

odyssey champs



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the nature of change



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new business



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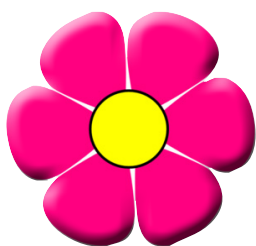
50 CENTS



Far out!

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Main Street will take a “trip” to the Age of Aquarius tomorrow night when the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce hosts the psychedelic 60s’ themed spring Girls’ Night Out (GNO) from 5-9 pm.



Girls’ Night Out this Thursday

Shoppers are invited to reach deep into their closets and dig out their bell bottoms, platform shoes and tie dye t-shirts for a fun night of downtown shopping. Chamber director Liz Baker encourages community members to come out and enjoy this groovy evening. “It has been a long winter, so ladies get out and support these merchants! Have some fun in Historic Lowell.”

More than 25 businesses will be offering specials and discounts ranging from a \$5 ring cleaning at Chimera

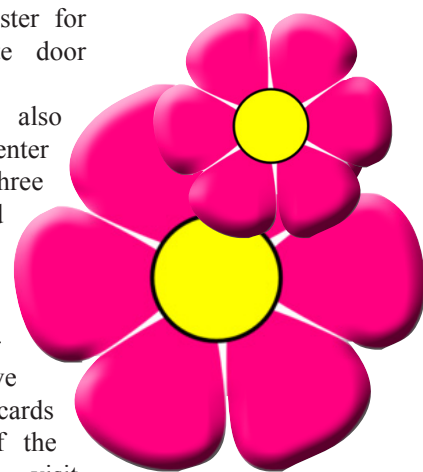
Design to delicious buy-one-get-one free specialty drinks at Ella’s. There is also a generous 20 percent storewide discount at Dovetail Antiques.

Other participating businesses include Rookies Sportscards Plus, Flat River Grill, Glass House Designs, newcomer Jultara Salon and Walgreens.

Many locations will be providing free appetizers, drinks or desserts to enjoy while browsing in their stores, as well as the

opportunity to register for some great on-site door prizes.

Attendees will also have a chance to enter to win one of three goody bags filled with valuable items from several participating merchants. To enter patrons must have their GNO postcards stamped by 15 of the businesses they visit during their psychedelic celebration of peace, love and shopping.



The Lowell Light and Power board discusses costs, fees and vehicle use at regular meeting

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The Lowell Light and Power (LLP) board discussed a controversial fee, recent allegations about misuse of a company truck and several other topics at its meeting on Thursday, April 10.

Chief accountant Steve Donkersloot gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the “Power Cost Adjustment” (PCA) fee charged to customers every month.

“The PCA allows us, Lowell Light and Power, to charge for the increase in the cost of power we purchase and sell to our customers,” Donkersloot said. “Hypothetically, if the power cost went down, we could have a credit in the PCA line item so our customers would get money back.”

There has not been a reduction in the PCA fee for several years.

“Since late 2008 [and] early 2009, that hasn’t happened,” Donkersloot said. “Because of EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] regulations and those types of things, power costs have just kept increasing.”

Donkersloot said that the PCA fee is actually lower than it could be.

“Every year Lowell Light and Power has paid more in power costs than we’ve collected from customers,” Donkersloot

said. “From 2010 to 2013 we have chosen not to bill for \$1.18 million in power cost that we’ve incurred but haven’t collected through our rates.”

By not charging customers the entire amount possible for the PCA fee, Donkersloot said Lowell Light and Power saved customers money.

“In short, they are saving money,” Donkersloot said. “The average customer from 2010 through 2013, has saved \$147.96 - which equates to \$3.08 a month.”

“Gosh, I guess I should say, ‘Thank you’ then, for subsidizing my electric bill the last four years,” board member Tamela Spicer said. “Bonus!”

Later in the presentation Donkersloot said that Lowell Light and Power’s rates are lower than Consumers Energy’s rates.

“[Lowell] residents have significantly lower energy bills compared to Consumers Energy residential customers,” Donkersloot said.

“And then there’s also reliability,” board chairman Greg Canfield said. “In Lowell your power may be out for five or six minutes or five or six hours and a lot of people in the area are out of power for five or six days when we have a wind storm or an ice storm. That’s huge.”

LL&P regular meeting,
continued, page 3



LLP general manager Greg Pierce, board members Tina Siciliano-Cadwallader and Tamela Spicer, auditor Peter Heffner, chief accountant Steve Donkersloot and mayor Jim Hodges discussed the “power cost adjustment” fee and other issues at a meeting last Thursday.

LAHM gala slated for April 25

The Lowell Area Historical Museum is set to host its semi-annual gala held at Lowell’s Grand Volute Ballroom. The gala is a time for supporters to gather together for a



Sylvia Taylor

special evening celebrating the museum and all it offers to our community. This year’s event is themed “Somewhere in Time, Music Through the Ages.”

Entertainment will be provided by local vocalist Sylvia Taylor, accompanied by pianist Mark Kahny. Taylor will sing a selection of songs from a variety of time periods. An elegant gourmet dinner will be served and a cash bar available. A raffle will also be held with a variety of prizes from bed and breakfast stays to catered luncheons. Proceeds from the raffle and dinner will go to support the

museum’s operations and programming.

The museum has undertaken a busy schedule for 2014. They plan to introduce four new historic interpretive boards in the historic district, open an exhibit on the 1960s in Lowell, launch a new website and introduce new school programs.

The gala will be held Friday, April 25 at 6:00 pm. Tickets are available at the museum or on the website www.lowellmuseum.org. Call the museum at 897-7688 for more information or to reserve seats.

The LowellArts! players present "Moll"

The LowellArts! players present Moll, a dinner theater production from April 25 through May 10 at Larkin's Other Place. This comedy depicts the preoccupations of the

priests in a poor Catholic parish in rural Ireland. The play begins with a search for a new housekeeper and ends with a change in the parish hierarchy. It is Moll who wins the priests over

and gets the job. However, she proves to be a challenge to the younger clerics, one of whom suspects her of having ulterior motives. "This hilarious show could be set anywhere

because it addresses human nature and how change, even when necessary, can often be difficult to adjust to," says Laurie Kuna, the director. "The characters

are well-drawn individuals, not stereotypes and that just makes the story even better."

The production runs Friday and Saturday evenings, April 25 and 26; May 2 and 3; and May 9 and 10. There will be one Sunday matinee on May 4. Dinner during evening performances is served at 6:30 pm with the show following at 7:30 pm. Sunday matinee dinner is served at 1:00 pm with the show at 2:00 pm.

The cast includes Liam Tichelaar as Father Phillip Brest; Janna Chesser as Bridgie Andover; John Foley as the Very Rev. Canon Connie Pratt; Tyler Armstrong as Father Joe Loran, CC; Laurie Kuna as Maureen "Moll" Kettle; and Ron Wood as His Lordship the Bishop. Guest appearance by Matt Tawney as Ulick. Stage manager Sue Bradford and technical director Gary Brook also lend their expertise.

John Foley, lead actor in the LowellArts! production of Moll, recalls playing one of the younger priests alongside well-known Grand Rapids actress Norma Brink in his Center Stage theater group's 1996 production, the first in the US.

"Norma saw Moll performed in Ireland," he states, "and encouraged us to do the play. She said I'd make a really good young priest, but I think she just wanted to play Moll. Now I'm playing the old priest..." John also recalls local critic Dave Nicolette, who reviewed the Center Stage production, commenting that the play translates well in America.

Dinner and theater tickets: \$25 (advance only). Show only: \$13 in advance and at the door. LowellArts! members receive a \$2 discount.

The Other Place is located at 301 W. Main Street in Lowell.



along main street

SENIOR EXERCISE

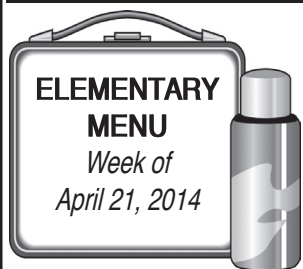
Ready Set Move senior exercise at the Lowell YMCA. Mondays and Fridays, 11-noon, starting Monday, April 21. Ages 55+. Call 616-855-9570 for additional information.

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT IN LOWELL

Join the fun at the psychedelic 60s' themed spring Girls' Night Out (GNO) from 5-9 pm. Many businesses are participating. Thursday, April 17.

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.

LUNCH MENU



MON: Cheeseburger on WG bun, baked beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, salsa, applesauce, pears.

TUES: Sweet & sour WG popcorn chicken over brown rice (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), WG bosco sticks w/ dipping sauce (served at Bushnell), seasoned green beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber coins, strawberries, grapes.

WED: Cinnamon glazed French toast w/sausage, hashbrowns, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, applesauce, peaches.

THURS: Hot dog on WG bun (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), WG breaded chicken nuggets (served at Bushnell), mashed potatoes & gravy, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cherry tomatoes, pineapple, apple.

FRI: Tony's pepperoni pizza on WG crust, seasoned corn (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), side salad (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, mixed fruit, juice.

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Fish stocking creates abundant fishing in Michigan

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced it is in the middle of its new fish-stocking season. This spring, DNR trucks will be spotted pulling up to hundreds of lakes and streams throughout the state to release prized, recreational cargo.

