

council meeting



page 3

Red Arrow SPRING SPORTS TEAMS



pages 7, 8, 9, & 16

Lowell Rotarians make goodwill trip to Haiti

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

For the second time, members of the Lowell Rotary Club boarded a flight to the impoverished island nation of Haiti recently in an effort to provide clean water to its residents by helping to install water filters.

The rotary, comprised of local business and professional leaders, work together to promote peace and goodwill and provide humanitarian services locally and internationally.

The group of eleven Rotarians joined forces with a locally-founded charitable organization Starfysh for the endeavor. Starfysh, a project of Dr. Steve Edmonson, works exclusively on the island of La Gonave. La Gonave with a population of 100,000 people is in the most desperate need of clean water.

The team was able to install 103 filters. These filters, which cost a mere \$100, were provided through their own fundraising efforts, will provide clean water for up to a decade. The group estimates that their work bettered the lives of over 1,000 Haitian residents.

Tamela Spicer, executive director of Flat River Outreach Ministries, says that she decided to take the trip in order to expand her humanitarian efforts to the international level.

"As a Rotarian I wanted to be involved in an international project and I wanted to stretch myself to go beyond what I do in service with my job to serving in other ways."

The group resided at a well-appointed guest house

provided by Starfysh during their stay and traveled daily to their work sites.

The enthusiastic and warm reception from the Haitian people was well

worth the journey according to Spicer.

Rotarians, continued, page 2



Lowell Rotary Club members Wendell Christoff, Carl Bratton, Roger LaWarre, Mark Mundt, Theresa Mundt, John Gruizenga, Steve Flohr, Tamela Spicer and Steve Edmonson along with Haitian team members and translators.

Grand River flood advisory reminds residents to be prepared

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

As if to herald in the month of April, Lowell is once again experiencing a flood advisory for the Grand River.

In mid-April of 2013, Lowell and the surrounding areas experienced a record-breaking flood that left entire neighborhoods underwater,

lead to dangerous sinkholes and displaced many Lowell residents.

Because of recent rainy weather, the Grand River has been rising, causing possible flood conditions not only in Lowell but also in nearby Comstock Park.

As of 11 AM this morning, the stage of the

Grand River was estimated at 10.6 feet in Lowell. For perspective, 10.0 feet is described as bankfull, meaning that low lying areas near the bank will be flooded. For the rising water to be properly considered a flood, it would have to reach 15.0 feet or higher.

While the flood

advisory will continue until Wednesday evening, the current forecast is that water levels will continue to fall.

This Wednesday, April 9, the Red Cross of West Michigan is hosting a summit in Allegan county in order to draw together local agencies and develop methods of helping the

people of West Michigan when floods occur. Similar events have already been held in Ionia, Kent, Ottawa, Newaygo, Kalamazoo and Calhoun Counties.

Though the threat for flood is not as dire as in 2013, there are still things

Flood advisory, continued, page 2

Hilarious sumo fun helps to raise money for LHS senior class

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Members of the Lowell High School (LHS) class of 2014 hosted a funny, action-packed sumo wrestling challenge on April Fool's Day for the senior class fundraiser.

Staff members donned laugh-inducing sumo suits and took to the mat. Seniors Keaton Pomper

and Zach Fotis hosted the event. Senior wrestler Kanon Dean called and refereed the bouts, along with fellow grappler Derek Krajewski.

Participants included Bushnell Elementary preschool teacher Rhonda Delnick who started off with a decisive victory over LHS special education teacher



Teacher Patrick Russell and alumni student Gabe Dean shown with referee Kanon Dean during their round of competition.

Amanita Fahrni. Lowell Middle School assistant principal Nate Fowler succumbed to the sumo-sized strength of physical education teacher Jacob Heinge.

Other faculty fighters included LHS assistant principal Dustin Chichocki, who took on wrestling

coach R.J. Boudro and LHS social studies' teacher Patrick Russell who squared off against accomplished athlete and special alumni guest, Gabe Dean.

Much of the crowd in attendance were there to cheer on either Randy Flenor, from Alto Elementary or Brent

Noskey, from Murray Lake Elementary. They went toe-to-toe in the only principal versus principal match of the evening. Students cheered excitedly and chanted their support during the amusing battle of the bellies that ended with a highly celebrated victory by Noskey.



Rhonda Delnick goes for the pin with her victory over fellow teacher Amanita Fahrni.

50 CENTS





along main street

Flood advisory, continued

that people can do in the event that flooding occurs.

"It's always a really important thing to be prepared," said Kelly Hudson,

Regional Communication Director of the American Red Cross of West Michigan.

Hudson suggested that people in potential threat areas should put together a flood preparedness kit and discuss evacuation plans with the family. Since flooding does not wait

for everyone to be home together at the dinner table, it is important to have an idea where to meet in the event that a flood occurs and family members are at work or school.

Hudson also suggested that people with Apple or Android devices should download the Red Cross flood app, which turns your phone into a flash flood alert and gives information on when Red Cross shelters open and where they are.

Rotarians, continued

"The people were amazing! They were so grateful for the filters. The people of La Gonave have a wonderful spirit and joy that they shared with us during our time on the island."

Spicer says that the best part of the trip though was knowing that they had helped so many in such a direct way.

John Gruizenga, went on the group's first trip to Haiti in 2012, shared the same sentiment.

"I think I can say from

everyone who went that we received more than we gave. The people we encountered have a hard life, but are happy, friendly and very appreciative for the work we did. It is hard for us to comprehend that a \$100 water filter can mean life or death."

The group is planning future service trips to the island. They are also considering additional trips focused on education and the development of an eye care clinic.

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COUNCIL ON AGING CONFERENCE
The Council on Aging of Kent county is hosting their annual Agig Well Conference on Thursday, May 22 from 8:30 to 11:30am at the Kroc Center in Grand Rapids. This event is free to area seniors. Space is limited and you must RSVP. Corporate sponsorships are available. Call the West Michigan Estate Planning Center at 616-682-5574 to reserve your space.

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BLOOD DRIVE

A blood drive will be held Monday, April 14 from 3 to 6:45pm at the Alto United Methodist Church, 11365 64th St., Alto. Homemade soup, bread and cookies will be provided. Drive is open to anyone that is interested. Call Jen Dougherty at 616-644-6529 for 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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NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING

Please take notice that the Vergennes Township Board has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held during their regularly scheduled meeting on April 28, 2014. The meeting will be held in the township meeting room, 10381 Bailey Dr., located at the corner of Bailey Dr. and Parnell, Lowell MI 49331.

Scott and Mandy McDowall, of 11241 Headwaters Ct., located in the SW portion of Section 21 of Vergennes Township, are requesting a Special Exception Use Permit to build an accessory building on an adjoining vacant parcel owned by them. The use is allowed as a Special Exception under Section 201.402 B. in the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance.

The complete applications can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, **10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674]**. Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Township Clerk at the Township Offices. Comments may also be emailed to: clerk@vergennestwp.org.

Mari Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

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Spirited city council meeting and another special meeting set

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

After some heated debate, Lowell city council decided to hold a special meeting to investigate allegations of illegal activity against Lowell light and power board and management as well as the city council, mayor and city manager.

Ralph Brecken, a mechanic employed by the city of Lowell, gave a presentation that seemed to prove Tom Russo, a light and power employee, had been using a city truck as a personal vehicle and that light and power violated federal, state and city law by not paying the proper taxes on this "fringe benefit."

were originally presented to the light and power board by Brecken at their meeting on March 13, which led to a second set of allegations regarding a possible violation of Michigan's "open meetings" law.

When Brecken presented the information to the light and power board on March 13, the board declined to comment. That meeting went to a "closed session," at which time all citizens in attendance, as well as the Ledger reporter and the city videographer, were made to leave. After the "closed session," the board had another "open session" to discuss Brecken's allegations about



Councilperson Jeff Altoft and mayor Jim Hodges debated the allegations.

investigation and to make its own determination," Brecken said.

This sparked debate among the council.

"Thank you, we'll take that under advisement and we'll refer that to the city attorney," said mayor Jim Hodges.

"It is not a thing that we turn over to the city attorney," said councilperson Jeff Altoft. "It says right in the charter that we are the ones that handle this."

Altoft then proposed the council have the investigation in a "special meeting."

"I'd like to make a motion to have a special meeting," Altoft said.

"For the purpose of?" Hodges asked.

"For the purpose of the investigation of the violation of the open meetings act and the misuse of city-owned

"It's not unusual for a city attorney to be at city council meetings," Wendt said.

There was a long discussion of whether or not the council has obeyed the city charter.

"I don't think we're following the charter on a lot of things," Altoft said. "This whole thing of violating peoples' rights and not giving them information, I think this needs to stop. When someone comes in here and asks us for information they shouldn't have to be told, 'Well, we're not going to talk to you because we don't have to.'"

"I think we have done our very best to follow the charter," Hodges said in an interview after the meeting. "We sometimes may have made a mistake here or there, but it was never intentional. It was never the desire of any member of the council to do things inappropriately."

