

## comic book days



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## Sunny skies shine on annual CROP walk

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Members of nine local churches gathered in Lowell for the 20th anniversary of the local CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, May 4 at the First United Methodist Church (UMC).

More than 100 people took part in the annual fundraising effort.

The CROP Hunger Walk was created after World War II by an organization called the Church World Service (CWS) in an effort to eradicate hunger. To date hunger remains the number one cause of death among children under age five.

The funds earned through these walks are used to offer direct aid, as well as several sustainable options for hunger relief.

Pastor Matt Stoll from the Vergennes United

Methodist Church reports that this is the second year his church has taken part in the walk which was started locally by former Lowell First UMC pastor Gordie Barry. Stoll has personally participated in the walk since childhood and has witnessed the great need for efforts such as this.

"I was able to go to Haiti on a mission trip and experienced hunger first hand in a third world context. I realized the need is great even though we in America may not see it first hand. I also realize that Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) is helping over 250 families right here in the Lowell community."

Participants held fundraisers and accepted pledges and donations for their walking efforts which

took them through Lowell under pleasurable weather conditions.

Stoll says that the total funds earned this year are expected to match or

surpass last year's total of over \$8,000.

Seventy-five percent of the monies earned through the Lowell CROP Hunger Walk will aid the CWS in

their mission to remedy hunger worldwide. The other twenty-five percent will stay local and benefit both FROM and Senior Neighbors.



Members of the Nauta family took part in the CROP Hunger Walk.

## City council discusses land purchase and union negotiations

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Lowell city council discussed union negotiations and bought some land during a relatively peaceful meeting at city hall at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 5.

The city will spend \$2660.07 to purchase a parcel of land on Bowes Road between the Light and Power substation and Walgreens. The property was foreclosed on when its owner neglected to pay taxes on the land. Councilperson Chris Schwab was the sole vote against buying the land.

The council will hold another "workshop" on Tuesday, May 13 at 6 p.m. They will use this workshop to continue their discussion of the city's 2014-2015 budget, which must be approved by the council within two weeks.

The council unanimously passed a resolution that will cease Lowell's participation in the "Urban County Community Development Block Grant" program, "pursue participation in the State of Michigan's Rental Rehabilitation Program" and "ensure participation with Hope Network in the North Kent Transit Services program."

"Keep in mind that as we improve downtown

buildings we increase the value of these properties, which increases our tax base, which is a large source of revenue for the city," city manager Mark Howe said.

Three representatives of the Kent District Library (KDL) were on hand to present the organization's 2013 annual report to the council. KDL director Lance Werner, board member Carol Simpson and Englehardt branch manager Josh Bernstein each made brief statements to the council.

Simpson said the library was going to ask citizens for more money on election day this summer.

"We've managed to keep serving the public while not increasing costs," Simpson said. "However, we can't do that anymore. There is a ballot proposal on the August 5 election day and we're seeking a rate of 1.28 mils and that is an increase for the average household owner/taxpayer here in our service area of about \$30."

Bernstein spoke about Englehardt library's popularity among Lowell residents.

"We have 80 percent of the Lowell population that has a library card," Bernstein said. "So really,

four out of five people that you see walking down the street has a card and uses our library. That's the second highest in the KDL."

Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell

Chamber of Commerce, asked the council to approve fireworks and street closures for this July's Riverwalk Festival. The council unanimously approved these requests.

Howe asked the council to publicly discuss the city's negotiations with the International Brotherhood

City council,  
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## Lowell man arrested for child pornography at home daycare

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

A 22-year-old Lowell man has been charged with sharing child pornography videos from a computer at his mother's daycare.

Travis Charles Stiehl was booked into Kent County Jail on Friday, April 25. He was charged with two counts each of "child sexually abusive commercial activity" and using a computer to make the videos.

Stiehl's mother Shelley Stiehl ran a daycare out of her home on Foreman Street in Lowell. Ken Duke, an agent for the Department of Homeland Security, said the daycare's license was revoked on December 11, 2013.

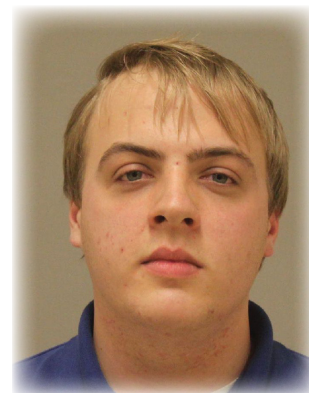
"They pulled the license," Duke said. "There was some kind of complaint that was resolved but it didn't have anything to do with this."

Stiehl has been described in local media as a "retail worker" but he was actually unemployed and had free access to the children at the daycare.

"We were under the impression that he worked during the day and didn't have any contact with the kids but came to find out he was out of work for a long time," Duke said. "Some of the other parents are saying that he helped watch them and took them on a camping trip or something like that."

Investigators are not yet sure how many victims there are.

"We really don't know," Duke said. "I think there were three that were mentioned in the State affidavit, but I can't really go into that right now because we're still in the process of contacting all the parents and things like that."



Travis Stiehl

The Department of Homeland Security is usually associated in the public mind with terrorism and immigration, but they are also the main agency in charge of solving computer crimes.

"When people think of Homeland Security they think of immigration, but

Arrest, continued,  
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# Celebrate My Drive grant funds distributed

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell High School's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) recently distributed funds from the \$25,000 cash grant that they earned with the assistance of the community in the State Farm Celebrate My Drive Campaign last winter.

Members of YAC had predetermined that the funds earned would be split evenly between the arts, athletics and technology with a 10 percent share being reserved for future safe driving efforts.

Any organization, staff member or department within the high school was eligible to apply for a grant from the group. The students

made the final decisions on the applications after careful consideration and consultation from local State Farm agent Deborah Wilks and adviser Chaye Klomprens.

"The purpose of our group is to develop leadership and better our school and community. By awarding these grants we were truly able to serve our purpose," said Klomprens.

Grants given in the area of technology include: funding for an AP biology trip to the Van Andel Institute, iPads and study applications for the foreign language department, software upgrades for the business department and

materials for the school's successful robotics team.

Money awarded to the arts will be used to fund the purchase of iPods, a large data projector and a marquee and information center to be located at the Performing Arts Center.

Athletics will be using their grants to purchase a timing system for the school's track and cross country teams and to make repairs and improvements to the weight room. The funds will also make possible the live broadcast of the school's athletic events through the NFHS School Broadcast program.

The funds kept to continue the YAC's mission

to promote safe driving will be used next fall according to Klomprens.

"We have already started planning for next year. During teen driver safety week next October we are looking to partner with State Farm, Lowell PD and other local businesses."

Student Zeth Dean says it has been very satisfying for the group to be able to give back and benefit the school but quickly acknowledged that the group did not accomplish the feat alone.

"In reality all the YAC did was initiate the competition in our community. While it did take serious effort from us,

the largest sum of the credit should go to the school and community for all of the help they gave us in committing to be safe drivers. Such a

task could not have been completed without a whole community's effort and for that we are very thankful."

## college news

Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design announced the dean's list for the semester that ended in December 2013. To be eligible for academic honors, the minimum requirements for full-time students each term are: 3.5 GPA and completion of 12 FSU credit hours or more of graded course work at the 100 level or higher. The minimum requirements for part-time students each term are: 3.5 GPA with completion of at least 12 accumulated FSU credit hours of graded course work at the 100 level or higher.

The following are local students: Ada: Charles Alm, Mitchell Bredberg, Chelsea Broekema, Emily Ciosek, Kristin Dunn, Nicholas Dziadosz, Cameron Eidenier, Michelle Facer, Stephanie Facer, Justin Hall, Anthony Hanson, Justin Holmes, Elizabeth Kaminski,

Daniel Mooney, Megan Moore, Casey Newberg, Derek Phelps, Rajeshree Sawant, Zachary Sturgeon, Scott Teliczan, Rebecca Thompson, Julia Todd, and Robert Van Dyke. Alto: April Beresford, Lauren Clements, Alexander Farhadi, Bethany Hesselink, Tyler Hoogterp, Alexandria McIntyre, Brandi Miller, Kristin Nagy, Janay Senneker, and Steven Sutherland: Lowell: Courtney Phenix, Megan Willemstein, Cassie Balfour, Sandra Bewell, Bailey Both, Devon Chopp, Devin DeCator, Kirstin Eickhoff, Bailee Emelander, Matthew Haan, Tracy James, Cassandra Koster, Abram McIntire, Mitchell Mcrae, Jodi Nederhoed, Hope Oudbier, Mark Preston, Kara Rasch, Daniel Ruland, Emily Schreur, Susan Sejat, Maxwell Stormzand, and Courtney Wierzbicki.



## along main street

### LAHM MEET THE AUTHOR

The Lowell Area Historical Museum (LAHM) and the Friends of the Englehardt Library will present a program by author Valerie Van Heest. She will tell the story of the "Fatal Crossing" of NWA 2501. The flight left LaGuardia airport en-route to Minneapolis, as it crossed Lake Michigan radio transmission was lost. All 53 persons aboard were lost, making this the worst commercial aviation disaster of its time in 1950. Learn firsthand the unfolding series of

events that reveals that the answers are sometimes found in unexpected places. Held at Lowell Township Hall, May 13, at 7:00 pm, light refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, please contact the museum at 897-7688. Free will donation at the door.

*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.*

## Arrest, continued

that's just a very small part of what we do. Child pornography investigations are a big part," Duke said. "This was actually our lead."

Homeland Security teamed up with a special police task force dedicated to discovering these crimes.

"We worked with ICAC, Michigan State Police's internet crimes against children task force," Duke said.

The investigators found Stiehl sharing videos of pre-teen boys on the internet.

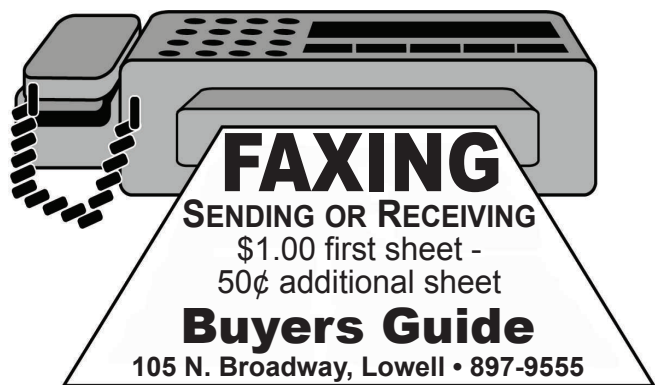
"We discovered that he was trading child pornography; that's what led to an investigation," Duke said.