Fish stocking is a valuable tool used by fisheries' managers to restore, enhance and create new fishing opportunities in Michigan's inland lakes and streams and the Great Lakes. The DNR's Fisheries Division accomplishes this task by rearing fish at its six fish-production facilities located throughout the state, cooperatively managing up to 50 rearing ponds and 12 Great Lakes' net pen locations and maintaining a fleet of 17 specialized fish-stocking vehicles.

Stocking fish, continued, page 7

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LL&P regular meeting, continued

Three members of the public attended the meeting, including Jim Hall and Jeff Altoft of the Lowell city council.

At the beginning of the meeting Canfield delivered a brief statement about how the board intended to deal with comments from citizens.

“The purpose of this meeting is to conduct the business of Lowell Light and Power,” Canfield said. “We do have a period for public comment, but this will not be a debate and a ‘question and answer’ session.”

The floor was then opened to the public for comment, but there was none. In a telephone interview later, councilperson Altoft said this statement by Canfield was an attempt to intimidate the public into silence.

“That was terrible. That was uncalled-for. He had no right saying that because it wasn’t on the agenda,” Altoft said. “They basically just did the ‘bully’ thing and hoped everyone would go away.”

Residents will be receiving an “annual report” in the mail in the near future. The report combines graphics and data in an easy-to-read format intended to educate light and power customers about topics, such as the biodigester, the status of the two “gas turbine engines,” financial information and many other things.

“I think it turned out very well; I was very pleased with it,” general manager Greg Pierce said. “We hope to get it mailed in April to all our customers.”

“I loved it,” said Spicer. “I’m going to put it right on my fridge.”

The board announced two future events. On “Earth Day,” April 22 at 5:15 pm they are holding a “road clean-up.” There will be a “recycling event” on Saturday, May 31 from 9 am to noon.

“We did one last spring,” Pierce said. “Anybody that has recyclables, we’re

taking the same basic types of things. Old appliances and electronics.”

Board chairman Canfield read a prepared statement responding to the recent allegations about the use of a company truck by light and power employee Tom Russo.

“One of our managers, who functions in a critical leadership role, used a LLP four-wheel drive pick-up truck on twelve nights during the months of December to March when there were threats of severe weather conditions with potential to impact the utility,” Canfield’s letter read. “This individual is on call 24/7 - 365 [days a year] and management deemed his ability to respond and/or meet the needs of the utility on these occasions warranted the business use of a LLP pick-up truck to ensure he could respond to any emergency or need of the utility. There was no personal use of the vehicle and the employee even parked the vehicle at the road, at the top of his drive, as depicted in the photos submitted, to further enhance his ability to respond if necessary. This limited business use of a utility vehicle is common in the utility industry to ensure the most timely response of key personnel and it is hard to believe that such common sense, precautionary steps can be twisted into accusations of wrongdoing. To the best of our knowledge no illegal activities or omissions have been committed and the issues have been referred to legal counsel and our professional auditing consultant for review. If it is determined that there were violations or omissions Lowell Light and Power will be more than happy to make any necessary corrections.”

Canfield then asked “professional auditing consultant” Peter Heffner to make a statement.

“My interpretation would be that there was no issue with this individual taking the vehicle home,

as far as taxability of that to that individual,” Heffner said. “From my perspective I thought it was an appropriate interpretation of the guidance provided by the IRS [Internal Revenue Service] and at that point it’s really not an issue.”

Canfield asked attorney Richard Wendt to give his opinion on the matter.

“Based on the information that I’ve been provided I would agree that there is not a taxable event to the employee here for his use of the vehicle in connection with the business,” Wendt said. “Based on what I’ve been told, I would confirm that.”

Councilperson Altoft said the light and power board has a history of overstepping its boundaries; in this case by having an auditor and attorney investigate the allegations before the city council has even begun its investigation.

“There are a whole bunch of discrepancies here,” Altoft said. “People are either telling half lies or full lies. That board thinks they can do anything they want and not be responsible for it and they’ve done it so long without being checked that they think they’re doing nothing wrong. I think they’re out of control.”

Altoft said he doesn’t care who drove what truck when, he just wanted the board to follow its own rules and to obey the city charter.

“What I’m after has nothing to do with Tom Russo, it has to do with policies, procedures and

following the charter,” Altoft said. “Lowell Light and Power has a policy that says they have to do certain things to let somebody use a pick-up. They didn’t follow the procedure and they’re trying to cover their tracks. Tom Russo did nothing wrong, because he had permission to use the truck. It’s just, the way they gave him permission was wrong and by doing that they’re not following their policy, city policy or the charter.”

Altoft said the auditor and attorney came to the wrong conclusions.

“We couldn’t find one utility in the area where an employee drives a vehicle home that they aren’t paying taxes on,” Altoft said. “Light and power should be paying ‘highway tax’ on the fuel and Russo should be claiming it as a ‘fringe benefit.’”

Altoft said the city council was supposed to be investigating the matter, not Heffner or Wendt and not the light and power board and management. At its last meeting the council voted to hold a “special meeting” to tackle the issue.

“They don’t have the right to do an investigation,” Altoft said. “They weren’t instructed to do one. And I think the lawyer we have is one of the worst lawyers in the world because he’s supposed to be working for the council and protecting us and making sure these boards don’t do stuff wrong.”

Altoft said the city council’s investigation will proceed as planned. A date for the “special meeting” has not been set.

“We’ve never done one

[an investigation] because they’ve always managed to bully everybody and say, ‘We’ll just let the lawyer do it,’” Altoft said. “Then it’s never done right and the public never knows what’s up.”

Altoft also said the city charter is not open to interpretation.

“It’s not the lawyer’s job to ‘interpret’ the charter,” Altoft said. “The charter and our policies are pretty cut-and-dry and it seems like if they want something they twist it one way and if they don’t want something they twist it the other way. It needs to stop.”

The next Lowell Light and Power board meeting will take place at the light and power building on Thursday, May 8 at 6 pm.

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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Lowell City Hall Offices, Police Offices, Light and Power Offices and the Department of Public Works will be closed on Friday, April 18, 2014 in observance of Good Friday.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk



The City of Lowell and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce is in the process of developing a Masterplan and conceptual design for the Lowell Riverwalk area with specific attention to creating a new multi-functional stage structure and identifying the community's long term vision for the Showboat facility.

Lowell Riverwalk Stage & Showboat Masterplan PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY, APRIL 17 at Lowell City Hall 301 East Main

As a part of the process, we are seeking public input on the Preliminary Concept Plans that have been developed to date at an Open House on Thursday, April 17th at Lowell City Hall.

Our design consultants will be on hand to explain the preliminary concepts, answer your questions and to listen and record your ideas!

Schedule:

- Preliminary Concept Plans on Display - 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Morning visit with consultants - 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Afternoon Visit with consultants - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Girls Night Out !!!)

We look forward to seeing you!
Thank you for your participation!

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Improve your own "investment environment"

On April 22, we celebrate Earth Day — a day devoted to education and action on environmental issues. As a citizen of the world, you may have a keen interest in protecting your physical surroundings. And as someone trying to reach long-term financial goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you're probably also interested in improving your investment environment.

So here are a few suggestions:

- Respond to environmental factors. Over the past few years, we've had a favorable investment climate, marked by low inflation, low interest rates and generally strong corporate profits. And investors who have taken advantage of this positive environment have, for the most part, been rewarded.

But things can change, so it's always a good idea to understand the current investment environment, as it may affect your investment choices. For example, if it seems likely that long-term interest rates are going to rise significantly, you might need to review your long-term bond holdings, as their price would be negatively affected by a rise in rates.

- Nurture your investments. One area of environmentalism involves planting seeds or saplings and nurturing them to maturity. You can do the same thing with investments — and a good way to nurture them is to give them time to grow in all investment climates. But how long should you hold these investments? You might heed the advice of Warren Buffett, one of the world's most famous investors, who says this about

his investment company: "Our favorite holding period is forever." It takes patience to follow the buy-and-hold strategy favored by Mr. Buffett — and it also requires the discipline necessary to keep investing through the inevitable downturns you will encounter. But over the long term, your perseverance may well be rewarded.

- Avoid "toxic" investment strategies. Unfortunately, many human activities are bad for the environment. Similarly, some investment strategies are "toxic" for your prospects of success. Consider the pursuit of "hot" stocks. They sound inviting, but, by the time you hear about them, they may have lost their sizzle — and in any case, they might not be right for your needs. Here's another "poisonous" investment strategy: trying to "time" the market. If you're always jumping in and out of the market, looking for "low" points to buy and "high" points to sell, you'll probably be wrong most of the time — because nobody can accurately predict highs and lows. Even more importantly, you may find yourself out of the market during the beginning of a rally, which is when the biggest gains tend to occur.

- Diversify your "species" of investments. Drawing inspiration from Earth Day, the United Nations has designated 2011–2020 as the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. And, just as preserving the diversification of species is important for life on Earth, the diversification of your investment portfolio is essential for its health. By owning a variety of investments — stocks, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit and so on — you can help protect yourself from downturns that primarily affect just one asset class. (Keep in mind, though, that while diversification can reduce the effects of volatility on your holdings, it can't guarantee profits or protect against loss.)

Earth Day happens just once a year — but the lessons of environmentalism can help you, as an investor, for all the days and years ahead.

