

Major development plans discussed during Vergennes Township Planning Commission meeting

Behind The Scenes



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april school board meeting



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LHS sports



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by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

A plan for some major development in Vergennes Township was revealed at a Vergennes Township Planning Commission meeting last Tuesday, April 7. The plan was discussed at the meeting for two hours.

“This project is a site plan review for a tentative preliminary plat home development of 106 lots plus 3 land division lots on about 98 acres on the east side of [910] Alden Nash Ave SE,” said Jeanne Vandersloot, Zoning Administrator of Vergennes Township. “The review is only for phase 1 of 24 lots plus the 3 land division lots. It is at the Planning Commission level.”

The property has several owners.

“The developers are two LLC groups, DAS Holdings LLC and DHS Holdings LLC,” Vandersloot said. “Owners listed are the above 2 LLCs plus [Grand Rapids realtor] Duwane Suwyn of Colliers International.”

Increased traffic will be a concern for area residents.

“Several comments were in regard to more vehicles entering and exiting this stretch of Alden Nash Ave SE mainly due to the higher rush hour volume of vehicles when the high school students and buses

are going to the high school and leaving the school,” Vandersloot said. “The more people that live on that road area will cause more traffic. This section of road is a paved primary road and is designed for high traffic. It can still be bothersome.”

Township leaders will consider various solutions to potential traffic problems.

“Typically when more intersecting roads are added, there will be acceleration and deceleration lanes or passing lanes installed,” Vandersloot said. “A stop sign or light could end up being installed at the intersection of Foreman and Alden Nash if traffic gets to a troublesome volume.”

Anybody can take a peek at the plan right now.

“You can look at the application and site plan on our website under pending applications,” Vandersloot said. The direct link to that is www.vergennestwp.org/pendingapplications.html

The next action will be a meeting on April 20.

“The planning commission would prefer private roads instead of the proposed public roads, but our ordinance requires public roads be built when a development is over 50

Vergennes Township development, continued, page 2



The site plan for the development at 910 Alden Nash SE. Provided by Exxel Engineering Inc.

Eckman inducted into the National Honor Society

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Faculty member Al Eckman was awarded an honorary induction into the Lowell Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) along with 69 Lowell High School students.

“The national office encourages local chapters to measure honorary members with the same scrutiny we apply to active members, so these memberships are rare because the standards are high,” said NHS advisor Shelley Swift.

Eckman retired in 2005 as the head of security for the district and began teaching a wireless technology class.



Honorary NHS inductee Al Eckman with his grandson Matt Beachler.

He has now converted the class to a full-fledged FM radio station. The station, 92.3, runs 24-hours a day seven days a week. It features a variety of student-run radio shows, an impressive song catalog and coverage of varsity sports and community events.

Swift, calling Eckman a consummate professional, said that the honoree perfectly exemplifies the four pillars considered when inducting members into the society.

“Al is continually learning and passing his

knowledge on to others who work with him in the radio room—that is scholarship. For the past decade, Al has been here at the high school anywhere from 40-80 hours per week at no cost to the district—that is service. 92.3 FM exists because Al believed it was possible, shared his dream with others, and persevered despite the obstacles—that is leadership. Al treats others with kindness, respect, and fairness; his walk lines up with his talk—that is character.”

50 CENTS



Vergennes Township development, continued

lots," Vandersloot said. "They are asking the board to consider amending the private road ordinance to have standards for a private road over 50 lots. The board on April 20 will discuss this question and possibility."

There will be more action later in April, then on May 18.

"State law gives a limited time for a recommendation decision for a tentative preliminary plat by a planning commission and board. To get an answer from the board on the private road amendment and meet the timing, the planning

commission will need to meet by April 27 to decide and make their recommendation to the board for approval as presented, approval with conditions, or denial of the phase 1 of the tentative preliminary plat site plan.

They must make this recommendation at the April 27 meeting. Then the board will review it and make their decision at their May 18 meeting. After board action, if an approval is given, then all other agencies such as Road Commission, Drain

Commission, Health Dept, MDEQ, et cetera, do their reviews. There are other steps and procedures after those reviews."

Currently, the land is 98 acres of farm land and nature. It's zoned for small residential lots.

"The land was farmed last year," Vandersloot said. "Most of it is farm land. There is a small creek about where the southern boundary is. There are some tree lines along the borders."

Correction - Other Place will not be ready for first LowellArts! production

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The front page of last week's Ledger contained a story about renovations to Larkin's The Other Place. Owner Mike Larkin was quoted as saying, "It'll be ready to go May 1." This turned out to be a rather optimistic statement by Mr. Larkin.

"We wanted to inform you that the day after the article in the Ledger ran about the renovations being done at Larkin's Other Place, LowellArts! was informed about a delay in the re-opening of the Other

Place facility," said Janet Teunis, LowellArts! project director. "The renovations being done unfortunately will not be completed by May 1, and this required the LowellArts! Players to move the production of The Tropical Pickle to different location."

The show will still run from May 1 through May 17, but the venue has changed.

"The May performances of the 'The Tropical Pickle' will be held at the VFW/American Legion Flat River

Post, 3116 Alden Nash SE in Lowell," Teunis said. "It will not be a dinner theater."

'The Tropical Pickle' is a comedy written by Michigan-native Jeff Daniels. It's set in Macomb County, and is a farce about a dinner party. Ticket prices are \$13 in advance or \$15 at the door. Call 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartsmi.org for more information.



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Chitchat Readers Book Club – Tues., April 21, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join Kathy Mieras for a relaxing and cozy book club. This month the book club is reading The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot. Pick up a book to borrow at the parlor desk.

Laughter Circle – Tues. April 28, 4-5 pm. Come exercise your laughter muscles! Join Lindsay Jousma for this well-being workout that encourages laughter for no reason. No yoga mat or experience is required. Please wear comfortable clothes and prepare to leave happy, healthy and energized.

Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

BLUEGRASS MUSIC EVENT

Bluegrass music jam session on Sat., April 18 from 2:30 to 5 pm at the King building at the fairgrounds. Come to jam or listen. Everyone welcome.

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

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Lowell's school board discusses LoWellness survey and third-graders weeklong museum trip

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education held their regular meeting at the Administration Building, 300 High St., on Monday, April 13. The meeting lasted about an hour and included discussion of LoWellness, Proposal 1 and a week-long field trip taken by area third graders.

Jodie Seese, the LoWellness project manager, gave a presentation about the LoWellness health survey. "LoWellness is a community initiative, health-based, using data-driven programming to shape and empower our community towards wellness," Seese said. "This initiative is unique because this marks the first occasion in the state of Michigan that a community has come together for this type of survey. This is the first in the state of Michigan that a community-based survey has been done just to improve the quality of life." Seese said that about 650 surveys have been

filled out to date, and the goal is 3,000 by August. Anybody who lives or works in Lowell should go to the LoWellness website, lowellcommunitywellness.org, and take the survey. Paper surveys will also be available at various community events.

Diane Titcher's third grade class from Murray Lake Elementary spent a week at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Five of the students were at the meeting, and they gave an informative presentation detailing what they learned during their week at the museum.

"We got to see stuff that not many people get to see, like the iron lung," said one student.

"It was amazing!" enthused another student.

The board spent some time debating a resolution that would endorse Proposal 1, which is, "A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the

School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees."

Most of the board was in favor of Proposal 1, with the exception of board secretary Pat Nugent, who abstained from voting on the board's resolution.

"It's a good thing for the schools to separate the School Aid Fund from going

School board meeting, continued, page 7



Students from Diane Titcher's third grade class gave a presentation about their week at the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

T-Mobile is proposing to install LTE antennas on the top of an existing silo tower at 115 South Broadway, Lowell, Kent County, Michigan 49331. T-Mobile is seeking comments from all interested persons on the impact of the proposed tower on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture, that are listed or are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

All questions, comments, and correspondence should be directed to Mr. Sheldon McLeod, at 520 South Main Street, Suite 2531, Akron, Ohio 44311, Phone # 330-572-2284, or smcleod@gpdgroup.com.