Stiehl has no prior criminal history. He is being held on a \$250,000 bond.

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# City council, continued

of Electrical Workers (IBEW) instead of going to a “closed session” like they normally do. The council agreed and Howe presented a series of five pieces of correspondence between the city and the IBEW on various dates from April 4 to May 2, 2014. In one of the letters the IBEW listed the four areas of the rejected March 24 contract proposal that the IBEW wants to focus on: grievance procedure, non-bargaining unit personnel, subcontracting and fringe benefits. Howe said it’s the IBEW’s turn to make a contract proposal to the city.

Finally, Howe said the city will not pay for two employees, Todd Phillips and Ralph Brecken, to get “S2” and “F2” water treatment certifications, because Lowell’s water system does not legally require employees to have these certifications.

“It’s the manager’s responsibility to designate who would obtain which license,” Howe said.

“What would be the reason to get a

higher certification?” Councilperson Sharon Ellison asked. “Is there a pay rate difference, or just... I mean...”

“Status,” mayor Jim Hodges said.

“Yeah, why would you be motivated to do that? Is it financial, or just...,” Ellison said.

“I don’t know, I can’t tell you what other peoples’ motivations are,” Howe

said. “I can answer your question in terms of pay rate.”

“Money. Okay,” Ellison said.

Howe said that before the employees unionized the city had agreements with “specific employees” who got \$1/hour or \$.75/hour pay increases when getting new certifications. Howe said these agreements were the subject of an infamous Unfair Labor Practice charge against the city last year.

“It doesn’t seem right that because an employee’s making an additional wage, if they’re plowing streets the street fund should have to pay for that additional wage that is the result of a water certification,” Howe said. “We need to have a discussion about a long-term plan for staffing [water] treatment and distribution and part of that would be what is our back-up plan if one of our top certified

employees leave for some reason.”

The next city council

meeting will take place at city hall at 7 p.m. on May 19, 2014.



Kent District Library representative Carol Simpson.



Liz Baker from the Chamber of Commerce had Riverwalk Festival fireworks approved by the council.

## college news

Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design announced the graduation list for the semester that ended in December 2013. The following are local graduates, their degrees, majors and honors: Ada: Robert Esch, certificate, quality technology and Bachelor of Science, manufacturing engineering; Christina Gebott, Bachelor of Science, human resource; Natalie Hughes, Bachelor of Fine Arts, graphic design; Ian McRae, Bachelor of Fine Arts, sculpture/functional art and Rajeshee Sawant, Associate in Applied Science, health information, cum laude. Alto: April Beresford, Bachelor of Science, nursing, magna cum

laude; and Lauren Clements, Bachelor of Science, biotechnology, cum laude; Janay Senneker, Bachelor of Fine Arts, art education. Lowell: Cassie Balfour, Bachelor of Science, health care systems admin.; Jodi Nederhoed, Associate in

Applied Science, respiratory care, summa cum laude; Mark Preston, Bachelor of Science, BUAD with professional tracks, magna cum laude; and Renae Reed, Bachelor of Fine Arts, illustration.

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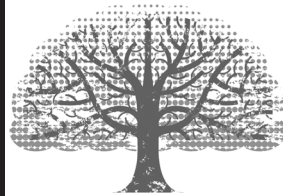
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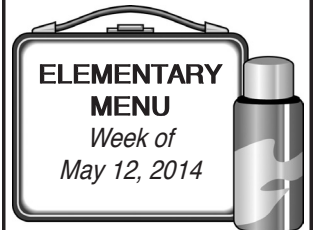
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**TUES:** Roasted turkey & gravy over noodles (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), hot dog on WG bun (served at Bushnell), seasoned green beans, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cucumber coins, applesauce, banana.

**WED:** WG pancake w/ scrambled eggs, hashbrowns, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, red pepper strips, peaches, applesauce.

**THURS:** Homemade macaroni & cheese w/WG dinner roll, seasoned broccoli, fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, fruit goop, sliced pears.

**FRI:** Homemade cheese pizza on WG crust, baby carrots (served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake), green pepper strips (served at Bushnell), fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, mandarin oranges, juice.



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## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### Be prepared for the changing "seasons" of your life

A few days ago, we observed May Day, a celebration of spring. And, after a long and hard winter in many parts of the country, most of us are ready for sunshine, warmer temperatures and the hopefulness that spring always symbolizes. But as winter gives way to spring, we are also reminded that our lives have "seasons," too — and it pays to be prepared for all of them. So, as you move into the "retirement season," you'll need to prepare for several possible challenges, including the following:

**Outliving your resources** — The idea of outliving one's financial resources is certainly not one we want to face. In fact, in a poll of people ages 44 to 75 sponsored by Allianz Life Insurance, 61 percent said they fear depleting their assets more than they fear dying. The best way you can overcome anxiety about running out of money is to invest and plan. Contribute as much as you can afford to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan — and when your salary goes up

over time, increase your contributions. As for the "plan" part, try to envision the type of lifestyle you want during retirement, and then estimate how much this lifestyle will cost. Once you reach retirement, you will also need to do some planning — specifically, you will need to calculate how much money you can afford to withdraw from your investments each year.

**Becoming disabled** — One-third of all people between the ages of 30 and 64 will become disabled at some point, according to the Health Insurance Association of America. If you became disabled, even temporarily, the loss of income could prove devastating to your financial security, and that of your family's. To avoid this worrisome scenario, you may want to consider disability insurance. If your employer offers this coverage as an employee benefit, take it — but don't assume it will be sufficient. Many times, an employer-sponsored disability policy will only cover a short-term disability and may have a long waiting period

for benefits to kick in. Consequently you may need to purchase your own disability insurance policy to supplement your employer's coverage.

**Requiring long-term care** — Unfortunately, many people eventually require some type of long-term care, whether that involves a stay in a nursing home or the assistance of a home health care aide. This type of care is expensive, and Medicare only covers part of it. Just how costly is long-term care? The national average for home health aide services is nearly \$45,000 per year, and a private room in a nursing home is nearly \$84,000 per year, according to a recent survey by Genworth, a financial security company. To meet long-term care costs, you could self-insure, but that might be prohibitively expensive. But failing to do anything about meeting long-term care costs could result in the need for your grown children or other family members to get involved in some fashion — and that is something you no doubt wish to avoid. Fortunately, you can find solutions. To learn about appropriate protection vehicles, consult with your financial advisor.

With some thoughtful planning, constant vigilance and timely action, you can meet all these challenges — and enjoy all the seasons of life in which you find yourself.



## At Your Local Library

### Navigating Kent County's Mental Health System -

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

#### Meet the Author -

Valerie van Heest, author of Fatal Crossing: The Mysterious Disappearance of NWA Flight 2501 and the Quest for Answers, written in conjunction with Clive Cussler, will talk about her book at the Lowell

Township Hall (2910 Alden Nash Rd.) Sponsored by the Friends of the Englehardt Library and the Lowell Area Historical Museum. For adults. Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 pm.

Recent tragic news events have brought national attention to the need to know how to navigate the mental health system, which can be difficult. Learn what services are available for mental health both at Pine Rest and within Kent County, discover what insurance companies typically pay for and how to seek emergency mental health care. Monday, May 19, 6:30 pm.

#### Beyblades -

Test your skills and have fun competing in KDL's Beyblade Battles! Bring your own Beyblades and arenas, or train and compete using the library's equipment. For ages six and older. Wednesday, May 28, 6:30 pm.

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# viewpoint

## to the editor

### buyer beware

To The Editor,

In 1960 the citizens of Lowell voted to become a city to hold down the cost of government and improve the service to the citizens. The following year taxes had increased 25 percent and they spent nearly three times as much to administer the city than when it was a village. Fast forward to 2014 and Lowell now has the second highest tax rate in Kent County with roads

twice the age of replacement and a general fund scraping the bottom of the barrel.

Recently the general fund had a surplus of \$136,000 but poor decisions recently have put the general fund scraping the bottom of the barrel. The city manager said that a two percent increase in property taxes might be in Lowell's future. All a two percent property tax increase would

do is benefit the council's excessive spending and is just a bunch of hogwash.

The median household income in the US has stagnated for the past thirty years while the cost of living has increased by leaps and bounds. The constituent have had to live with their loss and so should the city when it comes to the loss of property tax revenue. There should be no tax increase of any kind until Michigan's median household income shows a significant increase.

There shouldn't be any new projects and that

includes the DDA other than maintenance until the general fund is well-funded. The city council and the DDA have a spending problem when it comes to new projects, they can't stop.

The city has a new strategic plan and it's got dollar signs written all over it. Buyers beware; beware of what you buy into when it concerns the city council. Say no to any raise in taxes and no to any new projects other than maintenance.

Sincerely, Jim Howard  
Lowell

## outdoors



### camping

Dave Stegehuis

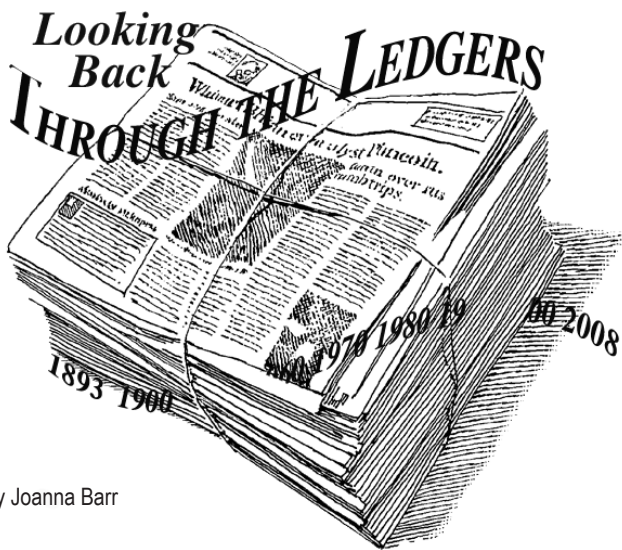
Traveling to new places can be time consuming and expensive. Fortunately, we who reside in Michigan don't have to go far to find fun and interesting destinations which are not far from, or even within, a state, federal, city, county, or private campground. The state, because it's made up of two peninsulas, has 3,200 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, as well as over six thousand significant inland lakes. Michigan state parks are almost always located on the Great Lakes or one of the inland lakes.