"I don't believe any of you are in a position to interpret matters of law, including the person [Brecken] who made the presentation this evening," Wendt said.

The council voted 4 – 0 to hold a special meeting. Despite being one of those involved in the allegations, Hodges refused the request from Altoft to abstain from voting on the matter.

"One must be careful in a public forum, making sure that what one states is factual and it's important that we not make personal attacks," Hodges said in an interview after the meeting. "Rather, let's discuss the subject matter and the facts and the process. I think some of the things he [Altoft] may be concerned with could be addressed and discussed in a more civil tone, but could also be asked and done individually, behind the scenes. I don't know that everything he says needs to be said out loud and in public. There are things that need to be thought through and timed to gather information."

A date for the special meeting was not set.

"I want this done speedily and I don't want it drug out," Altoft said.

About 30 citizens attended the meeting. Two local television stations were also on hand to document the

charge to generate money in order to afford large salaries for management.

"I am going to resubmit my request for salaries since this should be information available to the public and they seemed to have no problem publishing the salaries of the union workers," Covert said. "We certainly should also be allowed to know what our supervisors and general manager are making."

Pierce's response, "With respect to Peggy Covert's request, I did provide the information I thought she was requesting."

Another citizen, John Kermeen of Lowell, made a brief statement in which he said the city council was "crooked."

The council voted to approve the previously-rejected Lowell Cable Television Fund (LCTV) endowments.

"There's been a lot in the paper lately about whether it's eligible or not," said Dennis Kent of the LCTV board. "They are eligible."

The endowments included \$50,000 for "street reconstruction" on Bowes Road and \$18,436.75 for a low-power FM radio station for Lowell Area Schools.

Councilperson Jeff Altoft explained why he previously voted against approving the endowments.

"I didn't agree with the procedures they took to do it," Altoft said. "If the city of Lowell is going to go in every year and take two thirds to three quarters of the money for city projects, we might as well not even bother wasting all the time... If we're going to change it, do it a different way, we should be honest with the people instead of wasting everyone's time."

There will be a light and power board meeting on Thursday, April 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the light and power building. The next city council meeting will take place at city hall on Monday, April 21 at 7 p.m.



John Kermeen of Lowell made a brief statement to the council.

Brecken said a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for documents showing whether or not the city paid these taxes was denied by the city.

"Light and power [told him they] had no records, so the request was denied," Brecken said.

Brecken said it was against the law for Russo to use the vehicle to drive to and from his residence and that another employee had been disciplined for similar, yet more benign behavior.

"Simon Kelly, a current line worker with light and power, was written up for using a light and power truck to go home for lunch one time," Brecken said. "And he only lives a half mile outside of the city, not 25-plus miles away."

When asked via email if he had any reaction to Brecken's accusations, Greg Pierce sent the following response.

"Lowell Light and Power is not aware of any wrong doing or any activities that led to 'illegal' actions regarding either the authorized use of the vehicle or the open meetings act. If it is determined that we did do something in error, we are more than happy to make any necessary correction." The same allegations

the truck. Brecken said that by holding an open session after the public, press and city videographer were dismissed was a violation of the open meetings act.

"Without any indication to the public before going into closed session, the board, with the mayor and the city manager present, decided to come out of closed session, discuss a public matter during an open meeting and make a decision, all without any advance notice to the public," Brecken said. "According to the open meetings act these are both violations. How are we, the public, supposed to know what goes on with our government when this happens?"

"It was probably ill advised," Hodges said in an interview after the meeting. "It was just conversation. It was probably unfortunate that it happened and I'm sure they'll be on their best behavior from here forward."

Brecken then, on behalf of VOICE (Voters Organized In Civic Excellence), asked the council to investigate the matter.

"Our intention is to ask the council, in accordance with the Lowell city charter, to perform its own



Peggy Covert asked the council for information about the salaries paid to LL&P management.

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health



With Drs. Paul Gauthier,
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e-Cigarettes

Some believe that e-cigarettes help smokers quit. Operated by a battery, they work by turning nicotine into a vapor that is inhaled. Most e-cigarettes look like ordinary cigarettes, cigars, or pipes. Other are designed to look like pens or computer memory sticks. The FDA, which currently regulates nicotine products, has announced that it will expand its regulations to include e-cigarettes.

Tobacco is what makes regular cigarettes so harmful

to health; e-cigarettes do not contain tobacco. Tobacco products are addictive because of the nicotine they contain. Nicotine is not healthy. However, it probably does not contribute nearly as much to smoking-related diseases as tobacco does. Other types of "clean-nicotine" have been used as a safe way to help people quit smoking for almost three decades. Products include patches, lozenges, gum and nasal spray, although e-cigarettes may

contribute nicotine vapor to the air, the vapor is much less toxic than secondhand tobacco smoke.

Much of the concern about e-cigarettes comes from a lack of information about the product. There is also a lack of standardization and quality control among the more than 250 brands. Although e-cigarettes' vapor is likely to be much less toxic than cigarette smoke, the concentration of toxins and the quality control of e-cigarettes varies. It is not known if there is a "safe" level of toxins in the vapor.

While we strongly advocate cessation of all tobacco products, we encourage our patients to educate themselves thoroughly before using e-cigarettes as a means of quitting.

Michigan athletes once again thrill at Winter Games



Sen. Carl Levin

Every four years, elite athletes from across the globe gather together to share their prodigious talent and skill with a world audience through friendly competition. We enjoy the intense competition that is the hallmark of the Olympic games. We enjoy the gravity-defying athletes who only seem to get more daring with each passing year. We enjoy the personal and heartwarming stories of triumph and perseverance that are highlighted at the games. They remind us of what is possible.

And we cheer for the stars and stripes. We are proud Americans who cheer our athletes to victory – and for those of us from Michigan, there is the additional reward of cheering for athletes with ties to our state.

Michigan was well-represented at the 2014 Winter Olympic games. One area where Michigan shined was in ice dancing. Impressively, 15 of the 24 teams participating in ice dancing trained in metro Detroit at one of three rinks: the Detroit Skating Club, Novi Ice Arena, and Arctic Edge in Canton, which is where the gold and silver medal teams trained. This reflects the level of coaching and talent that resides in Michigan.

The couple that captured our imagination for the second straight Olympics Games, Meryl Davis and Charlie White, capped their Olympic career with a captivating gold medal performance in ice dancing, adding to their

silver medal performance in 2010 and their team bronze in Sochi.

The list of ice dancers with strong ties to Michigan also includes Maia Shibutani, Alex Shibutani, Evan Bates, Madison Chock, Tessa Virtue, Scott Moir, Kaitlyn Weaver, Andrew Poje, Alexandra Paul, Mitch Islam, Anna Cappellini, Luca Lanotte, Charlene Guignard, Marco Fabbri, Nathalie Pechalat, Fabian Bourzat, Pernelle Carron, Lloyd Jones, Nelli Zhiganshina, Alexander Gazsi, Julia Zlobina, Alexei Sitnikov, Isabella Tobias, Deividas Stagniunas, Danielle O'Brien, Greg Merrian, Cathy Reed and Chris Reed.

Olympic hockey also showcased the talent Michigan has to offer. Players with ties to Michigan represented a number of different countries. They included Americans Ryan Miller, Ryan Kessler, Cam Fowler, Jimmy Howard, Patrick Kane, Phil Kessel, Justin Faulk, Kevin Shattenkirk, Ryan Suter, James van Riemsdyk, Max Pacioretty and Dan Bylsma. Those who skated for other countries included Henrik Zetterberg, Daniel Alfredsson, Niklas Kronwall, Jonathon Ericsson, Johan Franzen, Jonas Gustavsson, Pavel Datsyuk, Tomas Tatar, Tomas Jurco, Duncan Keith, Chris Kunitz, Mike Babcock and Brian Lebler. Each made a significant contribution and provided us ample reason to be proud.

In addition to these incredible athletes are

Narumi Takahashi, Ryuichi Kihara, Jeremy Abbott, Valentina Marchei and Patrick Chan who competed admirably in figure skating. Jessica Smith, Jilleanne Rookard, Shani Davis, Jordan Malone, Kyle Carr, Chris Creveling and Anthony Lobello graced the speed skating track. And there were snowboarders Karly Shorr, Danny Davis and Nick Bumgartner, whose style and flare were unmistakable.

Rounding out Michigan's contribution in Sochi was Lauryn Williams, a Summer Olympic star who became the first woman and fifth person overall to medal in both the Summer and Winter Olympics. Her silver as part of a two-person bobsled team was one of the most memorable moments of the games.

To become an Olympian is no easy task. Each athlete has sacrificed much to earn a spot at the Olympics. These games and the performances we bear witness to are often the capstone of careers that have spanned many years and are the product of an enormous amount of training, dedication and focus.

