

Thousands attend 20th annual Lowell Expo

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The 2016 Lowell Expo took place at Lowell High School on Saturday, March 26. Thousands of people attended and enjoyed tons of free samples, entertainment, networking and fun.

City councilor Jim Hodges was on hand representing the Lowell Rotary and their fight against polio.

"Lowell Rotary fights polio all over the world," Hodges said. "While it's been eradicated here in the United States, it does still appear in a few other countries. It's almost wiped out, but 'almost' isn't quite done. We're getting there."

Dawn Broene from FROM's Treasures Thrift Shop had a whole bedroom put together with finds from that store. The total price of everything in the room, including furniture, bedding, clothes, toys and knick knacks, was only \$181.75.

"You can get a 'new to you' wardrobe and redecorate your room for under \$200," Broene said. "This Tommy Hilfiger shirt is brand new with the tags still on it; we would only charge \$2 for that."



All of the money generated from sales of the new and gently used merchandise at Treasures Thrift Shop benefits FROM's programs, which include a food pantry, financial management classes, employment services, Neighbor to

Neighbor, backpack and school supply distribution, free income tax preparation and many more.

"Treasures Thrift Shop has everything," Broene said. "We have housewares, we have a media and book room, we have a DIY room, we have a furniture

room, a clothes room, and a boutique. If you come often you're going to save money."

Treasures Thrift Shop is at 11535 E Fulton and they're open every Tuesday through Saturday.

Belmont real estate agent Teresa Hoffman

passed out free calendars and candy while answering questions about the real estate market in Lowell.

"The market in Lowell is really going strong," Hoffman said. "We have

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odyssey of the mind competes



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annual egg hunt



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Girls Night Out Page 2

Expo photos



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Congressman Amash holds town hall meeting in Lowell

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Congressman Justin Amash held a town hall meeting at Lowell Township Hall on Tuesday, March 29. Over 50 people showed up to ask questions and listen to the representative speak on issues such as Syrian refugees, Social Security, relations between Cuba and the United States, the vacancy on the Supreme Court and term limits. Amash also held town hall meetings in Sparta, Greenville and Portland that day.

Amash, a Republican, has been a member of Congress since 2011, serving as the representative for Michigan's 3rd district, the seat once occupied by Gerald Ford. He graduated from Grand Rapids Christian High School and the

University of Michigan and he currently lives in Cascade Township. In the congress, he is a member of the

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the United States Congress Joint Economic Committee.



"With all the terrorism in the world and domestically, we hear on the news that the current administration is opening up the flood gates, allowing refugees to come through," a local resident said. "There's no doubt in my mind and I don't have any evidence of it, but there's no doubt in my mind that imbedded in there are some bad people. What can the Congress do to put a hold on this kind of thing so that we can secure our borders so we don't have bad people coming across like this? There's no question in my mind it's a matter of time before we have a serious bombing or something."

"When you have a lot of immigrants coming into a country and they don't feel welcome and you have laws in place that create a lot of

'us vs. them,' you build up the tension and you create a lot of situations like we see in Europe," Amash said. "I think we as a country really need to be careful about that. Any laws that are sort of 'us vs. them' type of laws I think are very dangerous for our country."

"What is your take on Congress lifting the embargo on Cuba," a citizen asked.

"I am in favor of lifting the embargo," Amash replied. "There has been a policy of more than 50 years where we've isolated Cuba and it hasn't worked. The Castros are still in charge, the people are still suffering and it hasn't done our country any good or their country any good. When you

Town hall meeting, continued, page 3

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Gov. Snyder asks for money for legal bills

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

There has been quite a bit of activity over the past few weeks as the Flint water crisis continues to unfold.

On March 8 governor Rick Snyder asked the State Administrative Board to approve \$1.2 million to cover his legal bills related to the scandal. The \$1.2 million includes \$400,000 for Detroit civil attorney Eugene Driker and up to \$800,000 for Grand Rapids criminal defense attorney Brian Lennon. In addition, Attorney General Bill Schuette asked the board to approve a \$1.5-million contract with Royal Oak attorney Todd Flood, who will investigate the issue.

