

volunteer month



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50 CENTS



New to West Michigan Bark for Life supports dogs that provide comfort to cancer patients

by Justin Tiemeyer
contributing reporter

Bark for Life is more than just an event where people walk their dogs for money. It is a tribute to the animals that provide comfort to cancer patients.

Lowell is a community that fights cancer. With the Pink Arrow Pride game benefitting the Gilda's Club and Relay for Life event benefitting the American Cancer Society, there seems to be no shortage of meaningful ways to donate to cancer charities. There is an offshoot of Relay for Life called Bark for Life that the Lowell community has never seen, at least until now.

Donna Cody of Lowell's Litehouse Foods is the driving force behind bringing Bark for Life to the area. Cody lost both parents to cancer and she and her daughter are both cancer survivors. Like many others in the national Bark for Life campaign, Cody coped with the disease with the help of her dogs.

"We're going to spend the day pampering them and acknowledging them," Cody said.

While the inaugural Bark for Life in the area is going to take place in Ionia, there is no lack of support from the community of Lowell. Lowell sponsors include the Animal Hospital of Lowell, Grand River Veterinary Hospital and Hollywood Doggie Spa.

Bark for Life is going to be filled with entertaining events, including a visit with the Ionia County Sheriff canine unit, a doggie costume contest and a doggie talent competition called My Pet Has Talent.

As an added bonus for parents, the Michigan State police will be available for children's ID kits. The ID kits will include a photograph and fingerprints and they will be given to parents on a CD in order to take home.

All services for the event have been donated

and this is because the main goal is to raise money to defeat cancer.

"If there really is strength in numbers, there are so many of us affected that together we can put up a good fight," Cody said. "Hopefully someday - the sooner the better - none of us will have to give cancer a second thought."

When that day comes, these people will praise their dogs for sitting down and fetching their slippers. Until then, Bark for Life will celebrate the dogs that do the work that sometimes care practitioners cannot - be there 24/7 and provide constant, unending love.

Bark for Life is taking place on Saturday, May 3 at the Tractor Supply on M-66 in Ionia. The event begins at 10 am. Those interested can register online or on the day of the event. All registrants will receive a doggie bag of goodies on the day of the event.



Bark for Life coordinator Donna Cody with dogs: Missy and Fritz.

"Just about everybody you know has a dog," Cody said. "Just about everybody knows someone who's had cancer."

Cody championed bringing this event to West

Michigan, but her great hope is to see a Lowell event next year. With the support of Lowell businesses and the Lowell people, it looks like that may not be a problem.

Koffee Klatch helps area pantry

Every Tuesday begins early for Grace and Jack Neubecker. They are hosts of the Koffee Klatch at Schneider Manor where seniors gather to visit over coffee, tea and baked goods. The seniors donate to the food pantry fund and with

"Simply Give" from Meijer, they have donated \$3,299 so far since the group formed in 2009. They are presenting Jody Haybarker, of the Flat River Outreach Ministries, a check for \$900 from the senior's fund. Coffee time is 8:30 to 9:30 for seniors.



From left to right, in front row: Chuck and Jan Boersma, Jack Neubecker, Jody Haybarker, Grace Neubecker, and Shirley Carlson; back row: Susan Elliott, Phyllis Bieri, Sue and Dave Krebs, Aileen Ross, Phyllis Ketchum, Mary Geldersma, Joyce VanDyk, and Steve Carlson. Missing is Irma Porter, Henry Rozeboom, Dick and Joanne Strouse, Jeanette Steward, and Ruth A. Fahrni.

Earth Day clean-up



In recognition of Earth Day, 75 students from Cherry Creek Elementary trekked to Creekside Kingdom Park for a community-service cleanup. Students participating were from Wendy DeBoer's third-grade class, fourth graders from Jill Connor and Lisa Camfferman's class and Karen Latva's fifth-grade class. Students worked together, in teams of two or three, across grade levels to gather as much trash as could fit in their 18-gallon bag.



along main street

The third annual Junior Regional Art competition now on display

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Wed., May 7 at 6 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL
Come meet and have a cup of coffee with your city councilmembers on the first Saturday of the month from 8-10 am at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza.

LowellArts! presents the third annual Junior Regional Art Competition for youth ages 13-18. Modeled after the West Michigan Regional (Art) Competition, the Junior Regional Art Competition highlights outstanding artwork by youth ages 13-18. Artists from Kent, Ionia, Montcalm and Barry counties were invited to submit up to 2 pieces and no entry fee was charged. 69 pieces by 50 artists are currently on display in the LowellArts! King Gallery

through May 22. Hours are Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm and Saturday 1-4pm. Closed Sunday and Monday. Awards were juried by David Gianfredi and Matthew Schenk, both assistant professors at Kendall College of Art and Design at Ferris State University. Prizes include gift certificates, art supplies, vouchers for art classes, and theater tickets. Awards will be presented at a public reception on May 22 from 5-6:30 pm.

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations. The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.

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LHS alum named valedictorian of Kendall College of Art and Design's 2014 graduating class

Kendall College of Art and Design at Ferris State University (KCAD) is pleased to announce interior design student Courtney Wierzbicki as the valedictorian of the college's 2014 graduating class. Wierzbicki, a 2010 graduate of Lowell High School will be a keynote speaker during KCAD's commencement ceremony on May 10.

"Courtney's outstanding academic performance, excellence in studio, distinguished service to the college and student leadership accomplishments made her the clear choice for this year's valedictorian," said dean of the college Vic Liptak.

Wierzbicki is on the president's list and receives the Kendall Merit Award scholarship. In addition to being named valedictorian,

she has also been selected as the 2014 Excellence Award winner in the interior design program. Each year, those graduating students who exhibit a rare level of mastery and accomplishment in their chosen field receive this honor, the epitome of KCAD student achievement. Wierzbicki and the fourteen other 2014 Excellence Award winners will be recognized at an official ceremony on May 9 and their best work will be put on display during commencement week (May 6-10) in a special exhibition hosted in The Fed Galleries of KCAD's Woodbridge N. Ferris Building (17 Pearl St. NW) that is free and open to the public.