I join many across Michigan in congratulating each of these athletes. It was gratifying to watch and reminds us all, especially young people across Michigan, that reaching for the stars, or in this case the Olympics, is firmly within their grasp. As one Olympic figure skater so aptly put it, "To be able to come up here and feel stiff and white as a ghost but stare fear in the face is what I'm all about." That's the true Olympic spirit we tune in to watch and that is a fitting way to describe the grit, grace and athletic prowess we witnessed day after day in Sochi.

viewpoint

to the editor

support may come from recognition

Dear Editor,
It was with great interest that we read the comments regarding the Lowell city manager in a March 27, 2014 Letter to the Editor. The city of Lowell administrative non-union employees along with the union employees are the ones that provide the city services. It is because both the administrative employees and union employees are doing their jobs that some are able to say, "We are lucky to have him" as city manager.

However, it may be easier for those who extol the city manager because they have been recognized for their service with wage increases averaging 10 percent effective July 1, 2013.

The union employees have not received a wage increase since July 1, 2009. Like the administrative employees, we are responsible for the delivery

of city services. Why is it that the administrative employees are rightly rewarded for their efforts and the union employees receive nothing?

Hopefully, the city manager will recognize not only the job that the administrative employees do but also what the union employees do and he understands that his 22.2 percent (\$18,380) wage increase effective July 1, 2013, was a result of the work performed by the administrative employees and all union employees.

Very truly yours,
Lowell Union
City Employees:

Scott Fosburg
Ralph Brecken
Robert Robinson
Brian VanVeelen
Todd Phillips
Don DeJong
Joe Baker

shameful arrogance

Dear Editor,

The employees of the Department of Public Works (DPW) just recently turned down the city's offer over contract negotiations. The city failed again to offer a just contract. This fiasco has been going on ever since the new city manager was hired over two years ago.

I've written about the negotiations so many times like so many others. I'm tired of it and I'm sick of it but I will not quit until I see the employees of the Department of Public Works get a (fair) hearing and just outcome. If the city manager and city council are against a just contract how can the DPW get a fair hearing?

I believe the city council knows that if they hold out long enough that they will have the right to make the final decision. I can't trust a city council to do the right thing after constituents were threatened to be removed from a city council meeting because they demanded answers. The city council has failed to stand accountable for

their actions. I believe the employees of the DPW are being punished for joining a union by being denied a raise and a bonus that the rest of the city's full-time employees received last year.

I believe the city council has shown a shameful display of arrogance when they denied the constituents their right to the facts and to partake in the decision making that cost the city tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars in lawyer fees. The second fact finding report said - (the language sought by the city does nothing to rebuild trust, restore confidence and return the parties on the path to focusing on advancing the interest of the city.)

I believe a just outcome is possible. It's time the city rid itself of its dictatorial style of governing. It's time that Lowell has a city council and a city manager that act as the servant instead of the sole decider as they now portray themselves.

Jim Howard
Lowell

outdoors



back to nature

Dave Stegehuis

Life seems to be more complicated than ever in spite of a continuous parade of products, technology and "expert" advice which promise to deliver order and comfort in a fast-moving, unsettled economic, political and social environment. Everything seems to be out of control.

Well, fortunately, most challenges in life can be dealt with by getting back to basics. Wild creatures have survived thousands of years on their own and can provide examples of how to cope with most challenges in our life. William Wordsworth said, "Let nature be your teacher" and Albert Einstein advised, "Look deep into nature and then you will understand everything better."

The recent economic downturn affected the lives of almost all of us in one way or another. One outcome was the avalanche of financial advice from magazines, books, T.V. programs and self-proclaimed gurus. Granted, trekking over the current economic landscape requires understanding of some complex principles to avoid getting lost. However, the squirrel didn't need an M.B.A. to realize the wisdom of working hard and saving for leaner times. I don't recall ever watching a squirrel sit on a log for any length of time: they are always moving. This winter was hard on everyone, including wildlife, but holes dug in the deep snow

revealed a cache of acorns which provided nourishment for the forward-thinking squirrel.

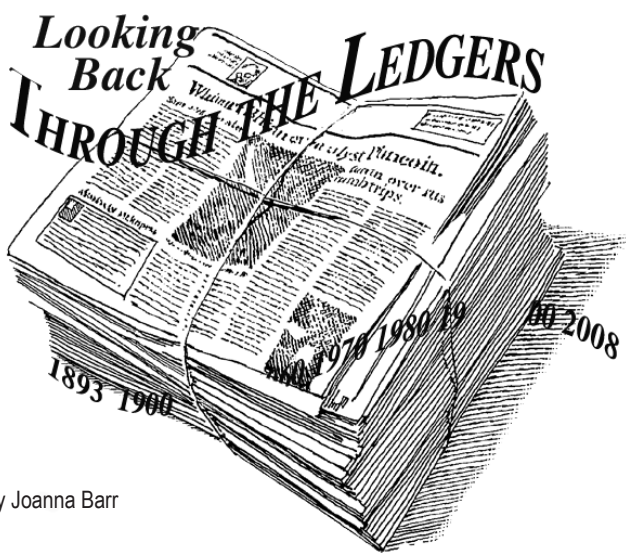
Child rearing has never been more of a challenge. There is plenty of conflicting advice and opinions out there. Study the lifecycle of the bald eagle to gain valuable insight for raising the young.

Political strife and war have become commonplace around the world.

People and governments spend considerable effort and resources to further a self-serving agenda which often is unrelated to the improvement of the human condition. Animals, on the other hand, tend to mind their own business and focus on that which is essential for sustaining life and perpetuating the species. With the exception of predation and seasonal breeding activity, the forest is a peaceful place. Everyone is too busy to stir up trouble. There is a lesson in here for all of us.

Food, water and cover are necessary for wild creatures to sustain life and thrive. Humans are no different. Once basic needs are met, everything else is gravy. Count your blessings.

People tend to navigate life carrying a lot of extra baggage related to contrived expectations and unfound fear which causes stress and wastes energy. Take the advice of Wordsworth and Einstein and get back to nature.



By Joanna Barr

Frank T. Kin's young mare has foaled a fine colt, out of Senator Stockbridge's celebrated horse, Ambassador.

Hubert Hendricks and John Hastings each had one hand injured at the Furniture factory last Friday. The buzz saw and sharper did the business.

John Winger has left Washington Territory and is on his way to Oklahoma. He says in a recent letter, "Tell the boys not to come out here."

Little George Taylor jumped upon a board which contained a nail, while playing around Lyon Block last evening and the nail went right through his shoe and the thin part of one of his feet, making a very bad wound.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 9, 1914

Headline: A midnight fire – home of J. J. May burned Tuesday morning. The home of J. J. May located north of Hakes' livery barn in this village, was almost totally destroyed, together with its contents, by fire discovered shortly after midnight Tuesday morning. Mr. May was in Ionia and Mrs. May, in her downstairs bed room, was awakened by coals of fire falling on her pillow. She made her escape unharmed; but was unable to save her clothing. Fire in the hall prevented escape from the upper floor except by the windows and Mr. Barkle, who occupied a room there took that route to safety. The firemen responded to the alarm given but were unable to save more than the shell of the building and protect neighboring property, the fire being so far advanced when discovered that none of the contents could be removed. The loss on house and contents is not total, being partially covered by insurance. Origin

Looking Back,
continued, page 10

We love to hear from you!

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

Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.

Find us on Facebook the lowell ledger ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

area births

~ Sherwood

Tim and Kaley Sherwood are to be congratulated on the birth of their new baby girl Madilynn Sue. She was born March 24, 2014, weighing 7lbs. 14oz. and measuring 21 inches.

She was welcomed home by her big sister Jordynn Kay. Proud grandparents, all from Lowell, are Bill and Carol Grummet and Sharon Sherwood.

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Prepare for health care costs during retirement

As you save and invest for retirement, what are your ultimate goals? Do you plan on traveling the world? Purchasing a vacation home? Pursuing your hobbies? People often think and plan for these costs. Yet, too often, many of us overlook what potentially could be a major expense during our retirement years: *health care*. By preparing for these costs, you can help yourself enjoy the

retirement lifestyle you've envisioned.

Many of us may ignore the impact of health care costs because we just assume Medicare will pay for everything. But that's not the case. In estimating health care costs during retirement, you may find that \$4,000 to \$6,000 per year per person for traditional medical expenses is a good starting point, although the amount varies by individual.

Furthermore, this figure does not include the costs of long-term care, which can be considerable. To illustrate: The national average for home health aide services is nearly \$45,000 per year, and a private room in a nursing home is nearly \$84,000 per year, according to a recent survey by Genworth, a financial security company.

So what can you do to help cope with these costs? Here are a few suggestions:

- *Estimate your costs.* Try to estimate what your out-of-pocket health care costs might be, based on your health, your age at retirement, whatever supplemental insurance you may carry and other factors.

- *Know the key dates.* Things can change in your life, but try to identify, as closely as possible, the age at which you plan to retire. This will help you spot any coverage gaps before you become eligible for Medicare at age 65. Also, be aware of the seven-month window for enrolling in Medicare, beginning three months before your 65th birthday.