Besides the lure of fresh water, there are many special attractions and festivals all around the state. Check out the Pure Michigan website for dates and places. State, national and some extensive commercial forest areas are open for public recreation of all kinds.

Camping provides lodging at a reasonable cost and lots of fun while taking advantage of the vast recreational opportunities in our state. Camping can be basic and rustic or luxurious depending on your preference and pocketbook. Camping with a two person tent and cooking over an

open fire is a much different experience than sitting in a recliner and micro-waving a T.V. dinner in a fifth wheel trailer. To each his own. In between the back-pack tent and a large motorhome, there is a wide selection of equipment to meet the needs and budget of most would be campers. Some state parks have small cabins for rent which would be a good way to check out the camping experience before making a financial commitment for equipment. For many, the mini-cabins are the answer though the cabins are limited in number.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has an on-line reservation system which provides detailed information on parks and even campsites. Decide where you want to visit and pick a campground in the vicinity. The camping experience is a bonus to the original reason for visiting an area. Camping brings families closer together and people closer to other people. New and interesting associations are made around campfires. Share the summer with family and friends while camping out.



By Joanna Barr

### 125 years ago Lowell Journal May 8, 1889

Thermometers are on the rise – 82 degrees in the shade, Monday and 86 degrees yesterday.

Morgan & Smith's landlord is putting an elevator in their hardware store for them – a thing they have long been in need of.

O. W. Stone, who is now in the employ of the Kalamazoo Buggy Co. will return to Lowell soon to take a place with the Lowell Cutter Co.

N. P. Husted has finished his delivery of nursery stock for this season. His sales have been very large and the stock has given perfect satisfaction in nearly every way.

Everybody – well, almost everybody – goes trouting. A good number are having fine catches too. We have heard of one trout who caught an 18-inch trout in Spring Brook.

Wanted, by a lady of middle age with a child 4 years old, a situation with some well-to-do farmer's family, as house keeper or help. Address Mrs. V. E. Clark, Davis House, Lowell.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 7, 1914

Headline: Lee Dairy Barn burned Saturday night – 54 head of stock saved. The large and modern dairy barn on the Dr. S. S. Lee farm two miles northwest of this village was totally destroyed by fire Saturday about 7 p.m. together with fodder, ground fee, grain, etc. Loss about \$1,000, partially insured. The tenant Dave Walters and son-in-law Harry Strong had been

in the village after a load of hay and on their return discovered fire in the barn loft. They immediately set to work to save the stock, which was all housed there and removed 35 cows, 5 yearlings, 7 calves, 5 horses, a colt, and the Jersey bull. One sow was burned. The concrete also escaped with but little damage. The origin of the fire is a mystery. Temporary shed have been erected to afford summer shelter of the stock, until a new barn can be built. The Walters family had been cleaning house and a large part of their furniture, clothing, etc. had been placed in the barn and were burned. Their loss of course, is total.

The annual village cleanup is underway. About 260 loads of junk and rubbish have been gathered up and dumped along the high road near the upper Grand River bridge, to be covered with ashes and widen the driveway and the work on the West side is still under way.

Herm Raimer has been hauling junk to the village dump for the past week and we think it's a dirty shame the way the boys yell at him: "Herm, where are you moving?"

Chris Klahn, a former resident of Lowell, who has been living with a daughter in Elgin, Ill., for these past 18 years, has come to make his home with his daughter, Mrs. Mary Keeplin of South Lowell. He came to town Friday for the first time in five years and was much surprised and pleased to see the great improvement in the appearance of the village.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 11, 1939

The ruling of Harry F. Kelly, secretary of state, against his department issuing any more low number or so-called "trick license" plates means exactly what it says. The outlawing of trick plates is undoubtedly the most popular order with the public at large that has been made in many a day as the old system was costly to the state and caused endless confusion and brought many "headaches" to officials and citizens in general, alike.

Wheat stored on the farm, of the late E. C. Eckert near Freepport suddenly took on added value last Saturday. A truck from the Runciman Elevator, driven by Don Niles, had removed two loads from the bin and while putting on the third load came upon a can containing about \$400.00 which was promptly returned to its owner by Mr. Runciman. The money had doubtless been in its hiding place for several months. It's a good thing that barn didn't catch on fire.

Looking Back, continued, page 14

## 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](mailto: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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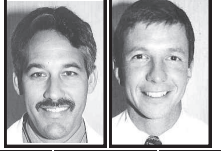


# Women's club supports wildlife center



Lowell Women's Club presented one of their yearly community donations to Lowell Farm and Wildlife Center. Pictured, left to right: Nancy Wood, Sjana Gordon, owner of Lowell Farm and Wildlife Center, and Lori Ingraham.

# health



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

## testosterone and heart disease

Two recently published studies have suggested that there may be a potential risk between the use of testosterone and heart attack or stroke in men.

The first study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association concluded that the absolute risk of stroke, heart attack and death increased by about six percent in men who were prescribed testosterone compared with those not on testosterone.

Another study published in January of this year found a doubling of risk of heart attack in men over the age of 65 within 90 days of starting a prescription for testosterone. Younger men

with heart disease starting testosterone also increased their risk, however risk was not increased in younger men without heart disease.

Prescriptions for testosterone replacement therapy have risen greatly over the past few years as there has been a fairly aggressive marketing campaign by pharmaceutical companies. Testosterone should only be prescribed to men who are truly testosterone deficient, as detected by blood tests and have symptoms.

It is important for you to discuss the safety and risks of testosterone therapy with your doctor, especially if you have a history of heart disease.

# business matters



Greenridge Realty announced that Todd Pearson received Sales Associate of the Month in April. This award recognizes Pearson for his outstanding success and achievements.

...  
**If you reveal your secrets to the wind you should not blame the wind for revealing them to the trees.**

~ Kahlil Gibran (1883 - 1931)

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Youth Ministry.....Mon. 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
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Dee Korb, Rebecca Boruta, Jim Lindhout, Eric Swift.

**MAY 8**  
Rhoda Greenman-Batt, Rhonda Timmers, Mary Mooney, F.J. Johnson Jr., Emily Milstead.

**MAY 11**  
Carol Briggs, Joel Uzarski, David Kaczanowski, Gary Hoag, Benjamin Hoag.

**MAY 9**  
Tasha Brand, Ashley Reinbold, Hillary Briggs, Eric Witherell, Bobbie Clouser, Amy VanDuinen.

**MAY 12**  
Michele Lindhout - Barber, Jessica Covell, Carrie Kicenski, Ian Duiven, Ryan Timmers, Christine Vickers.

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# Support dogs pampered during Bark for Life event

by Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

On Saturday, May 3, people in the Lowell and Ionia area gathered to celebrate the first annual Bark for Life event at the Tractor Supply in Ionia. An offshoot of Relay for Life, Bark for Life celebrates the dogs who provide care for cancer patients and raises money for the American Cancer Society.

Though joined by the bitter cold wind and some rain near the beginning of

the day, 75 people attended the event. Event coordinator Donna Cody thought more people were going to cancel.

“There were quite a few comments about the weather being horrible, but my response to that was, ‘So is cancer,’” Cody said. “We can’t control that any more than we can Mother Nature. We just make the best of it and keep going.”

Relay for Life events are only called off in the event of lightning or inclement

weather warnings. The Bark for Life event did wrap up a little bit early because of heavy winds, but not before the people present had a great time.

“There were a lot of positive comments and people looking forward to next year,” Cody said.

Perhaps the most powerful testament to the event is the fact that all of the dogs present seemed to get along.

Though the weather resulted in a smaller turnout than expected, the first time event raised \$3000 due to generous sponsors, teams, and participants.

Cody gave a speech in which she identified as a cancer survivor, feeling that she is less defined by her cancer than she is by simply being a “doggy mom.”

“I know first hand that my dogs Missy and Fritz went above and beyond as my caregivers,” Cody said. “They were by my side 24/7 providing constant, undemanding love.”

Because of two loving dogs, Cody knew that she was never alone and that is why she has dedicated herself to this event.

After the inaugural event in this region, Cody remains hopeful that she can bring a similar Bark for Life event to Lowell. Cody is an employee at Lowell’s own Lighthouse and many of the Ionia event sponsors were from Lowell, including Animal Hospital of Lowell, Grand River Veterinary Hospital and Hollywood Doggie Spa.



Deputy Sower with partner Dinar.



Ms. Peach at the doggie kissing booth.



## lend a hand

volunteering opportunities

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Monday, May 12 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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# Business



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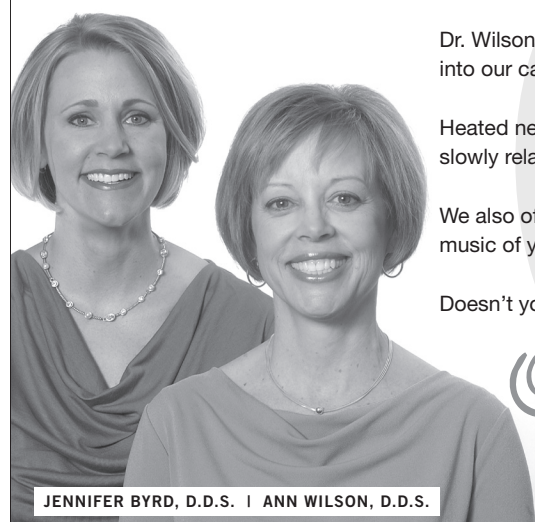
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# Area lacrosse players participate in memorial tourney



Lacrosse players from around Western Michigan came to Alto to play in the fourth annual Nick Aitchison Memorial Lacrosse Tournament on Sunday, May 4. Aitchison passed away seven years ago in a car accident, just before his 17th birthday. He was an avid lacrosse player and referee and volunteered with elementary students at the YMCA teaching them lacrosse.

In his memory, the Nick Aitchison Memorial

Lacrosse Foundation was created to sponsor youth and teens wanting to play lacrosse, but in need of financial support. The foundation also collects and provides used lacrosse equipment for players in need, all at no cost.

