

## subscriber from tennessee



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## record crowd for finale



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## 2014-2015 city budget presented at budget workshop

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Lowell city council held a “budget workshop” meeting at city hall Monday, March 24.

The workshop, which was attended by seven citizens, lasted two hours. The council used the workshop to go over its budget for the next fiscal year, as well as have discussions about the Lowell Cable Television (LCTV) fund.

The council revisited the issue of what to do with this year’s LCTV money. In its last regular meeting the council voted against the recommended annual distributions, which included \$50,000 that would have gone to repair streets in the city of Lowell. Some community residents are against using LCTV money to repair city streets, instead they say that routine maintenance costs are not what the fund was designed for.

“I think we’ve strayed a little bit from the fund agreement,” councilperson Sharon Ellison said. “You know, that it’s supposed to



Mayor Jim Hodges and councilperson Sharon Ellison debating the city’s budget.

be the furtherance of public health, safety, welfare, benefiting the residents of the city of Lowell.”

Another sticking point was whether to use the money only in Lowell, or

to continue allocating some of the funds to projects in nearby townships whose residents paid into the fund back when it was their local cable provider.

“If we are going to take 75 to 100 percent of the money every year, we might as well tell them [the townships] that they’re not going to get anything,” councilperson Jeff Altoft

said. “We didn’t stop anything from happening until the next meeting, because if it comes back up and it passes, everybody

Budget workshop, continued, page 2

## “One Call Now” implemented at LAS

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell Area Schools (LAS) recently introduced the “One Call Now” system, a mass phone and email notification system, to the district’s communications repertoire.

“One Call Now” is the industry leader in automated notification systems and is used in schools nationwide. The system allows school districts to simultaneously inform thousands of parents and staff listed in their email and phone contact lists within a matter of moments, saving both time and labor and bettering the overall flow of information. The cost of starting the system was approximately \$1.25 per enrolled student.

“Advancements in communication and the need for real-time communication pushed us to look at a new system,” said LAS superintendent Greg Pratt, “We are currently rolling out the email portion of the system and will look for full implementation later in the spring or summer.”

Pratt reports that though schools will still utilize a variety of communication tools when reaching out to parents, “One Call Now” will be the main form of communication when contacting large groups, like in the case of a school closure, delay or emergency, or when simply distributing weekly newsletters.

In order for the system to work optimally, it is important for parents to keep contact information current

One Call Now, continued, page 3

## Many winners at this year’s Lowell Expo

by Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

The Lowell Area Community Expo took place on Saturday, March 22, bringing together a variety of organizations

from municipal to business to special interest. Spread throughout two gymnasiums, a long hallway and a room, there was more than enough to keep one busy for hours.

Expo sponsor Harding Enterprises was located down the main stretch. Harding deals in eco-friendly asphalt maintenance

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Expogogoers had to guess how many items in the jar for a chance to compete in the Next Place to Be gameshow.

50 CENTS



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# Budget workshop, continued

gets their money. But the whole procedure that we did this year, in my eyes, is totally wrong.”

“This is a city of Lowell fund and it seemed like a good use,” Ellison said. “He [city manager Mark Howe] just said, ‘We need money for streets, don’t be surprised and kind of plan on being asked again.’ Now, was that a direction from city council? I mean, we didn’t come right out and say we’re not taking any applications because we’re giving all the money

to streets, but we did say we will probably be asking for more money for streets for several years because there’s no funding for that. We don’t want to use the money for streets, but do we need to use the money for streets? Unfortunately, we do.”

“If we weren’t spending money in this city to fight our city workers then we would have in excess of \$70,000 to fix streets,” said Lowell resident Barb Barber.

After more discussion, the council decided to take a second vote on the LCTV recommendations at its next regular meeting.

The workshop moved on to discussions of the city’s budget. City manager Mark Howe presented a rough draft of the 2014-2015 budget, which he said was, “pretty substantially complete.” The council discussed the budget for about an hour.

“Overall there’s been some revenue



Councilpersons Jeff Altoft and Jim Hall discussing what to do with the LCTV fund.



## along main street

improvement,” Howe said. “We’re taking a cautious approach and I tried to build in some contingencies where I can.”

Highlights from the long budget discussion were a potential 2.5 percent raise for Lowell police officers,

the city may add wireless internet to city buildings and there could be a large repair project on Monroe Street in the future.

The city council will meet at city hall for its next regular meeting at 7 pm on March 31.

### GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

**Neuropathy Informative Workshop** – Tues., April 1, 3-4 pm. If you are living with neuropathy, come and join others who are also. We will learn, share and laugh together. **Creating a Life Story** – Tues., April 1, 6-7:30 pm. Suzanne Fedewa will share tips on using your photos and stories to honor or celebrate the life of your loved one or yourself. This investment of time will result in a treasure that’s sure to become a precious family heirloom. **Family Night Workshop** – Tues., April 1, 6-7:30 pm. Kids, grab your adults and join your friends from Gilda’s Club Lowell for our monthly Family Night! Each month, Jacqueline Scherer will lead a fun activity specifically designed for the whole family. All supplies will be provided. **Breast Cancer Support Group** \*at Lowell Arts – Tues., April 1, 6:15-7:30 pm. A monthly support group for those impacted by breast cancer to learn and share together. We will meet the first Tuesday of every month at Lowell Arts. Please join us for supper at Gilda’s Club Lowell at 5:30 pm prior to the group meeting. **Lowell Teen/Tween Retreat** – Tues., April 8, 12:30-8 pm. Looking for something fun to do this Spring Break? Join your friends in Lowell for the teen/tween retreat! It’s going to be epic. **Board Games & Fun** – Tues., April 8, 1-3 pm. This will be an open time for members to come in and play board games together. We hope you join us! **Woodcarving** – Tues., April 15, 3:15-4:15 pm. Learn how to make easy and beautiful wood carvings with Doug Shassberger. Beginners are welcome and supplies are provided. **Book Club** – Tues., April 15, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join Kathy Mieras for a relaxing and cozy book club. Pick up your book to borrow at the parlor desk. **Lowell Memorial Celebration** – Tues., April 15, 6-7:30 pm. Members and

their families are invited to a special time of celebration in memory of those who have died. The evening will begin at 5:30 pm with supper. We welcome families to bring a favorite food that your loved one enjoyed and pictures or items that remind you of your special person. The evening will include readings and an activity, concluding with a special candle lighting to remember and celebrate those who have died. Noogieland will be available- regular support groups will not be meeting. **Medicine Cabinet Workshop** – Tues., April 22, 3:30-5 pm. Join Linda Carrington for this follow-up class to her Green Smoothie workshop. In this workshop, Linda will demonstrate the ways that essential oils may support digestion, help alleviate coughs, colds and ear infections, mood and allergies, assist in first aid and pain relief, help relieve stress and anxiety and aid with a wide variety of health concerns and more. Space is limited, please register in advance. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit [www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow](http://www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow)

### FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Wed., April 2 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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**Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.**

- Mark Twain

## Correction

In last week’s Ledger the article about the light and power board meeting contained a section about the alleged misuse of a city-owned vehicle. The article stated, “The board did not answer.” While it is true that the board did not answer verbally during the board meeting, board chairperson Greg Canfield emailed a statement to the Ledger after the meeting. The statement read, in part, “After review and discussion, the board determined that this was a proper management decision based on the situation and circumstances.” The reporter accidentally submitted a previous revision of the story instead of the version with the quote from Mr. Canfield. We regret the error.

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# Cemetery sexton hoping for a backhoe in the future

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Lowell cemetery sexton Don DeJong has been digging graves by hand with a shovel because the city's 28-year-old backhoe is a broken down pile of antique spare parts.

"The one we had, the city bought brand new in 1986," DeJong said. "It has served us really well. It just has got too many things wrong. It doesn't work. It's not worth fixing, it's so old. And it should've been, by rights, replaced ten years ago, but there's always been cash flow issues. Light and power's backhoe is just a notch better. It's still a piece of junk too and it's got an open cab, no heat and it's slow because it's old. It works for them and I'll probably be using it, because they're not going to find the money to get me one this summer."

Gravedigging actually isn't such a terrible occupation, DeJong said.

"It's not the end of the world; it's not slave labor," DeJong said. "At age 61, I enjoy it. I think the exercise is good. The last three full burials I dug by hand simply because I didn't want to freeze my buns borrowing light and power's backhoe. I borrowed it in the fall, in October and November when I was moving some soil around. Once the snow melts it'll be easier to make use of light and power's backhoe, when the temperature's nicer. But if it's freezing cold then I'd rather be physically active, then I'm warm."

DeJong said it's an "old wives tale" they bury you "six feet under," but it can take a long time to dig the hole.

"I dig four-and-a-half feet, so it's not super deep,"

DeJong said. "Backhoe, it's an hour-and-a-half max, probably. Doing it by hand it might be three or four hours. It depends on if it's one person or if it's two people. It's easy digging. It's really not hard. It's not that bad."

A new backhoe would have a heavy price tag.

"Between \$70,000 and \$90,000 for a new one," DeJong said. "Not cheap."

DeJong has selected what he feels would be a good backhoe for Lowell; all he needs now is a small fortune in money.

"We've identified which one we want; all we have to do is figure out how to finance it," DeJong said. "That's all it takes, but there's going to be so many calls on the limited bucks that are available, that we'll have to see. That's the thing the city's got to be good at, is making wise decisions with their money. Get the most out of the taxpayers' buck."

A new backhoe would be used to dig graves and the machines are used by multiple departments for various tasks each season of the year.

"I think there's going to be a lot of cleaning up this spring that's going to take me some extra time," DeJong said. "There is a mess from salt and gravel and I've already spent quite a bit of time picking up around the library and around the sidewalks as the snow melts. And [the] branch damage [to] bushes, heavily laden with snow, are going to be misshapen. I might have to do a little extra trimming and that kind of stuff around city hall."

Graves, gravel and misshapen bushes don't make the most glamorous budget items, so DeJong doesn't think he'll be seeing the backhoe of his dreams anytime soon.

"The easiest place, I feel, that we see people cut

is areas of maintenance," DeJong said. "When you're on the lower end of the totem pole you deal with what is handed you. I have a sneaking suspicion that it isn't going anywhere. A city of our size needs to have a backhoe. It's unfortunate, but it is a reality. I'm just hoping that by next winter we could have one."

On Friday, March 21, DeJong had a budget meeting with city manager Mark Howe and director of public works Dan DesJarden.

"It was pleasant. It was fine," DeJong said. "Didn't have any real big issues or problems. He reiterated about digging, [that] he didn't realize I was doing that. Most often city managers don't know what you're doing, they just know you're doing something. I explained to my boss that it was my choice to do it that way because I wanted to stay warm."

The budget meeting was delayed repeatedly because of DeJong's extra work repairing streets.

"It was supposed to be last Friday and the one before that," DeJong said. "I was the last one to go through the budget stuff with him [Mark Howe] and Dan [DesJarden], my boss, which is the protocol. It normally would've been done more than a week ago but with the snow and with potholes I've been helping the department of public works patch roads, which is not my normal mode of operations. I'm helping out because there's so many."

Speaking of meetings, there was a "budget workshop" at city hall at 6 pm on Monday, March 24. See the articles on this meeting beginning on page 1 of this week's paper.

# Second grader's scene chosen out of 10,000 entries

Murray Lake Elementary second grader Elle Jenks heard about a Bad Kitty contest when she was looking through her Scholastic book order. Little did she know that two months later she would be the winner of this very contest.