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~ Gary Oldman

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The Lowell Showboat Garden Club's next meeting - April 20, 2015 - will be a road trip to the Kentwood Flowerland store on 28th Street.

An exciting time is planned for this trip. Flowerland's own Leah Kuklinski, a certified florist, will be showing us how to make a "Living Wreath" to take home. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Plans are to meet at the Nazarene Church parking lot at 201 Washington Street at 6:30 pm where we will carpool.


Following the class plans are to stop at the new Baskin Robbins for a special treat.

Everyone is welcome and bring your friends but please let us know in advance so Leah can prepare for us.

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

How to be an "Environmental" investor

Next week, we observe the 45th anniversary of Earth Day. Since its inception in 1970, Earth Day has inspired millions of people to take action to improve the environment. But the lessons of environmentalism can also be applied to other areas of life — such as investing. Specifically, as an investor, you may well want to follow the “three Rs”:

reduce, reuse and recycle.
 Let's see how these environmental themes can be applied to your investment habits:

• *Reduce* — Many of us probably own more

things than we really need. In fact, if all the other people on Earth used as much “stuff” as we do in the United States, the planet would need to have three to five times more space just to hold and sustain everybody, according to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. So from an environmental standpoint, it might be smart for all of us to “streamline” our possessions. And the same could be true for our investments — it's not always a case of “the more, the merrier.” It's particularly important not to own too

many of the *same type* of investments, because you could suffer a setback in a market downturn that primarily affects those assets.

• *Reuse* — One way of being environmentally conscious is to repair, rather than replace, durable goods such as bicycles, washers, dryers, etc. After all, “new” is not always better. Many investors are also prone to tossing out the old and bringing in the new — and not always with the best results. For example, some investors switch their overall strategy every so often in attempts to capitalize on some trend they have heard about. But you're almost certainly better off by sticking with a long-term strategy that's appropriate for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. Of course, within your strategy you can

Financial Focus, continued, page 6

kidsView



by Sierra Hieshetter

I just got back from my spring break trip and boy, was it filled with history. Even though we went to many historical places (Hot Springs National Park, St. Louis Arch and Lincoln's home and tomb), one sticks in my mind the most. We visited Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. This is where the nine first-ever African American boys and girls tried to enroll and attend classes in an all white high school in 1957. I was astounded at the work these nine kids went through, just to attend a good school where they could learn something that could help better their lives. In the visitor center there was a video playing that had

quotes from all of the nine kids. One girl said, “At our old school they had a class called laundry. In that class we learned how to iron, fold, and clean laundry. Everything we would need to be a maid. There was no class called laundry at Central High School.” I don't know why that quote drew my attention, but it did. Maybe it was the fact that many African Americans at that time didn't push the limits to be the best they could be. They accepted their fate and were scared to fight for change. These nine kids didn't accept their fate and kept pushing. They tried until the president took notice. He had to send in armed guards in order to get these nine into the school.

This place has a really touching story of playing the hand you are dealt to the best of your ability and never giving up. Some people in Little Rock could not accept change and therefore, after one year of African Americans attending the school, it closed down. For an entire year over 2,000 students were set a year behind in their studies. All because nine students were a different color. This story touched me in a way nothing has before and even though we don't have this problem today, the spirit of these nine will always ring strong. We have come a long way from then in what doesn't seem to be, but is, a short amount of time. If you think about it, my very young dad was one year old when all this happened. The fact that this happened in his lifetime shows how far we have come and still how far we have to go.

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viewpoint

to the editor

counting blessings

Dear Editor,
I want to applaud the Buyers Guide staff for printing on their front page "Easter Blessings."

Thank you,
Kathleen Noskey
Lowell

consider legacy

To the Editor,
I have been following Lowell events for years and am very concerned by the

pattern I've been seeing. I wonder if the council members think about the legacy they will be leaving

behind once their term in office is over.

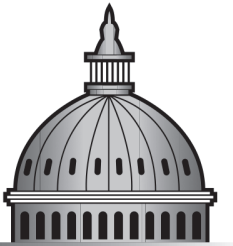
I'm looking at our streets continuing to fall apart, the city being in debt with no surplus of funds for anything important, adding more and more to the debt of our future residents, our wonderful nonprofits going unfunded because of the endowment funds being raided for general budget items, taxes continuing to rise, a demoralized work force, or even worse

the city relying on only subcontractors who don't care about our city. Worse case scenarios but this seems to be the pattern we're seeing. I wonder if this is how Detroit's demise started.

Please think about this type of legacy as you're making decisions for our city.

Sincerely concerned,
Lucille Erickson
Lowell

out of lansing



On Monday, U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Gary Peters (D-MI) introduced a Senate resolution urging the administration to oppose a Canadian proposal to build a permanent nuclear waste repository in the Great Lakes Basin. The measure is a companion resolution to one introduced by Congressman Dan Kildee (D-MI) last week.

"Canada's proposed nuclear waste dump on the shores of Lake Huron puts our Great Lakes at risk of radioactive contamination that could have devastating consequences for future generations," said Sen. Stabenow. "I have expressed my strong objections to the Canadian government directly, and today's resolution puts additional pressure on the Canadians to stop this plan."

"Preserving the health and safety of the Great Lakes is critical to Michigan's environment and economy," said Sen. Peters. "Building a permanent nuclear waste dump in such close proximity to Lake Huron could cause significant, lasting damage to this precious resource and undermine the progress we have made cleaning up the water quality in the Great Lakes Basin. The Canadian government should seek out an alternative site, and I urge the State Department to take action to keep this troubling project from moving forward."

"Burying Canadian nuclear waste less than a mile from the Great Lakes is a bad idea and too much

of a risk to take when it comes to our Great Lakes and our state's economy," Congressman Kildee said. "I'm glad to see a growing chorus of people – Democrats and Republicans, Canadians and Americans – speaking out in opposition to this proposed Canadian plan, including Michigan Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters. Michigan is lucky to have two great U.S. Senators who have been lifelong champions of protecting our Great Lakes, and I will continue working with them to preserve our freshwater resources – now and for future generations."

Ontario Power Generation has proposed to build a permanent repository for nuclear waste less than a mile from Lake Huron in Kincardine, Ontario. This close proximity to the lake, Sens. Stabenow, Peters and Rep. Kildee argue, could be disastrous if an accidental spill were ever to occur. Over 40 million people in Canada and the United States get their drinking water from the Great Lakes and the highly toxic waste could take tens of thousands of years to decompose to safe levels.

The resolution urges the President and Secretary of State to work with their counterparts to prevent a permanent nuclear waste repository from being built within the Great Lakes Basin. It further states that the U.S. and Canada should develop a safe and responsible solution for the long-term storage of nuclear waste.

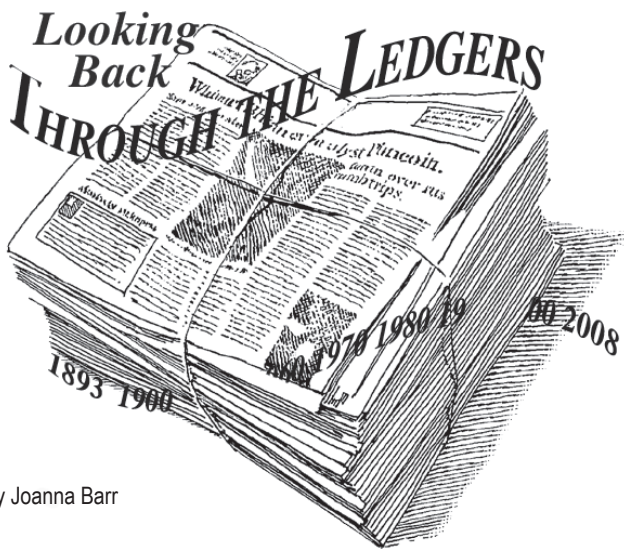
There has been an advance of about 15 per cent on rubber goods. A. J. Howk & Son will continue the sale of Boston Rubber Co.'s goods at old prices.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 15, 1915

Headline: Can't sleep nights – So long since he has doesn't know how. Hiram F. Lane made his last rounds as night watch Monday night, after sixteen years of faithful service for the village. For eight years prior to his engagement with the village he had night watched for private concerns; so that for nearly a quarter of a century he has done his sleeping by daylight. Tuesday night when he tried once more the natural sleep, his rest was broken by frequent awakenings. Doubtless it will take him some time to accustom himself to nature's ways. Mr. Lane's retirement as night watch was self-sought and long desired and is accompanied by the best wishes of all his townsmen, especially by those of the business men whose interests have been safeguarded by him all these years. Probably few who have been on the street for many years but who have been roused from their slumbers at the midnight hour and summoned by Hi to "Come down town and lock up your store."