Under Michigan law, state employees who are hit with a civil suit for actions related to their job are entitled to legal representation at taxpayer

expense. However, the state is not required to pay legal bills generated from a criminal suit, although there is no law that says they can't use taxpayer money for this.

House Minority Leader Tim Greimel, D-Auburn Hills, said in a news conference on Monday, March 7, that Snyder should have to raise the money through a legal defense fund instead of making taxpayers pay his bills. Greimel said the \$800,000 criminal defense attorney bill was "the most egregious part" of the entire Flint water crisis.

Last Thursday, March 17, Snyder testified before the U.S. Congress, whose House Oversight Committee held three days of hearings about Flint. The hearings became heated at times with several members of congress calling for Snyder to resign and included an apology from Snyder.

"Not a day or night goes by that this tragedy doesn't weigh on my mind," Snyder said to the congress. "I'm going to have to live with this for the rest of my life."

"You have to live with it, but many of these children will never be what God intended them to be when they were born," replied Maryland congressman Elijah Cummings.

On Monday, March 21, Snyder released a \$232 million dollar "action plan" that focuses on subjects including health and human services, infrastructure, education and jobs.

"We are committed to addressing immediate concerns and finding long-term solutions to improve the quality of life for the people of Flint," Snyder said in a statement accompanying the plan.

Break out the big hats for GNO on Thurs., April 21

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Break out the big hats ladies, it's almost time for the spring installment of Lowell's Girls Night Out. This time the theme for celebrating local shopping will be the blue grass and horse bets of the Kentucky Derby.

Scheduled for Thursday, April 21, the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce event will run from 5-9 pm and span the length of Lowell's dual business districts. Shuttle service between downtown and uptown destinations will be provided by the Lowell YMCA and Main Street Inn. The event, designed to encourage local shopping while offering a fun night on the town, is one of the signature chamber events.

The night of fun will be jam packed with specials, snacks and giveaways, including discounts on all in stock jewelry at Chimera Designs Fine Jewelry, 25 percent off storewide at Springrove Variety and Flat River Outreach Ministries and free admission to the Lowell Area Historical Museum.

Other stops include Advanced Eye Care Professionals who will offer a free photo booth and big prizes to match their Kentucky Derby big hat competition. The same location, 1335 W. Main Street, will host Pauly's who will serve up derby inspired drinks. Neighbors B.C. Pizza and Grand River Orthodontics will be offering free slices and, you guessed it, free toothbrushes for the family.

For those looking to dine on the town, several area restaurants will be offering discounts on food for shoppers. Fry Daddy's will be serving up seafood and more with a buy one get one half off sale, Main Street BBQ will serve up \$5 nachos and Larkin's Fine Dining and Cocktails will offer your choice of \$5 appetizers.

Several businesses will gather at the chamber office located at 113 Riverwalk Plaza.

According to chamber director Liz Baker, "At the chamber we have new merchants; our standbys are Avon, Younique, Mary Kay and coming on this time around is Village Floral West and Portland Federal Credit Union."



along main street

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

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

LOWELLARTS! STUDENT ART SHOW

April 29 - May 21 LowellArts! presents the fifth annual Student Art Show featuring exciting, innovative, creative, spectacular, and well-executed artwork from area middle and high school students. Artwork is submitted by art teachers by invited schools for display. The exhibit is also open to home-schooled students who live within 15 miles of Lowell. Best of Show and Honorable Mention awards are presented

in three categories and winners receive gift packages of art supplies, classes and gift certificates donated by various businesses and institutions. Meet-the-Artist reception to be held Sunday, May 1, 2-4 pm. Gallery hours: Tues.-Fri 10 am - 6 pm and Sat. 1-4 pm. LowellArts! is located at 149 S. Hudson St., 897-8545. www.lowellartsmi.org

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.