The Bad Kitty contest asked second- and third-grade students to create a drawing and a short description of a scene showing Bad Kitty getting into big trouble. Jenks' entry (see picture) was chosen from 10,000 entries that came in from across the United States.

"The judges were impressed with the illustrations and the writing in a great many of the entries. It was not easy for them to pick the winner, but in the end Elle's was considered to be the very best," commented Betsy Howie from Scholastic Reading clubs.

"I got my idea from the Girl Scouts. I was just handing in my Girl Scout

[cookie] order form when I read about this contest. I thought it would be a good idea to have Bad Kitty get into trouble while eating Girl Scout cookies," says Jenks.



When asked about her newfound fame Jenks says, "I really don't feel famous, but a lot of kids and teachers are coming up to me and saying 'congratulations.'"

winner, her class will be getting a visit from Nick Bruel, the author of the Bad Kitty series. He will also be bringing pizza to help celebrate Elle's winning entry. There will also be many signed books left for Elle and the students.

Elle's teacher Linda DeCator was not too surprised with Elle's winning entry. "Elle is a very unique littel girl. She will go far in her future because of her self-motivation and love of learning. She is certainly a special person and I am so proud of her," DeCator commented.

Elle's parents are proud as well. "We are so proud of her. We just couldn't hold back from sharing this news with all of our family and friends and beaming about how proud we are of her," said Elle's father Aaron.

When asked how she became such a good writer and illustrator, Jenks replied, "I guess because I like to read so many books and they give me ideas to write and draw about. Junie B. Jones and Bad Kitty books are my favorite."

It does make me feel good inside."

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## One Call Now, continued

at their respective school buildings. Parents are asked to report changes in home and email addresses, as well as phone numbers to their children(s) principal's office immediately. "One Call Now" also provides a back-up plan when that does not happen, according to Pratt, "The school is able to generate reports that identify who is not receiving the information and our staff can work with parents to ensure that their contact information is up-to-date."

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## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

You can cope with turbulence - as a passenger and an investor

If you're like many travelers, you get a little nervous when your airplane goes through some turbulence. And if you're like a lot of investors, you may get somewhat jumpy when the financial markets are volatile. Yet flight turbulence probably isn't as scary as it seems, and the same may be true for market volatility — if you know how to respond.

Let's look at some positive responses to market movements:

- *Don't overreact to turbulence.* Turbulence happens on most flights, but passengers are well aware that they can't "bail out" at 30,000 feet, so they generally don't panic. As an investor, you also need to avoid panicky behavior — by *not* taking a "time out" from investing. Over a period of decades, if you were to miss just a handful of the market's best-performing days, your returns could be dramatically reduced. And the best days often follow some of the worst. So if you're not invested in the market, you could miss out on the beginning of a new rally, which is typically when the biggest gains occur.

- *Balance your "cargo."* The ground crew properly positions an airplane's cargo to maintain the plane's center of gravity and reduce the effects of turbulence. When you invest, you also need to achieve balance by owning a variety of vehicles, including stocks, bonds, government securities and certificates of deposit. You'll want your investment mix to reflect your risk tolerance, goals and time horizon. While this type of diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against loss, it can reduce the effects of "turbulence" — that is, market volatility — on your portfolio. Over time, your "cargo" (your investments) may shift, becoming too heavy in stocks or bonds relative to your objectives. Consequently, you'll need to periodically rebalance your portfolio to ensure it's meeting your needs.

- *Match your "transportation method" with your goals.* If you are flying from New York to Los Angeles, you may experience delays or some changes in the flight plan — but your goal is still to reach Los Angeles as quickly

and efficiently as possible. Consequently, you wouldn't scrap the idea of flying and head to the West Coast on foot. When you invest, you will also encounter events, such as market downturns, that you feel may be slowing you down in your progress toward your long-term objectives, such as a comfortable retirement. But if your objectives haven't changed, neither should your "transportation method" of reaching them. In other words, don't abandon your long-term strategy in favor of quick fixes, such as chasing after "hot" stocks that may not be suitable for your needs.

- *Maintain perspective on your "flight path."* When you've flown, you've probably observed (perhaps with some envy) some of your fellow passengers sleeping through periods of turbulence. In the investment world, these types of people are the ideal long-term investors — they know that turbulence, in the form of market fluctuations, is normal, because they've experienced it many times before. Their perspective isn't on short-term events, such as volatility, but rather on the voyage toward their "final destination" — i.e., the achievement of their long-term goals.

So when you fly, fasten your seatbelt and relax. And when you invest, don't overreact to short-term events. By following these basic guidelines, you will be a calmer traveler and a better investor.

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### proud of city manager's accomplishments

Dear Editor,  
Recently at a city council meeting, our city manager read the "State of the City" address. We, the employees that work with Mark on a regular basis couldn't be more proud of his accomplishments. Since taking office in July of 2011, Mark has saved more than a million dollars by refinancing our debt; he has invested in public infrastructure by improving our streets and parks; and he has secured property for future downtown parking; and has lowered the millage rate for the first time in thirty years. We have found Mark to be personable, family-oriented, cooperative, extremely honest and genuinely sincere. His leadership has brought many

wonderful new ideas to our city and he has implemented them effectively.

We believe that he is undeserving of the way in which he has been portrayed. We want the citizens of Lowell to know that he genuinely has their best interest and our community at heart and we are lucky to have him.

If you have not yet heard the "State of the City" address, please visit our website at <http://www.ci.lowell.mi.us>

We proudly serve the city of Lowell.

- Suzanne Olin
- Dan DesJarden
- Lori Gerard
- Betty R. Morlock
- Theresa Mundt
- Sue Ullery
- Luanne Wisniewski

### city council has a fiduciary responsibility

To The Editor,  
At the city council meeting on March 17, 2014, during discussion about the LCTV Endowment Fund grant applications, a citizen mentioned that the money from the sale of the facility belonged to the subscribers. Then Greg Canfield, chairman of the Lowell Light and Power board, compared that to someone shopping at Meijer and claiming ownership of the grocery store.

Really Greg? Maybe you should go back to school and take a class in government. It seems the leadership in Lowell has forgotten what they learned about government when they were young. Have you heard about Lincoln's Gettysburg Address? It says, "...government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

For many years, in the office of Lowell Light and Power, a sign has hung

that says, "Owned by the People of Lowell." One of the founders of Lowell Cable Television told me the same applied to that utility. So what gives the current government and board the right to rewrite history? The people who subscribed to Lowell Cable Television, supported it for the years that it existed and then defended the way the proceeds from the sale of it should be used, do indeed own every dime of that money. The city council is the caretaker....period.

Just as the city council is supposed to represent the citizens, they have a fiduciary responsibility to make sure the annual available funds from the LCTV Endowment Fund are used for the purposes that were established in 2009. If we weren't spending our tax dollars fighting our city workers, we wouldn't need to hijack LCTV funds to repair our streets.

Barb Barber

## sharing the vision



LAS Superintendent Greg Pratt

### After the Storm...

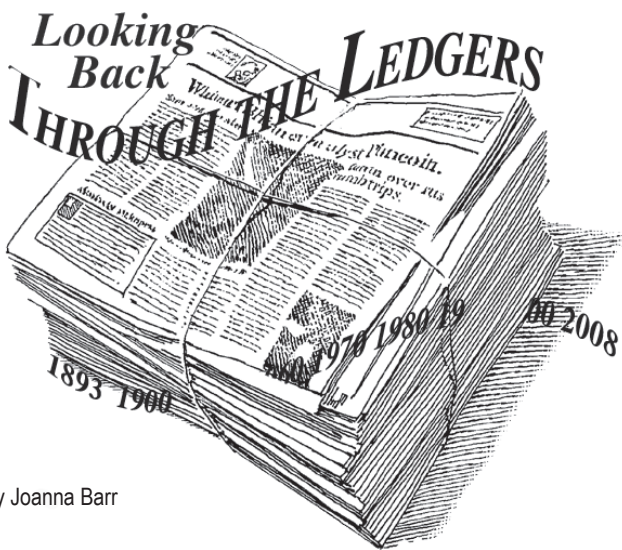
March, 2014

I think we can all agree that we have endured an unprecedented season of snow, ice, rain, frigid temperatures, gale force winds, and more. To say that this year's inclement weather has been an inconvenient disruption would be an understatement. Aside from the challenge of navigating the conditions to travel to work, church, or to get groceries in what has been classified as the snowiest winter in decades, think of the time spent simply shoveling your driveway this season. I'm sure there are some of you who also cleared a path to your front door, unburied your mailbox, if you could find it, and possibly spread some salt. Pretty time consuming, and frustrating, because before you finished clearing your driveway, blistering winds had it covered with snow again. In my exertion to combat the snow at the Pratt house, I was immediately led to think about the effort that is required to clear parking lots the size of football fields, walkways, and other high traffic areas across the school district. Thinking about snow removal with this winter's extreme conditions, especially given the immense geography and square footage of our district, caused me to want to take a nap. Our crew, who is responsible for snow removal, consists of two guys, who began work when some of the late night shows were signing off the air, have been working nonstop since December. It's also worth noting that snow cleanup can be a thankless job, sometimes full of critics who assess their work from the warmth of the car.

I have also given thought to the white-knuckle drives that required focus and skill on icy, snow covered roads when it's just too cold for salt to work. With beads of sweat on my brow, I would hush my two sons in the car who weren't even talking so I could confidently navigate snowy terrain. My commutes this year felt more like an expedition than a drive. Can you imagine driving our rural snow-covered roads with 30 or more kids in tow? There is no doubt that transporting children back and forth to school is one of the most important assignments any professional driver will ever have and our drivers delivered kids to and from school safely through it all.

Last, but certainly not least, being a working parent, I understand, first-hand, the inconvenience of making last minute arrangements for excited kids when school is canceled. It's no cakewalk for the players involved in making what feels like the most unpopular decision on earth. Closing school is a tough call that requires hours of work, discussions among administrators, early morning road checks, and time analyzing changing forecasts. Be assured that snow day decisions are the least favorite of school superintendents. However, I thought it might be helpful for our community to know that, to date, Lowell Area Schools has had ten cancellations and two two-hour delays, which surpasses the six make-up days granted to school districts. Fortunately, Lowell Area Schools consistently structures its school year to exceed the requirements as established by law. Under the state school code, as of today, our district will still be required to make-up three days. In the absence of an announcement for a remedy to the situation faced by many Michigan school districts, I notified parents that our district will tentatively reconcile days at the end of the school year in the event that we are required to make-up days. We are also considering other options to make-up days that will be least disruptive to our families.

Spring may finally be within reach and, hopefully, the record-setting winter blast will become a distant memory, but I would be remiss not to raise awareness and appreciation for the work of our maintenance and transportation staff under such tough conditions. Their work is critical as they have the important job of keeping students safe. Please be mindful that every person involved in our schools is critical to our children's success. Every staff member has a very specific role and they work together so that students can arrive safe and ready to achieve. I am deeply appreciative to every parent, every community member, and every staff member, for your part in helping to provide a safe, healthy, and nurturing experience for kids in Lowell to grow and learn.



By Joanna Barr

The town board settled with Treasurer Look yesterday.

George Barber holds his old place again at Wood's Barber Shop.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 26, 1914

L. P. Thomas has taken the Lowell agency for the Duntley pneumatic sweeper. We have one of these handsome and useful machines in our home and can cheerfully recommend it to home owners needing a combined sweeper and cleaner. It gets the dirt in a most surprising manner.

Mrs. O. O. Adams entertained with a towel shower for Miss Bessie Read Saturday afternoon and evening. The parlor was beautifully decorated with pink carnations, pink candles and shades. Among the guests from out of town were, Mrs. John McLachlan, Mrs. Frank McLachlan, Mrs. B. Beattie and Miss Pearl Warren, all of Grand Rapids.