Outside of the classroom, Wierzbicki's interior design work has been recognized with a

first place and owner's choice award from the West Michigan Chapter of the National Kitchen and Bath Association, a second-place finish in the Klise Manufacturing competition, a NeoCon showcase award in the Carnegie Xorel project, and honorable mentions in both the Steelcase NEXT Office Design competition and the Ghiordes Knot rug competition.

Wierzbicki has also served as an officer in the KCAD student chapter of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) for the past three years, the past two as president; and has also represented KCAD's student chapter to the Michigan IIDA executive board for the past two years.

"Courtney has been instrumental in connecting

students to professional interior design events and in arranging learning opportunities and design exploration between students and design and manufacturing firms," said interior design program chair Lee Davis.

Upon graduation, Wierzbicki hopes to work in Grand Rapids, but remains open to the possibility of moving should the right career opportunity come her way.

"I want to focus either in commercial design or educational design," said Wierzbicki. "I like the technical aspect of commercial design and education design gives you a variety of both commercial and hospitality work. Above all, I want to give back to the community with what I'm good at."



Courtney Wierzbicki

Murray Lake names Volunteer of the Month

Kaily VanLaan was named Murray Lake Elementary (MLE)

Volunteer of the Month for March. "Kaily has been a wonderful help to me this

year. She has chaired a classroom party, come along on class field trips and she

always takes a project home to work on for me. She does all this while raising four children," commented third-grade teacher Sue Wilterink.

VanLaan and husband Steve have been married for almost 12 years and have four children. Breanna is a sophomore at Lowell High School, Noah is a third grader at Murray Lake, Natalie is a first grader at Murray Lake, and Cade will start kindergarden in the fall.

"I really enjoy volunteering at the school, so I can be a part of my children's education experience. It is also a great way to get to know the staff, students and parents that my children are interacting

with on a daily basis," said VanLaan.

When VanLaan is not busy with her children's

crazy schedules, she enjoys crafting, traveling and going camping with her family.

camping with her family.



Join the Whites Bridge Historical Society for the FLAT RIVER CLEAN UP
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- Meet at the North side of the bridge site.
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volunteering opportunities

tutors needed

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 pm and lasts one hour. It allows persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the center and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Literacy Center of W. Michigan is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in the community. Based on 1990 census figures, at least 19,000

adults in Kent County cannot read at a functional level. At least 6,000 adults cannot speak or understand English well. By training people to be tutors, the center can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Literacy Center of West Michigan, located at 1120 Monroe Ave., NW, Suite 240, Grand Rapids, MI. Please call 459-5151 (ext. 10) to register.

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health



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osteoporosis

Most people are familiar with osteoporosis; this is a condition where the bones become thin, making them more fragile and increasing the risk of fracture. This condition is most common in older postmenopausal women. It has been estimated that up to half of women post menopause and over the age of 50 will experience a fracture due to osteoporosis. Most people don't realize they have osteoporosis until they suffer a fracture.

Osteoporosis is diagnosed by getting a DEXA (dual energy x-ray

absorptiometry) bone scan. This is a type of x-ray that can measure the density of the bones in the wrist, hip or spine. DEXA scans are usually done in your doctor's office. Results of the bone density may be normal or show minor thinning (osteopenia) or severe thinning (osteoporosis). We use these results along with a computer program to analyze your risk of fracture over the next ten years.

Women are more likely to develop osteoporosis if there is a positive family history, Caucasian or Asian race, older age, confined

to bed, or taking certain medications.

You can reduce your risk of developing osteoporosis by limiting alcohol intake, performing regular weight bearing exercise, like walking, not smoking, eating high calcium foods, like dairy products, kale, broccoli and salmon. We usually recommend total calcium intake of 1200mg daily as well as vitamin D 1000iu daily.

If you are diagnosed with osteoporosis and you have an elevated fracture risk, your doctor will usually prescribe a medication or injection that help your bones absorb calcium better and greatly reduces the risk of fracture. Medications are generally prescribed for two to five years and repeat DEXA bone scans may be used to evaluate response to treatment at regular intervals.

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ATTENTION CITY OF LOWELL WATER CUSTOMERS
The Water Plant will not be softening the water due to a major repair from May 5 through May 26, 2014. We are sorry for any inconvenience.
If you have any questions, please contact the Water Treatment Plant (897-5234).
Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk



CALEDONIA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THORNAPPLE/KELLOGG SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTERS LIVING IN BOWNE TOWNSHIP OR LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE
ABSENTEE VOTER INFORMATION
The Bowne Township Clerk will be available at the following location on Saturday, May 3, 2014 for any registered voter of Bowne Township or Lowell Charter Township living in the Caledonia Community School District or Thornapple Kellogg School District who would like to apply for or return an absentee voters ballot for the May 6, 2014 Caledonia Community School Election.
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Christopher C. Godbold

Observe Tax Freedom Day by making tax-smart investments

You didn't see it on your calendar, but Tax Freedom Day fell on April 21 this year. So, why not mark the occasion by beginning to look for ways to become a "tax-smart" investor?

Tax Freedom Day, calculated annually by the Tax Foundation, is the day on which Americans have earned enough money to pay this year's federal, state and local taxes. Of course, Tax Freedom Day

is something of a fiction, because most people pay their taxes throughout the year, via their paychecks. Furthermore, as famed Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., said: "Taxes are what we pay for civilized society." When you pay taxes, you help fund public education, the police, the fire department, food inspection, college scholarships and many other elements of society.

Nonetheless, you may want to use the concept of Tax Freedom Day to find ways to reduce the taxes associated with your investments.

Here are some suggestions:

- *Boost your 401(k) contributions.* Your 401(k) contributions are typically made with pre-tax dollars, so the more you put in, the lower your taxable income. (Some employers allow a "Roth" option, under which you can make post-tax contributions.) In 2014, you can put in up to \$17,500 to a 401(k) or similar plan, such as a 403(b) or 457(b), and if you are 50 or older, you can contribute an additional \$5,500.