Correction

In the story that ran on March 16 with the Lowell Middle School chess club tournament winners, the first-place winner Kyle James was mistakenly listed as Kyle Weeks.



Pictured, left to right: Travis Boyd (runner-up), Sterling Weeks (runner-up), Kyle James (first place - undefeated) and Alexis Royer (runner-up).

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Do you recognize anyone from the 40s?

If you or someone you know was an Alto Elementary student and recognize anyone in the two pictures below, please call Judy Timpson at 897-9125. She brought these pictures into the Ledger office with hopes that someone in the area just might have a clue who one or more of the students are.



Right: 1940 Alto Elementary, back row, center: John Timpson; front row, third from left: Margo Hilton; and 6th from left: Jerry Timpson.



Left: 1942 Alto Elementary, third row, first from left: John Timpson; and third row, fifth from left: Jerry Timpson.

...

An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.
~ Mahatma Gandhi

Byrne named Murray Lake Staff Member of the month

Karla Byrne was named Murray Lake Staff Member of the Month for February. Byrne has been teaching kindergarten in Lowell schools for the past 17 years, with the past 12 years being at Murray Lake.

differentiates for all levels. She works with some of our neediest students and continues to show caring and love for teaching. Karla also serves on many committees at Murray Lake including PBIS and the Math Team," commented staff member, Brooke Culver.

Byrne and husband Chris both grew up in the Lowell area and feel blessed to be raising their three children in the Lowell community as well. When Byrne is not teaching, she and her family have enjoyed skiing this winter with the new Lowell schools' ski/snowboard club (which Byrne founded). She also enjoys cooking, swimming and traveling with her family.

The growth they make both academically and socially in just their first year at school is astounding! Murray Lake is more than a school. It's a family that I am honored to be a part of! We have top notch students, supportive parents and I have amazing colleagues who dedicate themselves to their students and our community," said Byrne.

"Teaching is so much more than just a job for me. It's what I was called to do. I look forward to coming to work everyday. I know that there will be 24 little smiling faces just waiting to tell me everything that has happened since the last time we were together! These little learners are amazing!



Town hall meeting, continued

have the same policy for this long and it's been a failure, you have to rethink it."



should reject this nominee. I think this nominee has very extreme views. [...] We're elected to go vote and it's not right, in my opinion, to avoid all of the tough issues."

When asked about whether or not President Obama's nominee for the Supreme Court, Merrick Garland, should be approved, Amash said the Senate should have hearings.

On Wednesday, March 30, Amash, who is currently on recess from Congress, will hold more town hall meetings in Marshall, Battle Creek, Hastings and Caledonia.

"It's my opinion that they should hold a hearing on the current nominee," said Amash. "In my opinion they

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Which IRA is better for younger workers?

If you're at the beginning of your career, you might not be thinking too much about the end of it. But even younger workers should be aware of – and saving for – their eventual retirement. And since you've got many years until you do retire, you've got a lot of options to consider – one of which is whether an IRA may be appropriate for you and, if so, what type.

Essentially, you can choose between a “traditional” IRA and a Roth IRA. (Other types of IRAs are available if you're self-employed.)

With a traditional IRA, you contribute “pretax” dollars, so your contributions are generally tax-deductible, depending on your income limits and whether you also have a 401(k) or other retirement plan at work. In 2016, you can contribute up to \$5,500 to your traditional IRA, although the limit rises once you reach 50. You can fund your IRA with many types of investments – for example, stocks, bonds, and government securities – and your earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis.

A Roth IRA has the same \$5,500 annual contribution limit and can also be

funded with many types of investments. But there are some key differences. You can only contribute to a Roth IRA if your income is below a certain threshold, but that threshold is quite high, especially for younger workers starting their careers. So you'll likely be eligible. However, your contributions are never tax-deductible, so you're basically funding your Roth IRA with money on which you've already been taxed. But your earnings can grow tax free, as long as you don't start taking withdrawals until you're 59½ and you've had your account at least five years.

