many people with bipolar can lead full lives and accomplish great things. In fact, brilliance and creativity tend to run in families who also carry bipolar disorder. This creative link in childhood was recently confirmed by a study done on children who were at high risk for developing bipolar disorder due to the existence of the illness in their parents. Children in this group scored higher on tests of creativity than children in families without bipolar disorder. So parents, remember that even though raising a bipolar child can be extremely difficult, it can have high rewards.

Next month a new series of articles will be presented on “Depression and Self Esteem.” If you have questions about this article or other general questions, please contact me by email: kathryndenhouster@gmail.com

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~ H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

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ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL

Duke professor to speak to athletes/parents

by Karen Jack

All Lowell schools' athletes must have a parent attend an informational meeting each year in order to play.

As one of her first duties as athletic director, Dee Crowley has secured a nationally-known speaker for the parents at this year's meeting. The meeting usually discusses sportsmanship, nutrition and sport-specific issues.

This year, the discussion will be expanded into speaking not only to parents, but athletes and coaches as well.

Gregory Dale, Ph.D., a professor of Sport Psychology and Sport Ethics at Duke University, will be speaking on Wednesday night, Aug. 14, in the high school auditorium at 7 pm.

Crowley is encouraging parents with athletes for all sport seasons to attend with their sons and daughters. She also invites parents of younger athletes as well.

"I believe Dr. Dale has information that can help the parents of all our athletes from kindergarten to a high school senior. If

you have a child athlete, this speaker is dynamic and will only aid a parent by helping them help their athlete have a successful sports experience."

Dale will present a thought-provoking workshop that encourages parents to analyze the type of environment they're creating for their children and offers strategies parents can use to be more effective "sport parents."

He also will speak to the athletes on examining their leadership skills

and character, preparing for success, embracing pressure, trusting their instincts, effective goal-setting and perseverance in difficult situations. He will also focus on how the athlete can lead their peers through character and courage, communication, conflict resolution and diversity.

On Thursday morning, Dale will then be presenting to all the coaches in the district, focusing on communication and motivational tactics.



Gregory Dale

Dale is also the director of the Sport Psychology and Leadership programs for Duke Athletics. He consults with numerous high schools, colleges and professional athletes around the world and has written four books related to coaching, parenting and performance in a sport. He's been featured on Good Morning America, ESPN, MSNBC, Court TV and numerous national radio programs.

Luke Jordan: A journeyman on a mission

by Tony Wittkowski
contributing reporter

Most 23-year-olds are pulling their hair out over finals or are stuck living in their parents' basements.

Luke Jordan is trying to walk 4,600 miles from North Dakota to New York. Only three people have been able to do it up to this point.

Jordan graduated with a degree in natural resources in December and decided to do something special before joining the workforce of everyday life.

"I started hiking when I was 10-years-old," Jordan said. "I didn't start backpacking until college."

Throughout college and high school Jordan was a long-distance runner, helping him to master the endurance factor. He started putting extra weight in his backpack going up to 50 pounds. Some would say he over-packed, but this was another way Jordan began conditioning.

As of right now, he continues his trek through Ohio, where he first began his journey in North Dakota.

Jordan did not see himself doing something like this until three years ago when he first heard about the trail. After doing some research - which included watching 23 videos from the last hiker to do it - Jordan committed to through-hike this monster of a trail.

The man who inspired

him to take on the arduous journey was MJ Eberhart, whom Jordan also ran into some time back.

"I had the honor of meeting him in person last summer," Jordan said. "We had a chance to talk for about 15 minutes and he gave me some pointers."

One piece of advice that Jordan said stuck with him was when Eberhart said to not let the road walk discourage him. Right now 40 percent of the trail Jordan is walking on is roadway, not dirt.

"It's harder on your feet when walking on the road, but it allows me to go faster," Jordan said with experience. "That can lead up to 30 mile days when it is walking the roads."

Jordan's parents, who remain in a town 30 miles west of Minneapolis, were supportive from the start because they had always planned on doing something similar to this, which they have regretted not doing ever since.

In fact, his parents are a big part of his trek as it is.