- *Review your insurance options.* Medicare-approved insurance companies offer some other parts to Medicare, including Part D, which covers prescription drugs; Medigap, which covers gaps in Parts A and B (in-hospital expenses, doctor services, outpatient care and some preventive services); and Part C (also known as Medicare Advantage, which is designed to replace Parts A, B, Medigap and, potentially, part D). You have several options for Part D, Medigap and Medicare Advantage, each with varying coverage and costs, so choose the plans that best fit your needs. (To learn more about Medicare and supplemental insurance, go to www.medicare.gov.)

- *Develop a long-term care strategy.* To meet long-term care costs, you could self-insure or purchase insurance coverage. To learn about long-term care insurance solutions, contact your financial advisor.

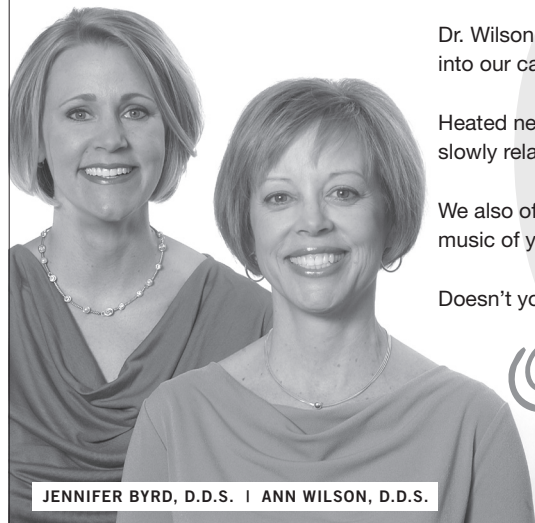
Financial Focus, continued, page 11

college news

Phillip Getzen, a 2010 graduate of Lowell High School, graduated in December 2013 from the College of Engineering at Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in

computer science. Phillip is the son of Barry and Jean Getzen of Lowell Township. He is currently employed by Microsoft Corporation as a project manager in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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I believe everyone should have a broad picture of how the universe operates and our place in it. It is a basic human desire. And it also puts our worries in perspective.

~ Stephen Hawking

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happy birthday!

- APRIL 9**
J.R. Guastavino.
- APRIL 10**
Julie Webb, Nicholas Comdure, Chelsea Comdure, Betsey Walker, Sarah Rusch-Hildenbrand, Tristan Lane Ellsworth-Bristol, Barbara Bechtel, Lois Wittenbach.
- APRIL 11**
Toni Blough, Delores Gabrion, Adaline Thaler, Al Roe, David Johnson.
- APRIL 12**
Sarah DeShane-Dalga, Jesse Lewis-Anes.
- APRIL 13**
Addie Abel, Pete Baker, Marv DeVries, Carol Brzezniak, Melissa Quada.
- APRIL 14**
Dennis Rasch, Joshua Anderson, Nichol Gurney, Bernie Boersma, Brenda Stuart, Cole Wade, Stephanie Ossewaarde.
- APRIL 15**
Craig Yeiter, Margaret Yoder, Charles Behnke, Fred Oesch Jr., Dave Carpenter, Terry Kinsley.

area churches

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Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
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Sunday School.....9:15 A.M.

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897-7060
Pastor Rod Galindo
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Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
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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.
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Pastor Tony Shumaker

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10:30 A.M.Fellowship
11:00 A.M.Worship

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WEDNESDAYS:
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"The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.
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www.lowellumc.com

Barrier-free entrance

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Rev. Rick Blunt

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Red Arrow SPRING SPORTS TEAMS

VARSITY BASEBALL



First row, left to right: Matt Cooper, Jake Stephens, Parker Groom, Jason Price, Jonny Wyckoff, and Levi Churches; second row, left to right: coach Justin Miller, Anthony Alderink, Jarrod Melle, Collin VanNoord, Logan Smith, Kyler Shurlow, and coach Jon Bieneman; third row, left to right: Jeff Houston, Max Barber, Zach Gordon, Alex Chavez, Garrett Gordon, Matt Milstead, and Trevor Shurlow.

JV BASEBALL



First row, left to right: Cooper Perry, Colin Ducharmi, Nolan Yahrmarkt, Anthony Pollock, Sterling Anderson, and Mark Rasch; second row, left to right: coach Tom Melle, Kyle Mankel, Maxwell Majinska, Nate Stephens, Sam Huston, Drew Struckmeyer, and Tyler Ritchie.

VARSITY SOFTBALL



First row, left to right: Desiree Striplin, Halle Hayes, Makela Chapman, Taylare Harris, Bethany Dean, and Shelby Antel; second row, left to right: coach Matt Dood, Caitlyn Serne, Sarah Oesch, Breanna Oesch, Grace Quiggle, Kortney Beachler, and Kim Griffith.

JV SOFTBALL



First row, left to right: Kenzie Huver, Paige Clouse, Eliese Carey, coach Inman, Shelley Bailey, Nina Vuipetti, and Shelby Mutschler; second row, left to right: Brooke Steffen, Maddie Burt, Kendra Wroten, Kiauna Woods, Ciera Gaskin, Maria DeCator, Isabel Lillie, and Faith Wilson; third row, left to right: Tessa Micho, Alyssa Mears, Gina Ricards, Megan Andrakowicz, Casey Depew, Kaitlin Kelley, and Leana Weiler.

Red Arrow SPRING SPORTS TEAMS

VARSITY SOCCER



First row, left to right: Maddie Stadt, Alyssa McCormick, Lauren Blanchard, Hannah Fitzpatrick, Karah Smith, and Blythe Carvajal; second row, left to right: coach Brittany O'Brien, Katie Clemenshaw, Remington Phillips, Christy Lyon, Kathryn Montgomery, Bridget Garter, Amber Curtis, Kennedy Coxon, and Dan Lipon; third row, left to right: coach Conner Burton, Coleen Cater, Ally Laird, Mary Leasure, Tara McQueen, Amy Carpenter, Darby Fuller, and Nicole Hewitt.

JV SOCCER



First row, left to right: Brianna Massey, Alyssa McIntire, Callie Ford-Weber, Delaney Bierlein, Kayleigh Striplin, Mathea Ismond, and Jamie Lynn Urban; second row, left to right: coach Analyse Bencker, Addie Grohman, Kyla Dixon, Lena Hinkel, Kamryn Gaines, Alyssa Roest, Olivia Nurmikko, Sara Majestic, and Mike Lincolnhol; third row, left to right: Maria Rodrigues, Victoria Hewitt, Jayce Perysian, Madison Smith, Sophia Bartz, Lucy Wade, and Jennifer Ferreira.

VARSITY GOLF

JV GOLF



First row, left to right: Alexander Bohr, Nate Kyburz, Andrew Metternick, and Isaac Brenner; second row, left to right: coach Gary Fredline, Jake Hays, Josh Buechler, Austin Hoekstra, and Jared Laux.



First row, left to right: Cameron Harper, Andrew Poulton, Ethan Bates, Kellen Guinn, Jonah Epema, Tim Buechler, and Daniel Moore; second row, left to right: coach Kim Stevens, Ryan Stevens, Gabe Steed, Carter Noskey, Matthew Anderson, Alex Powell, and Evan Swanson; third row, left to right: Caleb Pichenl, Danny Kruse, Alex Dommer, Adam Anderson, Zach Laux, Steven Tripp.

Red Arrow **SPRING SPORTS TEAMS**



BOYS' LACROSS



First row, left to right: Collin Bowers, Blake Posthumus, Evan Mierendorf, Ryan Walters, Jason Nagy, Jay Clark, Benjamin Kohtz, and Hayden Barry; second row, left to right: coach Adam Bowers, coach Eric Bredin, Quinn Summerfield, Jacob Wielinga, Cody Selli, Jacob North, Avery Buckius, Luke DeBoer, Aron Mierendorf, coach Kelly Bowers; third row, left to right: Karson Murley, Josiah Buys, Grant Peterson, Koda Barry, Carl Smith, Kyle Potter, Luke Kloosterman, and Logan Bozek.



GIRLS' LACROSS



First row, left to right: Brianna Raspor, Maddie Kaminski, Sophia Winn, Justine Anes, and Mallery Yaw; second row, left to right: Monica Bussell, Shannon Hoekstra, Hana Steinebach, Anna Litchfield, Makenzie Frederickson, and Faith Blakely; third row, left to right: Makyla Martinez, Tiana Petricevic, Sela Bauman, Laurel Frederickson, and Abby Downing.



JV LACROSS



First row, left to right: Adam Marks, Matt Nelson, Jon Stewart, Jake Pratt, Ben Smith, Brennan Bartle, Mikey Trupke, and Cole LeBarre; second row, left to right: John Rogalke, Ben Stewart, Lance Huber, Max Bishop, Bradly Depew, Brandon Pelkey, Kyle Bell, Noah Houghtaling, and Zeb Pearson; coach, Selli, Brody Chapman, Garret Taylor, Ryan Hessler, Nicholas Kloosterman, Connor Stowell, Logan Copeyon, Brendan Paulus, Brendan Pearson.