A bad accident – Ida Batchelor suffers broken leg while at play. Ida, the 9-years-old daughter of Frank Batchelor, was taken to a Grand Rapids hospital Monday with a badly broken leg. The child was playing in the hay mow at her home in Otisco township and attempted a jump from platform to hay. Her foot caught between two planks and hung, the fall twisting the leg in an ugly fracture. She was brought to Lowell, where Dr. McDannell advised hospital care, as the Batchelor family was moving, and the girl was placed on a cot and taken to the city on the Grand Trunk noon train. Mr. Batchelor formerly lived in Lowell township on the Ada road and more recently on the Hoag farm in Vergennes.

News and notes of interest by student reporter – Clarissa Davenport and Warner Roth have returned to school following an absence of two weeks. Miss Davenport was ill of chicken pox and Mr. Roth had a sprained ankle? Athletic association cleared nearly fifty dollars at the carnival. This is very good considering the short notice of this affair. The botany classes are getting the ground in school garden ready to plant flowers this week. The pupils are divided into groups of six, each group having a separate plot for vegetables and one for flowers.



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal April 16, 1890

Dep. Sheriff C. O. Hill arrested Milton Clark last week and turned him over to the officers at Ionia, for being one of a party of three who robbed a man, without his catching on. One of the trio commenced talking to the victim, when a second appeared and without any secrecy cut his pocket open and took his money. The victim and first robber grabbed the 2d robber and held him until the 3d conspirator appeared, who represented himself to be an officer. He took the thief and the three disappeared.

A couple of Lowell boys took their best girls out riding last Sunday and in crossing the high road north of Saranac, they run off the road, tipping the buggy over and spilling themselves out. They went back to Saranac, procured another buggy and came home – this time without incident. It is very careless for a young man to attempt to drive a strange team on a dark night, over a comparatively strange road, with one hand.

At a special meeting of the Council Geo. F. Lane, Geo. P. Taylor, D.V. Dennick, and D. H. Waters were appointed special police for the ensuing year.

Benj. Morse has sold his house to Mrs. Chase F. Howk, and moved into the house lately occupied by the Laundry, yesterday.

Morgan & Smith, who have conducted a hardware store here for the past four years, sold out their business to W. R. Blaisdell & Co., who will add it to their former stock and we will have another vacant store.

Luther F. Severy will open a Job shop for tin work of all kinds. Furnace work a specialty. He will occupy the store vacated by Morgan & Smith. When in need of anything in his line give him a call.

A. J. Howk & Son are offering special inducements on Plow Shoes, which will pay you to look up.

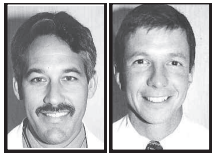
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health



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

May - Older Americans Month

In May, we recognize Older Americans Month to acknowledge older Americans and their contributions to the nation.

More than 40 million people in the United States are 65 or older. By 2035, the U.S. Census Bureau projects this number will double, which makes improving the quality of life for older Americans even more

important as we look to the future. It is Social Security's priority to provide a safety net for older Americans.

This May also marks the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act. Congress passed the Act in 1965 in response to a lack of community social services for older persons. Medicare, in effect since July 1, 1966, will also celebrate its 50th

anniversary soon. Medicare provides health insurance to more than 42 million Americans age 65 and older. If you aren't familiar with the four parts of Medicare, they are:

- Part A (hospital insurance): Hospital insurance helps pay for inpatient care in a hospital or skilled nursing facility (following a hospital stay),
- Part B (medical insurance): Medical insurance helps pay for doctors' services and many other medical services and supplies that hospital insurance doesn't cover.
- Part C (Medicare

some home health care, and hospice care.

Older Americans, continued, page 7

nail fungus

Nail fungus is a common condition that begins to appear as a white or yellow area under the toenail. As the infection progresses, the nail will thicken. It will also become brittle and disfigured.

The infection is typically caused by a fungus, but can also be caused by mold or yeast. Fungi are organisms that do not need sunlight to survive. They thrive in dark, moist environments. Toenails are most frequently involved due to being in this type of environment (in shoes). Risk factors include:

- older age
- sweating heavily
- working in a humid environment
- living with someone who has a nail fungus
- skin problems
- diabetes
- poor circulation

Treatment involves taking an oral antifungal drug like Lamisil. This needs to be used daily for three months. Topical antifungals can also be used. It comes as a nail polish that needs to be applied daily for up to a year. Some infections require complete removal of the nail.

Financial Focus, continued

make adjustments as your circumstances change over time, but there's probably no need to toss your entire approach overboard. As you invest, though, always be aware that the value of your investments will fluctuate, and there are no guarantees that you won't lose value.

Recycle

Aluminum cans become airplane parts, old phone books are transformed into textbooks and plastic beverage containers may end up as the carpeting on your floors. It's truly amazing

how recycling can give new life to old, unwanted products. In a way, you can also "recycle" investments that no longer meet your needs, either because your circumstances have changed or because the investments themselves have become fundamentally altered — as is the case when a company in which you invested has shifted its focus or taken its business in a new direction. Instead of just liquidating the investment and using the cash to buy, say, an ultra-high-definition television

with all the bells and whistles, you could find a new use for the proceeds in your investment portfolio. To name one possibility, you could use the money to help save for a child's college education. Or you might use it to help fill other gaps in your portfolio.

By following the

"reduce, reuse and recycle" philosophy, you can help make the world a "greener" place to live. And by applying the same principles to the way you invest, you can create a healthier environment in which to pursue your important financial goals.

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- APRIL 17**
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School board meeting, continued

to colleges and universities, money going to four-year universities, however I'm not quite convinced yet that I have to accept a tax increase to have that take place," Nugent said. "I'm not quite in the position to advocate that the people of Lowell necessarily need to vote for this."

"It's a good way to get some of our roads fixed," said board trustee Gary Blough. "It's not perfect. There's other ways to go about it. We need to do something, and I'm going to support it."

"A lot of people kind of feel like the citizens

are doing the job of the legislature by voting on this and I agree with that," said board trustee Laurie Kuna. "If we vote for it, then they can't weasel their way out of it somewhere down the line, if it's going to codify where that money goes."

"It's a shame that we have to do the job of our legislature, but I'm just afraid that there are some other things in the pipeline that are going to effect school districts around the state," said board president Jim Turner. "That if this does

not pass in May that what we will be facing as far as K-12 education is something that none of us really want to live with. It's unfortunate. I know some people feel that they're holding us hostage, and maybe they are, but sometimes you have to pay

off the people holding you hostage, I guess."

The Board of Education's next regular meeting will take place at the Administration Building on Monday, May 11 at 7 p.m.

International Leadership honor awarded to local Lion

Lion Conrad Swanson, of Lowell, has been awarded the International Leadership Medal by Lions Clubs International in recognition of his commitment to community service, vision screen for children, mentoring new lion leaders in his club and at the district level. This is the third highest award worldwide in the Lions Clubs International. In addition, Swanson serves as a Trustee on the Lions of Michigan Foundation.

recycling, feeding children over spring break, assisting with literacy projects and



Swanson is a member of the Thornapple Valley Lions Club. He has been a Lion for 34 years. He actively participates in numerous Lions' projects including fundraising, eyeglass

aid to the blind and visually impaired. He is most known for his expertise in Project Kidsight that screens children to detect early eye problems that can often be eliminated or corrected.