"I get my food sent to me at the post office. I picked out which towns I would get to roughly seven days apart and my parents [will] send it," Jordan said. "I go to the post office and all my food is in there for the week."

When Jordan is through-hiking he carries his seven days worth of food, four liters of water, along with his tent, a pair of dry clothes, sleeping bag, various maps, an ipod - which he uses as a journal - and a cellphone in case of emergencies.

Jordan has yet to come across any trouble despite a small hiccup with some local police.

He was in a small town in Michigan waiting out a thunderstorm where there was hail with a chance of tornados.

"I was waiting out in front of a diner and then apparently one of the locals thought I looked suspicious, so they called the cops and they came and talked to me," Jordan laughed. "They read my ID, but made me leave town during a thunderstorm, which I was pretty unhappy about."

But it hasn't been that bad for Jordan who has come across plenty of "trail angels," which are people who do random acts of kindness for weary travelers.

"It can be a place to sleep for the night or a box of goodies they left on

the trail or any other nice thing you could get from a stranger," Jordan said when talking about the trail angels he has come across in the past.

Bruce Matthews, the executive director of the North Country Trail Association, first met Jordan face-to-face when he came through Lowell on July 11, for the revealing of the murals. Prior to that Matthews talked to him on the phone quite a bit.

"He had been on the trail for awhile and you get

a little raggy and a little stinky," Matthews said. "We were grateful to provide him with a shower."

Matthews was impressed with Jordan, describing him as a clear-eyed young man with a goal in mind. But he's noticed the difficulties that have come with walking the trail in its entirety.

"Luke spent six weeks on snowshoes and there were a couple weeks there where he was close to packing it in," Matthews said. "You could tell. He

sort of had that thousand yard stare."

The fastest the trail has been completed was in seven months from March through October. Luke started on March 27.

Jordan had said he would through-hike again, but it would be another trail to get a new experience.

When asked what is next on his plate, Jordan had a simple answer in mind.

"Going home and starting the job hunt."



Luke Jordan is pictured at the ribbon cutting for the North Country Trail mural.

business matters

Greenridge Realty announced that Amy Reedy received Sales Associate of the Month in July.

This award recognizes Reedy for her outstanding success and achievements.



Amy Reedy



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obituaries

ROTH

Maynard Ernest Roth, age 84 of Clarksville, passed away Saturday, August 3, 2013. He was preceded in death by his parents Ernest and Lena, sister Ernestine (Thaddeus) Wigfield, daughter-in-law Ilene Roth and brother-in-law Donald Yeiter. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marcia; sons Robert and Martin, daughter Kristine (Doug) Dozeman, sister Betty Yeiter; grandchildren, Jolene, Michael, and Matthew Roth, Stephen and Tom Dozeman; also nieces and nephews. Maynard had been president of the Ionia County Farm Bureau and a member of the Holstein Association, Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Michigan Milk Producers Association and the Independent Cooperative of Milk Producers Association. He loved rural life and enjoyed collecting antique John Deere tractors. Maynard also enjoyed traveling. His greatest trip was to communist Russia where he visited collective farms with Bill Schuette, who at that time was Secretary of Agriculture of Michigan. A funeral service was held. Rev. Nathan Gray presided. Interment Clarksville Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Clarksville Fire & Rescue, 325 S. Main St., Clarksville MI 48815 or Hospice of Michigan, 989 Spaulding Ave., Grand Rapids MI 49501.



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SEEVERS

John Erwin Seevers, age 67 of Lowell, passed away Friday, August 2, 2013. He was preceded in death by father Howard and brother Jim. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Marilyn; daughters Kimberly (Darryl Gates) Seevers and Tracy (Zak)



Kutz; mother Gertrude Irish; brothers Bill (Sue) Seevers, Jerry (Joyce) Seevers, Jay (Nancy) Hoppe and sister Theresa (Walt) Ashley; sister-in-law Bethie Seevers; grandchildren Amanda (Nate), Tyler, Cody (Ashley), Aleiha, Jaydon, Zeke and John, foster son Arric Thomas. John served in the Army in Korea and Vietnam. He worked at Atwood for 25 years and built custom utility trailers at Rivertown Trailer. A service has already been held. Interment Graceland Memorial Park.