CREW



First row, left to right: Derek Lachowsic, Kaelobb Decker, Nicholas Longway, Tanathat Athitthong, Ethan Pearson, Tristen Bray, Jacob Hoofman, Dakota Miller, Kenny Duke; second row, left to right: Keith Gillhespy, Patrick Haywood, John Bigham, Logan VanderMoulon, Austin Goebel, Connor Bergin, Brandon Haehnel, Jason Cazier, coach Sara Cadwallader, and coach David Cadwallader; third row, left to right: Corynn Rogers, Jessica Barrett, Brittany Branagan, Ashley VanderLaun, Hannah Skibbe, Maranda Holloway, Madalynne Iteen; and Katie Brim.

Looking Back, continued

of the fire is unknown. Mrs. May is staying at the home of her daughter Mrs. F. J. McMahon for the present.

Our good friend, Mrs. O. A. Robinson, writes from Jackson: I have just learned that Herman E. Hogan, who came to Lowell in 1854, died at Gardenia, Cal. March 26. He was married to Emily Hunt, a sister of L. H. Hunt, in '56. He enlisted in Company 1, 26th Michigan, at Lowell in '62 and served until July 1865. He would have been 80 years old next month. Mr. Hogan will be remembered by the old residents. He was night watch for the village for many years.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 15, 1939

Along about three weeks ago when the thermometer readings were up in the high 70s the men on the Ledger force thought that summer had arrived for keeps so down came the storm doors. Then look what happened. Yesterday – gray clouds, a swirling snowstorm and icy winds that cut to the bone. Durn it! License plates for the year 1940 will be black

numerals on a silver aluminum background. The silver aluminum paint used, will bondarize the metal of the plate and the plate will not be subject to chipping as with the enamel now used, making the new license plates more durable; also this color background will tend to eliminate reflections and minimize glare.

Showboat visitors still remember with pleasure the famous Michigan lumberjack orchestra which appeared on the Showboat program three years ago. Their rendition of their program made up of lumberjack ballads, recalled an era that is gone forever. Now the members of this famous orchestra, 14 in all and all past seventy years of age are to take part in the National Folk Festival at Washington D. C. the last week of this month.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 9, 1964

Joseph Wallinga, 52 and his wife Isabell, 33, of Grand Rapids, reported to Lowell Police they were threatened by a man in the Riverview Inn parking lot, who said he would shoot if they did not hand over their money, Sunday night at 8:30 p. m. Lowell Police were at a tavern checking a car blocking the driveway when the robbery was committed. Wallinga handed over about \$1 in change and when asked for his wallet, he yelled for help. The robber saw the police car and drove off with 2 other men. Police Chief Avery Block said Tuesday that the three men were apprehended near Allendale that same night, after they broke into a drugstore. He said Wallinga identified David Montgomery, 22 as the man who accosted him, the other two were identified as Nicholas Boujan, 22 and Dale Konwinski, all of the Detroit area. They were released recently from the Ionia Reformatory.

Six influential local citizens took part in a card game in Beachum's Furniture store window on Friday evening. They hardly caused a stir on Main Street, as men of the cloth have stated, we're a calloused lot here.

Fluger's Lowell Bakery awarded three local people who registered at the Grand Rapids Home Show decorated cakes. The booth was sponsored by bakeries in the Grand Rapids area. Winners were Mrs. Charles Benjamin, Mrs. T. M. Scheidel and Dolores Myers.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 12, 1989

The Lowell City Directory is now available at Crystal Flash and Third Base Party Stores. The directories are \$5 each. Get yours today!

Headline: Core curriculum – starting with the sophomore class of '92 the core curriculum credit requirements will be raised from 9 1/2 to 12. Beginning with the class of 1992, the core curriculum credit requirements needed for graduation will jump from nine-and-a-half to 12. The Lowell Board of Education adopted a 12-core curriculum requirement resolution for the class of 1992 at the April meeting. The two-and-a-half credit increase will appear in the computer, science and the vocational fine arts and practical arts areas. In computers a 1.2 credit requirement will be instilled, currently there is no requirement. In science the credit requirement will increase from one to two and in the arts area the credit requirements will increase from zero to one.

Headline: Yeiters to meet Yeutter – April 19 Washington D.C. to unite distant relatives. On April 16 Don and Betty Yeiter will leave for Washington D.C. and a visit to the Capitol Building to visit a distant relative. – Clayton Yeutter on April 19. What's Yeutter doing in the Capitol Building? you ask. He was President George Bush's choice for Agriculture Secretary...The Yeutter family originally came to this country from Stuttgart, Germany, in the early 1900s. Don Yeitter's family made the trip in the early 1800s. The connection between Yeutter and Yeiter is in their great great-grandfathers who were brothers.



GIRLS' VARSITY TENNIS

- * Denotes a meet at Lowell High School Tennis Courts
- 4/15 at 4:15 p.m. Byron Center
- 4/16 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Central
- 4/17 at 4 p.m. East Kentwood

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
- 4/15 at 4:15 p.m. & 6 p.m. Forest Hills Central
- 4/17 at 4 p.m. & 5 p.m. South Christian

BOYS' VARSITY BASEBALL

- * Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Baseball Field
- 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
- 4/15 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Central
- 4/16 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Central

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
- 4/19 at 11 a.m. Davison High*

GIRLS' VARSITY LACROSSE

- * Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium
- 4/16 at 7 p.m. Grandville
- 4/21 at 7 p.m. Comstock Park*

BOYS' VARSITY LACROSSE

- * Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium
- 4/15 at 5:30 p.m. at Caledonia
- 4/17 at 7:15 p.m. Forest Hills Eastern*
- 4/22 at 7:15 p.m. GR Christian

GIRLS' VARSITY SOCCER

- * Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium
- 4/15 at 6:45 Grandville
- 4/16 at 6:45 p.m. Cedar Springs
- 4/21 at 6:45 p.m. Forest Hills Central

A little history puts our historic winter in perspective

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell residents are celebrating the arrival of spring after a treacherous and record-breaking winter that resulted in over nine feet of snow. The persistent subzero temperatures produced one of the most memorable winters in recent history.

Town sexton Don DeJong discovered in his research of local history that it has actually been much worse in the past.

The few following examples that DeJong shared should serve to remind us to appreciate the modern conveniences that made this season bearable.

1864

Aboard a train destined for Grand Rapids, Civil War soldiers headed home on furlough found themselves stranded in Lowell due to snow blocked tracks. The experience was documented in a book by Sergeant Daniel Crotty who was among the servicemen onboard.

"When we arrive in Lowell there are four trains laying over, for the track is blocked with snow in a cut a short distance beyond. Our conductor want[ed] to lay over too, but we can't see it on a 30-day furlough."

Determined to get home to their loved ones the soldiers asked for shovels, the only implements available to remove snow at the time. Convincing the conductor to push forward, the men amazingly cleared the tracks manually.

"We jump out and attack the snow banks and after working hard we soon had the track so clear that

the train passed over in safety," recalled Crotty.

According to the author the hardworking soldiers completed their 18-mile journey home where the warmth of those greeting them at their unexpected arrival would eclipse the blizzard-like conditions they endured.

"Of course no one expects us; all think we are snowbound somewhere. It is well they think so, for greater will be their surprise and pleasure to see us. As we get off the cars the snow is almost blinding, the weather is fearfully cold and we have to look out for our ears to keep them from freezing. We have a march of a mile to the city and we find the snow as deep on the road as the mud was at the battle of Williamsburg, up to our knees."

1881

In a season dubbed "The Snow Blockade" by those who experienced it, more than sixty heavy snowstorms, beginning in early October, left homes literally buried. Snowfall was measured between six and 15 feet with drifts more than doubling those totals.

According to the research compiled by DeJong, families had to tunnel their way out of their homes and were forced to destroy their own property to stay warm. Then, after tunneling their way out, they tore down barns and fences for fuel. In some cases, the telegraph poles and railroad ties were dug out and chopped up to keep the fires going."



This picture labeled, "The Big Snow Storm, Feb. 22, 1912 was taken from the book, "Lowell, 100 Years of History 1831 - 1931.

Railroads were completely blockaded leaving trains stranded in drifts said to be over 50-feet high.

Thousands of workers were employed and well compensated to keep the tracks clear but even plows were unable to break through some of the immense walls of snow, "The power of these ploughs and the great resistance of a snowdrift may be estimated from the facts that one plough [sic] weighing 48,000 pounds of railway iron and driven by six locomotives attacked a snow choked cutting, but was defeated."

The same workers tirelessly cleared over 324,000 cubic yards of snow from one area in a fruitless effort that was defeated in less than eight hours as high winds quickly refilled the cleared space.