- *Fully fund your IRA.* No matter which

type of IRA you have — traditional or Roth — you will gain some valuable tax benefits. With a Roth IRA, your contributions are not deductible, but your earnings can grow tax free, provided you don't start taking withdrawals until you are 59-1/2 and you've had your IRA for at least five years. If you own a traditional IRA, your earnings can grow tax-deferred, and your contributions may be deductible, depending on your income level. So, similar to a 401(k), the more you put in to your traditional IRA, the lower your taxable income may be. In 2014, you can contribute up to \$5,500 to an IRA, or \$6,500 if you are 50 or older.

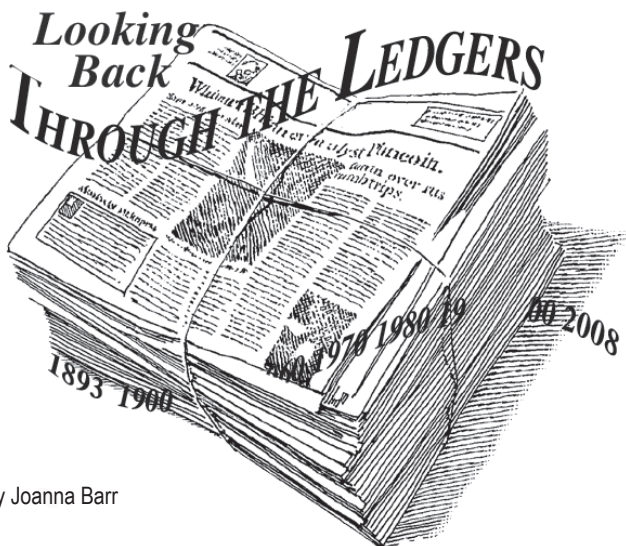
- *Contribute to*

a college savings plan. Many college savings plans offer some type of tax advantage. For example, if you contribute to a 529 plan, your earnings can grow tax free, provided all withdrawals are only used to help pay qualified higher education expenses. (529 plan distributions not used for qualified expenses may be subject to federal and state income tax and a 10 percent IRS penalty.) Furthermore, your 529 plan contributions may be deductible from your state taxes.

- *Avoid excessive buying and selling.* If you are constantly buying and selling investments, you may find it "taxing," because short-term gains

(gains on assets owned for less than one year) will be taxed at your ordinary income tax rate, which could be as high as 39.6 percent (and you may also be subject to a 3.8 percent Medicare surtax). However, if you hold your investments longer than a year before selling them, you'll pay the more favorable long-term capital gains rate, which will likely be 15 percent or 20 percent, depending on your income, though you might still be assessed the Medicare surtax.

Tax Freedom Day is here, and then it's gone. But by taking the steps described above, you may be able to brighten your tax picture for years to come.



By Joanna Barr

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 30, 1914

Earl McNaughton has broken ground for the building of a home, north side of Main Street, 28x30, two stories, to contain six rooms, hall and bath. Cliff Hatch has the building contract.

C.J. Bradish has rented the store recently occupied by the McNaughton Bros. and will move his harness business there about May 1. Some needed alterations will be made, including a new front, uniform with that on the new Williams building.

The Ramsdell farm of ninety-one acres near Bostwick Lake in Cannon Township has been purchased by Fred Salabin. Consideration \$4,000.

Some of the South Lowell fellows are wondering why Walt Wingier was fussed up so finely the other night. They say it just couldn't be a girl.

Fred Barnes has moved from the post office building to his newly purchased home, the Julia White house.

Norton Avery, Otto Andrews, Lee Lampkin and Dexter Conklin have pitched their tent at "Slumber Ridge" for the summer.

Charles A. Barry left Tuesday for Neslon, Pa., to join in a special evangelistic campaign. He expects to spend the summer in open air and tent meetings in New York city, where he had much success last season.

Last week Wednesday Stanley Winslow broke both bones of one leg and hurt the other quite badly by a plow being thrown across them while plowing. The plow struck a stump and was overturned on him. It was quite a bad fracture but Mr. Winslow is doing quite well.

The Lowell High School juniors will stage a play at the Alto Grange hall May 9. There will be some special features added to the already splendid drama.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 4, 1939

Headline: Foreman leghorns leading in contests. Foreman strain white leghorn are attaining top rank throughout the United States and Canada and the name and fame of Lowell as a leghorn headquarters is growing with each succeeding year. E. C. Foreman, the proprietor, reports that the output of chicks for the present season, which is now drawing to a close, will be in excess of half a million.

More vitamins—that's what we all need—and George Herald of the Lowell Bakery has brought out a new loaf

that is chock full of 'em! Add George's name to your list of benefactors.

The old familiar sight of Will Stone coming down Main Street with his faithful dog, Joker, following him will be seen no more. Tuesday Joker died. For nearly 15 years this brown dog has followed his master in and out of stores in Lowell and Grand Rapids. Where ever Will has gone the dog has followed.

New sewer projects will make sanitary facilities available for about 60 additional homes.

Stanley Beach has been down with the mumps this week.

It's nesting time and a bird was seen near the Ledger office Tuesday morning struggling with a 3-foot long piece of tattered awning...After clean-up day is over, let us all resolve to keep yards and streets free from rubbish the year around — no more unsightly ash heaps at any time and no more marring of the natural beauty of our river banks with unsightly refuse.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 30, 1964

A rare animal for this area was reported killed along M-21 Wednesday by Forest Smith, who spotted

Looking Back, continued, page 7

We love to hear from you!

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

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

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anniversaries

Lacic



Al and Dot (Hanes) Lacic of Lowell are celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary on May 7. The Lacic's have five children, Adeline Brower, Arthur Lacic, Dorothy House, Russell Lacic, and Mary Dillree; 13 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and two great great grandchildren. A dinner is planned at a later date with family.



In The Service

Air Force Airman Ashleigh N. Roberts graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and

basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Roberts is the daughter of Nicole Vink of Alto.

She is a 2010 graduate of Caledonia High School.

business matters


Greenridge Realty announced that Todd Pearson received Sales Associate of the Month in March.

This award recognizes Pearson for his outstanding success and achievements.



Todd Pearson

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Knock your socks off with Social Security's online services

May 8 is National No Socks Day. It may be a good day to visit Social Security online at www.socialsecurity.gov, because we have some online services that will knock your socks off.