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Reflecting on 78 years of Social Security

There are special moments when people look back and evaluate a life or an era: birthdays, class reunions, holidays, and anniversaries. Time is, after all, simply the stringing together of a number of events, some small, others significant. These events can speed by quickly, but each one can have an effect on the greater whole. A lifetime of seemingly mundane events can pass in what seems like the blink of an eye - until one looks back to examine them and realizes just how much has filled the space.

Social Security has been a cornerstone of our nation, touching the lives of almost every American at one time or another, for 78 years. It's the most successful domestic program in our nation and, arguably, the world.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law on August 14, 1935, he said, "The civilization of the past hundred years, with its startling industrial changes, has tended more and more to make life insecure. Young people have come to wonder what would be their lot when they came to old age. The man with a job has wondered how long the job would last." The same can be said of the current information age, with our rapidly evolving digital

revolution and periods of economic instability. Social Security is a safety net cast to help those who need it.

Today, Social Security is much more than just a retirement program by providing benefits to disabled individuals and their families and survivors benefits to widows, widowers and the minor children of deceased workers. Social Security also administers Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to aged and disabled people who have low income and resources.

In good times and bad, in sickness and health, Social Security has helped Americans. Each payment has helped someone, somewhere. The difference Social Security has made in the lives of Americans is certainly something to celebrate.

Learn more about Social Security's rich history at www.socialsecurity.gov/history.

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

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It is with broken hearts that after 13 years we whispered goodbyes to our beloved companion Chase on August 2, 2013.



From the moment we saw his white paws, short legs, big ears and expressive eyes, he owned our hearts.

Chase was the most dedicated little guy ever. He was always ready to go fishing with Ron and was at the truck ready for a ride when he heard the keys ;he loved to run the geese off the yard and would want to play "Where's Chase" every evening and so enjoyed those cheese curl parties in the barn. He was our cuddle boy at night and had to be beside us no matter what we were doing. He loved doing tricks for our friends and was always looking for horse cookies in a pocket. He was the welcoming committee at the house and so enjoyed going to TSC.

We were so blessed to have Chase in our lives and know that as always he will patiently wait for us at heaven's gates, just as he waited at the door for us to come home.

Goodbye our little muscle man and know how much we love you and will miss you. No other will ever take your place.

Love, Ron & Mickey Dawson

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classifieds

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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}

CENTRAL BOILER CLASSIC OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE - Provides heat for entire home & domestic water. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

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

FOR SALE - Westinghouse side-by-side refrigerator w/ in-door ice maker; Kenmore gas stove; 15 cycle KitchenAide dryer w/inside light & dryer sensor. All in great condition, 897-0242.

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}

2007 2-WHEEL STEEL UTILITY TRAILER - purchased from Tractor Supply. 6' x 4'. Excellent condition. GVWR 2,000 lbs. \$250 firm. Email: corvetteronw@gmail.com

NEWER DUPLEX - with 3 br., 2 baths each side. Approximately 1/2 acre that backs up to meadow and woods. Walk to Lowell elementary and middle school. Includes steel, insulated 24' x 32' pole barn. Great for extended family or live in one side and rent the other to help with payment. \$224,900. Joe Czarnik, Realtor, Greenridge Realty, Inc. 616-974-6460.

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}

'94 FORD F150 - 4x4, \$950 obo; 5 hp chipper/shredder, \$100; 2 solar powered & 1 a/c powered electric fence chargers, \$50 ea.; two man ice shanty, \$100; one man ice shanty, \$50; wood burner stove, \$150; Lincoln portable spot welder, \$100; vertical/horizontal band saw, \$50; antique bricks (300), .50¢ ea. 642-9315.

KENMORE REFRIGERATOR & STOVE SET - (2006), cost \$900, sell \$199 for pair. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.^{TFN}

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U - PICK BLUEBERRIES - Pete Marhofer, 3100 Hawley Hwy., Belding. Please call for conditions, 616-794-0358.

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CAT TO GOOD HOME - Good natured, beautiful white with black. Norweigan Forest cat (no papers). Needs more attention to deal with issues. 643-7648.