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viewpoint

to the editor

rehabilitating roads - a good investment

To The Editor,

LCTV road funding I am glad to see that the city council was able to pass the Lowell Cable TV (LCTV) board's recommendations as to which projects should be funded. Most notably, because of this passage, our local streets can be repaired after the devastating winter, which has caused further deterioration of the roads.

During the March 17, 2014 meeting, there was opposition to using this money for road repairs, most notably for maintenance. I just wanted to point out that there is a difference between road maintenance and road rehabilitation. The city has been repairing most of its roads by filling potholes with cold-patch or some variant thereof. This maintenance is a temporary

fix to the problem and is not a viable solution. To clarify, I was never in favor of any amount of the LCTV funds being used for road maintenance. On the other hand, I am in support of the LCTV's recommended amount of money, \$50,000, which would be used for road rehabilitation projects. The confusion here lies within the terms maintenance and rehabilitation.

Maintenance is literally just repairing the surface of the road and is temporary, while rehabilitation is stripping away the driving layer of the road and repairing everything from the ground up. One person in particular, seems to be misleading the council and public, in that both terms mean the same thing, but actually, they do not. This

purposeful deception is unjust and immoral and I wanted to point out that this person's actions are causing undue hardships for those of us who drive on these roads. So please, stop misleading everyone about critical road rehabilitation projects for our fine city.

Gee Drive is an example of a road that was rehabilitated in 2007. Not only is this road in great condition after seven winter seasons, but it shows that rehabilitation is really a good investment. This major rehabilitation project has now reduced the need and cost for routine maintenance. For those who doubt my opinions

about a partial amount of this year's LCTV funds going to rehabilitation repairs, I challenge you to drive on Gee Drive and write a review about your experience, compared to other roads in need of rehabilitation, like Monroe.

In conclusion, I applaud the city council's decision to pass the LCTV's recommendation allocating about \$50,000 from the LCTV funds towards our local roads. This will benefit all three communities and help make Lowell "the Next Place to be."

Tyler Kent
Lowell

small group makes statements in attempt to get attention

Dear Editor,

In eight years on the Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) board, I have witnessed a remarkable transformation. The staff,

under new management, have continued to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to the Lowell community and through cost cutting and in-sourcing work

The Trailing Arbutus craze has struck the feminine portion of Lowell with a big hard strike. All the farmers' rail and barbed wire fences for miles around are decked with shreads of dress goods, each a painful (to the fellows who have to buy the dresses) reminder of the spot where some daughter of Eve has tried to get over, through or under in search of the plant with the waxen blossoms.

Mrs. Phoebe Ann Hayes, the Ada woman charged with falsely obtaining a widow's pension after having been married again, was discharged in the United States court Friday. Technically she had violated the law, but the court and jury were inclined not to inflict penalty owing to her age (60 years) and lack of criminal intent. Warren Markham, who had witnessed her signature in her applications and was indicted on a charge of perjury, was also discharged, his case having been noile pros'd.

previously subcontracted out, have returned the utility to the profitable enterprise it needs to be.

Prior to this time, my understanding is that Lowell Cable, mainly the infrastructure, had been neglected to the point that the most viable option appeared to be selling it to Comcast and salvaging the remaining value as customers were fleeing Lowell Cable's analog system to digital Direct and Dish TV.

The purchase price was based on customer count and had this sale been announced prior to closing, additional customers leaving would have lowered the sale price.

Unfortunately, this should have been shared with Ivan Blough and the founding board members prior to public disclosure but it wasn't.

The decision outraged the community, but the LL&P board and city council had discussed it and felt it was the best option at the time. The proceeds, \$2.4 million should continue to benefit the community forever, dispersed fairly by the appointed group, representing both townships and the city.

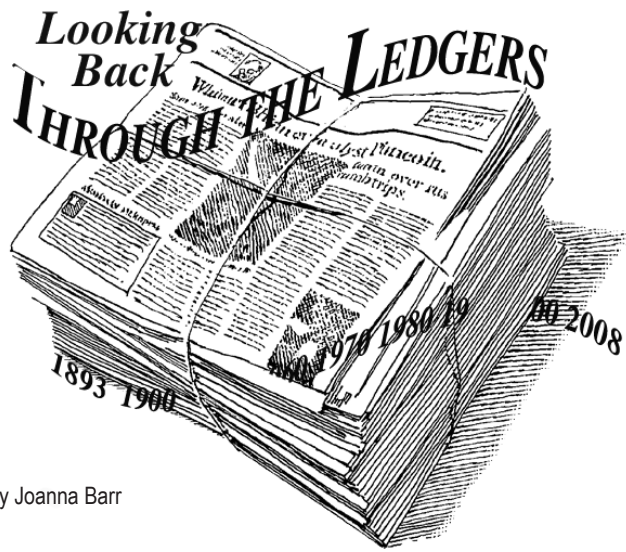
Recently, a very small special interest group has been very vocal at council and board meetings in what

appears to be an attempt to distract and discredit these elected and appointed individuals who make the best decisions that they can for the majority of their constituency. This group claims to represent a large group of concerned citizens but can rarely get more than a dozen of their local supporters to come to a meeting. Making controversial statements and allegations in an attempt to get media attention just gives our community a black eye that it doesn't deserve.

Different opinions and viewpoints are a good thing, but personal, negative attacks benefit no one. Then we have a local business bashing another business on Main Street. Is this really who we are? Recent exposure from this kind of thing wipes out 10 years of hard work by our chamber of commerce to showcase the great side of Lowell. It's okay to disagree, but let's keep a professional and civil approach to solving the problems that we face instead of slinging mud.

The Lowell Community has huge potential but we need to highlight the positive and stop trying to beat each other up.

Thank You,
Greg Canfield
Lowell



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal April 17, 1889

"Shall Lowell have a new engine house and city hall?" is a much mooted question these days.

B. C. Smith is having the upper story of his building fitted up for a work room. Dr. Dumon, who has been a resident of Crystal Lake, but is now taking a Western trip with a view to finding a new location, was visiting at B. C. Smith's last week.

Mrs. B. C. Smith's father, who is over 70, drove here from Crystal Lake Sunday, for a short visit. He rode in a cart, behind a fine four-year-old colt and the distance is 46 miles.

A number of Lowellites, their wives, cousins and aunts, are going to Freeport Friday evening to attend a sugar social which the people of that village are going to give them.

J. W. Nichols, of Portland, mourns the loss of his son, Dewitt, a boy of 16, who left home last August. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the boy will confer a great favor on Mr. Nichols by informing him of the fact or by urging the boy to return.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 16, 1914

The new city sprinkler is on duty with Robert Ford in charge for the season. Ford's team will also be at the disposal of village for all team work required. Milton Rogers has resumed his work of pave cleaning and Main and Bridge streets are resuming their normal and tidy appearance.

The fire alarm sounded last Friday morning on account of a blaze in and around the kitchen chimney in John Murphy's house on the hill. Lyle Denick proved a prompt first aid and had the fire out before the arrival of the firemen, with but slight damage to the house. A strong wind was blowing at the time and the family was fortunate not to lose their home.

Dr. J. P. Draper, finding it impossible to give sufficient attention to his blacksmith business in addition to his veterinary practice, has leased the blacksmith shop to

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ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

In The Service

Joseph D. Harwood has been promoted to the rank of technical sergeant in the U.S. Air National Guard.

Harwood is currently serving as a photojournalist with 179th Airlift Wing, Mansfield Lahm Airport, Ohio Air National Guard. He has served in the military for eight years.

Harwood is the grandson of Agnes Harwood of Clarksville and son of Dave and Gina Harwood of Mansfield, Ohio.

He is also the brother of Dennis Harwood of Howell. Harwood is a 2002 graduate of Ionia High School, Ionia.

...

I haven't the slightest idea how to change people, but I still keep a long list of prospective candidates just in case I should ever figure it out.

~ David Sedaris

health

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



Carpal tunnel syndrome

Carpal tunnel syndrome is a common, painful disorder of the wrist and hand. It happens when the median nerve, which comes through the wrist, gets squeezed under a band of tissue called a ligament. This causes pain and other symptoms.

Anything that increases

the pressure on the median nerve can cause carpal tunnel. People who use their hands and wrists repeatedly in the same way (i.e. typists, carpenters and cashiers) are more likely to get carpal tunnel.

Carpal tunnel syndrome may cause pain, numbness or tingling in your wrist and hand, mostly in the middle finger, index finger and thumb. The symptoms are usually worse at night and when you use your wrists and hands a lot. You may notice over time your grip gets weaker and you tend to drop heavy objects.

If your doctor suspects carpal tunnel he/she may order tests to evaluate the function of the muscles and nerves in your arm. If carpal tunnel is diagnosed, several treatments may be helpful:

- wearing a splint at bedtime;
- oral inflammatory medicine;
- a shot into your wrist.

If these treatments fail, surgery would be a good option.

happy birthday!