National No Socks Day is a day for celebrating the freedom of the foot. We encourage you to walk around your house barefoot all day and to take care of your business online. If you have Social Security business, it'll be as easy as a barefoot walk in the park.

What can you do at www.socialsecurity.gov? Try these online services on for size.

Create an online *my Social Security* account, and you can use it to do all kinds of Social Security activities. During your working years, you can use *my Social Security* to view your *Social Security Statement* to check your earnings record and see estimates of the future retirement, disability and survivor benefits you and your family may receive. If you already get benefits, you can use *my Social Security* to get a 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. Get your feet wet at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Apply for retirement benefits with an online application that you can complete and submit in as little as 15 minutes at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline. Once you complete and submit the electronic application, in most cases, that's it—no more papers to sign or documents to provide.

Apply for disability benefits with a secure, convenient online application available at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyfordisability.

You can do business with us over the Internet on any day—not just National No Socks Day. But if you do, be careful—our online services are likely to knock your socks off any time you visit 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 vantil@ssa.gov

area churches

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 Youth Ministry.....Mon. 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
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John Borton, David
Rhodes, Jerre Sue Smith. |
| MAY 1
Dennis Anchors, Mark
Christiansen. | MAY 5
Scott Carpenter, Kevin
Vezino, Kerry Vezino,
Brenda Erickson, Robert
Dalziel, Kaitlyn Kovacs. |
| MAY 2
Melinda D'Agostino, Tim
Mastenbrook, Madison
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Looking Back, continued

a badger that had been hit by a car. Smith says the claws on the badger are as large as those of a bear.

The old cage built in the city hall in 1915 to hold prisoners was removed Tuesday and taken to the 4-H fairgrounds where it will become a new cage to be used by the local dog catcher. It seems that some citizens have been "jail breaking" their dogs after they have been hauled to the pound by authorities.

In a report issued this week by Hans Andrews, director of guidance at Lowell High School, he revealed that 65 graduating students plan to further their educational training and study. This figure represents 57 percent of this year's graduating class.

To prevent a water shortage this summer, the city council at a special meeting last Wednesday authorized the city manager and the water engineer to take bids and purchase the necessary pumps. With up to eight week delivery on pumps and the installation, it appears that it better be a rainy July because additional water supplies will not be available until early August.

The C. H. Runciman Co. of Lowell and Rinciman Milling Co. of Ionia are hosting a meeting of all bean growers in the Western Michigan area, Monday night... Several outstanding speakers will participate in the program... And a 13 minute film produced by the Michigan Bean Shippers Association on "The Autobiography of a Bean" which was shown at the various European Trade fairs during the past year, will be viewed.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 28, 1989

Headline: Millage passes! Largest school district voting turnout saves student services. With the largest school district voting turnout in history, the Lowell "school community" voted "yes" by a persuasive margin for a 2.9 mill increase for 1989-90 and a .3 mill increase in 1990-91, raising the mill increase to

3.2. While school officials were elated with the election results, they were also thankful for the interest all 2,854 school community voters showed. "I believe the "no" votes clearly states a need for meaningful property tax relief to lessen the burden that falls on many of our neighbors," Lowell superintendent Fritz Esch said.

Michigan's Department of Transportation (MDOT) announced the start of a \$906,704 M-21 street repair project. The work will take place on a five-mile stretch of M-21, from east of the west county line to west of Hawley Road in the village of Saranac (Ionia County). M-21 traffic will be slowed by intermittent, daytime lane closures beginning today. The work includes resurfacing, culvert extensions, guardrail upgrading and tree removal.

Lowell High School announced that 46 of its 10th-grade students scored 100 percent on its MEAP reading and math base objectives. "This is the most 10th-grade students to score this high at Lowell High School," Lowell principal Dick Korb said. "The students should be commended."

The Lowell Area Jaycees have officially named the [sic] walk-a-thon "Step Into Spring" which is scheduled for Saturday, April 29. The money raised will help the YMCA meet its share of the repair costs to the King Memorial Pool. The Jaycees hope to make the event an annual fundraiser for various community projects. The length of the walk-a-thon has been shortened from 20 miles to 10 to encourage families with young children to participate in the fun, exercise and adventure... The walk will begin and end at the Lowell Showboat Amphitheatre with midway point at Fallasburg Park where participants will enjoy a lunch break before walking back.

Chess champions crowned at Murray Lake Elementary

Murray Lake Elementary held their 10th annual chess tournament over the past several weeks. Forty-five third-through fifth-grade students entered the double elimination tournament. The finalists pictured are: fourth grader, David Kaczanowski was crowned the champion (middle); third grader, Drew Veldman (at right) second place and (at left) third-place finisher, fifth grader Jacob Bauer.



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April volunteers abound in Lowell community

April was National Volunteer Month, a time dedicated to celebrating and encouraging the generous act of volunteerism. Finding volunteers to highlight within the Lowell community was easy with more than a dozen service opportunities for generous volunteers just within the city limits. Here are a few of the fine examples of volunteers in this community who helped out in April and every other month of the year.



Lowell Relay for Life committee members spend countless hours planning the fun annual summer event which raises money for the American Cancer Society. Last year the public event raised more than \$60,000. Pictured here are a few members after a recent meeting, Carol McGregor, Lori Ingraham, Shelby Sakowski, Courtney Willard, Melissa Carey and Holly Milks.



Flat River Ministries volunteer Carol Guyer has logged thousands of volunteer hours sorting the items donated to Treasures Thrift Shop. The organization, which aims to aid community members in need through a variety of programs, boasts dozens of volunteers who make operation of the ministry possible.



Lowell School's PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) is an organization driven by the power of parent volunteers. Their activities and fundraisers support both students and staff. Pictured, is mother of four, Sarah Nielsen, checking students into the Red Arrow Carnival cakewalk.



Members of Girl Scout Troop 3511 recently spent time donating their talents to beautify the gardens at the Wittenbach/Wege Center. Pictured are: Brielle Arnett, Jessica Carter, Faith Worsley, Abby Stickney, Kayla McCall, Isabelle Magnanti, Brooke Meijer, Emma Parsons, Melissa Field, Kylie Collins, Rachel Lezan, Ashley Anheuser and Mandy Oudbier.