"It is very rewarding to help fulfill community needs. It is a great honor

to be presented with this award," said Swanson humbly.

"He is very deserving of this recognition for not only the services he provides on a volunteer basis but on the leadership level throughout the district and state of Michigan," said Bob Ballard the Thornapple Valley Lions Club president.

Older Americans, continued

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• Part D (prescription drug coverage): Prescription drug coverage helps pay for medications doctors prescribe for treatment.

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

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DNR advises caution to prevent spread of oak wilt disease

For most people, April 15 is the annual tax-filing deadline. For people like Roger Mech – and other forest health professionals – April 15 also marks the beginning of the yearly window when oak wilt can be transmitted from diseased to healthy red oak trees.

According to Mech, forest health monitoring program manager for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Forest Resources Division, oak wilt is a serious disease of oak trees. It mainly affects red oaks, including northern red oak, black oak and pin oak. Red oaks often die within a few weeks after becoming infected. White oaks are more resistant; therefore, the disease progresses more slowly. "The normal time-tested advice is to prevent oak wilt by not pruning or otherwise 'injuring' oaks from April 15 to July 15," Mech said.

He added that the spread of oak wilt occurs during this time of year as beetles move spores from fungal fruiting structures on the trees killed last year by oak

wilt to wounds on healthy oaks. As warmer weather melts away snow and ice, the beetles that move oak wilt become active.

"Unfortunately, many learn not to prune or otherwise wound trees from mid-April to mid-July only after they lose their oaks to oak wilt," he said.

A common question the DNR is hearing this year is, "Can we push the April 15 day back a week or two because of the cold winter?"

Mech says that isn't an option.

"It doesn't matter how cold it was this winter," he said. "It only takes a few 50-degree or warmer days for both the beetles and fungus to become active. We have already had warmer weather in many parts of the state."

Although oak wilt hasn't been detected in every Michigan county, Mech said the need for vigilance is present statewide.

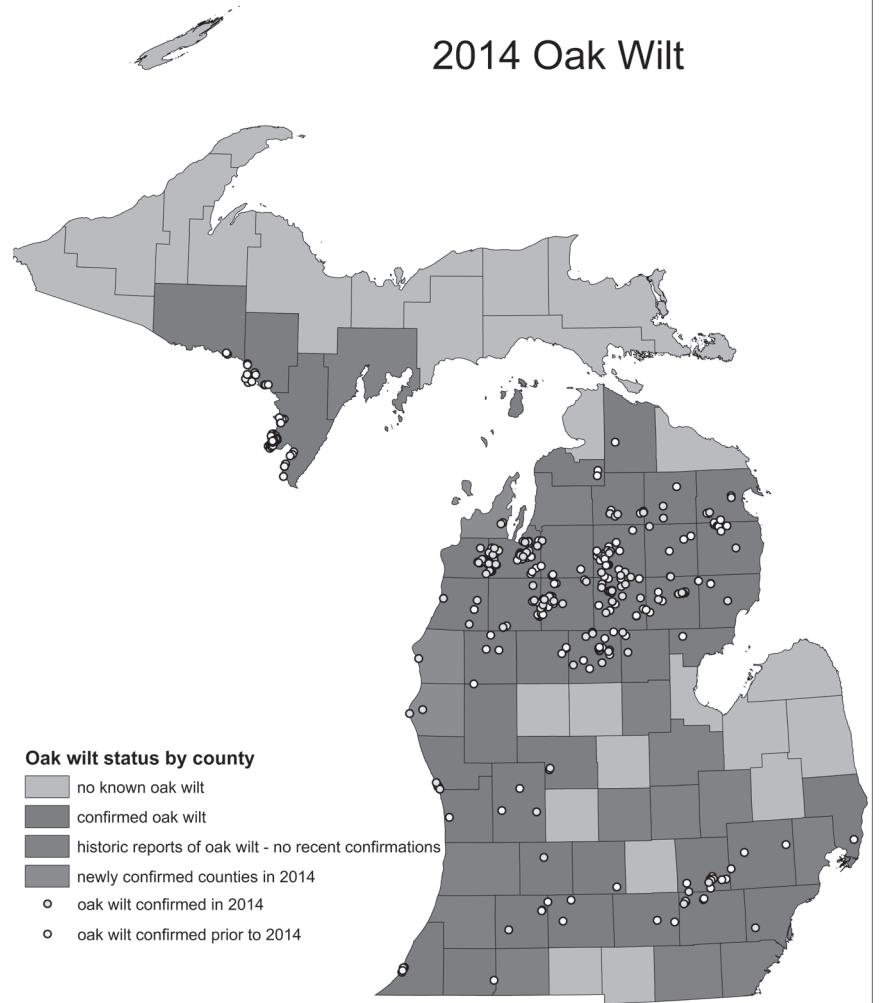
Spring is a popular time for people to move firewood to vacation properties and other locations. During this April-to-July period, Mech

said that it's vital not to move wood from oak wilt-killed trees. These trees are often cut into firewood and moved, sometimes many miles from their original locations. Any wounding of oaks in this new location can result in new oak wilt infections as beetles move spores from the diseased firewood to fresh wounds on otherwise healthy trees.

"With the transport of firewood and other tree-related activities, you have to assume the risk is present, whether you live in metro Detroit or in the Upper Peninsula," Mech said.

The DNR recommends that anyone who suspects they have oak wilt-tainted firewood should cover it with a plastic tarp all the way to the ground, leaving no openings. This keeps the

Oak wilt disease, continued, page 10



Enough is Enough anti-bullying campaign comes to Cherry Creek Elementary

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

During the first week in April, Lowell alumni and world class martial artist Mariah Moore brought her anti-bullying campaign Enough Is Enough (EIE) to Cherry Creek Elementary. She shared both her performance skills and her own struggle with bullying.

Her message of encouragement and empowerment coupled with the fast-paced action of Moore's athletic performance were well received by the elementary audience.

The appearance was a special one for Moore as she has long anticipated sharing her message with the youth

in the place she calls home.

"It meant the world to me to be able to bring my EIE Anti-Bullying Assembly Tour to my hometown. I was so excited to speak with and meet all of the students at Cherry Creek Elementary. It means a lot to me to be able to make a difference in my own community. With my assembly tour, I am able to motivate, inspire, and encourage students to not only overcome bullying, but to dream big, work hard, and achieve great things! They can do anything that they want to do and be anyone they want to be, and I am all the proof that they need!"



Mariah Moore demonstrated her martial art skill for the students.

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Oak wilt disease, continued

beetles away and generates heat inside the tarp, helping to destroy the fungus. Once the bark loosens on the firewood, the disease can no longer be spread.

New oak wilt sites have been traced to spring and early summer wounding from tree-climbing spikes, rights-of-way pruning, nailing signs on trees and accidental tree-barking (a wound created when bark is removed via impact from equipment, falling trees and

other causes). If an oak is wounded during this critical time, the DNR advises residents to cover the wound immediately with either a tree-wound paint or a latex paint to help keep beetles away.

Once an oak is infected, the fungus moves to neighboring red oaks through root grafts. Oaks within approximately 100 feet of each other – depending on the size of the trees – have connected

or grafted root systems. Left untreated, oak wilt will continue to move from tree to tree, progressively killing more red oak over an increasingly larger area.

As more trees die from oak wilt, more spores are produced which contribute to the overland spread of oak wilt.

To minimize the risk of oak wilt infection caused by logging damage, the DNR prohibits cutting of red oak trees on state land between

April 15 and July 15. This helps protect red oak trees left after thinning from damage that could lead to infection.

The DNR recommends private forest landowners exercise caution during this period and, whenever possible, delay harvesting activity in oak forests until after July 15 to reduce the risk of oak wilt.