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}

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF NURSING NEEDED - The Laurels of Kent is a 153 bed skilled nursing, short-term rehab facility in Lowell. We are currently looking for an RN to act as ADON at our facility. It is preferred that candidates have experience in teaching, Long Term Care and MDS. Previous management experience is required. We are offering a generous wage package with full benefits, in a professional working environment. Please call or visit: The Laurels of Kent at 350 N. Center St., Lowell, MI 49331. Attention: Terrie Kerschen, RN DON or email: tkerschen@laurelhealth.com

sales

GARAGE SALE - Thurs. - Sat., Aug. 8-10, 9-6 p.m. 1950 Parnell NE @ 2 Mile. Tools, equip., hardware, housewares, file cabs, dog cages, furniture, books, rototiller, dishwasher, clothes & more.

LARGE GARAGE SALE/MULTI-FAMILY - 8333 Pratt Lake Ave., Alto. Thurs., Aug. 8, 5-8 p.m.; Fri., Aug. 9, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat., Aug. 10, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Items are priced to sell. Beds, dresser, Keurig Platinum, baby girl clothes 0-2T, kids clothing sizes 6-10, baby bouncer, baby swing, child's play tent, Step2 toy box, Little Tikes basketball hoop, child's grand piano, many housewares and decorations, Halloween costumes, lamps, TVs, DVD players, much more.

GARAGE SALE - Fri. & Sat., Aug. 9 & 10, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Girls' clothing, furniture & lots more. 10751 Deerwood Dr.

FAMILY GARAGE SALE - Many items: Clothes (kids & adults), knives, tools, toys & so much more. 1090 Cumberland. August 9 -10 & 16 -17.

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misc.

HUNTERS SAFETY COURSE - Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club will offer a free Hunters Safety Course beginning August 19, continuing on August 21 & 22. The class will run from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There is no age requirement and you must attend all three sessions to earn a certificate. The class size is limited to 50 and will be first come first served. No pre-registration. The class will be held at 8731 West Riverside Dr., Saranac. Our website is www.Qua-Ke-Zik.org if you need any additional information.

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.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE - third Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post.

FOOD PANTRY - First Friday of month at Lakeside Community Church, 6201 Whitneyville Rd. Free frozen, perishable food. Registration 1 p.m., distribution 4 p.m. Bring own containers. 868-6402.

V.F.W. POST #8303 - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116 Alden Nash S.E.

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.

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

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

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

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

FREE ZUMBA ON THE RIVER - Starting Mondays until Aug. 26. Classes are held outside by the Lowell Showboat at 7 p.m. Sponsored by Lowell Community Wellness.

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

GRIEF - NEW MEMBER MEET-

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

TEEN GROUP - CANCER AND GRIEF - First & third Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m. A committed group for teens in ninth - twelfth grade on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities & discussion. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

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

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

MOVIE - Scooby Doo Stage Flight, Aug. 23, 1:30 p.m. at the Clarksville Village Hall. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

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.

Cool R&B swings into the concert's setting

by Tony Wittkowski
contributing reporter

Jazz and R&B (rhythm and blues) artists Kathy Le Mar and Bob Van Stee played in front of another enormous crowd on the Riverwalk Thursday evening alongside Flat River. With good weather backing the Sizzlin' Summer Concert performance, Le Mar and Van Stee stole the audience's attention as some concert goers had enough gusto to dance in front of the stage along with the classical music.



Crosby, Frahm tour Michigan agribusinesses with FFA

Michigan FFA vice president Sarah Crosby, of the Lowell FFA Chapter and reporter Nathan Frahm, of the Caledonia FFA Chapter, toured agricultural businesses across Michigan with their fellow state officers to learn more about the industry they've been elected to represent, July 31-Aug. 2.

"Meeting with industry representatives and FFA supporters truly emphasizes the value of educating others about agriculture and issues facing the industry," said Crosby.

"It provided us with insight into various agricultural careers," said Frahm. "These organizations contribute so much to the FFA and the state of Michigan — this tour reminded us to never take supporters for granted."

Organizations participating in the tour included Advanced Farm Equipment in Vestaburg; Black Star Farm in Suttons Bay; Gratiot County Farm Bureau in Ithaca; Kitchen Farms in Elmira; Michigan Farm Bureau in Lansing; Pioneer Seed in Ithaca; Shook's Farm in Central Lake; Sklarczyk's Seed Farm in Johannesburg; and Sietsema Farm Feed in Howard City.