1918

DeJong proves that 1918 was another surmountable winter for local residents drawing his historical facts from articles written and published in what is now The Lowell Ledger. Two stories from the month of February describe the lengths necessary to clear roads made unpassable by snow.

The first describes the use of inmates housed in Kent County to clear roads.

"Sheriff Berry sent out 15 prisoners and will send out 15 more tomorrow to open up roads leading to the city where the snow has blocked traffic."

The work helped farmers, trapped in rural areas under 3-5 ft. of snow, regain access to the city.

The headline of the story, Digging a Road 70 Miles Long, ran two weeks later. It detailed how 100 men from Lansing armed only with shovels cleared snow all the way to Grand Rapids. Shovelers were required to remove snow to within three to eight inches off the ground and were paid only \$3.00 per day for their services.

Financial Focus, continued

• *Invest for growth and rising income.* Health care costs typically rise as you move further into retirement, so make sure that a reasonable portion of your assets is allocated to investments with the potential for both growth and rising income.

• *Think about health care directives.* If you were to become incapacitated, you might be unable to make health care decisions — and these decisions may affect not only your quality

of life but also your financial situation, and that of your family. Talk to your legal advisor about establishing a health care directive, which allows you to name someone to make choices on your behalf.

Health care costs during your retirement may be unavoidable. But by anticipating these costs, you can put yourself in a position to deal with them — and that's a healthy place to be.

•••

No man is good enough to govern another man without the other's consent.

~Abraham Lincoln



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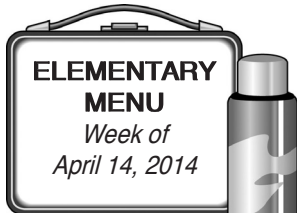


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MEMBER
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LUNCH MENU



ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of
April 14, 2014

MON: WG cheese quesadilla, seasoned green beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, mandarin oranges, apple.

TUES: Chicken taco on soft tortilla, refried beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, salsa, mixed fruit, sliced pears.

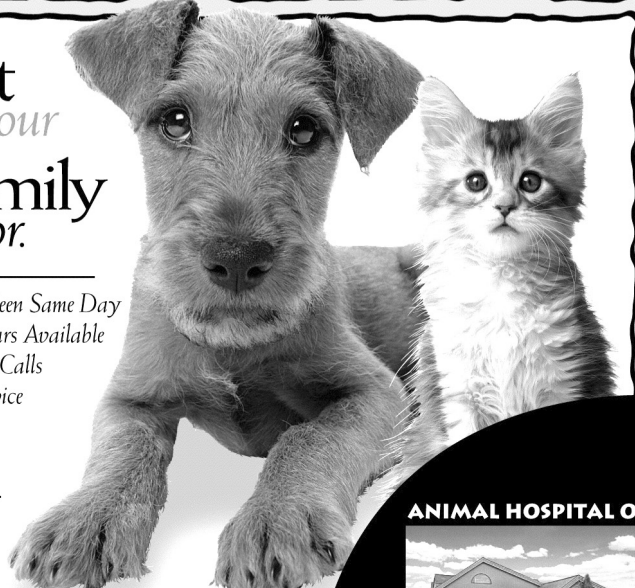
WED: French toast sticks served w/sausage, warm cinnamon apples, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, pears, applesauce.

THURS: Rotini w/meatsauce, seasoned broccoli (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), WG breaded chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes & gravy (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, red pepper strips, peaches, applesauce.

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Dr. Bruce Langlois, D.V.M.

obituaries

HOLTZ

William "Bill" Harold Holtz, age 66, of Big Pine Key, Florida passed away on March 30, 2014. He was born in Grand Rapids and spent most of his childhood in Toledo, before moving to Lowell to raise his own family. He moved to Florida in 2002. He was preceded in death by his parents,

Harold Holtz and Maisie McCaul, and his brother Bruce Friesner. He is survived by his brothers, Roger Holtz and Jack Friesner; by his sisters, Kay (Mike) Fosnaugh and Debbie Vogel; by his children, Ryan (Trudy) Holtz, Brad Holtz, and Christy Holtz; along with his two granddaughters, Payton and Cassidy Holtz. A veteran of the Navy and the Vietnam War, Dad loved being with his family, hunting and fishing, sports, and game nights. He enjoyed spending his time at the local Moose Lodge and VFW where he was surrounded by good friends. A Memorial service will be held Friday, April 11th, 11:30 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI 49331. Visitation 10-11:30 a.m. at the chapel.



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PAAP

Louis Paap, age 86 of Cascade, passed away Tuesday, April 1, 2014. He was preceded in death by his wife A. June. He is survived by children June (Rick) Duthler of Imlay City, MI, Lee Hovey of Lowell, Gregg (Laura) Hovey of Kingston Springs, TN; 10 grandchildren, several great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Private Burial Services were held at Cascade Cemetery. A Memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Whitneyville Fellowship Church, 4935 Whitneyville Ave SE, Ada, MI 49301.



PECKHAM

Mike Powell Peckham, 77, passed away Monday, March 17, 2014, in Lowell. Mike was preceded in death by her husband Frank Peckham; daughter Robin Akers; sisters Evelyn Powell and Winnie Snieder. Mike graduated from Davenport University and worked at the Ionia Reformatory for years. After retirement, she volunteered at the First United Methodist Church Office in Lowell. Mike is survived by her brothers Lloyd and David Powell and sister Carmen (Virgil) Roudabush. A son Frank (Vicki) Schirmer and his children Christine (Tom) Shewsberry and Glen (Maritza) Schirmer. A daughter Sandy (Bill) Williams and their children Ann 'Marie' Maggard and William Williams. Brother-in-laws Oscar (Shirley) Peckham and Howard Peckham; sister-in-laws Margie Lowrey and Cora Yeiter. 6 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. As Mike requested, she has been cremated and a Memorial Service will be held Thursday, April 17 at the First United Methodist Church in Lowell at 11:00 a.m., followed by a friendship luncheon. Memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church Office in Lowell, 621 E. Main St, Lowell, MI 49331.



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SMITH

Melissa Ann Smith (Baer), age 42 of Lowell, our beautiful and precious daughter, went to meet her Lord and Savior Saturday, March 29, 2014. She was preceded in death by her great-grandmother Vera Yeiter, and grandparents, Nancy Yeiter, Fred Baer, Leonard and Barbara Cox. She is survived by her mother, Debra Baer; father, Terry (Glenda); grandfather, Vernon Yeiter; grandmother, Reva Baer; birth father, Randy (Rose) Cox; brothers, Scott Baer, Chris (Brooke) Baer; half-sister, Heather Keman; children, Ashley, Brittney, Skylynn, Hunter; grandchildren, Temperance, McKenzie; nieces and nephews Zack, Keegan, Jenna, Emma; many uncles, aunts, and cousins; plus extended family and friends too numerous to name. She will be loved and missed by many. Funeral service was held at O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Chapel, 3980 Cascade Rd. S.E., Grand Rapids. Rev. Nathan Smith of Faith Baptist Church officiating. In lieu of flowers those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider contributing to the Melissa (Baer) Smith Memorial Fund c/o any Chase Bank.



VOSBURG

Herman E. Vosburg, 61 of Ada, died April 5, 2014 as the result of a traffic accident in White, Georgia. He was preceded in death by his mother Alma (Stiles) Vosburg and nephew Gregg Sharp. Herman is survived by his father Ernest Vosburg; sisters Verle (Jerry) Sharp of Mulliken and Jackie (Gary) Phillips of Saranac; brother Bert Vosburg of Ada; 2 nephews, 2 nieces, several great nephews and nieces, 1 great great nephew and 1 great great niece. Herman was a kind man who had a special affinity for animals. He was a good cattleman who knew what the cows were going to do before they did it. A funeral service will be Thursday 11:00 a.m. Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI. Rev. Phillip Mills of Greenville Bible Methodist Church officiating. Interment Snow Cemetery. Visitation Wednesday 6 - 8:00 p.m. at the chapel.



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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.

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.

CENTRAL BOILER CLASSIC OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE - Provides safe, clean heat. 25 year warranty. 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.

ACREAGE FOR SALE - Ada, 10 wooded acres. Located on private drive. Prime building spot. \$99,900. Call 616-481-7702.

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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.

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION - Wanted concrete wall form setters, finishers, experience preferred. Competitive wages and benefits. Apply at DeYoung Concrete, 9330 Belding Rd., Rockford MI 49341. Tues, Thurs. 9 a.m. - noon.

TRUCK DRIVERS NEEDED - 2 opened positions. CDL w/air brake endorsement needed, experience required, \$15.50/hour. Snyder Asphalt, 616-642-0202.

EARN SOME MONEY FOR SUMMER! - One or two honest, hard working high school or college youth with skills in yard work needed weeknights or Saturdays in April & May at our home near Alto. Some stone laying work through summer available too. \$10-\$12 per hour pay. Seyriddle@gmail.com

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

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

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

COTTAGE ON CAMPAU LAKE - Sleeps 6, includes fishing boat & kayak. June - Aug., \$550 weekly. Call 868-7214.

misc.