Assuming you can contribute to either a traditional or a Roth IRA, which should you choose? There's no one right answer for everyone, but as a younger worker, you may be able to gain two important benefits from contributing to a Roth.

First, since you're probably earning much less now than you will later in your career, you're likely in a relatively low tax bracket. So it may make sense to pay income taxes now on your Roth contributions, rather than pay the taxes later on withdrawals from

a traditional IRA. And second, a Roth IRA may provide more flexibility than a traditional IRA. Usually, the only way to get money from a traditional IRA before you retire is through a short-term loan; otherwise, you can get hit with both taxes and penalties on early withdrawals. But with a Roth IRA, you can withdraw your contributions (not the earnings) penalty free to help pay for your first house or to go back to school.

Still, as mentioned above, there's no hard-and-fast rule as to which IRA is better for younger workers. For example, if you are certain you'll be in a lower tax bracket when you retire, you might be better off by taking the yearly tax deductions from your traditional IRA and then paying taxes on the withdrawals when you retire. But that's a hard prediction for anyone to make.

Your tax advisor may be able to provide some guidance on whether a traditional or a Roth IRA is better for you – but either one can be a valuable resource for that day, many years from now, when you say “goodbye” to work and start a new phase of your life.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

Rep. Lyons' elections legislation protects taxpayers

The House passed Rep. Lyons' bill to prohibit those expelled or those who have resigned from legislative office from running in the special election called to replace them.

The legislation clarifies that when an elected official resigns or is removed from office, that resignation or removal remains in effect for the remainder of that legislative term.

State Rep. Lisa

Posthumus Lyons, the bill sponsor and chair of the House Elections Committee, said its purpose is to protect taxpayer dollars.

“This bill is just common sense,” said Rep. Lyons, R-Alto. “It is absurd that an individual could run to fill a vacancy created at the expense of local governments and the taxpayers. If a person who resigns or is removed from

office wants to seek that seat in a regular election, the voters should- and will continue to- have the right to decide for themselves whether they will elect that person. The loophole in our current law allowing them to run in a local taxpayer-funded special election to fill their own vacancy simply does a disservice to hardworking taxpayers.”

House Bill 5407 now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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viewpoint

to the editor

More than one side to the story

Dear Editor,
It was noted in the March 9, 2016 Lowell Ledger that a new political action committee called "Forward Lowell" was formed with the intent to recall Mayor Jeff Altoft. The article stated that the political action committee was founded last month by Roger LaWarre, Maryalene LaPonsie, Greg Canfield, Tina Dickerman and Jeff Dickerman. It was stated in the article that Mr. LaWarre

said "part of the reason we're in the mess we're in is because so few voted and people who were recruiting the voters that did turn out, a percentage of those voters were disgruntled, as opposed to having a positive direction for Lowell as a whole." Mr. LaWarre seems to be disgruntled over the outcome of the election. Which he's entitled to be. But he and the others should not be entitled to a recall just because they failed to have

their own way in the last election. The previous city council and city manager had better than four years to stand accountable and they failed to do so, so they were replaced. Greg Canfield, one of the political action committee founders, said in a letter to the Editor "a small group can't move past the pain of the union campaign. That's history, we can't go back and Mark Howe is gone. Let's move forward. As in Forward Lowell." That's not how I see it. I believe any problem lingering over the contract negotiations ended when the city manager was fired. What relit the candle was the political action committee's recall of Jeff Altoft. I believe there's

more to the recall than a discrepancy over a \$9,900 bill for legal services. I didn't see anywhere where Mayor Altoft was asked to step down. Then why all of a sudden is there a recall? Could this recall be a reprisal for the firing of the city manager? A recall is a serious matter and should not be taken lightly. This recall is already reflecting in an ugly way upon the city and I believe it will get uglier before the matter is settled. All I can say to the constituents of Lowell is before being duped into making a rash decision, remember there is always more than one side to every story.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard
Lowell