Stephen McCleary was brought here from Lowell Monday afternoon to answer a complaint made in Judge Lapham's court by Mrs. Alice Warner charging him with jumping a board bill. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$10 and cost amounting to \$19.50. In default of payment McCleary was taken to Ionia and lodged in the county jail for 15 days. —Belding Banner, March 18.

Labels for maple syrup cans printed to order at The Ledger office.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 30, 1939

Lady Astor says she is sorry the U. S. can't be included in the British Empire. We didn't dump a lot of tea overboard for nothing!

"With summer not too far away," asserts Miss Tillie Ivebeentold, "we will soon see dresses on local streets

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal March 27, 1889

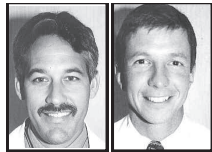
Postmaster General Wanamaker has ordered the clerks in several of the departments under him to begin work at 8:30 and remain at their desks until 6, until the work of their divisions which is in arrears is caught up. If Mr. Wanamaker and the heads of all other government departments would make such orders permanent, thereby causing government clerks to give something like the same amount of labor for the dollars they receive in return, as do clerks in the employ of corporations and private business institutions, the insane scramble for government clerkships would receive an attack of wholesome and healthy decrease.

Several cases of diphtheria are reported near McCords and Whitneyville.

Chauncey VanDeuzen is one of the tough — physically — old gentlemen of this state. He is 72 years old, came to Michigan 52 years ago and during the past winter has hewed out all the timbers for a basement barn 40x60.

David Lawyer was acquitted of the charge against him, last week.

# health



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

## atopic eczema

Atopic eczema is a chronic skin condition which usually starts in infancy or childhood, but many children outgrow it. Eczema is not dangerous or contagious but it can cause discomfort and distress, including social stress for children and job difficulties for adults.

Atopic eczema is an immune system disease, the exact cause of which is unknown. It is likely inherited and is associated with having allergies and asthma. Symptoms usually involve an extremely itchy rash that causes the skin to turn red, swell and scale, burn or form small blisters. Over time the skin may thicken and as a result itch constantly.

There is no cure for eczema and no single treatment. Your doctor may recommend:

- skin moisturizers, which should be the initial treatment in all cases.
- steroid creams or ointments are effective but should only be used in a short-term fashion. Occasionally steroid pills or an injection will help for a significant flare-up.
- antihistamines will help control itch.
- light therapy with UV (ultraviolet) light can be used alone or along with other medication in children older than 12 years.

# Lunch n Learn in Lowell

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Motivational speaker and trainer Matt De La Cruz; founder and CEO of The Winning Minds Group, will be presenting "Lunch n Learn," hosted by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce (LACC). All Lowell citizens are invited to attend the "Lunch n Learn" to be held on April 17.

The forty-five minute presentation will be held at the Lowell City Hall, 301 E. Main St., on the second floor inside the city chambers. Beverage and a box lunch provided by Larkin's

restaurant is included in the cost of the event, which is \$10 for chamber members and \$15 for non-members.

Executive director of the LACC, Liz Baker, said that the chamber has hosted similar events in the past and have always had a good turnout from their members. She stresses though that this session would be beneficial to all community members. "Anyone can learn something from this short presentation; Matt is inspiring and full of energy. It is contagious," Baker stated.

De La Cruz possesses more than 20 years of experience in the business world: management, sales and personal development. His work history includes a list of successful businesses of all sizes, including several Fortune 500 companies.

He has quickly become successful and well-respected in the personal development industry studying under some of the world's top and best known trainers, including Zig Ziglar and Anthony Robbins. De La Cruz himself has now successfully trained more than 500,000 people worldwide.

De La Cruz had very little formal education prior to his business success and teaches by drawing from his own experiences rather than traditional business theories.

His session in Lowell will focus on setting goals,

prioritizing and keeping a positive and focused mindset. The sales' expert will offer proven strategies that have previously helped thousands to develop, strengthen and grow their businesses.

Baker believes this is a great opportunity for merchants and citizens alike. "You never stop learning, or perhaps for many, relearning," said Baker of the importance of continued education and motivation. "Sometimes we forget to stay focused and on our game," admitted Baker.

Registration for the event is available online at [www.discoverlowell.org](http://www.discoverlowell.org) or on the day of the event beginning at 11:45 am. De La Cruz is scheduled to speak at 1 pm and there will be a Q & A session following his presentation.



## At Your Local Library

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

### Eco-Friendly Garden Projects

Craft earth-friendly spring garden projects using upcycled household containers and supplies from nature's bounty. For all ages. Wed., April 9 at 1 pm.

### Rainbow Loom Creativity

Bring your Rainbow Loom and some friends to socialize and create. Rainbow Loom jewelry is fun, unique and great to give as gifts. The library will provide bands in a variety of colors. Don't forget your loom! For ages 6 and older. Tues., April 8 at 1 pm.



### MARCH 26

Margaret Hoats, Carol Maynard.

### MARCH 27

Joel Roudabush, Kelly Geldersma.

### MARCH 28

Amie Thaler, Aaron Kastanek, Beck Butler.

### MARCH 29

John Ellison, Sandra VanWeelden, Judith Schafer Eiseman, Laura Rasch, Carl Rasch, Robin Burns, Casey Yonker, Brianna Homrich, Priscilla Nearing.

### MARCH 30

Deb Maxim, Erin Wade, Delores Ellison, Laurinda Horsley, Patrick Drake.

### MARCH 31

Katelynn Fonger, Jennifer McCaul, Ben Lobbezoo, Tera Raab, Rudy Smith, Michaela Blough.

### APRIL 1

Christopher Vollink, Denny McClure, Kurt Wernet.

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# area churches

### SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell  
Pastor Tony Shumaker  
9:45 A.M. .... Sunday School  
10:30 A.M. .... Fellowship  
11:00 A.M. .... Worship

897-9863

Nursery & Children  
Worship Programs Provided

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### CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

897-7060  
Pastor Rod Galindo  
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI  
Morning Worship.....10:00 A. M.  
Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.  
Nursery available at both services  
Barrier-Free



### CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)

3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery  
Robert Holmes, Pastor  
SUNDAYS:  
Worship: 10 a.m.

### WEDNESDAYS:

Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m.  
"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.  
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### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL

2275 West Main Street • 897-7168  
Internet: <http://www.fbclowell.org>  
Rev. Jon Pickens  
Pastor Phil Severn  
Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.  
Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.  
AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.  
Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times  
Nursery Provided • Barrier Free

### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

402 Amity St. • 897-9820  
[www.stmary-lowell.com](http://www.stmary-lowell.com)  
Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 10:30 AM  
Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM  
Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM  
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Sundays 10am

[www.ourbigchurch.org](http://www.ourbigchurch.org)

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL

621 E. Main Street  
897-5936  
[www.lowellumc.com](http://www.lowellumc.com)

Barrier-free entrance

WORSHIP.....8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.....9:30 a.m.

YOUTH GROUPS (JR. & SR. HIGH).....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday After-School Kids' Club until 5:30 p.m.

Rev. Rick Blunt

\*\*\*  
I remember when the candle shop burned down. Everyone stood around singing 'Happy Birthday.'

Steven Wright

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# Former postal employee remembers Lowell fondly

by Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

For the average Ledger subscriber, the weekly edition of Lowell's newspaper doesn't have to travel very far. Some subscribers could probably step out of their houses, shout and their words would be heard at the offices of the Ledger/Buyers Guide. Not so with Ron Denman, whose copy of the Lowell Ledger travels over 600 miles to his doorstep in Eastern Tennessee.

Since the year 2002, Denman and wife Joan have lived in Blaine, Tennessee; which sits approximately 25 miles northeast of Knoxville. Denman is familiar with the workings of sending a document or package from one part of the nation to another, having worked with the Lowell Post Office for many years. He only moved to Blaine in November of 2002 after

retiring from those years of service with the USPS.

"I have a lot of memories working at the post office," Denman said.

Denman was born in Saranac, but the barrier between Saranac and Lowell was no barrier to him when he was growing up. He found himself in Saranac or Lowell most of his time. His wife Joan was born and raised in Lowell proper, which no doubt made it easier to spend time on the West side of that imaginary line as Denman got older.

Now that the two have moved on from West Michigan, Denman noted that he loves living so near the mountains. Blaine is located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. Like in Michigan, the Denmans have the opportunity to appreciate the change of seasons, but unlike in Michigan, the seasonal

change is not quite as harsh. As such, Denman's favorite thing about Tennessee is the weather.

The Denmans have one son and two grandchildren. The two grandchildren have joined their grandparents in Blaine, while their son currently resides in South Dakota.

Denied the anchor or children or grandchildren in Lowell, Denman still had the same response of most readers who subscribe to the Ledger from abroad when asked why he continues to read the paper. He loves the people in Lowell.

"We like to see what's going on," Denman said.

Denman has two sisters and a brother who still live in the Saranac area and Joan's mother and two brothers continue to reside in Lowell. The Denmans now return to Lowell every year at Christmas time and Joan will return sometimes three times per year.



Ron and Joan Denman with their grandchildren, Donavon and Nikole.

Denman doesn't have a favorite section of the Ledger. It would seem that he loves the paper in its

entirety, because each little bit of text is about a town that holds an important place in Denman's heart.

"We miss all the people from Lowell," Denman said.

# Girl Scout troop combines efforts with Kids Food Basket

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Girl Scout Troop 3986 recently combined efforts with Kids Food Basket (KFB) for their annual community service project collecting breakfast foods and decorating lunch sacks for hungry children in the greater West Michigan area.

Kids Food Basket is a non-profit organization based in Grand Rapids that focuses its effort on attacking childhood hunger. They serve more than 6,000 children daily providing nourishing meals they might not otherwise receive.

Troop leader Jodi Socall happened upon the charity when her workplace organized an employee volunteer experience. "That was the first time I had heard

about them. That night I went online to research them and thought that it would be perfect for the girls because kids love to help kids out," said Socall.

The troop's 30 members, primarily students at Cherry Creek Elementary, quickly got to work pitching their idea to principal Shelli Otten and spreading the word about the worthy cause. "We told them they had to sell their idea to Mrs. Otten and then if she said okay we could proceed. You would have thought they won a million dollars when she said yes!! Next, we worked out the details which included asking the whole school to participate. We asked a troop mom that works in advertising to teach

them how to advertise their idea. She helped them work on posters that we put up in the lunch room," continued Socall.

The girls placed a collection container near



the main office to accept donations and were surprised by the generous response of

staff, students and parents. "I honestly thought it would be just the parents of the girls in my troop that would donate food items but the first week I checked the box, I was overwhelmed by

the donations." said Socall. In total the Girl Scouts were able to assemble and deliver

a total of 270 "Breakfast Bundles," far above their 100 bundle goal.

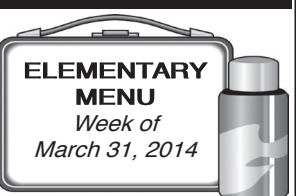
Troop members also hosted sack decorating sessions during the school's scheduled second recess, where they invited all students to participate in lunch bag decoration. Their efforts produced 1,000 cheerfully decorated brown paper bags for KFB which would be filled with take-home suppers for those in need.

"I am hoping that this is something that the kids in the troop and at the school enjoyed doing and that we can do this same thing next year," reported Socall, who added that the troop also has a number of other volunteer

projects in the near future, including making bracelets and donating Girl Scout cookies to patients at the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital and even assisting at the school carnival.