The event was held at the Polo Fields in Alto. Teams from Forest Hills Northern, Caledonia, Lowell and Catholic Central participated in this tournament.

# Ledger reporter survived the SNAP Challenge experience

by Justin Tiemeyer

When I was approached to take the SNAP Challenge from April 27 through May 3 and write about it for the Ledger, I accepted without a second thought. After all, I love a challenge. This particular challenge was sponsored by Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) and involved the people of Lowell limiting my household grocery budget to about \$30 per person (\$31.50, to be exact), the approximate amount of money a family in need receives under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). That meant that my fiancée Amy and I would only have \$60 to spend on groceries.

I thought about the article that my colleagues at the Lowell Ledger and FROM must have been expecting - a story about how it was nearly impossible to spend so little on food for a week and how we basically had to starve to accomplish our goal. After all, the goal of this challenge is to raise awareness about the difficult decisions the impoverished have to face.

It shocked me to find out that the SNAP Challenge was actually pretty easy.

I expect that anyone reading this article is currently thinking, "Wow. This guy is arrogant." In truth, I only found the challenge easy because the last five or ten years have humbled me. Right now, I'm living the dream - working full time at Litehouse with a paid writing gig with the Ledger on the side, but this was not always the case. For the majority of the last decade of my life, I'll admit that I've been living under either poverty or near poverty conditions. It is hard to talk about this without feeling like your dignity is being taken away, because

there is this strong stigma associated with poverty. At the end of the day, I realized that I was not the target audience of this challenge simply because I'd already experienced poverty and my awareness was already raised.

As a result of either being unemployed or underemployed, I learned how to make ends meet with very little money. I followed a job boom to New York City when I was 24. Between the huge cost of rent and the student loans that follow me to this day, I got by with two daily meals of a \$1 corner store pound cake and a \$1 Arizona iced tea. A year later when I followed even better job prospects to Texas, I was actually on food assistance. My brother put me up in his apartment, paying for rent and utilities and I made my food stamps stretch to cover the both of us.

An additional factor that made this challenge easy was the fact that my fiancée and I have cut meat, dairy, bread, soda, and a lot of processed foods out of our lives. Not only has this made us much healthier - at 31 I'm in the best shape I've ever been in, weighing less than I did when I was in fifth grade - but it has really helped our budget.

What was in our grocery cart this week? For starters, we bought a lot of potatoes. Depending on the type of potatoes and the sales, you can get anywhere between five and ten pounds of potatoes for under \$5. That alone is enough to feed two people for a week. We bought corn by the ear, a seasonal item, but very cheap when available and rounded it out with some bulk green beans. For breakfast and lunch we had peanut butter sandwiches. (I know I said that we cut out

bread, but sometimes it is actually more expensive to look for bread alternatives.)

Last week was easy in terms of spending very little on groceries, but there are some factors that could make it much more difficult.

The first factor is portioning. Many of the recipes that we use are ambiguous when it comes to the amount of servings involved. If you're living on a SNAP allowance, you can't just go out and buy a pizza when you've miscalculated the amount of food you need.

The second factor is our social lives. The challenge requires you to stay away from snacks and meals that weren't purchased at the grocery store with your \$30 per person, so if an old friend rolls into town and wants to meet me at Flat River Grill for dinner I have to say no. This is an important limitation to point out because it connects to the problem of dignity that is involved in living the impoverished life.

The third factor that makes things more difficult is that Amy is a fantastic cook from a family of fantastic cooks. If you doubt me, stop over to Ella's and order anything. The chef there - Ella - is my future sister-in-law and my fiancée makes the bread that the sandwiches are made on. If you had any idea the kind of food I get to enjoy when I get a bonus and can splurge on groceries, you would never want to eat anything else again.

Finally, Amy and I expect to have children in the next few years and I'm not so inexperienced at life that I think we could hold the same rigorous dining standards when a finicky child enters the picture.

Yes, the SNAP Challenge was less

challenging for me than it might have been for others. This article was supposed to talk about how difficult it would be to change your weekly grocery spending limit. While I was not able to write the article expected of me, I think there might be another lesson of worth to this experience.

Because of a variety of things such as debt, excessive health care costs, the lack of a living wage, and falling on rough times, more people than you could imagine are falling into poverty and living on \$30 or less a week. These people live in your community, their kids go to school with your kids and many even occupy temporary or entry-level jobs at your own workplace.

In addition to this lesson there is also a lesson here about the precariousness of

security. I mentioned that if I misjudged how long my groceries would last, I might not get to eat for a day or two. On a larger scale we see that many of these impoverished families who have to use SNAP benefits had no problem paying for their own groceries, but that all changed when a corporation took away the customers from their mom and pop shop or someone in the family contracted a curable disease that resulted in enormous medical costs.

Some people think something like the SNAP Challenge is meant to get you to feel guilty for your excesses when there are those among us who have very little. I look at it from a different perspective. The SNAP Challenge was easy for me because I was humbled by years of struggle, but I wouldn't

wish that on anyone. People should take part in events like this because maybe they can be humbled without the need to hit rock bottom. Maybe we can learn to survive on less and give what we have left to those with next to nothing.

I completed the one-week SNAP Challenge, having spent exactly \$60 for food for Amy and I. We just got back from the grocery store and another unexpected story emerged. After packing our cart full of some delicious vegetables and adding in a couple of personal care items (which are not very cheap themselves) our total came to \$30. That's \$15 per person.

My final lesson: Whatever we have done in the past, we can always do better.

## Progress and more work to do on Pentagon reforms



Sen. Carl Levin

There is more pressure than ever on the defense budget, but no shortage of challenges to our national security. So making smart use of scarce dollars is essential. That's why in late April, I chaired a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing to assess the impact of the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 and other acquisition reform measures adopted over the last decade, and to learn what new steps we can take to rein in Pentagon weapons costs.

Six years ago, we held a similar hearing at a time of real crisis. In 2008, the Government Accountability Office

assessed the progress of 72 major weapons systems. Disturbingly, half of those programs had exceeded cost growth standards that Congress established to identify seriously troubled programs. These programs had exceeded their research and development budgets by an average of 40 percent and experienced an average schedule delay of almost two years.

The problem was that the Defense Department was trying to build complex weapon systems without doing the up-front engineering, design and cost estimating work needed to put an acquisition program on sound footing. We

learned that as general rule, it can cost ten times more to fix a problem after you have built a weapon system than it does to get it right the first time.

The Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act, which Sen. John McCain and I introduced in early 2009, and which was enacted several months later, focused on getting things right at the beginning of an acquisition program. It set new standards to require that the Pentagon make sure key technologies were ready before they were incorporated into weapons systems; set up a new office in the Pentagon responsible for making reliable cost estimates; and took steps to establish the skills and procedures necessary to solve tough problems on the drawing board, before



# More fans than ever at Rookies' Free Comic Book Day

by Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

For years, Free Comic Book Day (FCBD) was celebrated in obscurity as a geek holiday of the highest order. In the last few years, with the increasingly popularity of geek culture due to popular TV shows like Big Bang Theory and the like, FCBD has made an impact on the greater culture of America. The summer movie blockbuster season used to begin without fail, on Memorial Day weekend, but with the advent of the first Iron Man in 2008 it now begins weeks earlier during FCBD weekend.

The people of Lowell have a special advantage

when it comes to FCBD, because it is said that the celebration held by Jack Reedy at Rookies Sportscards Plus is the biggest in the area. Anyone walking or driving down Main Street this Saturday, May 3, could see the party outside of Rookies, which has been described as a miniature comic book convention.

Reedy was concerned about the weather this year. Though it did drizzle in the morning, it was dry for the rest of the day. The wind was the true obstacle to a successful FCBD, but it was

not much of an adversary. Of the 13 years that Rookies has done FCBD, this year's was still the most highly attended despite the wind.

The good news for customers was that more people than ever were able to pick up free comic books. The good news for Reedy was that FCBD 2014 was the biggest sales day in Rookies' history.

"Smiling faces all day and great sales make for an awesome day," Reedy said.

In many ways, the customer base at Rookies is one big family. Reedy noted

that many customers arrived early to help set up the tents and others stayed late to cleanup. One customer named Brian Allchin even brought his wedding party to the Rookies FCBD celebration for wedding photos.

In addition to free comics, there were ten artists and craft persons present with interesting comic book merchandise and sketches for children. Children (and adults) could also pose with some of their favorite heroes and villains, including Spider-Man, Wolverine, Thor, Deadpool, Batgirl, Supergirl, Catwoman and Harley Quinn. Gaming demos were complicated by the winds, but they took place nonetheless.

If this year is anything like previous years, then Reedy is likely already

putting together plans for next year's FCBD. Which artists are going to show up? How much is Reedy going to mark down the prices

on his merchandise? If this were a comic book, its last page might read, To be continued...



Spider-Man (Tim Bem) with a young fan.



Captain America (Jack Reedy) with Thor (Josh Blanding) mug for visitors.



Wolverine (Matt Roth) and a fan.



Rookies was crowded inside and outside on Free Comic Book Day.



# Red Arrow SPORTS

## Red Arrows beat the Fighting Scots 4-3

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Garrett Gordon finished off a ten-inning game against the Caledonia Fighting Scots with a solo home run ending the game 4-3 in the Arrows' favor in front of a home crowd at Cherry Creek field last Wednesday.

Two quick and scoreless innings passed before Zach Gordon hit a double, Parker Groom earned a walk and fielding errors on behalf of Caledonia allowed a shallow hit into left field

by Kyler Shurlow to bring in both base runners in the third giving the Arrows a 2-0 lead.

Jeff Houston did good work in the fourth hitting a solo and then stealing his way to third, but was left stranded when the Arrows failed to capitalize on their turn at bat.

The Scots scored a single run in the fifth off of an error by Garrett Gordon. The Arrow squad answered quickly in the bottom of the

inning when another Scots' fielding error off a ball hit by Shurlow allowed a run moving the score to 3-1.