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 3, 1941

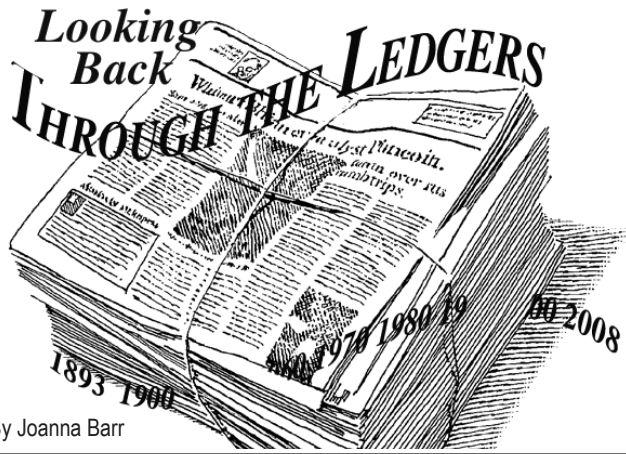
One of the cheerful sights of spring consists of the boys playing marbles on the sidewalk. The boy with a pocket full of marbles strides through the street with his head up, confident of his position in the kid world. Games of marbles are played in every nation in the world, and have been played since earliest history. One of the most familiar games consists of popping marbles. One boy puts down an "agate" marble, and the boys pop at it. The owner of the target gets the marbles thus popped, but the boy who first hits the target gets the agate. Does such a game develop the gambling spirit? Some parents have thought so. That question is too deep for us, but anyway the boy who cheats should be made to feel that the kid world does not love him.

In comfort, convenience and all-round "livability" the buyer of the 1941 home gets at least 23 per cent more in value than his older brother could obtain back in 1926. This declaration came recently from Donald H. McNeal, appraisal and reconditioning expert of the Home Owner's Loan Corporation which has conducted studies of homes in every part of the nation in the past few years. Increased attention to the needs of the household and technical improvements in the building industry largely account for the evolution, according to Mr. McNeal.

Friday night. Nearly every number was encored and responded to, which gives rise to the only cause of complaint regarding the entertainment, it was too long, Wm. H. Peak's harp solos and the recitations of little Georgia Holly were especially fine.

Mrs. R. D. Stocking has returned from Toledo, where she has been for the past week attending the Millinery openings and selecting all the latest designs in Pattern Hats and Bonnets. Our formal opening of trimmed millinery will take place on Friday and Saturday, April 10th and 12th. All are cordially invited to attend. Mrs. J. O'Heron, Mrs. R. D. Stocking.

Looking Back, continued, page 11



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal April 1, 1891

The Bancroft boys, Charley and R. D., have gone on to their farm in Bowne, known as the Skidmore farm. They will remain until fall, when they will reopen the evaporator.

The librarian has now got all the new books catalogued and those who had an idea that they had read everything in the library, will now find something new, besides the shelves.

The wholesale grocers quote granulated sugar for April delivery at 4½ cents per pound and our enterprising housewives will be buying it at 20 lbs. for a dollar. All on account of the McKinley bill.

Harry Sherman receives the correct time every day at 9 o'clock a. m. and has placed an apparatus in his window giving the general public the benefit of it. The apparatus is an electrical contrivance connected with the L. & H. Ry. station and when the time comes over the line from Detroit, at just 9 o'clock a. m., a large ball, which is suspended in the air, drops. Stop at 9 a. m. and set your watch.

Dr E. Frank Orser, the celebrated specialist, was detained from keeping his last appointment on account of the prevalence of La grippe, which is almost an epidemic in Gd. Rapids, but he will be at Train's Hotel, on Thursday, April 9th, sure. Call and see him, or if you are unable to call he will come and see you. Consultation free.

Madame Lovejoy's Concert Co. gave a very fine entertainment at Train's Opera House, last

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 6, 1916

That tuberculosis is spread by diseased persons employed in the preparation and handling of foods in restaurants and hotels, is charged; and the public is warned by the health authorities to demand that only those physically fit for such work be so employed. The two thousand five hundred fatal cases of tuberculosis in Michigan each year, it is stated, do not just "happen." They are caused; and this is one of the causes that can be eliminated.