Joyce Laviolette, hanging jewelry in the thrift store at Flat River Ministries.



Gilda's Club of Lowell is a cancer support center staffed almost entirely by volunteers. The center offers a variety of group activities, discussions and learning opportunities. Emily Churches, Corrina Wenger and Lecia Selzer volunteer at Noogieland. Noogieland is a special play place within the clubhouse designed to support children who have been affected by the disease.

Red Arrow **SPORTS**

- TENNIS

Red Arrow girls court play ends in tie against Caledonia

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The varsity girls' tennis team took to the courts at home on April 23 competing against the Caledonia Scots in both singles and doubles action ending in a 4-4 tie for the squad.

The teams current record reflects a season opening win over Comstock

Park, losses to strong competitors Forest Hills Central and East Grand Rapids with another win against Byron Center.

According to coach Chris Phillips it has been a difficult start to the season with several weather delays and a lack of practice

facilities hindering the team's ability to come together and train.

"Due to the closing of Orchard Hills and the snow and rain it's been tough to find practice time." Phillips added that despite their challenges, he feels the girls are still capable of earning a winning record. "It's still pretty early in the season and we will see how things go. This is a great group of girls this year."

This year's roster includes singles competitors Amanda Susnak, Ines Dominguez Gonzalez, Danielle Fron and Maddie Willemstein. Pairs competing in doubles play are Emma McLane and Hailey Stasiak, Rachel Fox and Elena Bishop, Megan Hoffman and Paige McKenna and Jesse Steiner and Rebecca Weaver.

The ladies will face Grand Rapids Christian on Wednesday at 4:15 on home court and visit Lakewood High School and Wayland Union High School later in the week before returning home Monday May 5 to take on Jenison.



Maddie Willemstein connects with the ball.



A backhand shot from Ines Gonzalez.

Pratt named Administrative Assistant of the Year

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Alto Elementary employee Vicky Pratt was recently named the Administrative Assistant of the Year by the Kent County Education Association.

Pratt, who has worked for Lowell Area Schools for nearly ten years, was nominated by fellow Alto staffer Cindy Smith who works in the school's media center.

"I nominated Vicky because she is such a positive influence in our school with parents, staff and students. She always has

a smile for everyone, is very intelligent and never stops until she finds an answer to any question anyone might have," said Smith.

Pratt said that she was shocked by the honor literally having to read the letter of congratulations twice to be sure she understood it correctly.

"It makes my heart proud to know that a peer feels I am doing a great job. To be nominated for such an award is humbling but to actually be selected as the winner is phenomenal. I'm very honored."

The modest and well-liked winner said that the people of Alto are the reason that she enjoys her job so much.

"The best part of my job is the job because I'm able to be connected to so many wonderful people. The children are my favorite. Being allowed to watch them grow and begin to find their place in the world is a benefit that is not listed in the job description. This is so beyond me, so much recognition that I probably don't deserve any more than the next person. I just like doing my job."



Holland's Grand Rapids terminal is hiring full time local drivers & regional drivers and part time dockworkers. Drivers must be 21 yrs old, having a CDLA w/ hazmat & tanker w/ 1 yr or 50k miles experience.

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Hula for health



The Hammock recently hosted two free hula dance classes led by hooping expert Jennifer Spiece, pictured, to introduce the community to the health benefits and fun of the retro activity. Beginning in May the therapy, education and wellness center will begin hosting regular hula classes every Monday from 6:15-7:15 pm. A special parent and child hula dance fun night is also scheduled for May 5 from 5-6 pm.

New senior hunt/fish combo license gives resident seniors price break, refund

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is making it easier for Michigan seniors age 65 and older to get a price break on the hunt/fish combo license. The new senior hunt/fish combo license includes a fishing license (good for all legal species), a base hunting license and two deer licenses for \$43.

When purchasing the 2014 licenses without a senior discount, seniors who purchased the regular hunt/fish combo license paid \$76. The only way to get a senior discount on these items was to purchase them separately as senior licenses.

The newly packaged discounted license is available for purchase as of April 14. In addition, resident seniors who paid the higher \$76 price for a 2014 license will be receiving a letter from the DNR

offering a refund of \$33 -- the difference between the regular hunt/fish combo and the senior hunt/fish combo.

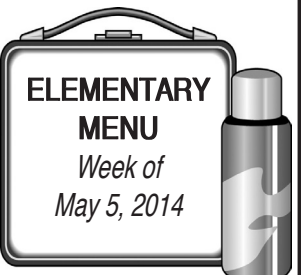
“When the license year began on March 1, we had quite a few seniors who qualified for discounts on individual licenses but were buying a hunt/fish combo and missing out on the senior discount,” said Denise Gruben, manager of Licensing and Reservations for the DNR. “This packaged senior hunt/fish combo provides an easy checkout for seniors to get their discount and get the combo all at once.”

Seniors who qualify for the refund will be receiving a letter in the mail within the next three weeks, giving recipients the option of getting a refund. Those who opt for the refund will receive a check from the State of Michigan. The DNR asks seniors not to seek refunds

from the location where they purchased their license. Seniors who are eligible for the refund should keep the license they received when they purchased the hunt/fish combo; these licenses are valid and do not need to be replaced.

Questions about the refund may be directed to the Licensing and Reservations Customer Service office at 517-373-1204 or MDNR-eligence@michigan.gov.

LUNCH MENU



MON: Beef taco, refried beans, fruit & veggie bar: salad, salsa, mixed fruit, chilled pears (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake) Corn dog, seasoned broccoli, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, celery sticks, mixed fruit, sliced pears (served at Bushnell)

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

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

THURS: BBQ pork ribbie 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, baby carrots, strawberries, peaches.

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

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Red Arrow - BASEBALL SPORTS

Lowell baseball improves with wins against East Grand Rapids

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The Red Arrows' varsity baseball squad improved their league record 4-2 by securing two of three victories over the East Grand Rapids (EGR) Pioneers last week.

After an opening loss of 7-6, the Arrows came back strong in game two of the series with the Pioneers winning impressively with a final score of 9-3.