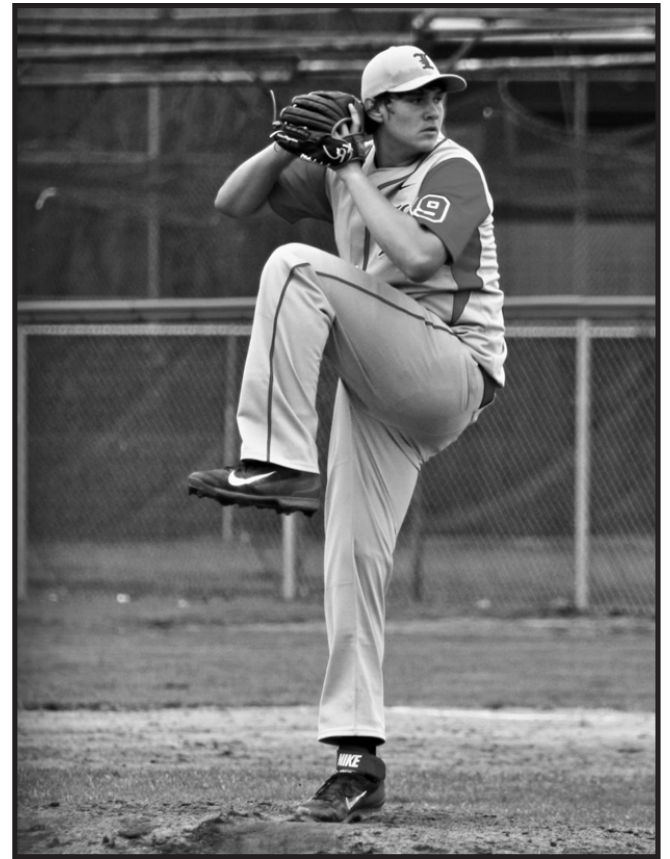
Despite a lot of base action the Arrows went scoreless in the sixth and seventh. The Scots on the other hand, managed to bring in two in the seventh off of a series of successful singles that loaded the bases tying up the game at three and pushing the game into extra innings. Pitcher Jarrod Melle, who had handled the

mound impressively to that point pitching seven innings, earning seven strikeouts and allowing only one run, was replaced by Matt Milstead for the extra inning play.

Quick at bats for both teams in the eighth and no score from the Scots at the top of the ninth left the door open for the Arrows who did produce a run that was quickly celebrated but not earned, because batter Zach Gordon was called out at the plate. "Zach was ruled out of the box when he made contact with the ball on the suicide squeeze play. Therefore he is called out and the runner goes back to third," explained coach Juston Miller.

The team's false celebration was soon followed by the real deal when a walk off home run by Garrett Gordon earned the men a 4-3 victory over Caledonia. The club went on to face Caledonia again on Friday where they secured an 8-4 victory improving their league record to 6-2 and went 1-1 against Grand Haven in non-league play over the weekend.

Miller had this to say about the club's success, "This [is] an athletic group



Pitcher Jarrod Melle winds up for the pitch during the game's second inning where he quickly shut down the Caledonia batters.

that is a lot of fun to coach because they all enjoy being with each other. They like to have fun and learning the game is fun to them. This is a credit to all the seniors in the way they have all chosen to lead this team."

This week the successful varsity squad will take on Grand Rapids Christian, Forest Hills Eastern and Rogers High School in a total of five games and will begin a series with Jenison High School next week.



Players gather around coach Juston Miller during the final moments of the nail-biting ten-inning game.

## Levin, continued

they become bigger, more expensive problems.

There is now evidence that our 2009 legislation has brought about significant improvements.

GAO's 2014 report found that in the previous year 50 of the 80 major weapons programs had reduced their overall costs, and 64 percent had increased their buying power, resulting in \$23 billion in savings. In short, WSARA and other reform efforts in Congress and at the Pentagon have resulted in significant cost reductions on many of our major acquisition programs, a result that was rarely achieved five or six years ago.

Nonetheless, more remains to be done. For example, GAO has found that despite the improvements of the last five years, the Defense Department has yet to fully implement a number of best practices, such as

making sure technologies are fully mature before using them, and bringing all manufacturing processes under control before starting production. And its track record in the acquisition of new computer systems remains abysmal, with repeated examples of systems that take years longer than expected to field, run hundreds of millions of dollars over budget, and end up cancelled without any benefit at all to the government.

That is why I recently joined Sen. McCain in sending letters (in our capacity as chairman and ranking member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations) to several dozen acquisition experts, seeking their views on deficiencies in the defense acquisition process, steps that should be taken to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of this process, and the extent to which

recent legislative and policy reforms may have resulted in improvements. And it is why Sen. James Inhofe, the ranking Republican member of the Armed Services Committee, and I recently joined with our counterparts on the House Armed Services Committee in writing to industry associations, seeking their views on a similar set of issues.

Making smarter, more efficient use of our defense dollars is essential if we're to give our men and women in uniform the best, most effective equipment. It's key to protecting our national security against the varied threats we face. And it's just plain fair to hard-working taxpayers. Though we've had significant success in reforming Pentagon buying practices, we'll keep working on ways to reduce costs and increase value for taxpayers and our troops.

## - TENNIS

### Last home match of the season for girls

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

Lowell's tennis team earned a 5-3 victory over Jenison on May 5 in the last home matches of the season.

The Red Arrows dominated in doubles action with the teams of: Maddie Willemstien and Danielle Fron, Elena Bishop and Rachel Fox, Megan Hofman and Paige McKenna and Rebecca Weaver and Jessica Steiner each winning their respective matches by [a] large margin.

Players Ines Dominquez Gonzalez, Emma McLane and Hailey Stasiak were not able to produce wins in singles competition but senior Amanda Susnak grabbed two sets at 6-1.

"We've had a pretty successful season overall. In the extremely tough conference we are in, we were able to beat Jenison and tie Caledonia. We've had a lot of success in non conference matches and also took first place in our Lowell Invitational," said coach Chris Phillips.

The team will be bidding farewell to four graduates this season according to Phillips. "They're a great group of girls and it will be tough to fill in their positions next year."



Senior Amanda Susnak played solidly defeating her Jenison opponent.



# Red Arrow SPORTS

- TRACK

## Lady Arrows tough it out against Jenison

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

The ladies of the varsity track and field team faced a tough opponent in Jenison last week at the Red Arrow Memorial Stadium where despite their best efforts they were unable to secure a win.

According to coach Robin Briggs it has been a difficult season for the Arrow runners.

"It has been a rough season for us; our conference is very tough. There are many top athletes in the region in our conference. Everyone is improving as the season progresses. Which is what I like to see. However, our scores are not reflecting that."

The evening meet with Jenison was the team's last scheduled home event for the year. Seniors and four-year track team participants:

Rachael Walters, Jessica Graves and Colleen Lally were recognized at the beginning of the meet which was a shut out victory for the Wildcats of Jenison.

Coach Briggs had kind words for her outgoing seniors, "It has been a pleasure to watch them grow into such wonderful mature young women. Rachael and Jessica have been team captains for the last three years. They have shown wonderful leadership and work ethic and set a great example for the team."

The team was able to rally back from their loss over the weekend when they participated in the Hopkins Invitational against seven area schools and claimed a successful second-place finish.

Some of the squads top finishers included Alon

Watson who placed second in the 100 and 200 meters as well as the 4x100 Relay with running partners Callie Ford-Weber, Lauren Dehaan and Sena Faass.

The team also placed well in the 4x200, 4x400 and 4x800 relays placing within the top three for each. Senior Rachel Walters took first place in the 800 meters clocking a time of 2:26:52. Distance runner Mekare Elliot placed fourth in the 1600 meters and fifth in the 3200.

On the infield Ally Fredrickson, Dehaan and Kyla Dixon dominated the high jump taking first, second and fourth place respectively. Walters claimed first place in the long jump with Fredrickson grabbing third and Dixon placed fifth in the pole vault.



- SOCCER

## Girls lose one to Wildcats at home

by Kathryn Atwood  
contributing reporter

The girls' soccer team fell to Jenison in a shut out game in front of a home crowd at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium on May 5 bringing their season record to 4-5.

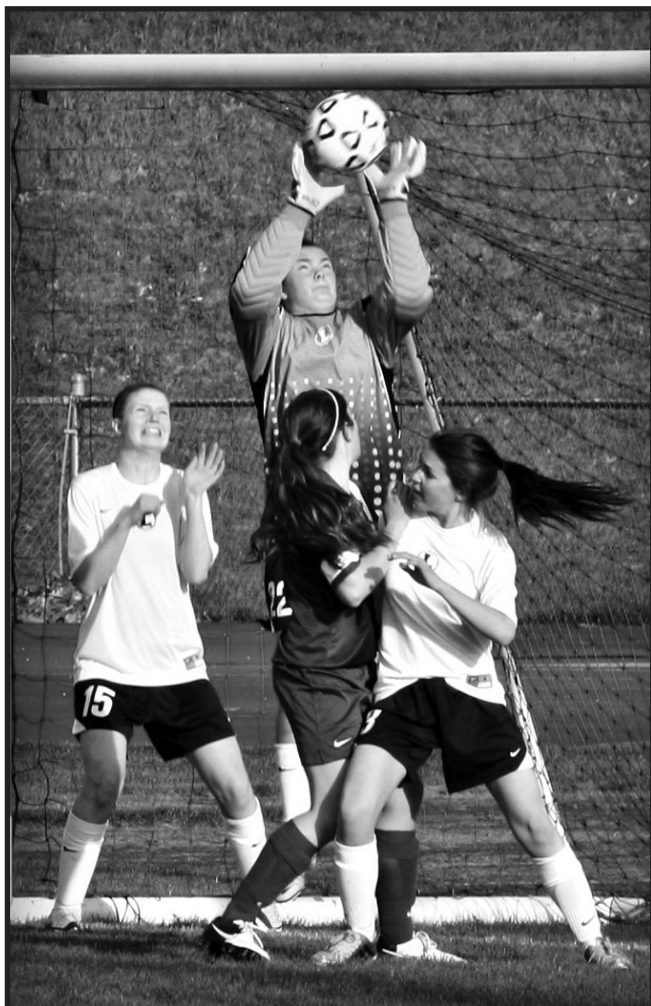
The Wildcats were able to score two goals in the first period of the game just barely getting by solid Arrow goalie Bridget Garter who was in the net the entire game. Though she did let two by Garter faced and

defeated countless shots on goal.

Unable to answer to the quick scores by Jenison the period ended with a 0-2 deficit for the Lady Arrows. Despite the team's best efforts and a lot of

hustle, especially from Hannah Fitzpatrick, Lauren Blanchard and Darby Fuller, Lowell was unable to kick one in and the game ended without additional scoring from either bench.