We have heard of booze making people see double but never before heard of anyone's head swelling over becoming a father to such an extent that they saw double until yesterday when Arthur Baker announced the arrival of a 15 lb. boy. This morning the doctor's scales convinced Arthur he had made a mistake. Correct weight 8½ pounds. Mother and babe are doing fine.

Lewis and Harold Jones had a narrow escape from drowning in Grand river near the lower bridge last Thursday. They were thrown from a boat into the swift water but each managed to get hold of a tree up which they climbed to safety.

Spring is surely here. Stocking's bamboo fish poles have arrived and the street cleaner and sprinkler wagon are busy. Now for the first straw hat.

Calvin Rogers and L. B. Ayers have bought the Collins dray line and began work Monday morning. Mr. Ayers is moving back from Detroit and will be here this week.

A building on the Lynn Fletcher place occupied by Elmer Howk at Segwun was totally destroyed with all its contents Tuesday noon. It was used for storage of goods belonging to Lynn Fletcher and Fred Jacobi. Fire caught from burning grass.

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; duplicate comments/authors within a short period may be dismissed. Opinions expressed in "To The Editor" are not the views of the Ledger employees or the publisher. All letters are subject to editing. Thank you letters and advertising will not be printed.

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



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KDL Reads: Bookbinding and Journal Making

This bookbinding class will teach students how to make their own journal through the Japanese stab binding method. Participants will walk away with a completed journal and the tools to make more in the future. Pre-registration required. Wed., April 27 at 6:30 pm.

KDL Reads: Up, up, and away!

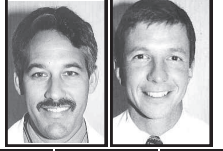
Up, up, and away! Fly to the moon and back as we celebrate our KDL Reads picture book companion *Max and the Tag-Along Moon* by Floyd Cooper. Enjoy stories, songs, crafts and activities that are out of this world. For ages 6 and younger. Thurs., April 28 at 10 am.

...
People are trapped in history and history is trapped in them.
~ James A. Baldwin

happy birthday

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| MARCH 30
Deb Maxim, Erin Wade, Delores Ellison, Laurinda Horsley, Patrick Drake. | MARCH 31
Katelynn Fonger, Jennifer McCaul, Ben Lobbezoo, Tera Raab, Rudy Smith, Michaela Blough. | MARCH 30
Kyle Geldersma, Ron Metternick, Alec Newhouse, Chris Rittersdorf, Blake Bergy, Nicole Wilcox, Alex Hazard. | MARCH 31
Hayleigh Borton, Jamie Barnes, Darwin Lambert. |
| APRIL 1
Christopher Vollink, Denny McClure, Kurt Wernet. | APRIL 2
Troy Pethers, Nick Corbeil, Janet Kelley. | APRIL 3
Troy Pethers, Nick Corbeil, Janet Kelley. | APRIL 4
Troy Pethers, Nick Corbeil, Janet Kelley. |
| APRIL 5
Doug Klahn. | | | |

health



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



breast cancer screening

Screening for breast cancer is usually done by mammography. Screening is done for all women at a certain age without symptoms in hopes of diagnosing breast cancer at an early stage when the chance of a cure is greatest. Screening mammography has been shown to lower the risk of dying from breast cancer. Mammograms are not perfect, sometimes cancers are missed or lesions are detected that are not actually cancer, resulting in additional testing and unnecessary procedures. This is called a false positive result. Mammograms can also lead to over diagnosis if they detect very low risk cancers that would never have caused any problem in a woman's life.

Two large organizations in the United States have released recommendations on when mammograms should be done and the frequency of testing, based on their review of current studies. Because all women are different and family history is varied, there is not one universal answer as to when a particular woman should begin screening.