Tied 1-1 the series finished up in Lowell at Cherry Creek Field last Thursday where the sluggers fought hard with senior Parker Groom leading the way to secure their 8-6 victory.

A fielding error and a small mishap by catcher Matt Milstead helped the Pioneers grab a 2-0 lead in the first inning. The Arrows were unable to answer to either of those runs getting shut down quickly in innings one and two by strong Pioneer pitching.

The tide began to turn for Lowell in the third when Alex Chavez produced a single that was quickly followed by a solid hit to the fence by Groom pushing in Chavez for the run. Zach Gordon followed that up with a long ball into center field allowing for the 2-2 tying run.

Quick at bats for both clubs in the fourth and fifth innings were followed

by a long sixth where the Pioneers earned four runs, due to fielding errors on behalf of the Arrows, bringing the score to 2-6. Lowell rallied hard in the bottom of the inning loading the bases with no outs after two singles from Garrett Gordon and Kyler Shurlow and a walk from Jake Stephens who was hit by a pitch.

Slugger Jeff Houston made the best of the situation earning an RBI that was followed by two more earned off a long ball by Chavez. Groom followed suit driving one to left field allowing for two additional runs. An infield error by EGR allowed Zach Gordon to earn a final RBI for the team on a pop up taking the score to 8-6.

Groom took to the mound in the role of closer for the seventh inning successfully stopping the Pioneers and sealing the game victory.

Coach Justin Miller called the teams two victories over EGR great wins and was already looking toward the next challenge.

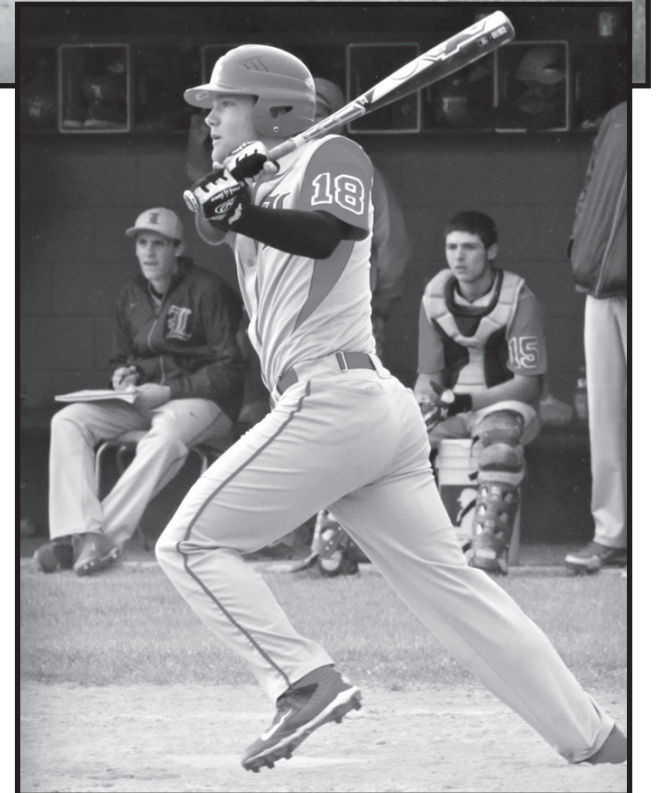
"We knew it was going to be a difficult series and it was true to our thoughts. Now we have three very difficult series we have moved on to with Caledonia being next on that list."



Garrett Gordon slides into second base.



Senior Parker Groom took to the mound for the seventh inning closing out the game by quickly shutting down the Pioneer batters.



Jeff Houston makes contact in the seventh inning kicking off the six-point rally that led to the Red Arrows' solid victory.



Jeff Houston earns an out in the outfield with a great catch during the third inning of the Arrows successful bid over EGR.



Pitcher Logan Smith spent more than three innings on the mound during the Red Arrows' win over a solid EGR team.

The Red Arrows will face the Caledonia Fighting Scots in the second game of the series Wednesday at 4:30 at Cherry Creek Field and wrap it up on Thursday at Caledonia.

obituaries

BRUNNER

Mother Rita Brunner, a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist, died peacefully in Canticle House at the Franciscan Life Process Center in Lowell, Michigan on April 24, 2014. She was born on July 23, 1914 to Mary and Joseph Brunner in Lima, Wisconsin. She attended Sacred Heart School in Lima and was in the first high school graduating class of Sacred Heart High School in 1931. She entered the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and made first vows in 1934. She was a teacher and administrator in schools in LaCrosse, Halder and St. Mary's Ridge in Wisconsin and Festina and Roselle in Iowa. In 1962 she was sent to Santa Ana, El Salvador to start, teach and direct the Madre del Salvador Parish School, a mission very close to her heart. In 1966 she was called back to the United States to serve as the first Provincial Superior of the Southern Province of the FSPA Community. In 1970 she was named as Provincial Superior of the newly formed Provisional Province in FSPA. In 1973 Mother Rita was a founding member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist and served as a General Councilor from 1973-1999. In 1972 the Franciscan Life Process Center was begun in Lowell, Michigan under her direction and the Franciscan Preschool was initiated in 1975. She loved people and was especially fond of young children. Her simple quiet presence and closeness to Our Lord were obvious to all who knew her. She is survived by her brother Gerald (Veronica) Brunner; brother-in-law Willis Poeschel; sisters-in-law Lorraine and Marion Brunner; many nieces and nephews; the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist and the Franciscan Brothers of the Eucharist. Preceding her in death were her parents; her sister Margaret Poeschel; and her brothers Ray, Edmund, and James (Evelyn) Brunner. Funeral arrangements are under the care of FSE Funeral Director Sister Patricia Glass and the Gerst Funeral Home, Lowell. Visitation will be in the Annunciation Chapel of the Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes Street, Lowell, on Friday, May 2, from 4:00 to 7:00 followed by a Wake Service at 7:00 pm. The Mass of Christian Burial will be at St. Mary's Church in Lowell at 10:00 am on May 3. Burial will follow in the Franciscan Cemetery at 11761 Downes Street, Lowell. Memorials are welcome for the Chapel being built at the motherhouse of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist in Meriden, Connecticut.