- APRIL 16**
Sam Roudabush, Heidi Barber, Ruth Kathleen Zywicki, Jack Harris, Karrie Akers, Ryan, Jacob Billingsley, Krissie Akers, Shaun Lori Gerard, Steve Kropf, Thompson, Lisa Allchin, Angie Farrell, Kristin Lee, Sharon Bowden, Michelle William Mitchell, Rayce Billingsley, Darby, Olivia Foster.
- APRIL 17**
Elsie Franks, Heather Briggs, Bobbie White, Vezino, Roger Teale, Donna Peterson, Kendra Dennie Ryder, Joe Merriman, Angela Miller, Jill Harris, Charles Marshall, Lucille Erickson, Betty Erickson, Gary Pieroni, Candice Bowne, Jace Eliason.
- APRIL 18**
Rick Warner, Angela Vezino, Doug Anchors, Jon Kinsey, Jason Borton.
- APRIL 19**
Jim Hodges, Rick Briggs, Bobbie White, Donna Peterson, Kendra Merriman, Angela Miller, Charles Marshall.
- APRIL 20**
Roxann Roth, Connie Phillips, Ian Newhouse, Daniel Titcombe.
- APRIL 21**
Mallorie VanDerWarf, Tim Hill, Mackenzie Hacker, Sharon Potter.
- APRIL 22**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Karen "Alex" Ford
April 23

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COMMUNITY YEARBOOK 2014

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Red Cross encouraging residents to prepare now for potential flooding

The American Red Cross of West Michigan is sending out disaster assessment teams to areas that were affected by severe weather over the weekend.

“Red Cross disaster services is aware that many people have been without power since storms came through the area on Saturday,” said Chip Kragt, Disaster Services Officer for the American Red Cross of West Michigan. “We also know others are dealing with damage from the heavy rains and high winds and we want to make sure that they know they can come to the Red Cross for assistance.”

The Red Cross is strongly encouraging people to be aware of any flood watches or warnings in their area and to prepare now. The Red Cross is also monitoring

the need for shelters and is prepared to open any should a need arise. Volunteers are also on standby and ready to respond and assist with community needs.

Residents are encouraged to prepare themselves by doing the following:

• Create and practice a disaster plan:

Talk to everyone in your household about what to do if a flood occurs. Decide where you would meet and who you would contact in case of flooding. Assemble and maintain an

emergency preparedness kit. Be prepared to evacuate your family and pets at a moment’s notice. Listen to local radio and television stations for possible flood warnings and reports of flooding in progress.

Assemble an emergency preparedness kit:

Kits should contain a first-aid kit and essential medications, foods that don’t require cooking or refrigeration and can opener, bottled water, flashlights and a battery-powered radio with extra batteries, copies of important documents and

other emergency items for the whole family.

Download the Red Cross Flood App:

This free app gives iPhone, iPad and Android smartphone users instant access to local and real-time information, so they know what to do before, during and after a flood. The content is available in English and Spanish based on the user’s language settings on their mobile device. The app includes location-based, audible National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) flood and flash flood watches and warnings - even if the app is closed.

For more information on how to give, get trained or get involved with the American Red Cross, visit redcross.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

About the American Red Cross: The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of

disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or Twitter at @RedCross.

Energy crews respond to outages

Crews for Consumers Energy are responding to restore energy service following a strong storm that swept across the mid-section of Michigan.

Heavy rains, lightning and high winds that topped 60 mph have caused interruptions in service to about 99,000 customers in Michigan through a line roughly from Muskegon to Flint.

“Our priority is to make an area safe whenever a storm causes wires to come down, then to work quickly to safely restore energy services for our communities,” said Mary Palkovich, the utility’s vice president of energy delivery.

Line crews will be working through the night to restore energy to affected customers as more waves of storms are expected tonight and tomorrow in the same

Storm outages, continued, page 11

Stocking fish, continued

Over the course of the year, the DNR will stock roughly 26 million fish weighing nearly 370 tons, including eight species of trout and salmon and four cool water species, such as walleye and muskellunge. DNR fish-stocking vehicles will travel nearly 137,000 miles to stock more than 1,100 locations.

Michigan anglers have access to four Great Lakes, 3,000 miles of Great

Lakes’ shoreline, more than 11,000 inland lakes and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams. That puts residents and visitors no more than 10 minutes away from great angling opportunities and world-class fisheries.

You can visit the DNR’s website at www.michigandnr.com/fishstock for information on local fish-stocking locations.

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- * Registration forms can be found at www.llmi.com.
 - * Discount Rate until April 28th
 - * Late fee rate April 29th-May 4th

Atypical horror film Oculus delivers smart story-driven scares

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

Jason Blum is a film producer responsible for much of the trends in current horror. In 2009, he blew up the found footage horror genre with Paranormal Activity, a franchise which has no shortage of sequels. The following year, Insidious was released, ushering in an era of brilliantly plotted horror films that call back to horror's best -

Stanley Kubrick, Stephen King and Dario Argento - hidden behind campy and unappealing trailers. It is out of this batch of horror films that the 2014 film Oculus emerges.

Oculus follows siblings Kaylie (adult: Karen Gillan, young: Annalise Basso) and Tim Russell (adult: Brenton Thwaites, young: Garrett Ryan) as they recount the tragic death of their parents

(played by Rory Cochrane and Katee Sackhoff) while attempting to dispatch of their murderer: an antique mirror that feeds off of the living.

The film starts off slowly and many filmgoers might begin to wonder why they didn't see a different movie instead. This is because the movie juggles time periods without first giving the viewer a point of reference. Once the order of the time periods is established, however, the film takes off in a completely different direction.

Oculus shares a kinship with the Stephen King novel It. While both are original works, Oculus has a fantastic sense of history as it follows the parallel adventures of child and adult Kaylie and Tim as they attempt to beat the power of the antique mirror responsible for the horrible events of their childhood. While they are not battling a shape-shifting killer clown from another dimension, the mystery of the creature which is never described as a ghost or demon but whose power is

understood through Kaylie's scientific experiments is quite intriguing.

Does Oculus live up to the fantastic films - Insidious and The Conjuring - that preceded it? Certainly. In fact, while the previous films were concerned with very normal horror tropes like ghosts, demons and witchcraft, Oculus treads some new ground. There is no name for the beast that inhabits the antique mirror. Viewers learn some of its properties and are capable of understanding the terrible implications of its power, but in a genre where being able to name the source of evil is so important, viewers are left with nothing. This fact only contributes to the creepiness of Oculus.

People who can't handle horror movies might want to skip Oculus, but those in this category who love a good strong narrative should consider being brave and giving it a chance. Brilliant horror hasn't been a very consistent feature of the film industry in recent years, so moviegoers are advised to enjoy it while it lasts.



SPRING SPORTS

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

CALENDAR

GIRLS' VARSITY TENNIS

- * Denotes a meet at Lowell High School Tennis Courts
- 4/17 at 4 p.m. East Kentwood
- 4/21 at 4:15 p.m. East Grand Rapids
- 4/23 at 4:15 p.m. Caledonia*

BOYS' & GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD

- * Denotes a meet at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium
- 4/17 at 4:15 p.m. East Grand Rapids
- 4/22 at 4:15 p.m. Caledonia*
- 4/24 at 4:15 p.m. GR Christian*

GIRLS' VARSITY SOFTBALL

- * Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Softball Field
- 4/19 at 10 a.m. East Kentwood Tournament
- 4/22 at 4:15 p.m. & 6 p.m. East Grand Rapids
- 4/23 at 4:30 p.m. & 6:15 p.m. Hudsonville

BOYS' VARSITY BASEBALL

- * Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Baseball Field
- 4/19 at 10 a.m. Hopkins*
- 4/21 at 4:15 p.m. Northview*
- 4/22 at 4:15 p.m. East Grand Rapids
- 4/23 at 4:15 p.m. East Grand Rapids
- 4/24 at 4:15 p.m. East Grand Rapids*

BOYS' VARSITY GOLF

- * Denotes a meet at Deer Run Golf Course
- 4/19 at 11 a.m. Davison High*
- 4/21 at 3:30 p.m. Jamboree at Forest Hills Central
- 4/23 at 3:30 p.m. Wyoming

GIRLS' VARSITY LACROSSE

- * Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium
- 4/21 at 7 p.m. Comstock Park*
- 4/23 at 7 p.m. West Ottawa

BOYS' VARSITY LACROSSE

- * Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium
- 4/22 at 7:15 p.m. GR Christian

GIRLS' VARSITY SOCCER

- * Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium
- 4/21 at 6:45 p.m. Forest Hills Central
- 4/23 at 7:15 p.m. East Grand Rapids

ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouter Ph.D.

Because anxiety has so many different facets, it will take these twelve articles to present a clearer picture of how anxiety can be managed. This article is about "separation anxiety." This most often occurs in young children when they are expected to go to school or be away from their parents. Further, separation anxiety disorder is the most reliable predictor of future anxiety disorders. The signs and symptoms of a separation anxiety disorder are:

- 1.) Extreme, disproportionate distress over separation from loved ones.
- 2.) Unwillingness to leave home, attend school or go on outings.
- 3.) Unrealistic worry about harm to self or loved ones.
- 4.) Frequent seeking of reassurance about safety of self and loved ones.
- 5.) Crying, clinging, tantrum, nausea or vomiting in anticipation of separation.
- 6.) Reluctance to be alone, especially at night.
- 7.) Nightmares about harm and danger.
- 8.) Symptoms for four weeks or more.

What can parents do to help children with this disorder? What appears to be the most effective strategies are to be proactive, positive and preventive.