"It is important to give back to your community and to help your neighbor if they are in need," said Socall, "I personally think it is important to teach children when they are young to help others whenever they can."

## LUNCH MENU



**MON:** Beef taco on soft tortilla shell (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), Corn dog (served at Bushnell), seasoned broccoli, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, salsa (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), celery sticks (served at Bushnell), mixed fruit, sliced pears.

**TUES:** Grilled chicken on WG bun (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake) WG breaded chicken sandwich (served at Bushnell), baked beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber coins, peaches, applesauce.

**WED:** French toast sticks served w/sausage, warm cinnamon apples, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, broccoli florets, pineapple, orange juice.

**THURS:** No School

**FRI:** Spring Break Begins

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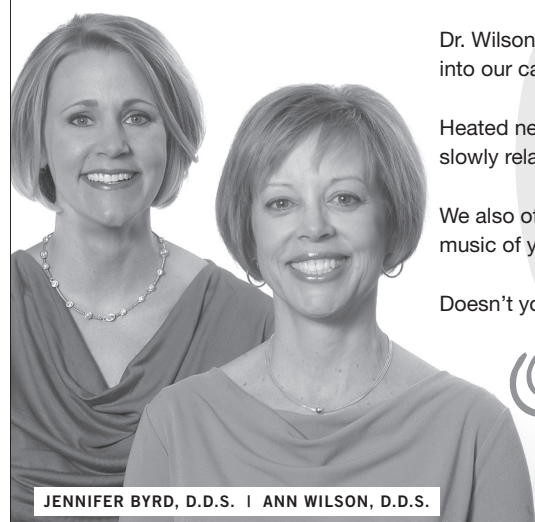
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# Record-breaking crowd for final performance of "Annie Get Your Gun"

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Talent ignited the stage of the Lowell Performing Arts Center (LPAC) when Lowell High School (LHS) presented Irving Berlin's wild west musical "Annie Get Your Gun," a lively and upbeat production based on the life of legendary female sharpshooter Annie Oakley.

Oakley, played flawlessly by senior thespian and talented vocalist Shelby Antel, rose to fame during her time in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Antel, who is sure to rise to fame in her own right, executed the role of Oakley to crowd-pleasing perfection. Her delightfully uneducated accent stayed consistent throughout the performance offering many laughs and endearing the character to audiences. The seasoned actress managed to convey the duality of Oakley's personality portraying both the confident and savvy sharpshooter and the love struck doe-eyed innocent with skill.

Oakley's love interest and professional rival, fellow sharpshooter Frank Butler, was played by veteran stage

performer Nick Smith. The senior actor displayed his advanced acting ability and superior vocal talent in the leading male role. He especially shined during

Senior actor Mark Slaktoski took on the role of Buffalo Bill Cody, founder of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, lending his large stage presence and booming voice

Sophomore talent Archer Pina took on the comical role of Chief Sitting Bull. Though his lines were few, each were delivered

talent Sidney Anderson who shined in the role. Anderson managed to give the somewhat unlikable character a sense of vulnerability and humor that helped audiences to embrace her plight for love.

Seniors, Lexie Bocskey and Parker Groom, played star-crossed lovers Winnie Tate, sister of Dolly and Tommy Keeler in the secondary love story of the production. Both actors performed well and shared a chemistry that made the pair especially believable as a couple. The duo delivered a standout vocal and dance performance during the number "Who Do You Love, I Hope," a surprise highlight of the show.

The clearly gifted leading actors were supported by an equally talented supporting cast of nearly fifty players.

inclined students at LHS. The combined vocal efforts of the entire cast, both solo and during group numbers, conveyed a level of talent that could easily be likened to a professional stage production of the show.

The vocalists were musically accompanied by a live pit orchestra that featured more than a dozen skillful student musicians, adding to the success of the overall performance. Another key to the warm reception of the show was the crowd-pleasing special effects and perfectly timed sound effects produced by the dedicated crew which created great action packed shooting scenes for audiences.

Overall, the show was more than worth the price of entry. The casting was superb and the talent overflowing. Buzz



Cast members united on stage during the production's opening number in a lively line dance that set the tone for the funny and action-packed musical production.

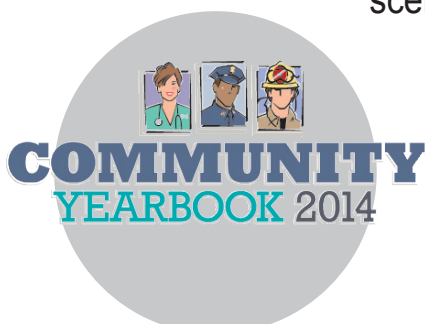
the funny and lighthearted song "My Defenses Are Down" where he was joined on stage by a group of dancing, singing and lassoing cowboys for the creatively choreographed dance number.

to the historic character. Slaktoski's real life bloodline coincidentally traces back to the real Buffalo Bill and this seemed quite obvious by his comfort and strong performance in the supporting role.



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Aidan Lane, Nick Hess and Parker Groom show off their lasso skills during one of the musicals most crowd-appealing song and dance numbers.

with a sense of comedy that was well-received by the audience. Tim Bem played face contorting show manager Charlie Davenport. The junior displayed a knack for physical humor and was especially comical in his dealings with the character Dolly Tate. Tate, Frank Butler's lovely assistant and avid admirer, was portrayed by senior acting and vocal

Brianna Massey as Foster Wilson, Maddi Emelander as Pawnee Bill and Victoria Russell as Mrs. Sylvia Potter-Porter were among the list of standout performers in supporting roles.

A line-up of cowboys, Indians, roustabouts (the equivalent of a modern day "carny") and some European royalty rounded out the roles filled by the musically

created by the first weekend of performances lead to a well-deserved record-breaking crowd of nearly 500 people in attendance at the final performance this past weekend. Kudos to the staff, crew and performers on a job well done and to the community for supporting this excellent contribution to the LPAC stage.



Nicole Mooney and Jacob Sweet, a part of the large and talented supporting cast that, helped to make the musical a success.



# Expo, continued

and installation. Co-owner Kim Harding was excited at the success of the Expo.

“We believe that this year’s expo, for us, was the best expo yet,” Harding said.

With the late spring, Harding hasn’t received as many phone calls for business as they normally do by this time of year. That

ground. Pesky fissures can often expand even further before the ground fully thaws, so it is often better to wait prior to repair.

The City of Lowell had an exciting booth with details regarding the Riverwalk remodel. Those who attended the Expo got the opportunity to view

Expo chairman Josh Bruwer was originally concerned with finding ways to keep people at the Expo until the very end. It was this concern that birthed the idea for the Next Place to Be gameshow. Contestants Angela Buschert, Kelli Carney, and Marci Frazer were chosen to play Plinko,

Hole in One and 3 Strikes, respectively, based on their success at guessing the contents of three jars.

Host Mike Fillman first guided contestant Carney in placing various pieces of golf equipment in ascending order by price for the Hole in One game. Though Carney succeeded



Marci Frazer playing 3 Strikes.



Kim and Mike Harding and the Harding Enterprises booth.

said, they are expecting to have a busy shortened season.

As much as Harding wants people to call her for nuisance cracks in asphalt, her advice is to wait until after the frost leaves the

several possible plans for expanding the remodeling efforts that are currently underway and vote for their favorites. The winning plan won’t necessarily be chosen as the final arrangement, but the city values public input.



The crowd at the Lowell Expo.

at placing her ball close to the hole, she wasn’t able to sink her putt. Unfortunately, the Arrowhead golf course membership, worth over \$500, would not be put to use this year.

Following Hole in One, Buschert competed in Plinko. With the four ping pong balls she earned for guessing whether the displayed price was higher or lower than the actual

price, she was able to earn herself \$15 in Lowell bucks.

The biggest winner of the Next Place to Be gameshow was Marci Frazer. While playing 3 strikes, she was able to make eleven draws without a single strike appearing, resulting in her winning asphalt, filler and \$200 in Lowell bucks, a prize package worth \$524.89.



The inflatable slide.



The Easy Idle Band entertained the crowd.



The Comprenew electronics’ recycling truck.



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# Lowell High School honor roll

Lowell High School honor roll for the second trimester 2013-14 school year

Second trimester term GPA must be a 3.000 or higher to qualify and is based on final grades.

## 9th Grade

Hannah Allan  
Sterling Anderson  
Adam Anderson  
Karmen Anderson  
Jordan Andrus  
Angela Baerwalde  
Keagan Barnes  
Brennan Battle  
Sela Bauman  
Matthew Beachler  
Johanna Bem  
Jeremy Bergin  
Delaney Bierlein  
Dakota Bileth  
Faith Blakely  
Elijah Boulton  
Collin Bowers  
Casey Bramble  
Maria Briggs  
Clayton Brown  
Madeline Burt  
Kyle Cater  
Samantha Celori  
Emma Chapin  
Brodrick Chapman  
Autumn Chrisman  
Colton Churches

Ryne Clarke  
Katie Clemenshaw  
Paige Clouse  
Austin Comer  
Riley Coxon  
Troy Coyne  
Amber Curtis  
Nicholas Dalessandro  
Maria DeCator  
Paige DeHaan  
Casey Depew  
Samuel DeVito  
Andrew deVoest  
Kyla Dixon  
Sydney Dodde  
Michael Doyle  
Robert Dubisky  
Jonah Epema  
Edward Fisher  
Isabelle Fleszar  
Callie Ford-Weber  
Alise Forward  
Paige Fosburg  
Brady Fox  
Laurel Frederickson  
Darby Fuller  
Taylor Furtaw  
Kamryn Gaines  
Bridget Garter  
Bethany Geldersma  
Haley Godbold  
Sonja Grasman  
Abigail Green  
Elizabeth Grile  
Emily Grochowalski  
Madeleine Haines

Megan Hall  
Rebecca Hall  
Nathan Hawkins  
Brianna Haywood  
Edward Heikkila  
Kollin Hieftje  
Taylor Higgins  
Olivia Hock  
Emily Hock  
Shannon Hoekstra  
Kamryn Holdridge  
Jacob Holmes  
Molly Hoseth  
Thomas Hubert  
Anderson Hudson  
Noah Huizinga  
Jerrold Humphreys  
Bailey Inda  
Logan Jamison  
Kara Jeffries  
Danton Jernberg  
Eric Judd  
Kelsie Jurmo  
Jeremy Kargl  
Caleb Kaufman  
Corah Kaufman  
Kaitlin Kelley  
Bretton Kooistra  
Adam Korzen  
Josie Ladner  
Aidan Lane  
Clayton Launer  
Geniaya Lewis  
Jared Lezan  
Isabel Lillie  
Kayeleigh Lubbers