For more information on the background,

symptoms and prevention of oak wilt, visit http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/howtos/ht_oakwilt/identify_prevent_and_control_oak_wilt_print.pdf

To report a suspected

oak wilt site, email DNR-FRD-Forest-Health@michigan.gov or call 517-284-5895.

To learn more about oak wilt and other forest health issues in Michigan, go to www.michigan.gov/foresthalth

Give the gift of time and love this Mother's Day

What do you plan to get for Mom this Mother's Day? If she's like most Americans, she probably feels time-constrained and the hours she spends with family and friends are precious. So, in addition to giving her flowers or a card, give her a gift she'll really appreciate: the chance to spend more time with the ones she loves!

While spending time with your mom, you can help her quickly and easily sign up for a free, online *my Social Security* account. You can do it from home, which means less time waiting in line, and more time doing the things you want to do together.

Signing up for a *my Social Security* account will give Mom the tools she needs to stay on top of her future Social Security benefits. When she signs up at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount, she can do a number of things. First and foremost, she can plan for her retirement.

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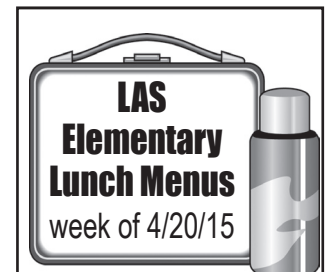
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TUESDAY: Served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake: Chicken taco on soft tortilla shell, refried beans; fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, celery sticks, mixed fruit, peaches. Served at Bushnell: Bosco sticks w/dipping sauce, seasoned corn; fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, baby carrots, pears, banana.

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

THURSDAY: Rotini w/meat-sauce, dinner roll & seasoned broccoli served at Alto, Cherry Creek & Murray Lake; WG breaded chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes & gravy served at Bushnell; fruit & veggie bar: spinach & romaine side salad, cherry tomatoes, peaches, mixed fruit.

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Red Arrow SPORTS

Tough week for Red Arrow baseball

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Red Arrow varsity baseball racked up three losses over the past two weeks dropping games against Rockford, Seymour and New Albany and their season record to 2-4.

Lowell first met the Rockford Rams at Davenport University in a shut out loss that ended 21-0.

Lowell next traveled to Indiana to take on Seymour

High School. It was a low scoring game for both squads but Seymour grabs the victory.

Lowell took the early lead putting up one run in the third on an RBI single from senior Matt Milstead. Neither team earned a run in the following three innings and Lowell came up short at the top of seventh leaving Seymour down just 1-0 moving into the bottom of

the inning where Seymour's Mitchell Moore earned his team an RBI single and victory.

The Red Arrows played New Albany in extra innings during their second match on the road at Seymour losing 10-9. New Albany grabbed the games first lead in the bottom of the first going up 1-0. The Arrows tied the game at one

in the third but New Albany matched that performance at the bottom of the inning keeping them ahead 2-1.

Lowell saw their opponents plate six additional runs in the fourth, fifth and sixth combined to which they answered with only one, a solo home run from sophomore Jarrod Melle scored in the sixth.

In a huge late game rally Lowell sluggers produced six runs, the exact amount necessary to tie the game, pushing the game into extra innings. The Red Arrows added a single run in the bonus inning but New Albany managed to produce two.

Senior Collin VanNoord went a perfect 4-4 at the

plate for Lowell singling in the third and fifth and both singling and doubling in the seventh.

This week the team will enter into OK White action as they face East Grand Rapids on the road Tuesday and both Wednesday and Thursday at home. Games begin at 4 pm.

Matt Beachler receives honors for basketball prowess



Matt Beachler

Red Arrow varsity basketball star Matt Beachler has continued to be recognized in the post season for his outstanding performance on the court for Lowell this past winter.

Beachler, a sophomore starter, received honorable mentions on the Class A Associated Press and Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan All State Teams. He was also named outright to Bank Hoops and the Detroit Free Press All State Teams.

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SPRING SPORTS CALENDAR

BOYS' & GIRLS' VARSITY TRACK

* Denotes a meet at Red Arrow Stadium

- 4/21 at 4:15 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*
- 4/23 at 4:15 p.m. Jenison

BOYS VARSITY BASEBALL

* Denotes a game at the Cherry Creek Ball Field

- 4/21 at 4:30 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*
- 4/22 at 4:30 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian
- 4/23 at 4:30 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

* Denotes a game at the Red Arrow Stadium

- 4/17 at 6:45 p.m. Greenville
- 4/20 at 7:15 p.m. East Grand Rapids
- 4/22 at 6:45 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*

GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE

* Denotes a game at the Red Arrow Stadium

- 4/18 at 3 p.m. Grandville*
- 4/24 at 7 p.m. Comstock Park*

BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE

* Denotes a game at the Red Arrow Stadium

- 4/16 at 7:30 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian*
- 4/18 at 1 p.m. Grandville*
- 4/23 at 7 p.m. Northview

BOYS VARSITY GOLF

* Denotes a game at Deer Run Golf Course

- 4/16 at 1 p.m. Kent County Classic at Highlands
- 4/18 at 9 a.m. Lowell Invitational*
- 4/20 at 4 p.m. Jamboree #1 at Watermark
- 4/22 at 3:30 p.m. Jamboree #2 at Meadows

GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL

* Denotes a game at Cherry Creek Ball Field

- 4/16 at 4:15 p.m. Grandville* (doubleheader)
- 4/18 at 10 a.m. Clarkston Tournament
- 4/21 at 4:15 p.m. GR Christian* (doubleheader)
- 4/22 at 4:15 p.m. Hudsonville* (doubleheader)

GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS

* Denotes a game at the Lowell High School Tennis Courts

- 4/16 at 4:15 p.m. Byron Center*
- 4/20 at 4:15 p.m. East Grand Rapids
- 4/22 at 4:15 p.m. GR Christian*
- 4/25 at 8:30 a.m. Lowell Invitational*

L Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

Go Red Arrows!

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obituaries

COURTADE

Joan L. Courtade, age 73 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, April 12, 2015. She was preceded in death by her daughter Debra Beckering. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Joseph; son Michael and daughter Nancy (Randy) Bebee; brother Bill (Ruth) Hoaglin; sisters Margie Zimmer, Mary Cline, Fay Bulk, Kay Babcock; grandchildren Travis (Erin) Bebee, Nick Beckering, Casey Beckering and Hunter Beckering. A Mass of Christian burial will be Thursday, 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell MI. The family will meet friends and relatives one hour prior to the service. Memorial donations may be made to St. Mary's Church.



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CREGUER

Laura M. Creguer, age 83 of Lowell, went to be with her Lord on Monday, April 13, 2015. She was preceded in death by son Jerry Creguer and grandson Daniel Creguer. She is survived by her children Lee (Campbell) Watterworth, Rose (Mark) Nerbonne, Dennis (Jodie) Creguer, Carolyn Knight, Duane (Lisa) Creguer and David Creguer; sister Shirley Gott; 10 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. A funeral service will be Saturday 11:00 a.m. at O'Brien-Gerst Funeral Home, 3980 Cascade Rd. SE, Grand Rapids MI 49546. Mr. Albert Gandia and Mr. Timothy Wang officiating. Visitation Friday 6-8:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Interment Maple Grove Cemetery, Harrison, MI.