Being proactive rather than reactive is the single best management tool for helping a child

with separation anxiety. Establishing an action plan involves providing clear expectations, preparing your child for new situations and discussing potential problem-solving options. Another effective parenting strategy is being positive. It is important to remember that positive interactions are hard to come by when both the parent and child are stressed because they are in a crisis. Your youngster's good qualities and abilities are often forgotten during these times. Parents and teachers must make a special effort to reinforce his/her self-esteem by providing opportunities that will make him/her feel more useful. Being preventive is another strategy that helps the child avert the triggers of the child's anxiety. A life style that is routinized and predictable is one way to keep his or her anxiety in check and a way to avoid a crisis. The three "Ps" - proactive, positive and preventive are useful guidelines when dealing with a child with a separation anxiety disorder. Also, remember a fourth one which is patience. Patience is another "P" word that gives us the reassurance that we can make it through the tough times.

If you have any general questions or questions specific to this article, email me at kathryndenhouther@gmail.com

Nature center director moves on to vital position

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Meggan Johnson is preparing to trade in her full-time career at the Wittenbach/Wege Center (WWC) for the fulfilling role of full-time mom when she leaves her post as the director of the Lowell Area Schools' nature learning center.

Johnson has led the team at the WWC since 2008. The 2000 graduate of University of Northern Iowa studied biology and worked in a variety of roles in the field before accepting the position here in Lowell.

"I've worked at other nature centers, zoos and aquariums before and there you typically work with a group of kids only once. Here, we have the opportunity to see kids three to four times a year for six years, so you really start to know the kids

and can see their nature knowledge grow. Students in the Lowell district are so fortunate to have this wonderful opportunity; it is truly unique," said Johnson.

She made the difficult decision to leave her job after great consideration and discussion with her husband Gary.

"My husband is from Fruitport and works there so he has always wanted to move closer. A year ago we had the opportunity to buy some land from my husband's family and we have started to build a home there."

The couple decided that the daily commute from Fruitport to Lowell was just too far to be practical.

The decision also affords Johnson the chance to focus on her two young children, Leeland and Linden.

Johnson said the part of the job she will miss the most is interacting with the students.

"My favorite part of the job is getting people excited about nature. I love to hear kids comment about how much fun they are having on a field trip; they don't even realize they are learning important science topics!"

Though her time at the WWC includes many great moments, the one that stands out for her is the development of the youth gardening program.

"Four years ago, with the help of Kendra Wills and Kent/MSU Extension, we started a Junior Master Gardener program. I've really enjoyed helping kids learn about the important role agriculture plays in our society and where our food comes from. It's fun watching kids get excited about gardening because it's a hobby they can enjoy for the rest of their lives."

The successful summer program is now entering its fifth year and is offered to students in grades 4-7. The class meets weekly beginning June 19 and runs through August. Johnson will officially leave the center on June 30. A new director has not been selected at this time.



WWC director Meggan Johnson leads a field trip, one of her many roles at the unique nature learning center.



Johnson along with her husband Gary and children Leeland and Linden.

Two Lowell Odyssey of the Mind teams earn first-place finish at state finals competition

On Saturday, March 29, 120 Odyssey of the Mind teams from around the state gathered at Northwestern Michigan College and Traverse City Central High

School in Traverse City to compete in the 34th annual Michigan Odyssey of the Mind competition. One Lowell Middle School team and two Murray

Lake Elementary teams were represented at the competition.

Lowell Middle School and one of the Murray Lake Elementary teams

competed in the "Stackable Structure" problem. In this problem, teams design and build a structure made up of separate components stacked on top of one another using only balsa wood and glue that will balance and support as much weight as possible. Before the weight

placement begins, the team had to present an artistic representation of Earth. The structure is scored by how many components it is made up of and for how much weight it holds.

The Lowell Middle School "Stackable Structure" team and the

Murray Lake Elementary "Stackable Structure" team both secured first-place finishes in their respective age divisions, securing their spots at the World Finals competition. Since

Odyssey of Mind, continued, page 11



The Murray Lake Elementary "Stackable Structure" team with their first-place medals and trophy (front row: Nate Cleaver, Cole Beach, and Luci Foreman; back row: coach Ryan Lothian, Hayden Lowrie, Brady Johnson, John Lothian, Parker Davis and coach Joe Davis).



The Lowell Middle School "Stackable Structure" team with their first-place medals and trophy (front row: Jake Cleaver, Phoebe Looman, and Jared Sweet; back row: coach Mark Looman, Krin Beach, Addison Mallindine and Chloe Looman).

Looking Back, continued

Fred DeWeert, who will continue the business at the old stand. The veterinary practice will be carried on by Dr. Draper at the office and barn as heretofore.

H. H. Reed, having completed alterations of Masonic Hall block, is now devoting his time to business at his old stand, corner Monroe and Bridge streets. Will sell big glass front from the block at a bargain. adv.

It will surprise readers of the Bertha M. Clay novels to learn that the versatile writer, recently deceased, was a woman -Thos. W. Hanshaw. Though but 57 years old he had written over two hundred books. Another of Hanshaw's pen names was Charlotte Monica Braeme.

Hereafter all liquors shipped into Kansas will be confiscated and destroyed by the state, its supreme court having affirmed that right. The fight against the traffic in liquid damnation goes bravely on. One thousand more saloons outlawed in Illinois and the campaign already on for another advance next year. "Mine eyes have seen the glory-."

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 22, 1939

W. I. Burdick, a traveling shoe salesman for many years, has quit the road and will open a lunch counter and recreation room on the building formerly occupied by Look's Drug Store. He is making extensive repairs to the interior of the building and expects to open for business about May 6th.

The annual guessing contest on what kind of an opening the trout season is going to have is underway in earnest among the anxious group of sportsmen who have been counting the days until April 29. For weeks local anglers have been spending their spare time rewinding trout rods and replenishing fly hooks. Here's hoping they will find many "keepers."

When Merritt (Rookie) Miller retired last Thursday night, he carefully placed his shirt upon a small table - we say "carefully" because the pocket of the shirt contained \$24. The next morning the shirt was not to be found; Rookie was sure he had been robbed during the night so summoned Marshal Fred Gramer who was soon on the scene. The marshal began to make deductions a la Sherlock Holmes. It had snowed during the night but no tracks of a burgler could be found. "Better look under that bathtub," advised the marshal. Reluctantly Rookie got down and looked. Then he was seen to blush for there was his shirt and on it lay, comfortably sleeping, his tiny toy terrier.

At the Lowell township business meeting, held at 1:00 o'clock in the city hall on election day, approval

was voted for the Lowell-Boston road, grade and gravel, 1.25 miles and upper to lower Grand River bridges, grade, gravel and blacktop, .85 mile. The estimated total cost is \$5,265.40 with the county paying \$2,765.40 and the township's share to be \$2,500.00. The Lowell-Boston road has long been in need of improvement and when the work of rebuilding this road to US-16 is finally completed, will provide not only convenience for the farmers of that territory but will also make still greater use of a roadway rich in scenic beauty. Motorists coming from the east on US-16 will find it a shorter cut into Lowell.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 16, 1964

Work is underway at the Lowell City Hall to remodel the fire barn to permit the tanker truck, now in the Showboat garage, to be housed in the city hall. A third door will be opened in what was the old jail. The city has a perfectly good jail for sale if anyone would like to install their own unit for family use!

Robert Chrouch was given quite a surprise when he got back on the job last week after several weeks in the hospital and at home recovering from a heart attack. While he was off the job his office and work rooms had been repainted and refurbished.

Rumors along Main Street are that mayor Ralph Townsend is planning to turn over his title to some other member, come the organization's meeting next Monday. The election of the council had to be settled with a drawing of cards last Wednesday afternoon. Winner in the card game was Phil Schneider who got the two-year term. Arnold Wittenbach got the one-year term. These two councilmen had tied in the city election with 57 votes each. The other two-year winner was Richard Schlernitzauer who was high vote man with 62.

When the fire whistle blows do you immediately run to the telephone and place a call to see who it is? A congestion on the lines to the Light and Power company has brought about a serious problem. Persons calling out of curiosity are jamming the lines so the firemen are unable to reach the plant. Therefore, people are asked not to call the Light and Power company, especially when the whistle is blowing for this information.

High gusts of wind up to 40 mph. Monday and Tuesday caused considerable damage to homes in the Lowell area, by ripping off storm windows, TV antennae, doors, roofing and siding. Shoppers walking on Main Street were blinded by flying sand and gravel

and many had a hard time trying to keep their hats on.

A face lifting at the A&W Root Beer stand is taking place, before their scheduled opening on April 23. Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Kohlbeck operate the East Main Street establishment. A new rotating sign will be installed on the premises and excavating of the driveway will be completed before the opening.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 19, 1989

Headline: Serious injury avoided on M-21. Neither driver was seriously injured. Both were transported to Butterworth Hospital by Lowell Ambulance. This accident on Thursday, April 13 on West Main St. near the Admiral Gas Station is another glaring example of just how badly a light is needed west of town. City council members urge people to write to their congressman.