Christina Lyon  
Sara Majestic  
Madison McCormack  
Carsen McDonald  
Alyssa McIntire  
Kenzie McLarty  
Alyssa Mears  
Jarrod Melle  
Tessa Micho  
Aron Mierendorf  
Chase Miller  
Kathryn Miller  
Kennedy Mitchell  
Nicole Mooney  
Daniel Moore  
Ryan Morris  
Benjamin Mullins  
Riley Nethercott  
Nova Nietling  
Benjamin Noffke  
Olivia Nurmikko  
Molly Olin  
Hunter Owens  
Grace Paiz  
Lawrence Patrick  
Tiana-Marie Peavey  
Nicolas Perry  
Jayce Perysian  
Jasmine Peters  
Mary Peterson  
Chad Peterson  
Katie Peterson  
Tiana Petricevic  
Zachary Petroelje  
Remington Phillips  
Caleb Pickens  
Abigail Pickett  
Josealyn Pontius  
Andrew Poulton  
Alexander Powell  
Jacob Pratt  
Griffen Preston  
Lisa Price  
Jacquelyn Pytlik  
Lillian Quiggle  
Jacob Reagan  
Mansel Reed  
Matthew Reedy  
Aiden Remar  
Gina Ricards  
Jillian Riney  
Megan Ritchie  
Samantha Robinson  
Alyssa Roest  
John Rogalke  
Alexander Rozell  
Samuel Russell  
Seth Salinas  
Gabrielle Sheppard  
Trevor Sherman  
Devon Siciliano  
Courtney Simpson  
Connor Smithee  
Caleb Sobie  
Sage Solomonson  
Hana Steinebach  
Nathan Stephens  
Benjamin Stewart  
Bradley Stoffers  
Kayleigh Striplin  
Evan Swanson  
Garret Taylor  
Patrick Travis  
Donald Trierweiler  
Steven Tripp  
Nickolas Truba  
Clayton VandenHout  
Sydney VandenHout  
Trevor VanDyke  
Lucy Wade  
Sara Walters  
Corrina Wenger  
Lauren White  
Nathan Whittum  
Kodie Wilcox  
Maya Williams  
Sophia Winn  
Jacob Wosinski  
Kendra Wroten

## 10th Grade

Maya Aalsburg  
Keara Anderson  
Shelley Bailey  
Anastasia Barnes  
Jessica Barrett  
Ethan Bates  
Kyle Bell  
Baylee Bennett

Jenna Bessey  
Elena Bishop  
David Bjorelind  
Katerina Brim  
Lauren Browning  
Jared Brzezniak  
Timothy Buechler  
Ethan Campbell  
Alina Chappell  
Elle Coble  
Jack Cooke  
Matthew Cooper  
Skyler Dawson  
Maxwell Dean  
Zeth Dean  
Sarah Dec  
Bradly Depew  
Elizabeth Dickson  
Billy Dickson  
Ellen Dilly  
Wenxuan Ding  
Ines Dominguez Gonzalez  
Guglielmo Donofrio  
Hannah Duvernay  
MeKare Elliott  
Madison Emelander  
Kelsey Emmanuel  
Haley Jo Engels  
Sina Faass  
Jennifer Ferreira  
Rachael Fotis  
Rachel Fox  
Alexis Frederickson  
Madison Gaskin  
Joseph Geisen  
Abigail Gerig  
Enrique Gomez-Lopez  
Austin Grim  
Addison Grohman  
Kyrsten Grover  
Kellen Guinn  
Brandon Haehnel  
Cameron Harper  
Jessica Havlik  
Seth Hemingsen  
Sean Henry  
Mary Hess  
Ryan Hessler  
Victoria Hewitt  
Lena Hinkel  
Maranda Holloway  
Lance Huber  
Talitha Hull  
McKenzie Huver  
Haris Islamcevic  
Mathea Ismond  
Aaron Jakubiak  
Graham Johnson  
Madison Kaminski  
Reece Karns  
Megan Khodl  
Kyle Klaver  
Joseph Kline  
Sara Kloosterman  
Nicholas Kloosterman  
Kayla Kole  
Kalie Kopecek  
Hunter Kramer  
Daniel Kruse  
Allyson Laird  
Bridget Lally  
Anna Litchfield  
Maxwell Majinska  
Claire Maksymetz  
Marcus Malling  
Kyle Mankel  
Adam Marks  
Marilla Marks  
Brianna Massey  
Derek Massey  
Jarett Maughan  
Sarah Mayhew  
Collin McGee  
Bryndal McGillicuddy  
Hensley McMillian  
Evan Mierendorf  
Richard Misak  
Jordan Mixon  
Aleecea Moomau  
Ellinor Morris  
Karson Murley  
Garrett Nauta  
Abigail Nies  
Carter Noskey  
Sawyer Olesko  
Ashton Pallottini  
Brendan Paulus  
Alyssa Peckham  
Liam Peterson

Samantha Petrovich  
Cameron Philo  
Anthony Pollock  
Bailey Reitsma  
Tess Richardson  
Tyler Ritchie  
Hannah Ritsema  
Maria Rodrigues  
Trevor Roest  
KaRae Freeman Roscoe  
Isaiah Rowley  
Trevor Shurlow  
Madison Smith  
Jacob Sprague  
Gabriel Steed  
Ryan Stevens  
Allyson Stockreef  
Andrew Struckmeyer  
Hayden Sutton  
Joshua Talalay  
Carter Thalison  
Lakota Tidd  
Michael Trupke  
Micaela VandenBerg  
Courtney VanderMark  
Morgan VanEnk  
Breanna VanLaan  
Kenneth Vickers  
Calvin Warning  
Kyle Washburn  
Amanda Webster  
Douglas Weed  
Donelle Weeks  
Leana Weiler  
Brian Whitsett  
Faith Wilson  
Sarena Wilterdink  
Nolan Yahrmarkt  
North Yates  
Alysia Ysasi  
Mallory Ziolkowski  
Monica Zurita Celi

## 11th Grade

Anthony Alderink  
Allison Annable  
Maxwell Barber  
Tanner Barnes  
Rachel Bazen  
Timothy Bem  
Taylor Bierling  
John Bigham  
Abrielle Bladey  
Nathan Blattner  
Maria Blough  
Blake Bochert  
Alexander Bohr  
Michael Bonney  
Santana Boulton  
Josh Branagan  
Zachary Breimayer  
Hannah Briggs  
Laurel Bronkella  
Paige Brown  
Joshua Buechler  
Mackenzie Bush  
Katelyn Bush  
Amy Carpenter  
Colleen Cater  
Alexandra Chapdelaine  
Brendan Chumney  
Mitchell Clay  
Emma Clouser  
Amber Cook  
Ciara Cornish  
Kennedy Coxon  
Paul Crosby  
Bailey Cummings  
Coty Curtis  
Lauren DeHaan  
Taylor Doorn  
Abigail Downing  
Caitlin Doyle  
Hannah Draigh  
Kenneth Duke  
Alexander Duram  
Justin Everitt  
Ann Fife  
Danielle Fron  
Alexia Garcia  
Caitlyn Gauck  
Zachary Gordon  
Shannon Gorman  
William Halling  
Isaac Henderson  
Nickolas Higgins  
Rachel Hindley

## NOTICE OF OPEN POSITION AND INFORMATION REGARDING CANDIDACY FOR VERGENNES TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

### Required Filing Documents and 2014 Deadlines

An election will be held in Vergennes Township to fill the partial term of Trustee Allan Baird, who passed away in January of 2014. The Township Board has appointed former Trustee, Vern Nauta, to fill the seat until a new Trustee can be elected at the November 4, 2014 General Election. Candidates of each political party will be listed on the ballot for the Primary Election on August 5th, and the winners of the primaries will then appear on the November ballot.

The following information is provided to assist interested residents in seeking the open seat. The required paperwork is available at the township offices, or online as indicated below. The township offices are open Monday and Wednesday from 9 to 3, and Thursday from 9 until noon. The office is located at the corner of Bailey Dr. and Parnell, Lowell, 49331, and the phone number is 616-897-5671. You may contact Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk, for further information.

#### Affidavit of Identity and Receipt of Filing; Deadline for filing is April 22, 2014 at 4 pm.

\* File with the Township Clerk's Office - the office will be open on Tuesday April 22nd from noon until 4 for this purpose.

\* Document can be obtained at the Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections website, [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos). Three copies are needed; one is filed with the Township Clerk, one with the County Clerk and one is used as your receipt of filing.

#### Nomination Petition; Deadline for filing is April 22, 2014 at 4 pm.

\* Available from the Vergennes Township Clerk or County Clerk.

\* Filed with the Affidavit of Identity with the Township Clerk.

\* Not less than 3 nor more than 10 signatures are required. Signatures are valid for 180 days. Circulator's signature must not predate the nominating signatures.

#### Statement of Organization for Candidate Committees

\* Campaign Committee Documents are available at the Michigan Department of State Bureau of Elections website, [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos)

\*Statement of Organization must be filled within 10 days of becoming a candidate.

\*File with the County Clerk's Office.



**Veronica Mars picks up where cult series left off**

by Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

The television series titled Veronica Mars debuted on The CW in 2004, producing three under-watched seasons before getting cancelled.

Much like fellow gone-too-soon Fox drama *Firefly*, Veronica Mars only grew in popularity after it was no longer on the air. Fans grew in number, but also in willingness to spend money on the franchise.

When creator Rob Thomas and female lead Kristen Bell launched a kickstarter funding campaign for a Veronica Mars' film in 2013, fans raised over \$2 million in less than ten hours. The resulting film, also called Veronica Mars, just came to theaters this month.

Veronica Mars (Kristen Bell) is the main character of the film and series of the same name. Now an aspiring lawyer in New York City, Mars is pulled back into her old status quo of solving crimes in Neptune, California, when ex-boyfriend Logan Echolls (Jason Dohring) is once again accused of murder. Mars finds that her original supporting cast - father Keith Mars (Enrico Colantoni), best friends Wallace Fennel (Percy Daggs III) and

Weevil Navarro (Francis Capra), and comic relief Dick Casablancas (Ryan Hansen) - haven't changed at all and neither has the social inequity, the class warfare and the corrupt police department of her home sweet home.

After nearly a decade apart, the entire cast has managed to maintain its fantastic chemistry and the cast is huge. Even less memorable characters pop up here and there. Tie this in with the full season worth of plot that unfolds and one might think that Thomas bit off too much.

One might think wrong. With the exception of a somewhat awkward start, Veronica Mars is a pleasurable experience from beginning to end. Veronica remains a witty

private detective, equal parts Humphrey Bogart and Buffy the Vampire Slayer and the brilliantly-crafted story overflows from the screen making the viewer want more.

While there is no reason this film cannot stand on its own, moviegoers might not fully appreciate Veronica Mars without first watching the television series. The fact that some viewers will feel lost unless they watch around 50 hours of television beforehand is likely to affect box office performance. Those who are willing to put in the time will find that the series and the film are well worth the hype.

And if Veronica Mars is no longer in theaters by the time viewers get through three seasons of fantastic

modern American crime drama, there's always the DVD.

It takes quite a bit to pull off a movie like this. Rob Thomas and the cast and crew of Veronica Mars proved that a film resurrection of an all-but-dead series is possible and they made it look easy. With the combined force of the Veronica Mars' film, the Netflix season of *Arrested Development* and comic book continuations of shows like *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Angel* and *X-Files*, the entertainment industry has proven that cancellation is no longer an end, but the source of new beginnings.

**In Washington, the need for compromise is greater than ever**



Sen. Carl Levin

Not long ago, Northern Michigan University invited me to address students there as part of a series of addresses on public policy. The subject I chose for my address is, in many places, a scandalous subject: compromise.

Almost all of us in Congress have strong opinions on public policy, strong values that guide us. And on rare occasions, all of us agree on what is the right thing to do.

But we live in a large, complex nation. The interests of our state or region are different than those of others. And aside from local interests, sometimes the answer to a problem just isn't easy or clear. Sometimes we honestly disagree about what's best for the country.

The challenge for the Founding Fathers was designing a system that could accommodate the widely varying opinions of a nation that needed at least some unity to survive. The solution to that puzzle was our Constitution, which ensures that, while everyone has some voice in our government, no single voice dominates. The whole system forces us to accommodate the views of others, even those who disagree strongly with us, in order to accomplish our goals. It forces us to compromise.