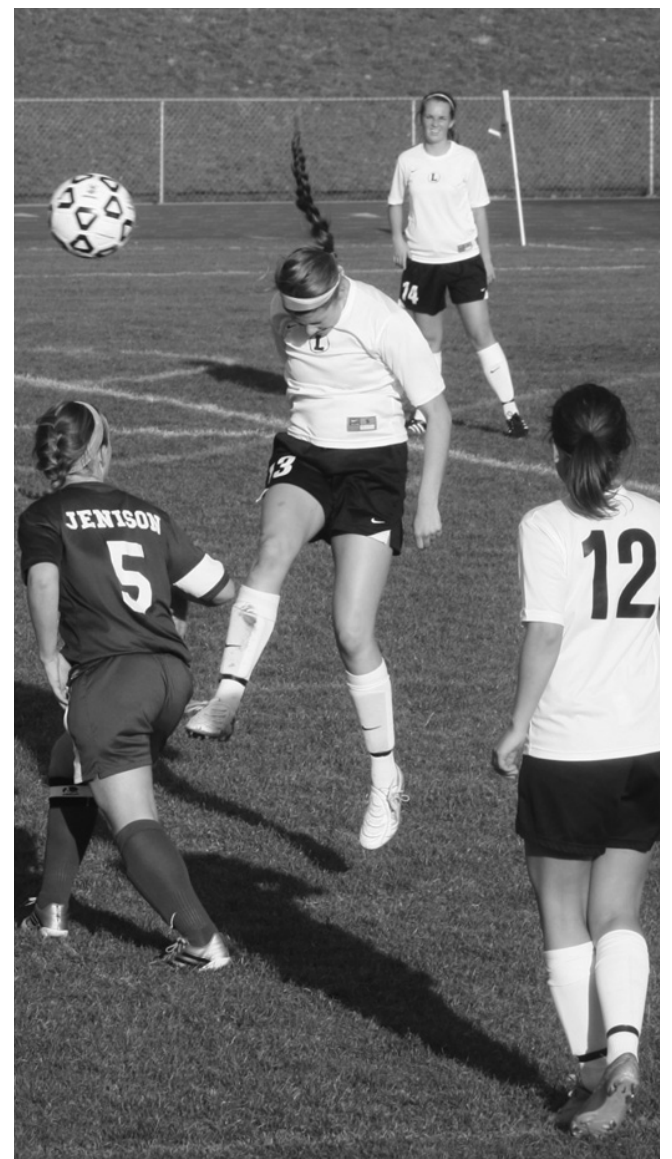
The ladies will face East Grand Rapids and Forest Hills Central this week at home and will take on Forest Hills Eastern on the road.



Excellent performer, goalie Bridget Garter goes high for the save against the Wildcats.



Amber Curtis battles for the ball during the second period of the losing game against the Wildcats.



Senior Lauren Blanchard delivers a header during one of her final games on the Red Arrow field.

### What's Your Sport?

Keep Caught Up On All The Lowell High School's Sports Action In

the lowell ledger





# obituaries

## LEASURE

### Leasure – Dorothy Leasure Teesdale

Teesdale, Mrs. Dorothy, age 83 of Lowell, died on May 4, 2014. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Sadie Fox, husbands, Robert Leasure, Gerald Steinfort, and Bill Teesdale, and daughter, Martha Louise Leasure. Surviving are her children, Frank (Laura) Leasure, Scott (Jocelyn) Leasure, Joan (Terry) Cheeseman, Ann (John) Teesdale, Sally Lowe, Scott (Debra) Teesdale; grandchildren, Teresa (Lyle) Goldner, Patti Leasure, Mary Leasure, Angela (Wayne) Baatz, Jeremy Smith, Mike (Kelly) Smith, Tony Leasure, Jacob Leasure, Scott Zukowski, Nathan Zukowski, Lindsey Lowe, Greg Lowe, Andrew Lowe, Sarah Teesdale, Ian Teesdale; 4 great grandchildren, Elisabeth, Logan, Jack and Celes; her brother, Edgar (Christine) Fox; many nieces and nephews. Dorothy was very active with Senior Neighbors, Audubon Club, National Parks Conservation Association, Lowell Arts, YMCA, the Neuropathy Association, St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, American Red Cross, Michigan Blood, Warm Up America Program. She graduated from Bishop Clarkson School of Nursing, Omaha NE in 1951 and from St. Joseph's College with a degree in Health Care Administration in 1984. Dorothy worked at Booth Hospital for 7 years, then Blodgett Hospital for 18 years, during which time she was the head of Labor and Delivery, and designed the first birthing rooms in the Grand Rapids area. Together with her first husband, Robert Leasure, she ran Timberline Kennels in Lowell. She trained hunting dogs and showed them in Field Trials. With Bill Teesdale, she visited 53 National Parks and all of the United States including Hawaii. She loved hunting and fishing, knitting, crocheting, bird watching, watching the Pittsburgh Steelers and University of Michigan football teams, as well as the White Caps and Detroit Tigers. The Requiem Mass will be celebrated 11:00 a.m. Saturday at St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, 2560 Lake Michigan Dr. NW, Grand Rapids MI 49504. Father Richard Bowyer celebrant. Visitation will be 6-8:00 p.m. Wednesday and 2-4:00 and 6-8:00 p.m. Thursday at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell and one hour prior to the funeral at the church on Saturday. Memorials may be made to Senior Neighbors, 820 Monroe Ave NW #460, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church.



# Different benefits for your family's different situations

Social Security has your entire family in mind when it comes to coverage and benefits. We're here to help everyone in the family—during every stage of life.

Most people think of retirement benefits when they think about Social Security, and that certainly is a big part of what we do. In fact, most of the benefits we pay go to retirees and their families—about 41 million people, but Social Security is more than retirement.

If you work and pay Social Security taxes during your lifetime, you can look forward to a strong foundation of income in retirement from Social Security. Of course, Social Security was never intended to be your sole source of retirement income but a foundation upon which you build with pensions, savings, and other income.

For those that become disabled before reaching retirement age, Social

Security has you covered with disability benefits. If you have a disability that is expected to last a year or longer, or result in death, you should apply for disability benefits.

Your work and taxes cover not only you, but your entire family. Family benefits can include retirement, disability and, in the event of your death, survivors benefits. This coverage includes everyone in your family who depends on you for support, such as your minor children who are under age 18, or age 19 if still in secondary school, as well as your spouse. It also can include older children who have severe disabilities that began before age 22.

If you want to learn more about how Social Security benefits the younger members of your family, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/youngpeople](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/youngpeople). This page has information for you even if you don't have children and are a young worker yourself.

Want to learn more? Read or listen to the publication, *Understanding the Benefits*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

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](mailto:vantil@ssa.gov)

*A Celebration of Life*  
for **DAN HARNISH**  
**WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, MAY 10**  
at Fallsburg Park, lower level

12:00NOON - 1:00PM Celebration Ride for those able to participate  
1:15PM - 2:00PM Memorial Service  
2:00 - 4:00 PM Food, Fun & Sharing of Memories in Dan's honor

Please plan to join his family

## LEGAL NOTICES

**STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Decedent's Estate

**FILE NO. 14-195,454-DE**

Estate of **JAKOBA BYL** aka **KOBY BYL**  
date of birth: **September 12, 1925**

**TO ALL CREDITORS:**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, **JAKOBA BYL** aka **KOBY BYL**, died **March 30, 2014**.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **S. PAUL BYL**, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue, NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

May 2, 2014

Jay E. Burrows PLC  
Jay E. Burrows (P26709)  
191 N. Michigan Ave  
Shelby, MI 49455  
231-861-2183

S. Paul Byl  
9941 W. Buchanan Rd.  
Shelby, MI 49455  
231-861-5911

**STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Decedent's Estate

**FILE NO. 14-195,449-DE**

Estate of **VIRGINIA COMEAU**  
Date of birth: **1-7-1928**

**TO ALL CREDITORS:**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, **VIRGINIA COMEAU**, died **1-25-2014**.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Cynthia K. Skrobot** and **Barbara A. Grypma**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue, NW, Suite 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

May 1, 2014

John D. Mitus (P31244)  
410 Bridge Street NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504  
616-774-4001

Cynthia K. Skrobot  
3412 Stonehollow Ln, SW  
Wyoming, MI 49519

Barbara A. Grypma  
1421 Elderwood Ct, NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49544

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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7	3	4	6	8	2	1	9	5
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**office hours:**  
**Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.**  
**Fri. 8 a.m. - noon**  
**closed Sat. & Sun.**

# classifieds

## for sale

**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.

**ACHIEVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE** - with a Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace from Central Boiler. 25 year warranty. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

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

**FREE AD!** - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555.

**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.

**FISH FOR STOCKING** - Most varieties pond lakes. Laggis' Fish Farm, 269-628-2056 days or 269-624-6215 eves.

**POTTED BLUE SPRUCE** - \$10 and up. 616-761-7588.

**2001 COACHMEN TRAVEL TRAILER** - 25 ft w/expando, good condition. Call 897-9041.

**LEDGER OFFICE**  
 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.  
 Phone 897-9261  
 Fax 897-4809  
 www.lowellledger.com

## help wanted

**NOW HIRING** - and training for career positions with West Michigan's leading real estate company. Call Rick Seese, Greenridge Realty, Inc. for a confidential interview. 616-437-2576 or 616-974-4250.

**DRIVERS** - Need home time, miles? Dedicated, home weekly! GR, MI to KC, MO. CDL-A, 6 mos. OTR. MTS: 800-305-7223.

**VITALE'S OF ADA IS HIRING** - Vitale's of Ada is looking for a few good people. All applicants should stop in at 400 Ada Dr., near the intersection of Fulton & Ada Dr. Currently hiring pizza makers & drivers. Full & part-time positions are available. Please no phone calls. Hiring immediately!

**DRIVERS: ATTN. CDL-A** - company drivers & owner operators. Teams & singles. Dedicated lanes. \$1,000 sign-on bonus for O/O. Fuel discount. Safety bonus program. Excellent fuel surcharge. 6 months verifiable exp. Call 800-599-0087.