Ramey Lunceford, executive director of the Michigan FFA Foundation, said the tours provide an opportunity for the officer team to interact with and learn from some of Michigan's most influential agricultural business leaders, while also thanking them for their support.

Throughout the tour, organizations provided attendees with a business overview, career advice and discussed opportunities and challenges facing the industry. In return, the officers addressed questions from business leaders about the Michigan FFA Association and agricultural education.

Other officers participating in the tour included president Alan Green of Allegan; secretary Dani Heisler of Springport; Sentinel Laryssa Bates of Sebawaing; Region I vice president Abigail Schreur; Region III vice president Alyssa Tyrrell of the Uby; Region IV vice president Nick Webster; and Region V vice president Richard Southward.

The annual event was organized by Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Potato Industry Commission.



Michigan FFA state officers on this year's business and industry tour included, front row, left to right: Sarah Crosby, Alyssa Tyrrell, Laryssa Bates, Danielle Heisler, and Abigail Schreur; back row: Nate Frahm, Nick Webster, Ricky Southward and Alan Green. (Not pictured: Devin Irion, Amber Eagling and Chris Presley)

Local junior shoots his way to nationals

by Karen Jack

Logan Wilcox, a soon-to-be junior at Lowell High School, placed first in the JV (junior varsity) sporting clays at the state qualifier to earn his way to the national event, held in Sparta, IL, last weekend.

In his first year shooting sporting clays, he brought

home fourth place at the national event and placed sixth in skeet shooting. The event hosted youth from all over the country and Wilcox represented the Kent County Conservation League as his home shooting venue. Wilcox shot 89 the first day of clays and

90 the second day to secure his fourth place. For the skeet shooting, he fired 100 straight hits, which is a feat within itself.

The individuals combined for his team of three scored as well. The team took fourth at nationals for clays and fifth in skeet. Lowell teammates, Breton Kooistra and Johnny Kleinheksel rounded out the team.

In a separate event, Wilcox entered the 4H state shoot and took second in trap, where he shot 47 out of 50. He's been shooting trap for four years.

"It's been a pretty great year for me, with taking first at state and fourth at nationals my very first year as a clay shooter [and] then placing second at 4H state. I couldn't have done it without my coaches, though. They're really supportive and have taught me so much. I also want to thank my grandpa Bill, who has always been my number one fan," said Wilcox. "I'm looking forward to next year already."

Wilcox also plays football and wrestles for the varsity team. He is the son of Kim and Mark Wilcox.



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ACROSS

- 1. Coffee + chocolate
- 6. Drunkard's sound?
- 9. What little piggy did
- 13. Makes eyes at
- 14. Under the weather
- 15. *"The Graduate" or "Easy Rider"
- 16. Un-written exams
- 17. Downhill equipment
- 18. Chilled
- 19. *1960s Activists and agitators
- 21. State of good health and fitness
- 23. Miner's bounty
- 24. *Popular hairstyle
- 25. To eat a little at a time, as in hot soup
- 28. Layer
- 30. Devoid of reverence
- 35. Bookkeeping entry
- 37. *"The _____ of the Game" TV series
- 39. Denotes an accomplishment
- 40. Novice
- 41. Ivan and Nicholas, e.g.
- 43. Atmosphere
- 44. Relating to the ilium
- 46. On the cutting edge
- 47. *Ngo Dinh _____
- 48. *"The Party's Over" singer
- 50. Excellent
- 52. Get the picture
- 53. *"I read the _____ today oh boy"
- 55. African grazer
- 57. *Power plant
- 60. *Liverpool group, following "the"
- 64. Luau greeting
- 65. *"Posion _____" covered by the Stones and the Hollies
- 67. Beauty pageant wear
- 68. Short African

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JULY 31 - AUGUST 6

- Baseball's highest paid player, Alex Rodriguez has been suspended through the 2014 regular season (211 games) for violating baseball's Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program. 12 other players were also suspended.
- The State Department has temporarily closed 19 embassies throughout the world because of possible terror threats as a precautionary measure. The department is also evacuating all its diplomats from Yeman and advising that others leave.
- The Washington Post has been sold to Amazon. com founder Jeff Bezos for \$250 million.
- Former President George W. Bush had a stent placed in an artery after a blockage was discovered during a routine physical. The operation was successful and he was released from the hospital the next day.