LANDOWNERS - Do you want help paying your taxes? Lowell resident looking for hunting land to lease. Willing to pay per acre for bow & firearm season this fall. Honest, respectful conscientious sportsman who's an Eagle Scout that loves the outdoors. Please call Peter at 517-896-5935.

sales

MOVING SALE - Fri., Apr. 11, Sat., April 12, 9-3. Misc. items, horses, hay & tractor. 1661 Whites Bridge.

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

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Coming Events

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are ran on a space available basis & ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO RUN. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not run ANY Garage or Rummage Sales as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

FRIENDS REBUILDING WHITES BRIDGE - Meets 3rd Monday of each month at the Keene Township Hall, 8505 Potters Road, Saranac at, 6 p.m. Public is invited to join our group as we plan to raise funds to restore Whites Covered Bridge. For additional information email friends.rebuildingwhitesbridge@gmail.com or visit FriendsRebuildingWhitesBridge.org

SEED SWAP - Sun., April 6, 2-3:30 p.m. Wouldn't it be great to get rid of your seed stash & acquire new seeds? Bring out any seeds you have to swap. Seeds can be up to four years old, but please don't bring anything you know isn't viable. Make sure all packets are labeled with the type & variety name (original packets are appreciated but not necessary). Even if you don't have seeds to swap, come on out. The WWC will have heirloom & traditional varieties available for small donation. Wittenbach Wege Center, 11715 Vergennes, Lowell, 987-2565.

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

WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY - meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, fellowship hall, 12051 84th St., corner of Alden Nash. Call Sue at 868-6219 or www.womenforsobriety.org

BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY - meets the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Historical Museum at 84th/Alden Nash.

NEEDLERS - Second & fourth Monday evenings, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Schneider Manor Community Room.

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

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

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

LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB - meets the 3rd Monday in the Church of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 211 N. Washington St. at 6:30 p.m.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Randy Jesberg at 897-4569 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372 - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. Key Heights, 11335 Fulton, Lowell.

CUB SCOUT PACK 3188 - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

LOWELL LIONS CLUB - meets third Tuesday at noon at Lowell City Hall.

LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - meets the 2nd Saturday at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 E. Fulton, 9 a.m. social gathering; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT STORE - is open Wed. & Fri. 10 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6; Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Food Pantry, 897-8260; Emergency Services, 897-8260.

ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. 11-3 p.m.; Tues. 12-8 p.m.; Wed. 10-3 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m. 987-9533.

Diapers, formula, clothing & free pregnancy testing available. www.awclowell.org

FRIDAY FUN - Every Friday, 11-11:45 a.m. Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, games & a simple craft. For 3-5 year olds. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

GARLIC MUSTARD PULL - Sun., May 4, 2 - 4 p.m. Please join us in eradicating this invasive species from the Wittenbach/Wege Center, 11715 Vergennes, across from high school, 987-2565.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 784-2007.

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

MEDICINE CABINET WORKSHOP - Tues., April 22, 3:30 - 5 p.m. 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 & ear infections, mood & allergies, assist in first aid & pain relief, help relieve stress & anxiety & aid with a wide variety of health concerns & more. Space is limited, please register in advance. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

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.

KNITTING GROUP - Tues., April 8, 15, 22 & 29, 10 a.m. - noon. Clarksville Area Library's knitting group meets at the Village Hall, 162 S. Main St., Clarksville, 616-642-6100.

ST. MARY'S PREGNANCY CRISIS CENTER - 402 Amity. Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Thursdays: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Non-denominational. Help for pregnant women/adolescents in need. Provides support, referrals, food, clothing/infant items. Lowell area. 897-9393.

ADULT CANCER SUPPORT GROUP - Tuesdays, 6-7:15 p.m.

A committed group for those diagnosed with cancer. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

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

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

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

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

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

LOWELL AREA PRAYER & HEALING ROOMS - located in the FROM building, 11535 Fulton Street, most Monday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Christian Scripture based. No cost or fees, no appointment necessary, confidentiality respected.

KENT COUNTY NARFE GROUP - for retired & current federal employees meet the 2nd Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton, 1/2 mile west of E. Beltline. Potluck at 12:30 p.m. & meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Call Ed Moore for time, 616-784-6716.

ALTO LIONS CLUB - Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at Keiser's Kitchen.



Captain America: The Winter Soldier is first summer hit

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

While superhero movies have been common since the 1980s, this new

brand of films brings something to the silver screen that we've never seen - a shared universe.

Marvel has brought several franchises - Iron Man, Incredible Hulk, Thor, Captain America, Avengers and soon Guardians of the Galaxy - into one continuity, with each film building upon the mythology established in the last. The most recent film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe sandbox is Captain America: The Winter Soldier, which hit theaters on April 4.

The Winter Soldier is more of an ensemble film than the other Marvel solo films. While the story is centered around Captain America (Chris Evans), he quickly develops around him a team of Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), Falcon (Anthony Mackie), Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) and Maria Hill (Cobie Smulders). In this superhero espionage thriller, Captain

America is pitted against a dark enemy from his past who is only known as the Winter Soldier and the implications of this confrontation could tear apart Cap. Fury and the entire organization of SHIELD.

While critics might see films like Iron Man, Thor and Avengers as Captain America's better, none of these movies have as much heart as the story of the 95-year-old weakling with the courage to become the symbol of what is good in America. This was true with Captain America: The First Avenger and it remains true with The Winter Soldier.

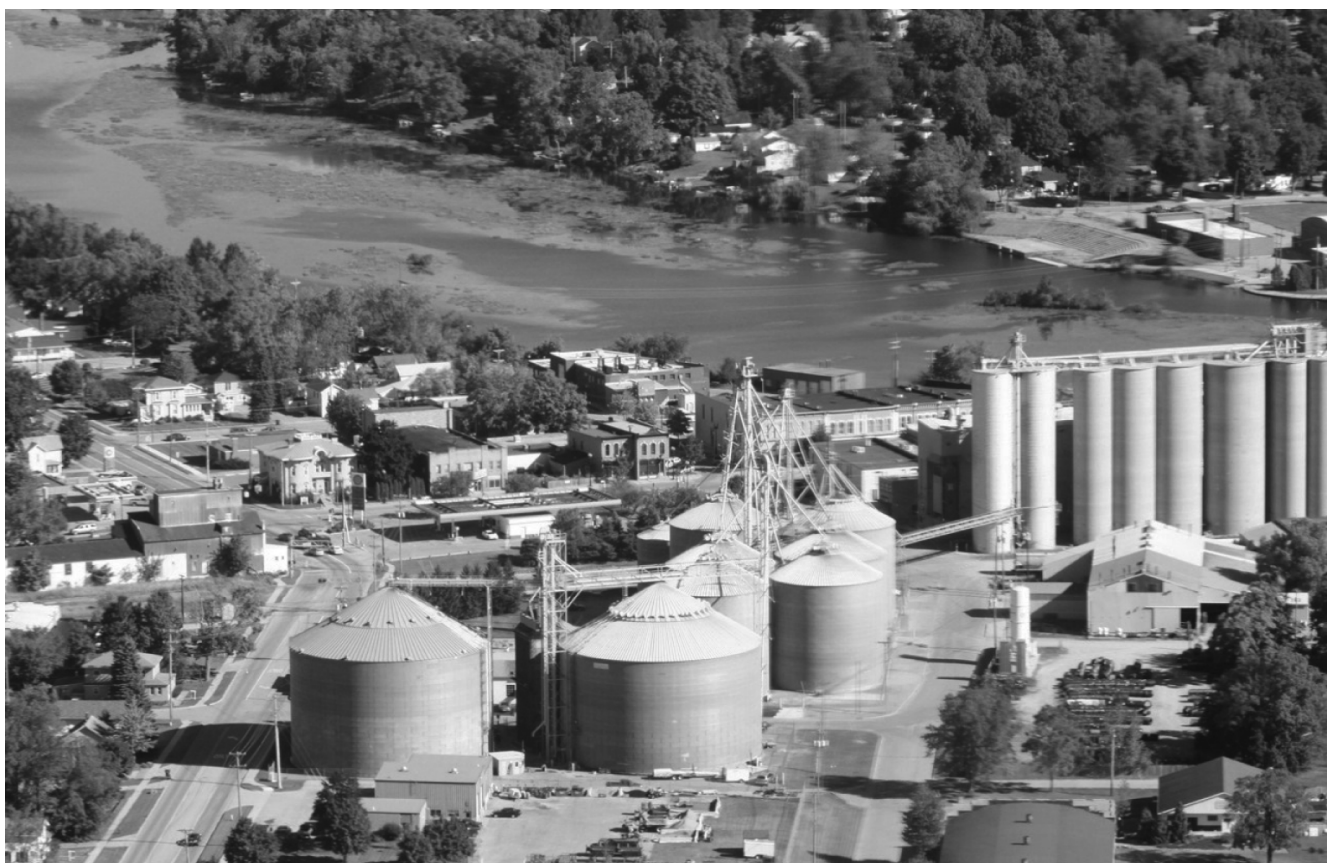
While the Marvel Cinematic Universe films have worked to include people of color in their films, transforming white comic book characters Nick Fury

and Heimdall into black film heroes, The Winter Soldier does not have to work quite so hard. Falcon is the first African American superhero in comics. Black Panther debuted earlier, but he is African, not American. He's also one of the few to date who isn't merely a black version of another hero and who doesn't have the word "black" in his name.