HEEMSTRA

Wendell John Heemstra, of Lowell, walked into the arms of his Lord and Savior on Wednesday, April 23, 2014. He is 'together forever' with his wife, Jane, who preceded him in death. Wendell is survived by his children: Pam (Matthew) Kinnucan, Randy (Molly) Heemstra, Sandie (Jeff) Ross and grandchildren: Meghan and Hannah Ross, Lauren and Paul Heemstra and Benjamin Kinnucan. He is also survived by his sister Kay Rozema, sister-in-law, Margaret Heemstra, and brother and sister-in-law, Lyle (Pete) and Sheryll Wright. Wendell served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and later became the owner of American Sign Company. Wendell was a charter member of Lowell Calvary Christian Reformed Church where he served faithfully in many capacities. He was an avid fisherman and fast-pitch softball fan. Wendell was a member of the Wolverine Beagle Club where he enjoyed spending time training and running beagles. One of his greatest life accomplishments was having traveled to Alaska twice with his wife, Jane. A funeral service was held. Interment Bailey Cemetery. The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Fountain View of Lowell and Hospice of Michigan for their genuine kindness, care and compassion. Memorial donations may be made to the Lowell Calvary Christian Reformed Church Children and Youth Ministries, 1151 W. Main St., Lowell MI 49331 or Fountain View of Lowell, 11535 E. Fulton St., Suite 200, Lowell MI 49331.

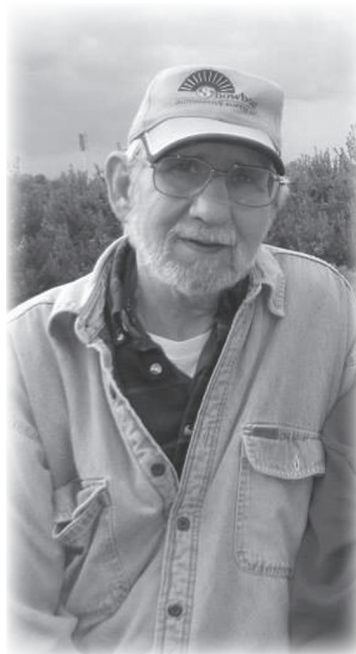


Job 19:25a I know that my Redeemer lives.

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LACEY

James "Jim" Lacey, aged 69, of Lowell, passed away on Tuesday, April 22, 2014. He is survived by his loving wife of 32 years, Dianne; and many loving family members and friends who loved him dearly. The family will greet friends on Friday, May 2, 2014, from 2-4 and 6-8 at Memorial Alternatives, 2432 Fuller NE, 363-3700, www.memorialalternatives.com



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Life is not always a matter of holding good cards, but sometimes, playing a poor hand well.

~ Jack London

WEIMERT

Anthony J. Weimert, age 91 of Grand Rapids (formerly of Detroit), passed away Tuesday, April 22, 2014. He was a devoted husband and caregiver to his wife Helen, who preceded him in death in 2008.



Anthony was also preceded in death by his brother Thomas and sisters Elizabeth, Katie and Rosemary. He is survived by his children Virginia (Peter) Gustafson and Dr. Thomas (Sandra) Weimert; grandchildren Courtney Weimert & Lee Szkotnicki, Lindsay (Gustafson) and Ryan Bathie, Brad Weimert, Michael and Hilary Gustafson and Kelly Weimert; great grandson Griffin Bathie; and many nieces and nephews. Anthony served in the Navy during World War II. He was a retired Detroit Fireman, as well as a skilled tool and die designer. In his later years, Tony loved being an artist. A funeral service was held. Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook St. SE, Suite 300, Grand Rapids MI 49546.



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James L. DeKorne III
2711 Rosco
Kent City, MI 49330
616-292-7116

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 14-195226-DE

Estate of GLORIA RAE DEKORNE. Date of birth: 04-09-1938.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Gloria Rae DeKorne, died 12-03-13.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against

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Dear EarthTalk: Apple just put out a big PR campaign about its sustainability initiatives. Has the company made real progress in this regard or is this just more corporate “greenwashing?” And how are the other big tech companies addressing their carbon footprints? -*Billy A., Oakland, CA*

Long criticized for its lack of commitment to sustainability—from supporting the dangerous mining of precious resources and exploiting factory workers to powering its data centers with energy derived from coal and not taking back products for recycling—Apple has really worked on turning things around over the past couple of



years. Indeed, just this past month the company announced that 94 percent of its corporate facilities and 100 percent of its data centers now operate on power from renewable sources.

Environmentalists first took notice that serious change was afoot at Apple in May 2013 when the company brought in former Obama Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator Lisa Jackson to head its corporate environmental initiative. Since then, the company has unveiled plans showing how its new corporate headquarters—currently under construction in Cupertino, California—will use 30 percent less energy than an equivalent conventional building while playing host to some 7,000 carbon-sequestering trees. Apple also reports that it has decreased the material required to produce its iPhones, iPads, iPods and Macs. A new iPad Air, for instance, uses a third less material overall by weight than the original iPad. And all of the company’s retail stores will now take back any Apple products for free recycling—U.S. and U.K. consumers can even earn gift cards for turning in old iPhones, iPads and computers.

Of course, Apple still has work to do. The nonprofit Friends of the Earth has been on the company’s case to agree to a plan that will reign in the human and environmental toll of destructive tin mining in Indonesia and elsewhere. Tin is a major component of the solder in smart phones and other electronics and the popularity of such items has pushed miners to extremes and is linked to the destruction of tropical rainforests, coral reefs and commercial fisheries. Apple sent a team of investigators to the Indonesian islands responsible for producing some 30 percent of the world’s commercially available tin, but the company has yet to commit to any changes in the way it sources this increasingly valuable raw material.

As for other tech/Internet companies, Greenpeace has been assessing and tracking environmental performance of the big players for more than a decade. “The Internet we love, and the companies that run it are at a crossroads in terms of where their energy comes from,” reports the group. “Many of these companies have already chosen the road to a green internet and a sustainable future.” Some of the best performers besides Apple include Facebook, Google, Salesforce, Rackspace and Box, each of which has committed to 100 percent renewable energy.