Headline: Schoolhouse goes nationwide. It was the summer of '88 (1988, that is) when a call came to Judy Baird. "Do you have an old schoolhouse we could use for an advertisement?" The request came from Carl Meinke of Artdesign in Cascade and of course Judy's reply was "yes." Without a lot of red tape the company arranged to have the use of the [Fallsburg] schoolhouse for a day. Someone dressed up as a teacher "in the old days" and someone else brought in a computer, drew the picture on the board and snapped a photograph, right? Right, except that an eight-hour day was involved: various furniture arrangements were tried, there was a whole trayful of apples (snacks, too?), two children in costume were there and the sunlight had to be right. A lot of pictures were snapped and the choices were made. Hartley Courseware, Inc. for whom the advertisement was made, distributes its catalog nationwide to schools, so thousands of educators will see these appealing picture with its Old-New theme. There aren't many old schoolhouses left and Artdesign had some trouble locating one for the catalog cover photo of the magazine.

Wanted - missing tapes! Tapes of the teens involved [in the] 1986 talent show and the 1987 Lip Sync competition are missing. Those who borrowed these video tape[s] are asked to please return them as soon as possible to Barb Pierce at the high school. TI would like to show these tapes at their next Variety Show on May 13 at the middle school. Please call or drop off the tapes at the school.

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the lowell
ledger

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Lowell

Little League



Looking for a job?

Lowell Little League is accepting applications for baseball and/or softball umpires.

- * Games are available Monday through Saturdays.
- * Baseball and/or softball experience is mandatory.
- * Paid position.

Send inquires to: lowelllittleleague@gmail.com

Gull Lake and Grand Valley robotics competitions

submitted by: student, Brendan Philo and mentor, Sarah Philo

Lowell Red Arrow Robotics team went to Gull Lake and Grand Valley State University for the first two competitions of the season. This season's game, Aerial Assist, is focused on alliance teamwork. Each alliance consists of three different robotics' teams trying to

score goals at either end of the 25 foot by 54 foot playing field, which is about a fourth the size of a football field. There are four goals at either end, two higher goals that are worth ten points and two lower goals worth one point each. The balls are two feet in diameter, same as an average-size exercise ball. Bonus points

are received by throwing the ball over the truss (a tall metal bar) in the middle of the field, catching it on the other side and using teamwork among the alliance.

For those who want to know, competitions for robotics are enjoyable for all, despite it being a little

hectic due to the amount of people there. Also, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) stresses gracious professionalism, which is basically modesty, encouraging everyone and being a good sport. Also, it's amazing to just see all the different robots that teams build with the use of brain power, math and science skills.

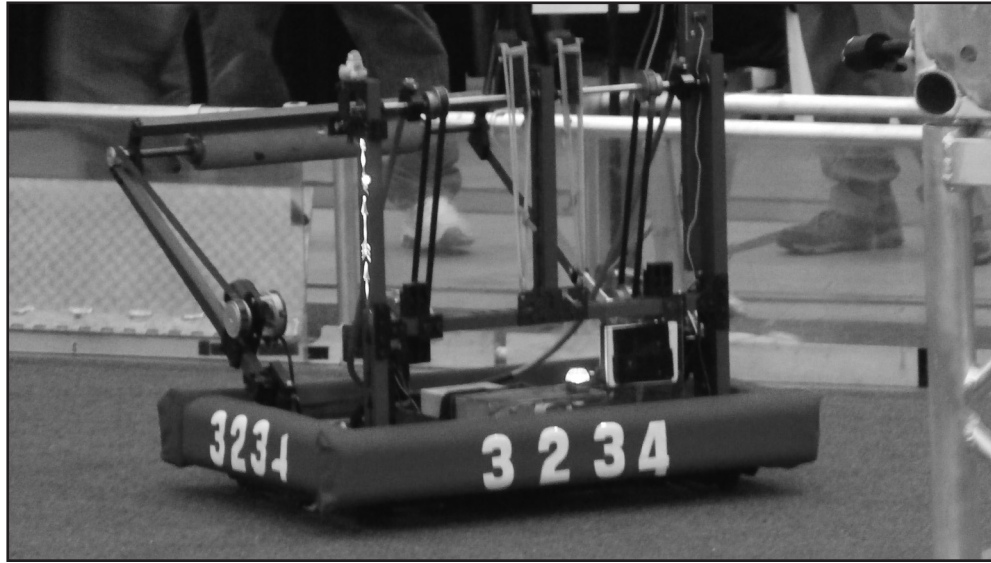
The Gull Lake competition went very well. The Red Arrows were chosen in the alliance selection for the quarterfinal competitions. In the quarterfinals the Arrows won, their first match 115 to 98, the second match 157 to 138, sealing their place in the semifinals. In the semifinals the Arrows won the first match 105 to 86 and all were surprised when the opposing alliance came out with a new strategy. The second match was another

win 106 to 96, locking their place into the finals. For the finals the Arrows experienced difficulty. The first match was highly tense because the opposing alliance decided to block the Arrows two at a time. It seemed Lowell was the most important offensive team of the alliance. The opposing team won the first match outright 190 to 67. The second match the Red Arrows had a slightly different strategy, but still got blocked for the majority of the match, once again losing 73 to 195. Since the other alliance won twice, the Red Arrows placed second for the Gull Lake Regional Competition.

The Red Arrows were also awarded the Engineering Quality award that "celebrates machine robustness in concept and fabrication." Credit for this award goes to White's Bridge Tooling and the

owner of the shop, Pete Odland. White's Bridge Tooling is located in Lowell and sponsors the Lowell Red Arrow Robotics team. Sponsorship consists of monetary donations, machining of our parts, anodizing of the robot parts, and newly this year 3D printing.

For the Grand Valley State University (GVSU) competition, the Arrows experienced some robot trouble, including the belt burning out the day before the robot had to be brought out to GVSU. The Lowell Red Arrow record was six wins, five losses and one tie, making their ranking for the competition 14th out of 40 teams. The Arrows were chosen by the eighth seeded alliance for the quarterfinal competition, which consists of the best out of three matches. For the first quarterfinal match the Arrows lost 74-211. The initial strategy was for the Arrows score all the points and the other two teams block, but one of the alliance robots had power problems. The second quarterfinal devised a different strategy: the Arrows were going to do mostly offensive play. If blocked, the Arrows would pass, and keep passing over and over again trying to score more points for each time. The Arrows still lost, but this time bringing it a little closer, 88-157.



This year's Aerial Assist robot.



Team receiving Engineering Quality Award at Gull Lake

Storm outages, continued

general areas affected by the first wave of thunderstorms. In addition, Consumers Energy crews and contract crews from across Michigan are mobilizing to the areas hardest hit by the storm.

As of 10 pm, areas most affected by electric interruptions were Clare (290); Clinton (550); Genesee (12,590); Gratiot (2,350); Ionia (4,880); Kent (17,550); Mason (960); Mecosta (10,465); Montcalm (8,400); Muskegon (29,560); Newaygo (2,050); Oakland (920); Oceana (580); Osceola (320); Ottawa (595) and Shiawassee (6,440).

Assessment crews are investigating the extent of the damage to the energy

distribution system and will estimate how long it will take to get storm restoration work completed. Once determined, the estimated restoration times will be posted to Consumers Energy's outage map at www.ConsumersEnergy.com/outagemap.

The outage map may be accessed by both computers and mobile devices. Additional storm and power outage information is available at Consumers Energy's online outage center, www.ConsumersEnergy.com/outage. Outages can also be reported and restoration information obtained via Consumers Energy's online outage map at [www.](http://www.ConsumersEnergy.com/outagemap)

ConsumersEnergy.com/outagemap.

Customers who call Consumers Energy to report a power outage are encouraged to use the utility's automated reporting option available at 1-800-477-5050. The service provides restoration information for each substation and circuit and can be used to report an outage.

Consumers Energy cautions residents to stay at least 25 feet away from any downed wires and to report them immediately by calling 9-1-1 or Consumers Energy at 1-800-477-5050.

The utility also reminds customers to be alert to utility crews working along roads and urges drivers to take extra precautions in those situations. In particular, drivers should slow down or stop and wait for oncoming traffic to clear so they safely can go past utility workers and equipment on roadsides.

If using a generator, contact a licensed electrician to ensure that it is properly connected and for the safety of our line workers, make certain it is isolated from the utility's electric distribution system. Never use a generator in an attached garage, basement or near any air intakes and never fuel a generator when it is running.

In some cases, the mast which holds the electric service wires to a customer's home or business may have been damaged or torn away. Utility crews will reconnect the wires to a home, but only a licensed electrician can repair or replace a mast or a cable.

Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest utility, is the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy (NYSE: CMS), providing natural gas and electricity to 6.5 million of the state's 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.

Odyssey of Mind, continued

starting the program in Lowell eight years ago, this is the second time Lowell will be represented at the international world competition to be held at Iowa State University in May.

Also representing Lowell at the State Finals competition was the Murray Lake Elementary "Driver's Test" team. This team had to design, build and drive a vehicle that traveled a course where a student driver attempted to complete tasks in order to pass a driver's test.

Over 800 teams from around the world will compete in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. The competition emphasizes creativity and teamwork and has grown into the largest international creative problem-solving competition worldwide. Millions of kids have been working hard all year perfecting their solutions

to problems and competing within their regions and states. Only a few advance to World Finals - these teams represent the best of the best creative minds. While the competition is fierce, there is also a feeling of camaraderie among competitors. Many students form lifelong friendships that span the U.S. and the globe. At World Finals, the teams have the chance to learn about other cultures through a common goal - to be as creative as they can!