Mackie didn't take the responsibility of playing Falcon lightly. In a Newsday article, he is quoted saying, "I have a son, nephews and nieces and I love the idea that they can dress up as the Falcon on Halloween. They now have someone they can

idolize. That's a huge honor for me."

Both Captain America films featured complex, sprawling stories, which suggests that their narratives might have been better served in a mini-series format. However, The Winter Soldier pulls together its many plot threads so expertly that it is easily the best sequel in the Marvel Cinematic Universe and certainly one of the better superhero films to hit the big screen. Though the long winter of 2014 is only now showing signs of ending, Winter Soldier is the first great film of the summer movie season.



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Faster benefit decisions for Veterans

On Memorial Day, as we pay tribute to the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country, we also share some news about Social Security disability benefits for veterans with disabilities: a new expedited disability process.

We believe it is important to recognize those who currently serve in the military as well as those injured in the line of duty and consider it an honor and a duty to serve them. Whether the injury is physical or mental, getting a decision about Social Security disability benefits from your government should not add to the problems faced by the injured.

Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, recently unveiled a new initiative to expedite disability applications from veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation rating of 100 percent Permanent and Total (P&T). Under the new process, Social Security will treat these veterans' applications

as high priority and issue expedited decisions, similar to the way we currently handle disability claims from wounded warriors.

"Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country and it is only right that we ensure they have timely access to the disability benefits they may be eligible for and deserve," said Acting Commissioner Colvin.

Read about this new service at www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/disability-pt.htm.

You may also want to visit our Wounded Warriors page at www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors. There you will find informative webinars, a *Disability Planner*, an overview of our disability programs and the convenient online disability application.

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

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- 16. Abdul or Zahn
- 17. White House Dwight
- 18. Big dipper
- 19. *Climber support
- 21. *Tiny garden shovel
- 23. Afflict
- 24. Lick
- 25. "Be quiet!"
- 28. "Ta-ta!" in Italy
- 30. *Cross between varieties
- 35. Church sound
- 37. Mojito, ____ drink
- 39. Wintry mix
- 40. Norse capital
- 41. Brightest star in Cygnus
- 43. Approximately, two words
- 44. Japanese port
- 46. Slash mark
- 47. Drawn tight
- 48. House cat, e.g.
- 50. Greek H's
- 52. *Special Hawaiian flowers form this garland
- 53. Getting warm
- 55. "Street" in Italy
- 57. Hang a banner, e.g.
- 60. *Refuse turned fertilizer
- 64. Ancient assembly area
- 65. Unagi
- 67. Like outside-of-mainstream art

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64						65	66			67				
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APRIL 2 - APRIL 8

- Mickey Rooney, a film star whose career spanned 10 decades died Sunday at the age of 93. Rooney was Hollywood's top box office draw between 1939 and 1941. He was born Joe Yule Jr. on Sept. 23, 1920, in Brooklyn, New York. Rooney married eight times but had been married to his current wife since the 1970s.
- Little Prince George took off with his parents, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, for his first official three-week trip to New Zealand and Australia.
- Jeb Bush, son of the 41st president and brother of the 43rd, says immigrants coming to the U.S. are not committing a felony but an act of love. "The way I look at this is someone who comes to our country because they couldn't come legally ... and they crossed the border because they had no other means to work, to be able to provide for their family, yes, they broke the law, but it's not a felony. It's an act of love, it's an act of commitment to your family."
- The final game of NCAA March Madness pitted the University of Kentucky Wildcats against the University of Connecticut Huskies. The Huskies won the national championship with a

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68. Relating to aquarium scum
69. Shag rug
70. "Spaghetti Western" maker Sergio
71. Short of "history"
72. Sophomore's grade
73. Dog-____ book
- DOWN**
- 1. Feeling great delight
 - 2. Lab culture
 - 3. *Like many Gentians or Delphiniums
 - 4. Swan of "Twilight"
 - 5. Emphatic, in print
 - 6. Honoree's spot
 - 7. *Short for nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium
 - 8. Thin mountain ridge
 - 9. Old-fashioned bathtub foot
 - 10. *What gardener did to riding lawn mower
 - 11. It will, contraction
 - 12. "So long!"
 - 15. Plural of #15 Across
 - 20. Homeric epic
 - 22. Rally repeater
 - 24. Club enforcer
 - 25. Tina Fey/Amy Poehler schtick, e.g.
 - 26. "Siddhartha" author
 - 27. Conforming to dietary laws for Muslims
 - 29. Greek god of war
 - 31. Soak some ink
 - 32. Opposite of urban
 - 33. Question in dispute
 - 34. Hindu garment
 - 36. Mischievous Norse deity
 - 38. *What Venus Flytrap eats
 - 42. Opera house exclamation
 - 45. *One-time plant
 - 49. Poetic "always"
 - 51. "He fights like a lion," e.g.
 - 54. Warn or arouse
 - 56. Sleeper's woe
 - 57. Wrinkly fruit
 - 58. Wooden pegs
 - 59. Short for brotherhood
 - 60. Family group
 - 61. *The corpse flower is famous for its bad one
 - 62. Cosine's buddy
 - 63. ____ up a golf ball, past tense
 - 64. "I see!"
 - 66. *Potato bud

Puzzle solutions appear on page 12

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

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



**THIS WEEK'S
ONLINE
POLL
RESULTS**

Do you think college athletes should be paid?

- YES 0%
- NO 100%

**TO VOTE IN
THIS WEEK'S
ONLINE POLL**

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thelowellledger.com

Red Arrow SPRING SPORTS TEAMS

BOYS' TRACK



First row, left to right: Nick Price, Casey Sellner, Liam Kelley, Travis Brubaker, Zach Kaywood, and Tyler Garter; second row, left to right: Devon Sicillano, Calvin Warning, Guglielmo Domgliro, Zach Diamond, David Rose, Derek Massey, Ryan Tarchala, Nick MacDonald, Josh Branagan, Duncan Elliott, Zack Ritchie, Connor Smithee, and Austin Stickney; third row, left to right: asst. coach Keith Boeve, Austin Murray, Thomas Hubart, Parker Grant, Eric Judd, Ben Noffke, Brayton Grant, Reece Karns, Brennan Mason, Nick Higgins, Justin Everitt, Ben Mullins, Billy Dickson, Collin Rinks, Dan Onan, Keagan Barnes, Colton Churches, Chase Miller, Robert Dubisky, and coach Karen Neeley; fourth row, left to right: coach Sarah Ellis, Kyle Smith, Riley Nethercott, Riley Coxan, Richard Misak, Collin McGee, Brandon Cole, Austin Branagan III, Captain Sprague, Matt Bloom, J.J. Johnson, Donald Trierweiler, Kyle Cater, Caleb Kaufman, and coach Robin Briggs.

GIRLS' TRACK



First row, left to right: Esme Misiak, Emma Clouser, Emily Judd, Colleen Lally, Rachael Walters, Jessica Graves, Holly Race, and Alon Watson; second row, left to right: coach Karen Neeley, coach Robin Briggs, Megan Khodl, Breanna VanLaan, Sina Faass, Lauren DeHaan, Ally Frederickson, Jordon Mixon, Taylor Bierling, Amber Cook, Sarah Ellis, and Keith Boeve; third row, left to right: Francesca Robinson, Kelsey Emmanuel, Haley Engels, Haley Godbold, Hayden Hoffman, Carsen McDonald, Kyla Dixon, Kathryn Miller, Callie Ford-Weber, and Mekare Elliott.

VARSITY TENNIS



First row, left to right: Elena Bishop, Danielle Fron, Rebecca Weaver, Inés Domingior Gonzalez, Paige McKenna, and Rachel Fox; second row, left to right: Hailey Stasiak, Maddie Willemstein, Jessica Steiner, Amanda Susnak, Megan Hofman, Emma McLane, and coach Chris Phillips.

JV TENNIS



First row, left to right: Madison McCormack, Kalie Kopecek, Abi Cummings, Bailey Cummings, Alexandra Chapdelaine, Rachel Bazen, and Laurel Bronkella; second row, left to right: coach Sue Beute, Jennifer Green, Amaia Ross, Alainie Thomas, Victoria Pickens, Mallory Kramer, and Bethany Kaczanowski; third row, left to right: Kara Jeffries, Jasmine Peters, Paige Brown, Rachael Yomtoob, Bryndal McGillicuddy, Abby Mitchell, Abby Green, and Alina Chappell.