But that system breaks down when compromise is in short supply. And it is a rare commodity these days. Leaders in Washington are influenced by constituents back home who believe "compromise" is a dirty word.

Six months ago, that attitude got us a government shutdown. Some of my colleagues in Congress refused to approve funding to keep the government running. They demanded that any legislation to keep the government open also repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Now I can respect a strongly held opinion, even if I disagree with it. But when you refuse to allow basic government functions to continue unless you get your way - your whole way - our system breaks down.

After all, I have strong opinions of my own. I feel strongly that the tax burden in this country has shifted so that working families bear more of the load, and wealthy people less. Suppose that I, as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, told my colleagues, "I will not allow our annual defense authorization act to come before the committee unless Congress passes a bill that closes unjustified tax loopholes used by corporations and the wealthiest individuals." What if every member of Congress adopted such an attitude? Each of us would refuse to allow government to function unless we won total victory - and nothing would get done.

And we have so much to do. We have to deal with immigration - with the millions of people who now live in the shadows as undocumented immigrants - and with the economic costs of maintaining the status quo. We have to continue building our economy. We have to discover new worlds and new cures for deadly diseases.

We can't do any of that if we're not willing to compromise.

There have been some signs that the wave of hostility to compromise is cresting. Early this year, Congress passed a two-year budget agreement. There were provisions that many of us disliked. But partial agreement meant we avoided the cycle of budget crisis after crisis that has done our economy so much harm.

And just last month, Congress passed a farm bill that had been delayed for almost two years by a variety of disputes. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, who chairs the Senate Agriculture Committee, did a remarkable job getting this bill passed. Nobody agreed with every part of that bill. But we were willing to compromise. We knew that settling for half a loaf, so to speak, was important to the farmers who put the bread on our tables.

These compromises are not so remarkable when you compare them to the scope of the challenges before us. But I hope they are a start. I don't want to spend my remaining months in the Senate fighting over who can be tougher and more uncompromising. I'd rather spend that time working together on the challenges our country faces - challenges that will affect the lives of the NMU students I spoke to long after I am gone from Washington.

It is time for us all to recognize that if we are to be remembered in a positive light, it will not be for political opponents we hold down, but for the future generations we come together to lift up.

**outdoors**  
mushrooming

Dave Stegehuis

As winter turns to spring, the list of things to do outdoors in Michigan becomes much longer. With so many choices it may necessary to prioritize opportunities.

Hunting for Morel mushrooms has been moved up to the top of my to-do list this year. Morels can be eaten by themselves or added to steak or other dishes, as any mushroom, but fresh caught brook trout with Morels is about as good as it gets. We usually poke around the nearby woods in a feeble attempt to find Morels when something else, like turkey hunting, is the focus of the trip. This spring, Morel hunting will be the main event for at least one excursion.

Finding enough Morels for a meal is a challenge. Those with the most knowledge about the fungus will be more successful in the hunt. Typically, Morels will be found around dead wood. Ash and elm trees are good places to look. As important as location well drained sandy soil and favorable weather conditions are crucial. Mushrooms emerge when the soil is moist and relatively warm. Wild food guides, mushrooms specific books, and the internet can provide the beginning hunter with the basics.

Not all areas are productive, so the hunt may cover a lot of ground. A slow and deliberate search is necessary because there

is a knack for spotting them amidst the mix of ground cover.

One must take a few precautions when out and about in the woods. There are some kinds of mushrooms which are harmful or even fatal if consumed, so proper identification is essential. A good field guide or expert advice is helpful. Also, it is easy to get turned around when hiking through unfamiliar woodlands. A topographical map and a compass should be standard equipment when in doubt. A handheld GPS is great, but batteries can fail, so always have a magnetic compass as backup.

Proper clothing and serviceable footwear will make for a more comfortable

experience. Wet feet can spoil an afternoon. A mesh bag to contain mushrooms will allow the spore dropped by the fungus to fall to the ground and ensure a future crop.

Even if the hunt doesn't turn up any mushrooms, time spent in the spring woods is an enjoyable experience. One may not make the effort to get out in the countryside without the lure of tasty Morel mushrooms. It's good to get outside with the fresh smell of emerging vegetation and damp earth. Singing birds provide the background music while other forest residents make an appearance after the long hard winter. Seize the opportunity because it doesn't last long.

**business matters**

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

This award recognizes Reedy for her outstanding success and achievements.



**Your local agent insures your Retirement**  
Ask about our annuities and IRAs

**Terry Abel**  
6095 28th Street  
Grand Rapids

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tabel@fbinsmi.com  
TerryAbelAgency.com

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# obituaries

## PUTH

Russell Harry Puth of Lowell, Michigan, passed away Tuesday, March 18, 2014 with family at his side. Russ was born September 19, 1925, in Newark, New Jersey. He was a World War II veteran, having served in the Army Air Corps. He married the love of his life, Marguerite 'Peggy' Storm, 67 years ago. Russ was employed by Martindale-Hubbell of Summit, New Jersey, for 38 years. He was their top salesman, covering the Minnesota region. Over the years, he resided in Minnesota, Arizona, Tennessee and moved to Michigan 14 years ago. Survivors include his wife Peggy, and three children: Judy Haglund of Ada, Dianne White of Santa Barbara, CA and Jeff Puth of Loretto, MN. He and Peggy have eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. At Russell's request, cremation has taken place and there will be no services. His final earthly resting place will be on the beach in Monterey, California, where he will join his first-born grandson.



# Looking back, continued

that are intended to starve the moths to death."

A mail pouch containing several hundred pieces of first-class mail, thrown from the mail car of the G. T. flier as it passed through Lowell at 5:07 Tuesday afternoon, bounded back under the car wheels of the train causing quite a jolt to passengers but no injuries. A large share of the mail was ground up by the car wheels and otherwise mutilated. If any news' letters are missing from this week's Ledger, our correspondents will understand the reason why.

Lowell Rotary Club members have started the sixth annual Easter Seal Sale Campaign to aid the crippled children. All members are assisting in the sale drive, which provides necessary funds to carry on the work. In Michigan alone there are approximately 20,000 crippled children. In view of the fact that about 2,000 new cases come to light every year and over 14,000 are now actually receiving service, it is imperative that the public become conscious of the great problem which the movement for the care of the crippled children is attempting to solve. You are urged to help this worthy cause.

## 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 26, 1964

The first day of Spring saw the Lowell area covered with four inches of snow and a big drop in the temperature. Icy road conditions caused a string of accidents in the community and surrounding areas.

Carroll Eckman was severely burned Tuesday morning at the Attwood Corporation plant, here, where he works. He was taken by ambulance to Butterworth Hospital, suffering from 2nd and 3rd degree burns on his body, caused by liquid zinc from an extrusion press. Eckman is expected to be hospitalized for the next several days.

C. H. Runciman Milling Company was issued a building permit on March 23 in Ionia, to build a fertilizer storage building at 226 South Steele Street. James Herald is the contractor and cost of construction of the wood frame on concrete slab with metal roof is estimated at \$5,000.

School board buys three new buses. The committee assigned to review the bids received from four Lowell truck dealers by the Lowell school board approved giving the bid to Jackson Motor Sales for three Dodge trucks and to Superior for one bus body and Carpenter for two bus bodies.

There have been three calls over the last few days for grass fires in the area. Fire chief Baker is asking for extreme care by anyone burning leaves or trash. Most of these fire calls would not be necessary if care had been exercised.

## 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger March 29, 1989

Headline: Millage passes! Largest school district voting turnout saves student services. With the largest school district voting turnout in history, the Lowell "school community" voted "yes" by a persuasive margin for a 2.9 mil increase for 1989-90 and a .3 mill increase in 1990-91, raising the mill increase to 3.2. While school officials were elated with the election results, they were also thankful for the interest all 2,854 school community voters showed. "I believe the 'no' vote clearly states a need for meaningful property tax relief to lessen the burden that falls on many of our neighbors," Lowell superintendent Fritz Esch said.

Headline: M-21 road construction underway. Michigan's Department of Transportation (MDOT) announced the start of a \$906,704 M-21 street repair project. The work will take place on a five-mile stretch of M-21, from east of the west county line to west of Hawley Road in the village of Saranac (Ionia County). M-21 traffic will be slowed by intermittent, daytime lane closures beginning today. The work includes resurfacing, culvert extensions, guardrail upgrading and tree removal. The project is scheduled for completion by August 11, however, Bonnie Cadaret, from the MDOT office in Greenville, said with the early start the work could be completed before the target date. Motorists are advised to observe the 45 miles-per-hour speed limit in construction zones.

## NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regular meeting of the Lowell Charter Township Board held on March 17, 2014, Ordinance No. 01-2014 - Signs, an amendment to the Lowell Charter Township Zoning Ordinance was adopted, a summary of which follows:

Section 18.03 - Sign definitions which is amended as follows:

Section 1 - To add or change the following definitions:

- Add: Wire Frame Signs
- Amend: Flag/Flutter Flag Sign
- Portable Freestanding Sign

Sections 2 - Add Section 18.04 (i)(2)(x) General Requirements for Portable Signs.

Section 3 - Amend Section 18.04 (i)(1)(vii) General Requirements for Portable Signs

Section 4 - Amend Section 18.04 (i)(2)(vi) General Requirements for Portable Signs

This ordinance shall become effective April 2, 2014. A copy of the complete text of the ordinance can be obtained at the Lowell Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash SE, Lowell, MI, 49331 during regular office hours or viewed on our website: [www.twp.lowell.mi.us](http://www.twp.lowell.mi.us)

Linda S. Regan, Clerk  
Lowell Charter Township

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 14-195258-DE

Estate of GREGORY  
BRUCE CLARK. Date of  
birth: 8/24/57.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS: The  
decendent, Gregory  
Bruce Clark, died 2/4/14.

Creditors of the  
decendent are notified

that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Christine Clark, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

March 20, 2014

Christine Clark  
1021 Lincoln Lake  
Lowell, MI 49331  
616-881-9421

### Spring Cleaning



**Made easy with an ad in the Lowell Ledger!**  
**Clean the clutter in the attic, basement or garage!**

Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. for the Wednesday paper!

Phone 897-9261  
email: [classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com)

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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I	N	C	A	N		P	U	L		W	E	I	R	D	
N	I	E	C	E		E	R	E		A	R	R	A	S	
	T	R	U	M	A	N		A	L	L	I	E	S		
			A	I	M		T	S	A	R					
A	D	O		C	E	D	E		O	U	T	B	I	D	
D	U	M	B		E	D	A	M		S	A	L	M	I	
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M	A	G	I	C		Y	O	R	E		T	O	G	O	
S	L	A	L	O	M		S	E	R	F		M	E	N	
						N	O	S	Y		U	R	L		
			T	U	B	M	A	N		S	N	A	I	L	S
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I	T	E	M			F	E	E		E	S	S	E	N	

6	4	2	7	3	8	1	5	9
9	5	7	6	1	2	8	4	3
3	8	1	5	9	4	6	7	2
7	6	8	3	5	1	9	2	4
5	9	4	8	2	6	3	1	7
1	2	3	4	7	9	5	6	8
2	7	9	1	8	5	4	3	6
4	3	5	9	6	7	2	8	1
8	1	6	2	4	3	7	9	5

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

# classifieds

## for sale

ANTIQUE CAST IRON STOVE - 1935 Universal gas range, 2 tone enamel finish, excellent condition, appraised at \$1,750, will sell for \$1,000. Antique RCA console radio/record player, \$250. Call 987-9315.

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.

ELIMINATE RISING FUEL COSTS - Clean, safe & efficient wood heat. Central Boiler Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace. Heats multiple buildings. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI. 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

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.