The United States Preventative Services Task Force recommends screening mammograms for women aged 50-74 every two years. For women less than 50 years, they state that women can choose to be screened based on individual risk factors. They make no recommendations for screening women age 75 and older.

The American Cancer Society updated its recommendations last year. They recommended that women start screening at age 45 and get annual mammograms until age 54. After age 54 they recommend screening every other year for women at average risk. Screening should continue until there is an average life expectancy of less than 10 years. Women younger than 45 may choose to begin screening earlier based on individual risk factors.

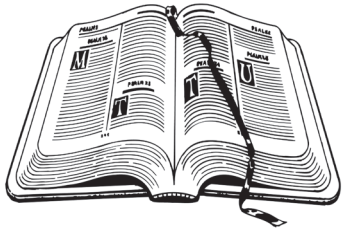
The difference between the two groups recommendations are based on different conclusions about balancing the potential harm of screening against the potential benefits. The United States Preventative Services Task Force recommends fewer screenings to prevent over diagnosis and over treatment. The American Cancer Society recommends more frequent screening, believing that more screenings are necessary to find cancers at an earlier stage when cure is more likely.

All women should discuss when to start screening and the frequency of mammograms with their physician based on their own risk factors and beliefs about the risk and benefits of mammographic screening.

...
**How did it get so late so soon?
Its night before its afternoon.
December is here before its June.
My goodness how the time has flewn.
How did it get so late so soon?**

~ Dr. Seuss

area churches



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Cristal Beale, Director of Children's Ministries

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Middle & High School - Rescheduled for Wednesdays, 7 pm

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Three Lowell Odyssey of the Mind teams compete at state finals competition

On Saturday March 19, 119 Odyssey of the Mind teams from around the state gathered at Thornapple Kellogg Schools in Middleville to compete in the 36th annual Michigan Odyssey of the Mind competition. Three teams from Lowell Area Schools were represented at the competition.

All three Lowell teams competed in the “Stack Attack” problem. In this problem, teams had to design, build and test a structure made only of balsa wood and glue that would

balance and support as much weight as possible - twice. During weight placement, teams could “Attack the Stack” where they removed all of the weights except for the bottom one and the crusher board. Teams also received score[s] for removing weights. After “Attacking the Stack,” the weight placement process was repeated to add the total weight held. The team also had to incorporate weight placement, repetition and “Attacking the Stack” into the theme of their performance.

The Division I elementary “Stack Attack” team from Lowell secured a first-place finish in their age bracket with a structure that held 829.5 pounds. The Lowell High School “Stack Attack” team finished in second place for their age bracket. Both of these teams secured spots at the World Finals competition. Since starting the program in Lowell ten years ago, this is the fourth time Lowell will be represented at the international world competition to be held at Iowa State University in May.



The Division I elementary “Stack Attack” team, front row: Ari McFarland, Logan Smith, Nicholas Lothian, Dalton Charon, Lily Richards and Caydence Pawloski; back row: coach Ryan Lothian, Victor Preiss and coach Wendie Preiss. Missing is coach Lori Lothian.



The Lowell High School “Stack Attack” team, left to right: coach Mark Looman, Hope Winters, Chloe Looman, Leanna Rose, Annabelle Johnson and Emily Lothian.

Also representing Lowell at the State Finals competition was the Lowell Middle School “Stack Attack” team. This team faced many very tough competitors and still finished fourth in their age bracket.

Over 800 teams from around the world will compete in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. The competition emphasizes creativity and teamwork and has grown into the largest international creative problem-solving competition worldwide.

Millions of kids have been working hard all year perfecting their solutions to OotM problems and competing within their regions and states. Only a few advance to World Finals – these teams represent the best of the best creative minds. While the competition is fierce, there is also a feeling of camaraderie among competitors. Many students form lifelong friendships that span the U.S. and the globe. At World Finals, the teams have the chance to learn about other cultures

through a common goal. . . to be as creative as they can. The students are beginning to raise funds to participate in the competition. Each team will need to raise approximately \$5,000 to attend the World Finals tournament. Please consider making a donation to help the students who will be representing our community and state at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals competition. If you or your organization would be interested in helping out the teams, please email lowellodyssey@gmail.com for more information.