## wanted

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

**CASH PAID** - walnut trees. Call Bob Sayers, 616-527-4142, Ionia.

**SINGLE PERSON** - non-smoker, no pets looking for small 1-2 bedroom house to rent in the Ada, Cannonsburg, Lowell or Saranac area. Please call 231-360-5825.

## misc.

**SNOW UNIT-ED METHODIST CHURCH** - at 3189 Snow Ave. SE will serve a family style Roast Pork dinner on Wednesday May 14, at 5:30 p.m. Adults are \$10.00 and Children 6 - 12 are \$4, and children 5 & under are free. Take-out dinners also available.

## sales

**ESTATE SALE** - Fri. & Sat., May 8 & 9, 9-5 p.m. 153 S. Pleasant, Lowell.

**HUGE 3 FAMILY YARD SALE** - Lots of boys teen clothes, girls 5T-size 12, toys & other fun stuff. Household & "manly treasures" as well. May 9 & 10, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 311 North St. (off of Monroe by the Showboat).

## sales

**GARAGE-MOVING SALE** - May 10, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. 3329 Bloomington Hills SE, Ada. Furniture, baby stuff, antiques, tools, Christmas decor, lots more!

**YARD SALE** - 722 N. Jefferson, May 9 & 10, 9-4 p.m. 30 years of stuff. Furniture, books, old magazines, household items.

**SPRING INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE** - Help! We have too many items! You can save BIG with the "Goldstar Outdoors 2 Inventory Reduction Sale" Mon., May 5 - Sat., May 17. Goldstar Outdoors 2 - 12208 S. State Rd., Lake Odessa 616-374-8001.

## for rent

**WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW** - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. In the sale or rental of housing or residential lots; in the advertising the sale or rental of housing, in the financing of housing, in the provision of real estate brokerage services and in the appraisal of housing. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

**WATERFRONT GETAWAY** - Spring fishing. Book now or for later. Choose from 3 cottages. Ron, 616-644-9414. sites.google.com/site/lostlakecottages

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

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

**UPS SHIPPING FEDEX PICKUP COPY SERVICE, (black & white & color!) FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING & MUCH MORE AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER BUYERS GUIDE 105 N. Broadway HOURS M-Th. 8-5 p.m. Fri. 8-noon Closed Sat. & Sun. Ph. 897-9261 Fax 897-4809**

## services

**JIM'S POWER WASHING** - Dirt, spores, mildew washed away. Call today, 616-915-1745.

**CUT & CLEAR YARD IMPROVEMENT** - Clean up the look of your home or business. We can remove any small, unwanted trees, brush, leaves, etc. Call for your free estimate, 616-608-2126.

**30 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN FLAT WORK** - Basements, driveways, garages, patios, sidewalks & pole barns. Free estimates. Call Marcus, 616-438-4061 or Jim, 616-874-9424.

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

## services

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

**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.**

## services

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

**CHIMNEY CLEANING & REPAIR** - All chimney repairs, relining & inspections. Over 35 years experience. State licensed. 616-642-9532.

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

**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.

# 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.

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

**KLASS W/KERRI** - Thurs., May 8, 2 p.m. Topic is e-readers at Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main St., Clarksville, 616-642-6100.

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

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

**LOWELL ROTARY CLUB** - meets each Wednesday at noon at Lowell City Hall. New members welcome.

**COOKIES, COFFEE & CONVERSATION** - Wed., May 28, 6:30 p.m. at the Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main St., Clarksville, 616-642-6100.

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

**CARVING CLUB** - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at LowellArts! New members welcomed. Call for information, 616-752-0096.

**TODDLER THURSDAY** - Every Thursday 11-11:30 a.m. Stories, songs, rhymes & learning. Ages 18 mo. - 36 mo. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

**KID CRAFT SATURDAY** - Third Saturday of each month. Drop in anytime between 9 a.m. - noon. Make a craft & take it home. All ages are welcome. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

**NEW STORY TIME AT FROM** - first Wed. of every month, 6-7 p.m. at FROM, 11535 E. Fulton, Lowell.

**LEGOS AT THE LIBRARY** - For youth ages 5-11. Second Sat. of each month, 10 a.m. - noon. Bring your imagination & be ready to build. Legos provided. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding, 616-794-1450.

**LEGODAYS** - first Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. - noon. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

**STORYTIME** - Wednesdays, 11 a.m., children 0-18 mos.; Fridays, 10 a.m., children 18-36 mos.; Fridays, 11 a.m., children 3-5 years. Books, rhymes, songs & crafts at Alvah N Belding Library, 302 E. Main St., Belding, 616-794-1450. www.belding.michlibrary.org

**WHITES BRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** - Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Lowell Chamber of Commerce office at 6:30 p.m. Public is invited to join our group as we plan to raise funds to restore Whites Covered Bridge. For additional information www.WhitesBridgeHistoricalSociety@gmail.com or 616-437-1927.

**MICHIGAN BLOOD BLOOD DRIVE** - every second Monday, noon - 7 p.m. Kent County Fairgrounds, King Memorial Youth Center. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are recommended. 1-866-MIBLOOD, www.miblood.org

**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.

**GRIEF - ADULT GROUP** - Tuesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. A committed group for adults who have experienced the death of a family member or friend. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

**GRIEF - NEW MEMBER MEETING** - Call the Clubhouse to schedule your introductory meeting for grief support groups. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

**KIDS TALK** - Tuesdays 6 - 7:15 p.m. A group for children in elementary school on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum based activities, discussion & playtime. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

**KNITTING** - Tuesdays 6 - 7:15 p.m. Cathie Richter will be here to offer an instructional knitting class. Bring your projects & come & knit together. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

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

**SUPPER TOGETHER** - Tuesdays 5:30 - 6 p.m. Join in a meal together before groups begin. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

**FLAT RIVER CLEANUP** - Sat., May 17, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Join us in cleaning up the river for the new season! Kayak/canoes provided if needed. Lunch for volunteers afterward. Music provided during lunch. Meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the site of Whites Bridge, north side. Email or call for details, www.WhitesBridgeHistoricalSociety@gmail.com or 616-437-1927.

**BEYBLADES** - Wed., May 28, 6:30 p.m. Test your skills & have fun competing in KDL's Beyblade Battles! Bring your own or train & compete using the library's equipment. For ages 6 & older at Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Ph. 784-2007.

**NAVIGATING KENT COUNTY'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM** - Mon., May 19, 6:30 p.m. Learn what services are available for mental health both at Pine Rest & within Kent County. Discover what insurance companies typically pay for & how to seek emergency mental health care - Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Ph. 784-2007.





by Justin Tiemeyer

Spider-man fans are having one of the best weeks of their lives. In the comic book world, Peter Parker just returned in Amazing Spider-man #1 from one of the most incredible and influential hiatuses of all

time. (If you don't know what this means, hit up your local comic shop - they'll be happy to clue you in.) In the world of film and cinema, Amazing Spider-man 2 opened this weekend to excited crowds.

## Amazing Spider-man 2 balances comedy and tragedy

Amazing Spider-man 2 pairs Spider-man / Peter Parker (Andrew Garfield) up against a shocking villain called Electro (Jamie Foxx) who gained his powers by falling into a vat of electric eels. While this is the primary challenge of the film, the real drama comes from Parker's relationship with on-again off-again girlfriend Gwen Stacy (Emma Stone), childhood friend Harry Osborn (Dane DeHaan) and the secrets that lead to his parents' death years and years ago.

If the Amazing Spider-man series of films can be described as anything, the best adjective would be "refreshing." Because of a

combination of computer graphics, casting, costumes, and voice acting, Spider-man has never been more likeable. He's a flexible superhero swinging through the air and cracking jokes in order to cover up how overwhelming being a superhero can be. In addition, Jamie Foxx portrays Max Dillon / Electro as a goofy '60s sci-fi character and it comes off much more seamlessly than similar attempts in the past like the 1997 film Batman in Robin which is only remembered for Arnold Schwarzenegger's "ice" puns.

Unfortunately, the sequel suffers from some

of the same problems that the original faced. The pacing in both were pretty bad, turning the character building at the beginning of the film into boring melodrama at times. Sally Field delivers perhaps the most uninspired portrayal of Aunt May in any medium, which would be forgivable if the character wasn't Peter Parker's one remaining tether to his family.

When the pros and cons are added up, Amazing Spider-man comes out as a flawed but fun film that tackles one of the most challenging storylines in comic book history. Though fans will likely laud the first two Sam Raimi Spider-man

films and feel frustrated with the Amazing films, there is something to be said about a film that can balance light-hearted comedy and the depths of darkness. That's who Peter Parker / Spider-man is - a wise-cracking superhero with a life full of tragedy - and that is what Amazing Spider-man 2 delivers.

Amazing Spider-man 2 is fun for the whole family. Parents should be warned, however, that the film deals with the difficult subject of death. If that is something you're not ready to have your child dealing with just yet, maybe hold off on Amazing Spider-man 2.

## Looking Back, continued

Lowell's municipal forest was augmented this week with the planting of 3,000 pine seedlings under the direction of John Kleinheksel, agricultural instructor at the high school and the F. F. A. boys of his department. The job was well done and those taking part in the undertaking are to be commended for their enterprise. The municipal forest, which was started here eight or nine years ago, now contains approximately 20,000 trees. County agent K. K. Vining hopes to be able to secure 2,000 more trees this spring although this may not be possible as this year's supply is growing thin.

Balmy spring air was the cause of two broken legs for Mrs. Nellie Shugar of Ecorse. While driving with her husband, she complained of the heat and opened the car door to let in cool air. It was then that she fell out of the car and was injured.

### 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 7, 1964

Reith-Riley Construction Company have moved a blacktop plant into the Pickett & Schreur Gravel pit on Bowes Road. The company has a contract to rebuild 1.3 miles of M-21 through Ionia. They expect to be in operation here for about three weeks.

No trash cans or garbage cans will be permitted in

the street right-of-way, except on the day of pick-up, was the ruling of the city council Monday night. Many citizens have objected to the appearance of the town with many burning cans and garbage cans kept along the side of the streets.

Dean Manigold and Ivan Blough presented a proposed new subdivision to the city at the council meeting Monday night. The 18-lot development will be known as Birchwood Manor. The property lies north of Hunt Street and west of Beech Street in the northwest part of town.