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NURMIKKO

Adeline Rose Nurmiikko, age 90 of Lowell, passed to her greater Glory on Thursday, April 2, 2015. Husband, Tauno Nurmiikko; and son, Calvin Nurmiikko, preceded her in death. Surviving are Karen (Tim) Golden, Mike (Liz) Nurmiikko, Roseanne (Bruce) Siskonen, Gary (Cheryl) Nurmiikko, Bob (Maureen) Nurmiikko. Also surviving are numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. Adeline was known as a loving, giving person wherever she has lived. Everyone was always welcomed at her table. She was a strong spiritual example for her family, and an active member of Lowell VFW Auxiliary, United Methodist Church of Lowell, MI and Trinity Lutheran Church in Ironwood, MI. Memorial service will be held Saturday, April 25 1:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Lowell, 621 E. Main, Lowell, MI 49331. Visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church of Lowell or Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook SE, Suite 300 Grand Rapids, MI 49546-5783, Grand Rapids, MI.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

RICE

Vivian O. Rice, age 91 of Lowell, formerly of Mt. Morris, passed away Friday, April 10, 2015. She was preceded in death by her husband Charles W. Rice. She is survived by her children, C. William (Joanne), Robert (Leanna), Claudea, Lori; four grandchildren; 9 great grandchildren; and special family friends, The Kirkland Family. Funeral Service was held at First United Methodist Church of Lowell. Pastor Brad Brillhart officiant. Interment Bristol Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church of Lowell, 621 E. Main St., Lowell.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

Open house this weekend for new Wausau Homes builders design studio

The hammering has stopped and the dust has settled. It's time for new Wausau Homes builder Michael Nosko to celebrate his grand opening. Nosko is hosting an open house on Saturday, April 18 from 11 am to 3 pm to offer a look at the future of home building. Wausau Homes is located at 6739 East Fulton Street, Suite D10 in Ada.

Visitors can tour the new, state-of-the art design studio that showcases a welcome area where homebuyers can share their life story and vision for their new home. It also features everything from cabinets and countertops to siding and shingles while providing the latest technology to help homebuyers plan and customize their new homes. Among the highlights is a 3D viewer that allows

homebuyers to see their home plans take shape before their eyes so they will know exactly what their new home will look like before it's ever built.

"By partnering with Wausau Homes and opening our new design studio, we're able to give customers a stress-free building experience different than anything out there today," said Nosko.

Visitors to the open house will enjoy snacks and refreshments and can enter a drawing for some prizes. At the same time they will be able to see and touch a wide variety of sample products available to customize a new home. T

"We've made the entire homebuilding experience enjoyable," sums up Nosko. To learn more about Wausau Homes, visit www.wausauhomes.com

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

G	R	A	S	P	A	L	B	M	I	C	E	
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Faxing

\$1.00 First Sheet

50¢ each additional sheet

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Lowell • 897-9261
Mon.-Thur. 8am-5pm; Fri. 8am-noon

the lowell ledger

CITY OF LOWELL NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF THE OPTICAL SCAN TABULATING EQUIPMENT FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION, MAY 5, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the public accuracy test of the Optical Scan Tabulating Equipment for the May 5, 2015 Special Election will be conducted on Monday, April 20, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Lowell City Hall, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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

classifieds

for sale

SLEEP NUMBER BED - Why pay for name, advertising & mall rent. Queen P-5 Harmony, \$1,499; king, \$1,899; M-7 air cell queen \$2,299; king \$2,799; I-10 Medalion: queen \$2,599; king, \$3,299. Air & Waterbed Store, 616-682-4767. Can deliver.

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.

TFN

FOR SALE - 24 ft. pontoon, no motor, \$1,200. Call 616-691-8847.

QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - Plush & thick, new, \$245 & up. Twin, full & king also available. Grand Mattress Co., 616-682-4767. Can deliver.

BOB'S 18th ANNUAL SPRING BIRDHOUSE SALE - Think Spring! Welcome your favorite birds with a fresh new birdhouse or feeder. Nice selection of bluebird, wren & bat houses. Also wood duck nesting boxes, screech owl boxes and squirrel feeders. All cedar, built to last many seasons - best prices. Bob's Birdhouses, 12279 60th Street, Alto, 616-868-6633.

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.

WHOLESALE PRICING ON WINDOWS - Doors, metal roofing & pole barn packages. Call 616-761-2111.

QUEEN SIZE BEDROOM SET - w/mattress & heating cover, \$150; 8-N Ford tractor w/ back blade, \$1,500; 42" Craftsman garden tractor w/cart, \$500. Call 642-9315

HEAT YOUR ENTIRE HOME - Domestic water & more with the Classic or E-Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace from Central Boiler. Call today! SOS in Dutton, 616-554-8669.

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

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

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.

sales

HARDWOOD FOR SALE - 2 cords, \$130 per cord. You pick up. 897-5728.

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

help wanted

PROPANE SERVICE TECHNICIAN/DRIVER - class B CDL / CETP required. Minimum 3 years of experience. Health insurance offered, full-time position. E-mail us at dlpg@sbcglobal.net

AUTOBODY/MECHANICAL POSITION - for classic car restoration in Lowell. Experience & references required. Email resume to: sijk63@gmail.com

SELL AVON - Only \$15 to get started. Call 616-897-5086 or sign up now at www.startAvon.com and use ref code SGRIMM

FULLTIME COMMERCIAL CLEANING POSITION - Full-time misc. operations position in Grand Rapids area. Some heavy work, flexible hours, good pay & benefits. Must be dependable. Reliable transportation & valid drivers license required. Also must be able to pass background check. Applications are accepted Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Metropolitan Building Maintenance**, 868 Barnum SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49509.

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.

COMMERCIAL CLEANING POSITIONS - Parttime evening cleaning positions available immediately in the East Fulton & Forest Hills Area. One job Tuesday (2 hours) & Friday (6 hours), other job Tuesday (1 hour), Thursday (2 hours) & Friday (1 hour). Reliable transportation & valid drivers license required. We offer competitive wages. Applications are accepted Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Metropolitan Building Maintenance**, 868 Barnum SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49509.

misc.

GOT SCRAP METAL? - Please donate it to the Alto Cub Scout scrap metal drive! Drop off at 4994 Alden Nash, April 11 through 25th.

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

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. 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).

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

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.

wanted

VENDORS & CRAFTERS - for outdoor Flea Market during Bark For Life event 5/2/15. Only \$20 for unlimited space. Download form at www.relayforlife.org/barkioniami, announcements page or call 616-902-4383 for info.

LOOKING FOR A ROOM - to rent in Lowell. Call 616-470-1335.

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

WANTED - Scrap metal appliances, snowmobiles, cars, lawn mowers, any metals & batteries. Hauled free or ? 616-881-7131. Clip & Save!

memorials

IN MEMORY
James Ernest Fahrni,
 7/23/1940 to 4/15/2011
Brian Alan Marentette
 9/27/1968 to 4/18/2011
 Sadly missed by family & friends

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services

GARAGE DOOR & OPENER REPAIR SPECIAL - \$30 off broken spring or opener repair. Free estimates. Call Global Discount Garage Doors, 616-334-3574.

ELECTRICIAN - retired electrician doing small jobs. Reasonable rates, discounts for seniors. Call 616-401-6547.

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

services

GRAPHICS & EMBROIDERY - Are you ready for summer? Teams, clubs, reunions, wedding or graduation gifts! Idea to Stitches, 616-240-6110.

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

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

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

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.

CANCER - NEW MEMBER MEETING - Every Tuesday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Introductory meeting for those who wish to join the cancer support program. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

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

FLAT RIVER WATERSHED GROUP - Meets 3rd Monday of each month at the Main Street Inn in Lowell at 6:30 p.m. Our purpose is to protect, enhance & maintain land & water quality & other natural resources surrounding the Flat River Watershed. For more information, call Lloyd at 676-1812. Also, "Like" us on Facebook at the Flat River Watershed Council.

LADIES SEWING CLOTHES TO DONATE - First Friday of the month, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Items are made from donated material & fabrics, clothes from newborn to 12 years old. Items are donated to Blodgett Children's Home & St. John's Home. Join us to cut out patterns, Christian Life Center, Lowell.

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

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

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

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

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

MONEY SMART WEEK STORY-TIME - Mon., April 20, 10:30 a.m. Special money-themed storytime w/reading of "The Berenstain Bears' Trouble with Money." Each child will receive their own free copy. For ages 6 & younger. Alto Public Library, 6071 Linfield Ave, Alto. Ph. 784-2007.

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

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

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

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

ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. 11-3 p.m.; Tues. 12-8 p.m.; Wed. 10-3 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m. 987-9533. Diapers, formula, clothing & free pregnancy testing available. www.awclowell.org

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.

AVERILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF ADA - 7144 Headley, is open every Friday & Saturday 1 - 4 p.m. or by appointment. Closed Jan. & Feb. 676-9346.

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Tues. & Wed., 12 - 8 p.m.; Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Thurs., 1-5 p.m. Info., call 784-2007.

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

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

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

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

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

KDL COFFEE BREWING & TASTING - Mon., April 13, 6:30 p.m. How to brew the perfect cup. Taste locally roasted coffees & discover unique ways to brew. Pre-registration required. Englehardt Public Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. Ph. 784-2007.

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

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

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

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

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

Looking Back, continued

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 18, 1940

We've seen a good many odd things advertised in newspapers, and have even run an ad in the Ledger for lost false teeth, but last week the Chesaning Argus advertised for Henry Schroeder's lost hand. It was artificial and after taking it off and putting it in his pocket it came up missing.

A group of about a dozen youngsters engaged in what might be termed mimic warfare on the banks of Flat river last Saturday afternoon, about a mile north of town, resulted in a leg wound to Charles Armstrong, 14-year-old son of Vern Armstrong. Fortunately no bones were shattered and the young man is recovering at his parents' home. The wound was made by a bullet from a .22 calibre rifle in the hands of Albert Stryker and it is claimed that the bullet ricocheted into young Armstrong's leg. Other boys in the "army" were equipped with slingshots and an air gun.

Shall the Board of Education of Graded School District No. 1 be authorized and empowered to sell the East Ward school, raze the Perry school and build a garage which will house school buses and other departments of the school? This essentially summarizes the proposals that the electors will be asked to consider at a special election which is to be held at the high school on Tuesday, April 30.

Old friends and acquaintances of John F. Thomas, deputy superintendent of Detroit schools, and at one time superintendent of Lowell public schools, are extending congratulations upon his recent election as president of the Michigan Education Association. He will take office July 1.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Howard of Grand Rapids are now occupying the McMahan house on Hudson St. recently vacated by Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Altenburger. Mr. Howard has purchased the Riverview Inn east of town on M-21

from Henry Showers and will take possession of same on May 1. The new owner states that he expects to do some remodeling and redecorating.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger April 15, 1965

Headline: Lowell police and civil defense workers assist in tornado disaster. Four members of the Lowell Police Department responded to the disaster call, Sunday night when a tornado hit Kent County. Police Chief Avery Block, officers McCarthy, Cohen and Kline were all in the disaster area by nine o'clock. They worked until four in the morning searching for the dead and injured, and getting the civilians out of the area. Dave Clark, jr., took the Lowell civil defense emergency lighting equipment to the Stony Creek School and kept lights going until 5 in the morning, while a civil defense center was set up. On Monday at 7 am Block returned to the area with available officers. He directed men in a complete check of the area in the daylight. This search included the field areas as well as shattered buildings.

Lowell fortunate. When the storm struck Burnips, Lowell temporarily lost its electricity. Lowell's electricity is partially carried by the Wolverine Electric Plant at Burnips. Additional diesel units were quickly started and the local plant took over the load and service was off for only a few minutes. About ten in the evening, the Portland plant was struck by a wind storm and the local plant was again started with only a slightly lapse of service. Many area residents, receiving electric current from the Consumer's Power Company, had service disrupted for a much longer time.

Area people involved. Mrs. Betty Rogers, office worker at the Runciman Company was at her sister's home near Pine Lake when the storm struck. The barn was destroyed, but the house was not touched as

the deadly tornado swept the area. Mrs. Rogers was stranded in the area, without lights and unable to get out, until 2 am. Ken Hewit, who owns an auto agency, just north of Rockford, on US-131, had the rear part of the building blown down. No one was hurt.

Headline: Weather plays havoc with area country roads. Continuing snow storms in recent weeks, coupled with thawing conditions between, have caused severe problems for the Kent County Road Commission. Many secondary roads in the county are next to impassible in places, and a great number are closed entirely. All are in worse conditions than has been seen for several years. County blacktops are "alligator cracking"—breaking into chunks and then popping out. Should poor weather conditions continue the breakup will likely get worse and the cost for repairs would rise...

Headline: Bicyclist killed in Saturday mishap. Eight-year-old Paula Kay Wittenbach, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Wittenbach was killed instantly Saturday noon when she was struck by a car while riding her bicycle down the road. The car was driven by Mrs. Clara Smith. Her da

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 18, 1990

Headline: City workers find skull and bones while working on Riverside. City officials working on Riverside Drive Monday, where they are putting in a new water main and fire hydrant, came to a skull-reaching halt. While digging, city worker, Gary McCaul came across a skull, a thigh bone and a few other artifacts, according to Lowell Public Works Supervisor Tony Siciliano. The artifacts were housed in a bag. Medical examiner Stephen Cohle, said a forensic anthropologist was sent out Tuesday to find out if the bones are those of a human and if any foul play is suspected. Lowell officer Al Eckman said it appeared the bones had been there quite some time. He added that it is believed that the site was used at one time for an old Indian burial ground.

Headline: Saranac man arraigned on assault charges - Lowell police officer incurs 28 stitches to mouth. Thomas Dale Hauter Jr., of Saranac, was arraigned in the 63rd District Court by Judge Joseph White on a four-count warrant, including assault of a police officer with intent to commit great bodily harm. Lowell Police Officer Brian VanderHoek was assaulted by Hauter, following VanderHoek's attempt to arrest the Saranac man for fleeing and eluding an officer. The inside of VanderHoek's mouth required 28 stitches, according to Lowell Police Officer Al Eckman...

United States Congressman Paul Henry will once again hold a Town Hall Meeting in Lowell. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday April 28 at Lowell's City Hall. Community members are urged to attend, so that Henry may better represent the Fifth District and its interests in Washington. Henry will discuss and address education reform; environment - the national bottle bill; social security and long-term health care; the federal budget; and other issues of mutual concern.

WRWW (92.3) & Internet Schedule

[SUNDAY] [04-19-15]

2:30 'The Devon & Kelsie Show' with Devon Siciliano & Kelsie Jurmo (3)

9:00 pm 'Old-Time Radio'

[MONDAY] [04-20-15]

2:30 'The Infinite Show' with Raiden Miller (8)

4:30 Funday, Monday with Roman Rozell & Brendan Sanders (2)

[TUESDAY] [04-21-15]

3:00 The Lovely Beats Show with DJ Cupid & DJ Heartbeat (8)

4:30 Lowell Varsity Baseball vs GR Christian

[WEDNESDAY] [04-22-15]

7:30 High School Radio Day (On all Day)

2:45 The Archer Pina Show (4)

4:15 Lowell Varsity Softball vs Hudsonville

6:00 Lowell Varsity Softball vs Hudsonville

[THURSDAY] [04-23-15]

2:30 The No Topic Show with Dakota & Devin (3)

5:00 'The Daily Life Show' with Caleb Pickens & Geoff Fleenor (8)

8:00 'The Night Shift' with Clayton Brown & Jerry Thompson (1)

[FRIDAY] [04-24-15]

2:30 'The Show' with Jeremy Kargl & Ryne Clarke (1)

4:30 The Old World Blues Show w/ Riley Nethercott & Chase Miller (6)

[SATURDAY] [04-25-15]

3:00 'The Random Explosion Show' with Joe Ryder (9)

7:00 'The Music Locker' with Connor Smithee (2)

(1) = Classic Rock (2) = 2010 & Up Top Hits
(3) = Heavy Metal (4) = Country (5) = Dubstep/Dance
(6) = Jazz/Blues (7) = Glam Rock (70's)
(8) = 2000 & Up Top Hits (9) = Talk Show

WRWW would like to thank the Lowell Ledger for being one of its sponsors.