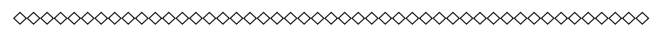
The students are beginning to raise funds to participate in the international competition. Each team will need to raise \$4000 to attend the World Finals tournament. Please consider making a donation to help the students who will be representing our community and state at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals competition.

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obituaries

KYSER

Carroll Everett Kyser, 91, passed away February 17, 2014, in Dearborn. He was born June 12, 1922, in Lowell, the son of Howard and Johanna Kyser. His days on the football team at Lowell High School he still talked about. He loved all sports, especially football. Carroll was a proud marine serving as a 1st Lieutenant in WWII. He was always a marine. He graduated from Western Michigan University with a BS and University of Michigan with an MS in education. Carroll taught woodshop and drivers' ed. in Wyandotte Public Schools for 30 years. He was an admired teacher. His students still remember him with gratitude and appreciate the impact he had on their lives. As an incredible woods' craftsmen, his art will continue to be treasured by many. Everybody loved Carroll. He was a happy man and made it a point to make everyone feel special. He will be missed tremendously. Carroll leaves behind his wife of 40 years, Patricia; four children, Ron Kyser (Susan), Chris Kyser (Joellen), Cindy Haas, Susan Scalisi (Mike); and Pat's son, Ed Gourley (Sandy). He also leaves 11 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one great, great-grandchild. Funeral Service will be held at 1 pm on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at First United Methodist Church of Lowell, 621 East Main Street. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Angela Hospice, Livonia, MI 48154.



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Deborah Wilks, Agent
11827 Fulton St E
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Bus: 616-897-9237
dwilks@deborahwilks.com

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Older Americans benefit from MySocialSecurity account

Each May, groups and organizations around the nation join in celebrating Older Americans Month. Established in 1963, Older Americans Month provides an opportunity for our nation to recognize seniors for their many contributions and share important information to help them stay healthy and active.

This year's theme is "Safe Today, Healthy Tomorrow." Social Security has something to help keep you safe and healthy: a suite of online services. Rather than driving or taking public transportation to a local office, you can use our secure, free online services to handle much of your Social Security business. With the amount of time you save, you'll have more time to spend with the grandkids

or have time for a brisk walk around the neighborhood or local park.

Before going for that walk, though, visit www.socialsecurity.gov. Whether you already receive benefits or you're just starting to think about retirement, it's a great time to open a *mySocialSecurity* account. It's a secure online account that allows you immediate access to your personal Social Security information.

If you're already receiving benefits you can use *mySocialSecurity* to immediately get your proof of benefits letter, change your address or phone number on our records, start or change your direct deposit information and check your benefit and payment information.

If you haven't filed for retirement yet and you're ready to do so, the online service you've been waiting for is our online application for retirement benefits, which allows you to complete and submit your application in as little as 15 minutes at www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline. Once you complete and submit the electronic application, in most cases, that's it—no papers to sign or documents to provide.

We encourage you to take advantage of our online services and resources, freeing up more time for activities you really enjoy. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov.

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 vontil@ssa.gov

CITY OF LOWELL

PUBLIC NOTICE

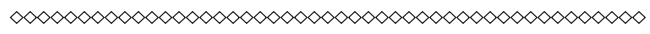
ATTENTION CITY OF LOWELL WATER CUSTOMERS

The City of Lowell Water Treatment Filtration Plant will not be softening the water from April 5 through April 15, 2014 due to major plant maintenance.

Any questions, please contact the Water Treatment Plant.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk



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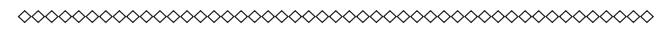
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classifieds

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.

CENTRAL BOILER CLASSIC - Outdoor Wood Furnace. Safe, clean, efficient, wood heat. 25 year warranty. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

BOB'S 17TH ANNUAL SPRING BIRDHOUSE SALE - Think Spring! Welcome your favorite birds with a fresh new birdhouse or feeder. Nice selection of Wren, Bluebird & bat houses. New this year, screech owl boxes. All cedar, built to last many seasons. Best prices! Bob's Birdhouses, 12279 60th St., Alto, 868-6633.

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

SMALL ELECTRIC ORGAN - all keys for bass & treble, etc & foot pedals. Perfect for small church, \$300. Call 897-6652.

DUPLEX FOR SALE - Freeport, Michigan. 1100 sq. ft. per side, full basement, 2 br, 1.5 bath, attached garage, central air, all appliances including dishwasher, 132x153 lot. Call 616-622-2314 or 616-915-4763.

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.

12-YEAR-OLD REGISTERED PAINT MARE - Brown with white spots. \$300 obo. 616-902-3948.

11.5 WOODED ACRES IN LOWELL FOR SALE - Perfect for your new home. Deer, turkey & wildlife yet conveniently located near bike trail & town. \$74,500. Call 269-519-9493.

GENTLY USED BOWFLEX SPORT MODEL - all attachments. \$800 new, asking \$350. Call 868-6633.

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.

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

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.

for sale

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

MANX CAT - 1 yr. old no tail, steele gray, male, litter trained, \$20. Call 616-514-2428.

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.

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

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

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for rent

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FOR RENT - 4 bedroom, \$1,000/mo. In the country, no pets. 293-0980.

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

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 196. Call for specials 558-2900.

help wanted

CAREER OPPORTUNITY - King Milling Company is seeking a qualified individual for a third shift (11 p.m. - 8 a.m.) sanitation position. Please apply at 115 S. Broadway St., Lowell.

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.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY - King Milling Company is seeking a qualified individual for a second shift (3 p.m. - 12 p.m.) production position. Please apply at 115 S. Broadway, Lowell.

sales

MISSIONS FUNDRAISER GARAGE SALE - April 18 & 19, 9-5. 538 Flat River Dr., south of Vergennes St. Home decor items, Bath and Body Works, personal care items, jewelry, ping pong table, women's, juniors, kids & baby clothes, toys, Tasty Treats & more! All proceeds go to supporting missions training & projects.

TOTS PRESCHOOL SPRING ALMOST NEW SALE - April 26, 2014, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cherry Creek Elementary, 12675 Foreman, Lowell. FREE to shop! FREE to sell! Call Lori at TOTS to reserve a space! 987-2532.

ESTATE SALE/GARAGE SALE - Fri., April 18, 9-5, Sat., April 19, 9-3. 6780 Wingeier Ave., Alto. Collectibles - dolls, bears & knick-knacks. 2 commercial sewing machines, 3 surgers, 5 sewing machines, yards of fabric, yarn, quilters paradise (too many items to list), kitchen items, bedding, furniture (some antique), lots of plus size clothing, brand name kids clothing, stroller, 1 jogging stroller, wagon, swing set, car seat, booster seat, 2001 Honda 400 EX quad, 2005 Honda Goldwing Trike has 15,000 miles, triked in 2013 with a champion trike kit. 1996 Yamaha Virago, 8000 miles.

YARD SALE - at Lowell United Methodist Church, May 3, 9-5 p.m. Reserve your spot to sell for only \$10. Call or text 560-6165 for details.

wanted

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

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FRI. 8-12
 Closed Sat. & Sun.

found

FOUND - Cash in the BC Pizza parking lot on Sat., April 12 at 6 p.m. Call to identify the amount & reminder notes that were also found. 616-340-5450.

services

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

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

services

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.

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.

JJ'S LAWN CARE - Reliable, respectable, affordable. Fully insured. Free estimates. Call 616-902-6147 www.lawnsbyjj.com

services

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

AFFORDABLE OUTDOOR SERVICES - Twin Pines Lawn Care & Snowplowing, call today for more information & talk to us about your project. We'd love to hear from you. Senior discounts. Fully licensed & insured. 616-560-0428, ask for Nate.

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

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

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 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.



Effortless EASTER HAM

FAMILY FEATURES

This year, make your Easter ham effortless by ditching the oven and using your slow cooker instead. While most people think about slow cooking for staples like chili and stew, it's also perfect for center-of-the-plate feasts — like an Easter ham.

Using the slow cooker, you can minimize both prep time and cleanup time, leaving plenty of room in the day for church, hunting eggs and enjoying time with your loved ones.

Ham is a tradition for many families this time of year, and because it pairs well with a multitude of ingredients, you can create a unique dish every time.

For a fresh spin on the classic ham, try this Sweet Southern Slow-Cooker Ham recipe from the National Pork Board. Apple cider and bourbon (or vanilla extract, if you prefer) combine to create a rich flavor complemented by the sweetness of brown sugar.

Round out your Easter menu by pairing your ham with classic sides such as oven-roasted carrots, asparagus wrapped in bacon and mashed sweet potatoes.

You can also use leftover ham for flavor-packed recipes like Ham, Apple and Cheddar Crepes, which are ideal for a family-style brunch.

To get inspired by more ham and Easter meal ideas, visit PorkBeinspired.com or Facebook.com/PorkBeinspired.

Easter Ham Pin-spiration Sweepstakes

Enter the National Pork Board's Easter Ham Pin-spiration Sweepstakes at PorkBeinspired.com/EasterHam for the chance to win an Easter gift basket with everything you need for this year's celebration.

Sweet Southern Slow-Cooker Ham

Yield: 12 servings
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 4 to 8 hours

- 1 bone-in fully cooked ham, about 5 1/2 pounds
- 1 cup apple cider
- 1/2 cup dark brown sugar
- 1/3 cup Kentucky bourbon
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup Dijon mustard
- 4 fresh thyme sprigs

Place ham in large slow cooker. Whisk cider with brown sugar, bourbon, honey and mustard. Slowly pour over ham. Scatter thyme sprigs into slow cooker.