Robert Lally, a native of Lowell who has been with the Federal Bureau of Investigation since 1942 and a member of the Grand Rapids Bureau since 1944, announced that he has accepted a position in the trust department of The Old Kent Bank. Bob resides in Grand Rapids with his wife Bernice and seven children.

The first new sidewalk project of the season was announced this week, when a new walk on the west side of the city hall on Monroe Street was authorized by the council. It is hoped that other Lowell businessmen will construct new walks on Main Street this summer.

The Show boat calliope will take part in the annual

Michigan State University dorm and fraternity parade at the college on May 23. Gary Johnson of Sparta, who played the bellowing instrument here last year, is a student at the university and will play it in the parade. Several local students are participating in this float and the parade.

### 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 10, 1989

Headline: Hockey delegated to club status. Board votes 4-1 to discontinue hockey as interscholastic sport. Before Lowell's May board meeting, seven of the O-K league's 32 schools offered hockey. That number is now at six, following the board's 4-1 vote to discontinue ice hockey as an interscholastic sport beginning with the 1989-90 school year and change it to a club status sport, should sufficient interest prevail among students and parents. "By reducing it to a club sport the board is basically killing ice hockey at Lowell," hockey supporter, Rich Simkins said. "We teach our kids not to take the easy way out. By reducing hockey to club status the board is taking the easy way out."

Cult stories have no documentation. Hoping to lay to rest rumors and speculation and to ease the minds of those concerned, Lowell police chief Barry Emmons spoke out on a story concerning satanic worship and animal sacrifice. "Roughly four weeks ago the Kent County Sheriff's department received a complaint from the Key Heights area in regards to a dog (skinned) found in a dumpster barely alive," Emmons said. "There isn't any evidence that has been uncovered leading us to believe it is the work of a cult." He added that he would like to see the individual responsible for this act brought to justice, but said he did not think the courts could do enough. "I will do everything I can to apprehend this individual," Emmons said.

## LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 14-195442-DE

Estate of MYRA  
ELIZABETH  
MARSHALL. Date of  
birth: 07/11/1937.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS: The  
decedent, Myra  
Elizabeth Marshall, who  
lived at 1830 Kalamazoo  
Ave. SE, Grand  
Rapids, Michigan, died  
04/09/2014.

Creditors of the  
decedent are notified

that all claims against  
the estate will be  
forever barred unless  
presented to Patty  
Morse, named personal  
representative or  
to both the probate  
court at 180 Ottawa  
Avenue NW, Grand  
Rapids and the named/  
proposed personal  
representative within 4  
months after the date  
of publication of this  
notice.

April 30, 2014

Jennifer M. Racine  
(P69709)  
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**THEME: U.S. GEOGRAPHY**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Prince or king in India
- 6. Bit of binary code
- 9. \*Baltimore's has deep enough water for largest ships
- 13. Ancient assembly area
- 14. Boy toy
- 15. \_\_\_\_\_ Ancient Scandinavian characters
- 16. Bird action
- 17. Howard of "Happy Days"
- 18. To open
- 19. \*Location of highest point in U.S.
- 21. Victorian era overcoat
- 23. William Penn to Sir William Penn
- 24. Civil rights concern
- 25. Watergate device
- 28. O. Henry's "The Gift of the \_\_\_\_\_"
- 30. Baking soda
- 35. Seaward
- 37. Paris Hilton's and Kelly Osborne's dogs
- 39. Black cat crossing the street, e.g.
- 40. Try, as in a case
- 41. Wise guys
- 43. Frost-covered
- 44. \*What Harvard Crew did on Lake Charles
- 46. Crystal \_\_\_\_\_
- 47. Country alliance
- 48. Call for
- 50. Aforementioned
- 52. "... \_\_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight"
- 53. Retained
- 55. Strive
- 57. \*The deepest lake
- 60. \*Archipelago state
- 63. \_\_\_\_\_ Disorderly disruption
- 64. Roswell subject

CROSSWORD														
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APRIL 30 - MAY 6

- The owners of California Chrome were mocked for breeding him saying the \$8,000 mare and the few thousand spent on the sire was a "dumbass" move. But they got the last laugh when the stallion won the \$2 million Kentucky Derby last Sunday by a length and three-quarters at Churchill Downs. Chrome is the first California bred horse to win the Derby since 1962.
- The world's oldest man, Alexander Imich, says that some of the reasons he reached the age of 111 include: not having children, not drinking alcohol, quitting smoking, playing sports, his diet and good genes.
- The most expensive home ever sold in the U.S. sold for \$147 million. The 18-acre expanse in East Hampton was sold to hedge-fund manager Barry Rosenstein of Jana Partners. It was previously owned by the late Christopher H. Browne, the managing director of a New York investment firm. He bought the house in the late 1990s. A month ago a 50-acre Connecticut farm sold for \$120 million and in 2012 a working Montana ranch was purchased for \$132.5.

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**DOWN**

- 66. What sinners are expected to do
- 68. "The Waste Land" poet
- 69. Animal house
- 70. Pretend
- 71. Be dependent
- 72. Part of a hurricane
- 73. Absurd
- 1. 50 Cent piece
- 2. Taj Mahal city
- 3. "Piano Man" Billy
- 4. Domains or expanses
- 5. Type of horse-drawn carriage
- 6. Creole vegetable
- 7. "New" prefix
- 8. Boredom
- 9. Often done on 4th down
- 10. Enough, for some
- 11. End of the line
- 12. Recipe amt.
- 15. \*U.S. maritime neighbor
- 20. Breaks off abruptly
- 22. Dr. Frankenstein's workplace
- 24. \*Lake Superior holds this U.S. distinction
- 25. \*Lake located on CA-NV border
- 26. Southeast Asia association
- 27. Active or lively
- 29. \*Pacific Ocean territory
- 31. \_\_\_\_\_ Sidewalk/road divide
- 32. Nimble
- 33. Word of mouth
- 34. \* \_\_\_\_\_ Canyon
- 36. Singular of #4 Down
- 38. \_\_\_\_\_ good example
- 42. Judaic mourning
- 45. Stalin's order, e.g.
- 49. \_\_\_\_\_ Confederate general
- 51. Hindu Festival of Lights
- 54. One excessively concerned about decorum
- 56. Like yesterday's meal?
- 57. Jazz musician Nat
- 58. Agitate
- 59. Call to matey
- 60. Use a whetstone
- 61. I, to a Greek
- 62. To let someone " \_\_\_\_\_ it"
- 63. Joaquin Phoenix' 2013 film
- 65. Whimsical and otherworldly
- 67. Compass reading

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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	8			7				

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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.



**LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS**

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

- No. It's a free country..... 27%
- Yes. That kind of talk should not be tolerated..... 64%
- No opinion ..... 9%

**TO VOTE IN THIS WEEK'S ONLINE POLL**  
go to **WWW.thelowellledger.com**



# Longtime Lowell postal worker will be missed

by Tim McAllister  
contributing reporter

Lowell is losing a community fixture to retirement.

Nancy Roth has been a clerk at the post office downtown since the late 70s.

"I've been here 36 and a half years," Roth said. "I worked four years in Grand Rapids before that, as a city carrier and in mail processing."

Roth's career in Lowell began during one of the most infamous weather events of the 20th century.

"I started here during the 'Blizzard of '78.' It was January 28, 1978. The

postmaster called me that morning and told me not to come in because there was no mail here because the trucks couldn't get through. I actually started the Monday after that."

For a 'small town,' Lowell actually has a lot of mailboxes to fill.

"We have eight rural routes and two city routes," Roth said. "Each route has between 500 and 600 mailboxes each."

Roth said that all the interpersonal relationships she's forged have been her favorite part of her time at the post office.

"The best thing is meeting all the people," Roth said. "I feel like I know a lot of people in Lowell and I've enjoyed that. I love carrying mail and being outside and of course, I get to see people there too. I've had a lot of fun here and met a lot of great people. The post office has been a great opportunity for me. It's going to provide me with a wonderful retirement and I just can't say enough about the people I've met. It's been a great time."

Roth said the craziest thing that happened in her



Nancy Roth, bottom left, in an early photo during Charles Doyle's, top right, tenure as postmaster.



Nancy Roth is pictured during her last week on the job.

36-year career was when a carrier's automobile got stuck in a swamp.

"Probably about 20 years ago a rural carrier was out delivering mail up on 7 Mile Road," Roth said. "She hit some bumps and her car went into a swamp. I happened to be supervising that day. It was on a Saturday afternoon and she called and said, 'I've got a problem, my car's in the water.' So I drove up there. When I got there, a man had brought an extension ladder and taken it from the road to her car so she could crawl out, because her car was submerged past the windows. We had to find a wrecker that could pull her out, because this was

in December. We finally found somebody, and they pulled it out. We pulled it into the parking lot back here, opened the doors and water came flowing out with mud and everything else and there was mail still in the car because she was still in the process of delivering it. We had to bring all that mail in here and we spread it out on every surface, every inch of the floor, drying it out all weekend, finally delivering on Monday morning."

The flood last spring was another memorable event in her career.

"Our basement flooded," Roth said. "We lost a lot of stuff down there. Papers and things that were in boxes, reports and things like that. We had to have a HazMat team come in and clean the whole basement because the drains all backed up. We had six to eight inches of sewer water on the floor down there. It was gross. But I put waders on and went and got the collection boxes that were under water. That made the Ledger!"

Roth's last day was Thursday, May 1. She decided not to have a retirement party to commemorate the occasion.

"I asked to not have a party," Roth said. "We just had a party for our

supervisor who retired in January and the post office doesn't pay for it, the employees pay for it, so we're going to Larkin's after work and having a drink together."

Roth is a life-long Lowell resident, Lowell High class of '72, with a long list of family members who are employed by the United States Postal Service.

"My dad was a supervisor here for 33 years before I came here, so I come from a post office family," Roth said. "Also my sister, my brother-in-law, my dad, my sister-in-law, my niece, my nephew, and my other niece. So yeah, we're a post office family."

Roth plans to work part time, volunteer and spend time with her family during retirement.

"I'm heading to Oregon to see my sister," Roth said. "I'm driving out there to visit for three weeks. Then when I come back I want to try and find a part time-job, just to keep me occupied. And there's lots of volunteer work; there are so many great volunteer opportunities right here in town. I'd like to stay and do stuff like that. Plus I have two grandsons, so I'd like to be able to spend at least one afternoon a week with them. Stuff like that."

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