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69. Butterfly catcher
70. Cupcake topper
71. Epic poem
72. "Fancy that!"
73. "Who ___?"
- DOWN**
- 1. *Eagle's landing spot
 - 2. Fairytale beast
 - 3. Bird's foot
 - 4. *Oscar winner "_____, Dolly!"

- 5. Declare with confidence
- 6. Middle Ages subj.
- 7. Kind of person
- 8. North face, e.g.
- 9. Refuses to
- 10. Bad to the bone
- 11. Cote d'Azur locale
- 12. Casual attire
- 15. *Detroit's soul recorder
- 20. Deceive by a mock action
- 22. *The Sixties, e.g.
- 24. Large fleets
- 25. *Greensboro Woolworth's event
- 26. Of service
- 27. Jeopardy
- 29. Comfort
- 31. *"Take a _____ off," sang The Band in '68
- 32. Lady's pocketbook
- 33. Loose rocks at base of mountain
- 34. State of dishonor
- 36. Extinct flightless birds
- 38. Therefore
- 42. "The Playboy of the Western World" author
- 45. *"I Love You More Today" singer Twitty
- 49. Adams ___ Beckham
- 51. Related on mother's side
- 54. Twist before hanging on clothesline
- 56. Ancient city in Africa
- 57. Let heads or tails decide
- 58. *Woodstock's had a dove on a guitar
- 59. Electrical resistance units
- 60. Eight bits
- 61. Animal den
- 62. European sea eagle
- 63. Droops
- 64. *"You damn dirty _____," shouted Heston
- 66. V

Puzzle Solutions for this week are on page 10

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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Raceway hosts Grattan Twilight Cancer Walk

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

Grattan Raceway is normally a noisy place; the sounds of engines, be they motorcycles, sport bikes or automobiles with four wheels, filling up the air. But on Thursday, the loudest sounds were songs like Jimmy Buffet's "Margaritaville" courtesy of Music by Mike. That is because the Grattan Raceway was the host of the Grattan Twilight Cancer Walk, a fundraiser for

Gilda's Club of Lowell's ongoing effort to fight cancer.

"We had such a great day," April Kole said. Kole is a committee member and point person for the Grattan Twilight Cancer Walk. "The weather was great."

Those interested in joining the battle against cancer had a few options for providing their support. Walkers were asked to pay a \$10 registration fee and though the proceeds went

to Gilda's Club, walkers were given a t-shirt, bottle of water and ice cream and hotdogs courtesy of Rocky's in Rockford. Others donated money to the silent auction in exchange for a chance to win some really nice donated items or bought anti-cancer paraphernalia at the Swag Station.

With the inclusion of funds from local sponsors, the event raised over \$12,000, for a total of \$55,000 in the last five



A board of memories from previous years of the Grattan Twilight Cancer Walk.



The Swag Station sold merchandise to benefit Gilda's Club of Lowell.

years. Approximately 230 people showed up to walk.

While some fundraisers are aimed at a particular form of cancer like breast or prostate cancer, the Grattan Twilight Cancer Walk is an event to support people suffering from any and all cancers. The Swag Station provided an educational sign for which a colored wrist band corresponded with a

type of cancer. Most people know that pink stands for breast cancer, but might be surprised to know that gold stands for childhood cancer, yellow for bladder and liver cancer and burgundy stands for bone cancer.

For all the fun and exercise, the Grattan Twilight Cancer Walk was not without substance. Ashley Owen from Gilda's Club gave a speech about the many programs Gilda's

has in order to support those with cancer. She was accompanied by Renee Grant, a cancer survivor who shared the ups and downs of her fight against the disease.

"She was inspiring and really exemplified the benefit of having a local support agency such as Gilda's Club and the positive impact it has [had] on her life," Kole said.

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Some of the items on the auction block at the silent auction to benefit Gilda's Club of Lowell.