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The Buyers Guide

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**THEME:
POP ICONS**

ACROSS

- 1. Fathom
- 6. Priestly vestment
- 9. Steinbeck's "Of _____ and Men"
- 13. Yogurt-based dip
- 14. *James Dean famously died in one
- 15. Dugout vessel
- 16. Cupid's ammo
- 17. Business degree
- 18. Rose oil
- 19. **"Single Lady" no more
- 21. *Famous for his pop art
- 23. "Back To The Future" actress
- 24. Mark of a ruler
- 25. Equinox mo.
- 28. *Michael Jackson's record label
- 30. Frog-like amphibians
- 34. Footnote word
- 36. Black cat, to some
- 38. Fork tooth
- 40. Caffeine tree
- 41. Fat cat in the Orient
- 43. Dwarf buffalo
- 44. Remove _____ from existence
- 46. _____ Verde National Park
- 47. Town
- 48. Uncredited actor
- 50. Count on
- 52. Mad Hatter's drink
- 53. Drink from the bottle
- 55. Break bread
- 57. Historical records
- 60. *a.k.a. Heisenberg
- 64. Poet T.S. _____
- 65. Santa _____ winds
- 67. Swimsuit fabric
- 68. *Actress, singer and judge
- 69. Broadcasting medium
- 70. African chieftain
- 71. _____ hall
- 72. *a.k.a. Ernesto Guevara

CROSSWORD													
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April 8 - April 14

• Marco Rubio has now thrown his hat into the ring with fellow Republicans Rand Paul and Ted Cruz by announcing he is running for president.



In a not-too-surprising announcement, Hillary Clinton has announced she will be running for president.

• A woman clearly not running for Mom of the Year, dangled her two-year-old child over a cheeta cage in Cleveland and dropped him in. The toddler had leg injuries but fortunately, the cheetas ignored the child and the people climbing in to rescue him. The mother has been charged with child endangerment.



• Davion Only, 16-year-old in foster care whose plea to be adopted went viral in 2013 has finally found a home. Connie Going, his adoption case worker will officially become his mother. He had asked her several times to adopt him but Going thought he was so special and that there was certainly another home for him out there. But then he asked her again and she "just knew" he was going to be her son.



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DOWN

- 1. Snatch
- 2. Steak choice
- 3. Gossamer
- 4. Bar seat

- 5. Native American group
- 6. Fictional company in old cartoons
- 7. Testing site
- 8. Quality of having size or strength
- 9. Section of S.A.T.
- 10. A fan of
- 11. "_____ Miner's Daughter," movie
- 12. Always, to a poet
- 15. Drive-in server
- 20. Neutered rooster
- 22. Pre-college challenge
- 24. Shipping hazard
- 25. *"I Wanna Be Like _____"
- 26. Love intensely
- 27. Kick back
- 29. Muslim holy man
- 31. United _____ Emirates
- 32. *Homer Simpson: "Mmm, _____"
- 33. Saw logs
- 35. Sail support
- 37. *Jimmy Durante's signature body part
- 39. *She's famous for her "Bad Romance"
- 42. Farm machine
- 45. Artificial substitute
- 49. Hole punching tool
- 51. Wailed
- 54. *Mizrahi, of fashion and TV
- 56. Part of bouquet garni
- 57. Balm ingredient
- 58. Sips of alcohol
- 59. Rejections
- 60. Foal's mother
- 61. Frosts a cake
- 62. "Star _____"
- 63. *Spock's famous body parts
- 64. Freddy Krueger street
- 66. National Institute of Health

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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Ella & Randall St. Germain

Behind The Scenes

Position: Owners, Ella's Coffee & Cuisine
Education: Grand Rapids Community College (both), Florida Culinary Institute (Ella)
Experience: Restaurant work since age 15 (Ella), Meijer and "odd jobs" (Randall)
Favorite Band: Milky Chance (Ella), Radiohead (Randall)
Favorite Movie: True Romance (Ella), Fight Club (Randall)
Favorite Book: Of Mice and Men (Ella), The Catcher in the Rye (Randall)
Favorite Comedian: Jimmy Fallon (Ella), Dave Chappelle (Randall)



Young couple take a risk and enjoy their business

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Ella and Randall St. Germain are the owners of Ella's Coffee and Cuisine, 307 E. Main St.

Ella's isn't just a coffee shop, it's a restaurant that has been serving delicious breakfasts and lunches for five years.

"It was a big risk, but we couldn't be happier," Ella said. "Lowell is a very welcoming community. This community comes together and supports people."

They've been married for three years, and running a business together doesn't seem to be putting a strain on their relationship.

"Anybody who's ever worked with their spouse knows it's not easy to do, I don't care what you do for a living," Randall said. "You can do it if you just communicate with each other."

"When we opened, Randall and I were just dating," Ella said. "Having my spouse here, I can trust that he cares about the business as much as I do, so it helps with consistency."

Ella has been working in the food service industry since she was a teenager.

"I've always loved cooking, so I went to culinary school," Ella said.



"I did a few semesters at Grand Rapids Community College, and then I transferred to the Florida Culinary Institute."

Randall, on the other hand, was a novice in the kitchen.

"I didn't work in any restaurants or anything like that until I met Ella, then she asked me if I wanted to work with her here," Randall said. "I never had any cooking experience,

so that was something that, over time, I learned how to do and help with. You can learn anything if you really want to try and do it."

"He's passionate, he wants to succeed, and with no experience he cooks at level that is higher than most people," Ella said. "He's a fast learner."

Randall's new skills were put to the test when Ella had some health problems that made it difficult for her to work.

"I injured my back and have had a heck of a few years," Ella said. "A year and a half ago I had to step away from cooking on the line because it was exacerbating the issues that I was having, so I thought this was the best opportunity to teach him. The hardest struggle was not being able to be present in something that I love so much. That was complete agony. There were weeks at a time that I missed with recovering from surgery and stuff like that, and there have been a few surgeries. I'm actually, finally, for the first time, feeling like myself."

Ella's is open for breakfast and lunch. They have an extensive menu of sandwiches, soup, pastries and coffee drinks.

"We make some really good soups here, and by far, hands-down, we make the best sandwiches in town," Randall said. "Everyone in Lowell should come try one of our sandwiches. You won't be disappointed."

Their signature sandwich is the "Ella's Reuben Revision."

"We say 'revision' because it's not a classic Reuben, it's my revision of a Reuben," Ella said. "It's very similar. It's got the corned beef, Swiss cheese and the kraut, but we also put our homemade slaw in it, which is a vinegar-based slaw, so it's tangy. You get the warm, cheesy richness and the acidity and the coolness of the slaw offsets that. You get a lot of texture and balance from it."

Ella's also does catering and rents the restaurant space for parties.

"Catering is where I'm able to really exercise my creativity," Ella said. "We can offer the menu items that we currently serve, but a lot of times it's customized, like for weddings and rehearsal dinners and birthday parties. When it's a custom menu I sit down and meet with the customer and I ask them what their favorite foods are, what they don't like, and then I brainstorm and type up a few different menu options with pricing, then send it to them and they choose."

They take pride in using as many locally-sourced ingredients as possible.

"Grand Rapids Coffee Roasters provides our brewed coffee, our drip coffee," Ella said. "We get our espresso from a place called Populace out of Bay City, Michigan."

"The corned beef comes from Little Town Jerky, out of Falmouth, Michigan," Randall said.

"You really shouldn't be buying pre-packaged, pre-made products," Ella said. "You should be putting care and respect into what you're making and bringing food back to what it used to be."

"And keeping the money in the community," Randall said.

One thing to look for later in the year is an expanded selection of take-out items to complement your home-cooked meals or bring on a picnic.

"We hope this summer to expand on grab-and-go items," Ella said. "Like two to three deli salads and then pre-made sides. If the sides work, then we might do entrées. A light meal, and something that's fast, I think that's our next step."

The restaurant business is incredibly risky. Most new restaurants fail within the first year. Ella and Randall's creativity, hard work and determination have made Ella's Coffee and Cuisine an integral part of Main St.

"It makes me proud that the business is a success," Randall said.

"It was a big risk for us to take," Ella said. "Not many people at the age of 30 are at this point."

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 WED. NIGHT: Men's League - Arrowhead
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Behind The Scenes

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