**SEMI LOADS 10 CORDS OF 8 FT. LOGS - 10 in. average diameter. See pictures at www.coxx.com, movies on YouTube (alanj-cox) or call Al at 231-846-0346 anytime.**

11.5 WOODED ACRES IN LOWELL FOR SALE - Perfect for your new home. Deer, turkey & wildlife yet conveniently located near bike trail & town. \$84,500. Call 269-519-9493.

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.

VINTAGE BIG HORN SADDLE - 15 inch, overall floral tooling, square skirts, white buckstitching, padded seat, great condition, \$400; tooled leather rifle scabbard, \$100; two pipe horse hay racks, used one season inside, paid \$600, will sell for \$300. Call 987-9315.

**HAY - round bales 5x5; also squares. Delivery available. 231-846-0346 anytime.**

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

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT - Total Gym XL exercise system, \$750; Body by Jake AB & Back Plus, \$50; Torso Track V, \$100; Weslo Cardio Glide, \$100. Call 987-9315.

## for sale

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

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO WRITE ON? - We have scratch pads available for \$1.50 per lb. at the Lowell Ledger.

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

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.

## 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.

DRIVING ROUTE CARRIER NEEDED - for delivering the Buyers Guide on Saturdays. Please apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. No phone calls please.

GREEN ACRES OF LOWELL IS CURRENTLY SEEKING - an experienced part-time cook to prepare nutritious tasteful meals & snacks for residents. Candidate will need to be available to work weekends & afternoons. If you have a passion to work with the elderly & truly want to make a difference then we want you! For immediate consideration, apply in person at: Green Acres of Lowell, 11530 Fulton St. SE, Lowell. No phone calls please.

WANTED INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTORS - Press carriers, Lowell area. Reliable transportation required. Contact Paul at 616-541-0564 or Brian at 616-541-0563.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS - Qualify for \$1500 spring-time bonus. Due to recent expansion to Lowell, this manufacturing outlet for a 78-year-old company has many positions open for dependable men & women. Great ground floor opportunities in our display, customer service, advertising & delivery departments. We offer a positive work environment, paid vacation, flexible work schedule & much more. For interview information call personnel department, Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. 698-2256.

## help wanted

DRIVERS - Start your new career here! SIGN ON BONUS! Excellent wages & benefits. CDL-A; 1 yr. exp. OTR positions. Call Jim 402-533-2030 or 402-278-1132.

GENERAL LIGHTING LABORER - A local lighting maintenance company is in need of hard working employees. The positions will require significant amounts of travel & working in a team environment. If you are interested in the opportunity, please call 642-9853 ext. 108, ask for Mike.

GREEN ACRES LOWELL - an assisted living home is currently seeking a part time direct care worker for 3rd shift and every other weekend. Applicant must pass a background check and have a high school diploma or GED. If you have a passion to work with the elderly and truly want to make a difference then we want you! Apply in person at: 11530 Fulton Street, Lowell, MI 49331.

SPORTS REPORTER NEEDED - The Lowell Ledger is looking for a stringer to cover LHS sports. Opportunity to earn some extra cash doing something you enjoy! Photography experience a plus but not necessary. Along with your name, address & contact information, applicants should send writing examples to: The Lowell Ledger, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com, please put sports reporter in the subject line.

## sales

ANTIQUE REPURPOSED SHOW - Barry County Expo Center, Sat., March 29, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun., March 30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Located right on M-37 just 20 minutes south of M-6, just past Middleville. \$4 admission.

ESTATE SALE - Thurs. - Sat. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., 242 S. Hudson, Lowell. Wrought iron patio set, glass top dining set w/4 chairs, antique credenza, antique dressers w/mirrors, 5 wooden chairs, china hutch, housewares, table lamps, clocks, crocks, much more!

## lost

LOST CAT - Much loved small female, black & white cat, last seen at 5 Mile & Bedaki. Reward. Call Sharon, 334-0783.

**LEDGER OFFICE HOURS:**  
**MON. - THURS. 8-5**  
**FRI. 8-12**  
 Closed Sat. & Sun.  
 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.  
 Phone 897-9261  
 Fax 897-4809  
 There is a Drop Box in the Door Closest to the Post Office if you need to drop something off to us after hours.

## 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).

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

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

ASSISTED LIVING - Beautiful modern country home in Alto, excellent care. Cathy, 616-891-1840. Email: AssistedLivingAlto@charter.net

## wanted

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

## misc.

WOMEN'S INTERDENOMINATION LYDIA PRAYER MINISTRIES CELEBRATION - sponsored by Evergreen Missionary Church. The speaker is Patsy Lewis of Titus Women's Ministries. To register go to reneelavere@gmail.com by March 29.

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - at 3189 Snow Ave. SE will serve a family-style Turkey & Dressing dinner on Wed., April 9 at 5:30 pm. Adults are \$10 & children 6-12 are \$4 & children 5 & under are free. Take out dinners also available.

## services

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

## services

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

YOGA CLASSES - at 901 W. Main, \$9 walk-in. Mixed level, Tues. 7:30 a.m. & Sat. 9 a.m. Tues. & Thur., 6:30 p.m. Gentle, Tues. & Thurs., 4:45 p.m. For specials: www.thehammockllc.com. 616-893-5661.

HOME REPAIR - Licensed/Insured contractor specializing in drywall repair, painting, hardwood floor repair, refinish, installation, laminate/vinyl installation & trim work. Clean work, honest pricing! 616-822-9725 call or text.

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

MILLERS ROOFING SERVICE - Specializing in roofing. Houses, barns, sheds & garages. Top quality materials & reasonable rates. Free estimates. Allen Miller, 4030 E. Cloverdale Road, Hastings, 269-758-3270.

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

## sales

GLOBAL DISCOUNT GARAGE DOORS - Spring repairs, electric openers replaced & repaired. Free estimates. Lowest prices guaranteed. Call 616-334-3574.

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

LAMINATING SERVICE AVAILABLE - Next day service. Drop off & pieces will be available by 9 a.m. the next day. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

BUSINESS CARDS - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Quickturn around and you always get a proof before printing! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

SHIP YOUR UPS PACKAGES WITH US & SAVE!! - Daily UPS pickup at 3 p.m. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9261.

## card of thanks

I WANT TO THANK all my family and friends for their prayers and kindnesses before, during and since my back surgery. God is good!

Bette J. Haybarker

# 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 run 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.

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

LOWELL ARTS! GALLERY HOURS - Mon. - Fri., 10-6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m.; 149 S. Hudson. Visit www.lowellartsmi.org or call 897-8545.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM - open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday: 1-4 p.m. Families: \$10; individual \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members free. 897-7688.

FREE SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES - offered at Lowell Family Medical Center. Call 616-446-7058 to register. The class runs for 8 weeks. Evening & weekend sessions are available. Time & dates will be determined by those registered.

LOWELL WOMEN'S CLUB - Meets the second Wed. of each month, Sept. - May, 11:45 a.m.,

Schneider Manor. For more information call Jan at 897-2533.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY - Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. A Christ centered program to help overcome life's hurts, habits, hangups. Impact Church, 1069 Lincoln Lake, www.impactchurch.org or www.celebrater-recovery.com

FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAYS - Fun at Calvary for boys & girls preschool - 8th grade. Cadets for boys 1st - 8th; GEMS for girls 3rd - 8th; Kingdom Kids for boys & girls preschool - 2nd grade. 1125 W. Main, Lowell. Ph. 897-7060.

LOWELL - Varsity sporting events, concerts, school board meetings, city council meetings, DDA meetings & planning commission meetings can be viewed on the 'local' Comcast public access channel (25) within a day or two of when they were held. Many athletic contests & concerts can be heard 'live' from the www.wlhrsradio.org internet radio website.

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

FREE SENIOR PANCAKE BREAKFAST - Every third Wed. from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Laurels of Kent, 350 N. Center St. RSVP 897-8473.

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

# Honor roll, continued

Dirk Hoekstra  
Megan Hofman  
Katie Holzhueter  
Jacob Hoofman  
Kelliann Jacobs  
Chloe Johnson  
Emily Judd  
Bethany Kaczanowski  
Samantha Kane  
Alivia Kelly  
Amanda Kooy  
Danielle Krajewski  
Nathen Kyburz  
Montana Launer  
Jared Laux  
Mary Leasure  
Cole LeBarre  
Nicole Lehman  
Newton Longway  
Nicholas Longway  
Nicholas MacDonald  
Allyson MacPherson  
Kaitlin Makuski  
Dylan Mankel  
Alexis Martinez  
Selena Mata  
Emma McLane  
Tara McQueen  
Jillian Meade  
Haley Milks  
Matthew Milstead  
Jaylene Milton  
Esme Misiak  
Heaven Leigh Mokma  
Kathryn Montgomery  
Sage Moore  
Landon Nethercott

Nicholas Newman  
Kristen Nolan  
Anna Norder  
Breanna Oesch  
Daniel Onan  
Anna Organek  
Anna Peterson  
Victoria Pickens  
Jacob Polsgrove  
Jason Price  
Grace Quiggle  
Parker Reed  
Anna Reynolds  
Breana Rich  
Adrienne Rife  
Austin Rife  
Zachary Ritchie  
Victoria Russell  
Steven Salinas  
Samuel Schmidt  
Jesse Schmidt  
Rebecca Schreur  
Robert Schultz  
Krystal Sheldon  
Hannah Skibbe  
Logan Smith  
Brendan Spencer  
Ashlin Stedman  
Jessica Steiner  
Bethany Stewart  
Mackenzie Stiles  
Connor Stowell  
Catherine Stump  
Samantha Swartz  
Lydia Tawney  
Morgan Taylor  
Alainie Thomas

Jace Thomas  
Claire VanBuren  
Ashley VanderLaan  
Clayton Velting  
Lillianne Vogt  
Alon Watson  
Rebecca Weaver  
Maxwell Wester  
Danielle Whaley  
Anthony Wilczewski  
Paige Wilson  
Chase Wilterdink  
Mark Winogrocki  
Catherine Wissman  
Michael Wittenbach  
Rachel Woody  
Mallery Yaw  
Rachael Yomtoob

## 12th Grade

Kyle Acker  
Isobel Alberts  
Kelvin Anderson  
Sidney Anderson  
Michael Anible  
Shelby Antel  
Kiersten Ashenbremmer  
Kayla Bailey  
Paula Barlas  
Zachary Bauman  
Kortney Beachler  
Joshua Bearup  
Connor Bergin  
Austin Bieri  
Benjamin Bigham  
Ashley Bitely  
Kaeziah Bladey

Michael Blake  
Lauren Blanchard  
Brie Blattner  
Emmalee Blough  
Kristine Bobko  
Alexia Bocskey  
Christopher Bodus  
Kailey Botma  
Logan Bozek  
Brittany Branagan  
Tristen Bray  
Isaac Brenner  
Randal Brinks  
Travis Brubaker  
Monica Bussell  
Richard Cadwallader  
Casey Cahoon  
Katherine Canfield  
Taylor Carey  
Joseph Carr  
Blythe Carvajal  
Briahna Casarez  
Joshua Chamberlain  
Makela Chapman  
Sarah Chappel  
Alex Chavez  
Levi Churches  
Klay Corson  
Abigail Cummings  
Abigail Cummings  
Jason Cupp  
Raul Damian  
Alyssa Darby  
Kayleigh Davies  
Justin Davis  
Bethany Dean  
Kanon Dean  
Luke DeBoer  
Kaelobb Decker  
Devin DeGlopper  
Samantha Deiss  
Kevin DeKraker  
Ryan DenBraven  
Nicholas DeVito  
Delaney Droog  
Spencer Drudy  
Allysen Dubisky  
Isaac Duma  
Erin Duma  
Hunter Engels  
Haley Epema  
Max Everhart  
Madeline Falkenstern  
Alison Finley  
Hannah Fitzpatrick  
Caleb Flentje  
Cassandra Flier  
Zachary Fotis  
Fallon Fox  
Sydney Fox  
Makenzie Frederickson  
Morgan Fuller  
Tyler Garter  
Joshua Gee