Greenpeace isn’t as bullish on Twitter, Pinterest, Tumblr and Amazon, each of which relies heavily on coal-fired power sources for their data centers and other operations, but still says. “If Amazon and others want to stay innovative and relevant, it’s high time they made the switch to the abundant, sustainable, renewable energy of today.” Concerned consumers can sign Greenpeace’s online #ClickClean petition asking these big players to step up and commit to renewable energy and environmentally responsible operations.

CONTACTS: Apple Environmental Responsibility, www.apple.com/environment; Greenpeace, www.greenpeace.org.

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SPRING SPORTS

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

CALENDAR

GIRLS' VARSITY TENNIS

* Denotes a meet at Lowell High School Tennis Courts

5/1 at 4:15 p.m. Lakewood

5/5 at 4:15 p.m. Jenison*

5/7 at 4:15 p.m. Greenville

BOYS' & GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD

* Denotes a meet at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

5/1 at 4:15 p.m. Jenison*

5/3 at 9 a.m. Hesperia*

5/8 & 5/9 time TBA Conference at Forest Hills Central

GIRLS' VARSITY SOFTBALL

* Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Softball Field

5/2 at 4:15 p.m. & 6 p.m. Catholic Central

5/3 at 8:30 a.m. Northview Tournament

5/6 at 4:15 p.m. & 6 p.m. GR Christian*

BOYS' VARSITY BASEBALL

* Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Baseball Field

5/1 at 4:15 p.m. Caledonia

5/3 at 10 a.m. & noon Grand Haven

5/6 at 4:15 p.m. GR Christian*

5/7 at 4:15 p.m. GR Christian*

BOYS' VARSITY GOLF

* Denotes a meet at Deer Run Golf Course

5/7 at 3:30 p.m. Jamboree*

GIRLS' VARSITY LACROSSE

* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

5/2 at 7 p.m. Hudsonville

5/5 at 7 p.m. GR Christian

5/7 at 7 p.m. Grandville* at Burch Field

BOYS' VARSITY LACROSSE

* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

5/1 at 5:30 p.m. Catholic Central

5/6 & 5/8 at 7:15 a.m. Tier II Tournament - place to be announced

GIRLS' VARSITY SOCCER

* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

5/2 at 6:45 p.m. Fruitport

5/5 at 6:45 p.m. Jenison*

5/7 at 6:45 p.m. Forest Hills Central*

THEME:
WORLD WAR II

ACROSS

- 1. Low life?
- 6. Hot springs
- 9. Nerd
- 13. _____ International Airport, Kyrgyzstan
- 14. *It ended in 1945
- 15. *Peninsula, location of El Shatt WWII refugee camps
- 16. March celebrants
- 17. "Much ___ About Nothing"
- 18. Bond
- 19. *Russian soldiers, en masse
- 21. *Ribbentrop's co-signer
- 23. ___-tzu
- 24. Absorbed
- 25. "Yakety ___"
- 28. Short skirt
- 30. _____ Geo-spacial positioning system, for short
- 35. Genesis man
- 37. Cell phone button
- 39. Wynonna Judd's mother
- 40. _____ Mischievous Scandinavian god
- 41. Dress up or deck out
- 43. Elegant and stylish
- 44. ___-___-la
- 46. Russell Crowe's 2014 role
- 47. Comedy Central's "___O"
- 48. One of the founders of scholasticism
- 50. Box office failure, e.g.
- 52. One of Five Ws
- 53. Bread portion
- 55. Corn spot
- 57. Entertain, as in idea
- 61. *WW II consequence
- 65. Love intensely
- 66. Snake-like fish
- 68. Open-mouthed
- 69. *He defeated Max Schmeling before enlisting

- 5. Hindu retreat
- 6. Go to and fro
- 7. Mouse turf
- 8. Enophile's sensory concern
- 9. Drunkard
- 10. "Get ___!"
- 11. *Post WWII military alliance
- 12. *Battle of ____, encirclement of Russian troops
- 15. Arabic ruler
- 20. Damp
- 22. Operations, as in military
- 24. Hang up the phone
- 25. *Churchill/Roosevelt/Stalin meeting site
- 26. Bedazzle
- 27. New Zealand parrots
- 29. Type of sign
- 31. Boors lack this
- 32. In no manner
- 33. American Mennonite
- 34. *Like France under Pétain
- 36. Eight furlongs
- 38. Involving two parts
- 42. Selfie
- 45. *Axis opponents
- 49. "Word" in French
- 51. *Germany's invasion target
- 54. Beforehand
- 56. J. _____ Hoover
- 57. Tall one is a lie
- 58. Carbon monoxide lacks this
- 59. Y'all
- 60. Court order
- 61. Heidi's shoe
- 62. Boat track
- 63. "Planet of the ___"
- 64. Co-written, produced and directed by Warren Beatty
- 67. Bigheadedness

CROSSWORD														
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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.

Puzzle solutions appear on page 12

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APRIL 23 - APRIL 29

- An armed package handler in Kennesaw, GA, opened fire Tuesday morning at a FedEx station outside Atlanta. Six were wounded and the suspected gunman was found dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot. The gunman worked for FedEx as a package handler.
- A French tourist saw a man digging in the trash while she was on her first trip to New York City. After eating dinner in New York's Little Italy neighborhood she saw the man and gave him her "doggy bag" of pizza. The man replied, "God bless you," and she went on her way. The next day she saw her picture on the news. It turns out she had stumbled upon the set of Richard Gere's latest movie and it was Gere, playing the part of a homeless man that she had given her dinner to. She had no idea saying that he clearly was a very good actor.
- Tens of thousands of people were without power in Alabama, Mississippi and Kentucky after several tornados and severe storms cut a swath through the south. At least 30 have died.
- The NBA commissioner, Adam Silver has banned team owner Donald Sterling, of the LA Clippers, for life and fined him 2.5 million dollars for his racist remarks.

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

Do you think LA Clippers owner Donald Sterling deserved the punishment he received from the NBA?

- No. It's a free country.
- Yes. That kind of talk should not be tolerated.
- No opinion

TO VOTE IN THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL

go to **WWW.**
thelowellledger.com

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