Cook on high for 4 hours or on low for 8 hours, or until very tender. Remove ham to rest on cutting board. Pass remaining cooking liquid through fine mesh sieve into saucepan. Simmer for 10 minutes or until slightly reduced. Carve ham into serving pieces. Brush ham pieces with cooking liquid before arranging on platter. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Note: For a non-alcoholic alternative, replace the bourbon with 1/4 cup water and 1 tablespoon vanilla extract.

Cooking Tip: Use leftover ham to make Ham, Apple and Cheddar Crepes.

Ham, Apple and Cheddar Crepes

Yield: 6 servings
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes

- 3 cups ham, shredded and warmed
 - 1 3/4 cups 2% milk
 - 1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
 - 4 large eggs
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 - 1 Granny Smith apple, halved, cored and thinly sliced
- Cheese Sauce**
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
 - 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
 - 1 cup 2% milk
 - 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 - 1 cup white cheddar cheese, shredded
 - 2 tablespoons fresh chives, finely chopped

Pour milk, butter, eggs and salt in blender. Mix until well combined. Add flour. Mix for 15 to 20 seconds or until smooth. Let stand for 10 minutes.

Heat an 8-inch crepe pan or non-stick skillet over medium heat. Coat well with nonstick cooking spray. Pour 1/4 cup batter into pan, swirl to fully cover bottom of pan. Cook for 1 minute or until crepe begins to curl

around edges. Carefully flip and cook for an additional 30 seconds or until set. Transfer to plate. Repeat with additional cooking spray and remaining batter. Layer cooked crepes between pieces of wax paper to prevent sticking.

Lay a crepe on clean work surface. Arrange few slices of apple on quarter of crepe; top with shredded ham. Fold crepe in half to cover filling and fold in half again to create triangular shape. Repeat with remaining crepes, apple and ham. Place on parchment-lined baking sheet and hold in warm oven until ready to serve, or up to 30 minutes.

For cheese sauce, melt butter in saucepan set over medium heat. Stir in flour until well coated. Cook, stirring constantly, for 2 minutes or until pale and smooth. Whisk in milk, a splash at a time, until smooth; stir in mustard, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring constantly, for 5 minutes or until thick enough to coat back of spoon. Remove from heat. Whisk in cheese, a small handful at a time, until melted and smooth.

Place filled crepes on each plate. Spoon cheese sauce over each crepe and sprinkle with chives.

Serving Suggestion: All the elements of the recipe can be prepared a day in advance and gently warmed before assembling.



**THEME:
TV FAMILIES**

ACROSS

1. Top of Lady Liberty
6. *Scrappy-Doo, Scooby's nephew
9. Most vital part of idea or experience
13. D-Day beach
14. "Home of the brave"
15. Wash oneself
16. Committee or special group
17. Big ___ Conference
18. Gastric woe
19. *Ma or Pa or Laura
21. *Claire or Phil or Luke
23. Chinese "way"
24. O. Henry's "The Gift of the ___"
25. Madonna's iconic stagewear
28. Arizona Indian
30. Rub elbows
35. Animal house
37. Supernatural life force
39. a.k.a. Pleasant Island
40. Editing choice on computer
41. *"The Jetsons" genre
43. Largest organ of human body
44. Get ready to drive
46. Alpine transport
47. Pay attention
48. In this document
50. Show horse type
52. Like a fox
53. Toothy wheel
55. In the capacity of
57. *Danny or D.J. or Michelle
60. *Lorelai or Rory or Emily
64. Small and elegant
65. "Dear" one
67. Cut at an angle

CROSSWORD															
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APRIL 9 - APRIL 15

- The one-year anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombings was marked by various tributes and speeches from Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick to Vice President Joe Biden. Between 2:30 p.m. and 3 p.m., a flag-raising ceremony and moment of silence was held at the finish line, to mark the time and place where two bombs went off on April 15, 2013.
- In Pretoria, South Africa, Oscar Pistorius has been contradicted several times during his trial for shooting his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp as the prosecution has clearly tried to cast doubt on his insistence that he killed Steenkamp when he mistook her for a burglar. The prosecutor told Pistorius his version of what happened the night he killed Steenkamp was "so improbable that nobody would think it is reasonably true." The defendant continues to cry on the stand.
- The first total lunar eclipse (the Blood Moon) of 2014 occurred in the wee hours of April 15. Over the next 18 months there will be four back-to-back total lunar eclipses.

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68. Convert a book into a screenplay, e.g.
69. Schiller's "___ to Joy"
70. Perpendicular to the keel
71. Combustible heap

72. This instant
73. *Tim's "Home Improvement" son

DOWN

1. Serengeti antelope
2. Arab League member
3. Called
4. Use crib notes
5. Sabbath loaf
6. Places
7. Don't waste
8. Mostly vegetarian bear
9. Explore by touch
10. It makes one scratch
11. He plus she
12. ___ Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II
15. Swelling on foot
20. Rumpelstiltskin's machine, pl.
22. "Gross!"
24. Extra room charge
25. *Michael or Buster or Lindsay
26. Hindu queen
27. Support person
29. End to hostilities

31. Quite a party
32. Little Boy and Fat Man, e.g.
33. Architectural projection
34. *Peggy or Kelly or Al
36. Profligate
38. A long way off
42. Baghdad resident
45. Kind of hickory nut
49. Born
51. Involving the medulla oblongata
54. Match play?
56. Naked protozoa
57. Not a slob
58. Slightly open
59. Uh-uh
60. *The kids never did this on "The Simpsons"
61. Baker's baker
62. Go through volumes
63. Lined with elm trees
64. Small loaf of soft bread
66. *Mike and Carol said it on "The Brady Bunch" pilot

Puzzle solutions appear on page 12

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



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Lowell couple's midlife crisis results in new business - Red Barn Consignment & Antiques

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Marty and Laurie Chambers jokingly call the recent opening of their

first store their version of a midlife crisis.

"It is funny because we are both 50 and most

people when they turn 50 go out and buy a sports car or something and we are

doing this," said Marty with a laugh.

The real story of how

the local couple's path led them to open Red Barn Consignments & Antiques on Main Street is equally charming.

It all began with a small birdhouse. According to husband Marty, "At home is the original little birdhouse I made out of old barn wood. That is where it all started."

He continued using his gifted hands to eventually create this hobby. Combined with the pairs' mutual love of antiques, this led to an overflow of sorts.

"We started trying to find a space about a year ago, basically for me to move out of the house and get where I can build and do more woodworking and store some of the antiques that we buy and sell all the time," Marty said.

Laurie said they heard of the vacancy, created by the closing of the consignment store Giggles & Gumdrops, from her sister-in-law who worked with the former co-owner.

"This just kind of fell into our laps at the right time in our lives," Laurie said.

Along with their own collections of antiques and wooden treasures they feature items consigned from others.

Their first days in business have gone well according to the duo who reported lots of customer traffic and great support from the community.

They will be participating in tomorrow night's chamber-sponsored Girls' Night Out and look forward to joining in and extending hours any time things are going on in downtown Lowell.

The store's current hours are Tuesday through Friday from 11-6, Saturday from 11-5 with Sunday and Monday by chance.

According to Laurie, "If we are down here, we are open!"

Marty said that they are proud and honored to add their story to the rich merchant history of the historic shopping district.

"I grew up in this town and I just want to be a part of it and give back."



Husband and wife owners, Marty and Laurie Chambers, in front of their newly opened consignment and antique store.

April 13-19 is Michigan State Police history week

This week the Michigan State Police (MSP) is celebrating its 97th birthday and to honor this milestone Gov. Rick Snyder has declared April

13 - 19, 2014, as Michigan State Police history week.

"What started as a small cavalry of men has evolved into a complex, professional

law enforcement agency responsible for not only general police investigative services and traffic patrol, but also forensic science services, statewide

criminal justice records' management and state homeland security and emergency management," stated Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, director of the MSP. "This week as we mark our 97th birthday, it is a time for us to reflect on our rich history and traditions, as well as to recommit to serving the public with excellence, integrity and courtesy - always providing 'service with a purpose'."

The MSP's roots date back to World War I when the department began as a temporary, wartime emergency force for the purpose of domestic security.

On April 19, 1917, Gov. Albert Sleeper created the Michigan State Troops Permanent Force, also known as the Michigan State Constabulary. With Col. Roy C. Vandercook as the first commanding

officer, this new force consisted of five troops of mounted, dismounted and motorized units.

On March 26, 1919, Public Act 26 reorganized the constabulary as the permanent, peace-time Michigan State Police. When Michigan adopted a new constitution in 1963, authorizing up to 20 departments, Public Act 380 of 1965 reorganized the MSP as one of these departments. The director of the MSP holds the rank of colonel and is appointed by the governor.

Today, the MSP is a modern-day, full-service law enforcement agency with statewide jurisdiction consisting of nearly 2,700 enforcement and civilian members. For more information on the MSP, visit www.michigan.gov/msp

Now through June 1, the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing is featuring "A Proud Tradition of Service: The Early Years of the Michigan State Police" which highlights early crime-fighting techniques and artifacts.

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