Nicholas Geisen  
Garrett Gordon  
Jessica Graves  
Morgan Groendyke  
Ian Grohman  
Parker Groom  
Kathryn Haan  
Scott Haehnel  
Paige Hale  
Taylare Harris  
Charlotte Hayden  
Halle Hayes  
Brittney Heikkila  
Nicholas Hess  
Mackenzie Hewett  
Madison Holmes  
Jeffrey Houston  
Grace Inda  
Bailey Jack  
Zachary Jahnke  
Walker Jaskolski  
Moses Kabandana  
Alex Kaminski  
Brianna Kane-Langlois  
Zachary Kaywood  
Jordan Kazen  
Liam Kelley  
Luke Kloosterman  
Alexander Kornoelje  
Derek Krajewski  
Mallory Kramer  
Austin Krebill  
Daylore Kurzhals  
Colleen Lally  
Brianna Landheer  
Tristan Larson  
Matthew Lazar  
Ryan Lubbers  
Spencer Lyon  
Jordan Lytle  
Catherine Majinska  
Robert Marsman  
Alyssa McCormick  
Kennedy McCready  
Paige McKenna  
Heaven McQueen  
Joshua Menzel  
Andrew Mettermick  
Dakota Miller  
Carl Mitchell  
Athena Mohr  
Kaelyn Moseler  
Kelsey Mullin  
Sarah Murray  
Hannah Nelson  
Alexis Noonon  
Jacob North  
Sarah Oesch  
Emily Paffhausen  
Mallory Paiz  
Morgan Perkins  
Paige Perry  
Chase Peterson  
Grant Peterson

Benjamin Peterson  
Abby Petroelje  
Steven Petrovich  
Rachel Phelps  
Tonya Phillips  
Christopher Platz  
Jacob Plunkett  
Meghan Plutschow  
Samantha Poll  
Jacob Poll  
Keaton Pomper  
Nicholas Proefke  
Matthew Reitsma  
Sean Ritsema  
Paige Rozell  
Samantha Sage  
Jenna Saunders  
Cody Selli  
Casey Sellner  
Brett Senneker  
Brandi Shelley  
Kyler ShurLOW  
Jackson Simmons  
Austin Sirowatka  
Christian Sirowatka  
Mark Slaktoski  
McKenzie Slupe  
Julia Smelt  
Michelle Smith  
Brook Smith  
Karah Smith  
Nicholas Smith  
Tyler Smoes  
Rachel Sova  
Madison Stadt  
Danielle Starkey  
Hailey Stasiak  
Aubrey Steed  
Garett Stehley  
Jacob Stephens  
Forrest Stoffers  
Ashlee Stormzand  
Brandon Strzyzewski  
Quinn Summerfield  
Amanda Susnak  
Jacob Sweet  
Trevor Taylor  
Joshua Theisen  
Shy Tidd  
Alexandra Tremblay  
Marc VandenBerg  
Sydney vanOverbeek  
Kimberly VanOverloop  
Ryan Walters  
Rachael Walters  
Benjamin Weaver  
Jeremiah Wenger  
Garret White  
Madelynn Willemstein  
Rachel Wittenbach  
Alexander Woodman  
Jonathan Wyckoff  
Shelby Young  
Katelyn Yuhus

# SPRING SPORTS

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

# CALENDAR

### GIRLS' VARSITY TENNIS

\* Denotes a meet at Lowell High School Tennis Courts

3/29 at 10 a.m. Fruitport Tournament  
3/31 at 4 p.m. Comstock Park\*  
4/2 at 4:15 p.m. Northview\*

### BOYS' & GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD

\* Denotes a meet at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

4/15 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Central  
4/17 at 4:15 p.m. East Grand Rapids

### GIRLS' VARSITY SOFTBALL

\* Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Softball Field

3/27 at 4:15 p.m. Wyoming High School  
4/1 at 4:15 p.m. & 6:15 p.m. Northview  
4/2 at 4:15 p.m. & 6 p.m. Forest Hills Eastern\*

### BOYS' VARSITY BASEBALL

\* Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Baseball Field

4/1 at 4:15 p.m. Grandville  
4/2 at 4 p.m. Wyoming  
4/12 at 11 a.m. New Albany Bulldogs at New Albany High  
4/12 at 1 p.m. Seymour Owls at New Albany High

### BOYS' VARSITY GOLF

\* Denotes a meet at Deer Run Golf Course

4/15 at 12:30 p.m. Kent County Classic at Highlands Golf Club  
4/16 at 3:30 p.m. Jamboree at Caledonia

### GIRLS' VARSITY LACROSSE

\* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

3/31 at 7 p.m. Hudsonville\* (at Burch Field)  
4/2 at 7 p.m. GR Christian\* (at Burch Field)  
4/16 at 7 p.m. Grandville

### BOYS' VARSITY LACROSSE

\* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

3/28 at 7:15 p.m. Kalamazoo Central  
4/1 at 7:15 p.m. Holland Christian\*

### GIRLS' VARSITY SOCCER

\* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

3/28 at 6:45 p.m. Lansing Christian\*  
3/31 at 6:45 p.m. Greenville\*  
4/2 at 6:45 p.m. Byron Center\*

## Social Security goes green on Earth day and every day

For years, Social Security has been at the forefront of offering convenient, easy-to-use, and secure online services. We, along with those we serve, have saved a lot of paper, shipping costs, and fuel—and cut back on a lot of carbon exhaust and pollution—by going online instead of doing things the old-fashioned, less efficient way. We are committed to conserving energy, reducing waste, and protecting our environment.

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you already receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, you can use mySocialSecurity to view, save, and print a benefit verification letter and check your benefit payment information. Social Security beneficiaries also can change their address and start or change direct deposit information online.

*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*

**THEME:  
U.S. HISTORY**

**ACROSS**

1. Tropical fruit
6. Bug enemy
9. \_\_\_ bargain
13. \_\_\_ Relating to Quechuan people
14. Monetary unit of Afganistan
15. "\_\_\_ Science" (1985)
16. Daughter of a sibling
17. "But I heard him exclaim, \_\_\_ he drove out of sight..."
18. Wall hanging of handwoven fabric
19. \*Anti-Communist \_\_\_ Doctrine
21. \*U.K. and U.S.S.R. to U.S (1939-1945), e.g.
23. One-shot Atticus Finch's forte
24. \*He sent naval fleet to support North in Civil War
25. Big fuss
28. Relinquish, as in property
30. Win an auction
35. Dull or dense
37. Dutch cheese
39. Game ragout
40. Carpet layer's calculation
41. Indy 500 entrant
43. Cajole
44. Earvin Johnson, Jr.
46. Of long ago
47. Burkina Faso neighbor
48. Olympian Ted Ligety's sport
50. Feudal laborer
52. Bathroom sign
53. Like unwelcome

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
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71						72				73				



**MARCH 19 - MARCH 25**

- Malaysia's prime minister announced on Monday that according to new data, flight MH370 ended in the Southern Indian Ocean. Families were notified via text, that there would be no survivors.
- A commuter train arriving at O'Hare Airport jumped the tracks injuring 32 people.
- After a massive mudslide in Washington, eight people are confirmed dead and 108 people are still missing.
- New York City plans to move 9/11 remains of unidentified victims to a new resting place within 9/11 Memorial Museum. The roughly 8,000 remains will be behind a wall. Only families of victims will be given access to the repository. "No day shall erase you from the memory of time" will be inscribed on the wall for visitors to view.
- Former President Jimmy Carter believes the National Security Agency (NSA) monitors his emails. When Mr. Carter wants to communicate with a foreign leader, he now sends an old-fashion letter.

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- neighbor
55. Web address
57. \*Underground Railroad conductor
60. They are notoriously slow
63. \*Location of General MacArthur's last war
64. ET carrier
66. Nymph of lakes and springs
68. Liturgy instrument
69. In favor of
70. \_\_\_ br'Iëe
71. Bookkeeping entry
72. \_\_\_ Unwelcome deduction
73. Industrial center of the Ruhr
22. \_\_\_-tzu
24. High tea padded accessory
25. \*Washington's veep
26. Relating to dura mater
27. Opposite of alpha
29. \*June 6, 1944
31. A boor lacks this
32. \_\_\_ "Ulysses" protagonist
33. \_\_\_ Candidate's concern
34. \*Mason's partner
36. \_\_\_ Get-out-of-jail money
38. Insignificant
42. Old episode
45. Charles Ponzi, e.g.
49. Bygone bird
51. \*Gave us Miss Liberty
54. A pinch in the mouth
56. Pinocchio and his kind
57. Civil wrong
58. Craving
59. Beacon light
60. Tender
61. \*Things Washington didn't tell?
62. "The more things change, the more they stay the \_\_\_"
63. Ornamental carp
65. Joker to Batman, e.g.
67. Bear home

*Puzzle solutions appear on page 12*

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# Legislation approved bolsters to educational opportunities for students trapped in chronically failing schools

The state House approved legislation to improve on current law and help Michigan students who are trapped in chronically failing schools, announced House Education Committee Chair Lisa Posthumus Lyons.

House Bill 4369 improves on the State Reform District plan that became state law with bipartisan support in 2009. It will provide more options for how schools within the reform district can operate and encourages opportunities for local school districts and Intermediate School Districts (ISD) to

work together to develop turnaround plans. It also caps the number of schools allowed within Education Achievement Authority and provides a clearer exit strategy so that schools do not remain in the reform district indefinitely.

“Many things have been said to distract from the issue and distort what the bill does. The true issue is that for too long too many of Michigan’s kids have been left behind by persistently failing schools,” said Lyons, R- Alto. “This legislation makes changes to a 2009 law that established the State Reform District and was

passed in bipartisan fashion. While the current law was a great start, this bill allows for more tools to be used to turn failing schools around.”

The new changes create a clear exit strategy for removing schools from the reform district, clarification that does not exist in current statute. Additionally, no school will be placed in a reform district until the 2015-16 school year, allowing for evaluation of the schools currently within the reform district.

“Our focus with this legislation is helping those students who are trapped in these chronically failing

districts by providing the schools with more tools to help them rehabilitate. These tools range from local options like Intermediate School Districts and local school districts, to innovative options like charter public schools and the Education Achievement Authority,” Lyons said.

This legislation also increases flexibility and cooperation between ISDs and local districts by giving them the right of first refusal and allowing them to use the Restart Model for academically underperforming schools. Before approving this bill,

legislators from all across the state had the opportunity to tour schools currently within the reform district, providing the opportunity to talk with educators and students about the improvement since their schools began a turnaround plan.

“I am thrilled to see this legislation moving forward,” Lyons said, “We have accomplished what we set out to do, putting kids first and ensuring that every child has a chance for a quality education and the opportunity to succeed.”

The schools already operating within the reform

district have seen early successes, with students in the program achieving growth across the board in core subject areas. Recent MEAP scores have shown that almost 40 percent of students have shown improvement in reading and more than 20 percent have shown improvement in math.

“Kids who were previously trapped in failing schools are now succeeding within this program and this legislation will build upon that success.” Lyons said.

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