LHS Students of the Month for March

Lowell High School is proud to announce that Madison McCormack, 11th grade; and Hannah Ritsema 12th grade; are the Lowell High School March Students of the Month.

In order to be eligible for this honor a student must be nominated by a department. All the nomination forms for the month are then reviewed and voted on at the monthly department



Madison McCormack

chair meeting. Students are selected based on academic achievement, character and work ethic. There are 1,200 students eligible for nomination, so this is quite an accomplishment for McCormack and Ritsema. The students receive a

\$20 movie gift card and a certificate.

McCormack was nominated by Keith Boeve and he writes, “When I think of hardworking, diligent, polite, honest, cooperative and studious, I think of Madison. Madison had some academic struggles in the past but has managed to completely turn things around with unbelievable energy and a “can do” attitude towards her academics. Her improvement has not been short of remarkable. Her genuine personality immediately welcomes you to be part of her energy and friendly attitude towards others. Madison has worked at a number of job sites over the last two years and has received outstanding evaluations and positive comments from everyone. This year at Kent Transition Center she has excelled in Early Childhood Careers and has become a true role model for her classmates. She is the perfect fit to work with young children

someday. She has been active in Track and Field, the Musical and has received numerous R.E.D. reward cards. Madison truly exemplifies that hard work,



Hannah Ritsema

a great attitude and genuine kindness toward others makes for an outstanding student.

Cari Slot and Kristine Stedman nominated Ritsema. Stedman writes, “Hannah Ritsema’s conscious dedication and hard work each and every day makes her a valuable student in all her business classes. She wants to learn, accepts the challenges of thinking through problems, with harder work she gives

more effort, and is never afraid to ask clarifying questions. Hannah models leadership through these everyday actions in the classroom and will be an asset as a future young woman in business.” Slot writes, “Hannah is currently the editor of the LHS yearbook and we are nearing our final deadline. Her leadership skills have catapulted this year’s book to a new level. The work ethic she models is phenomenal and she handles every situation with grace and professionalism. She is years beyond her peers in terms of being able to make decisions and take action. Hannah is a genius of time management, but when deadlines arrive she takes her position very seriously and never leaves any loose ends. She is able to communicate effectively and motivate the yearbook staff to continually perform up to the standards of the LHS yearbook. I proudly nominate Hannah as the LHS student of the month.”

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Expo, continued

lots of buyers and few homes. It's not going to take much time to sell if you list your home."

Mike McKendrick, board member of the West Michigan chapter of the North Country Trail Association had informative conversation about a recent national milestone.

"We have a special thing going on this year because it's the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service," McKendrick said. "The North Country Trail is doing a special thing where if you hike 100 miles on the North Country Trail during the course of this year you get a patch

and a certificate. Lowell is geographically the middle of the trail. You can do the same one mile stretch 100 times if you wanted to."

The blood drive was on track to raise a great deal of money for the Shelby Tomczak Offrink Scholarship Fund. Offrink, a Lowell native, died from

cancer last summer, leaving her husband and two daughters behind.

"It's going good," said Kyle Graham of Michigan Blood. "We got about as many donors as we anticipated so we're trying to keep a steady flow. It has been slow because we're doing a lot of walk ins. That's kind of why we encourage appointments, but at the end of the day we're still getting a lot of blood, so it's good. I think we're on track to hit our goal, so if we do hit our goal of 100 we're probably going to be able to donate at least \$1,000 to the Shelby Tomczak scholarship, so that will be awesome."

Abbey Mix, a friend of Shelby, was a first time donor.

"I'm not scared," Mix said. "This is my first time

donating, so I'm a little bit unsure what to expect. It's going great. It's possible I might do it again. Because today is in honor of Shelby Tomczak Offrink and she was one of my best friends, so I'm here for her."

There was no shortage of politicians at the Expo. A few Justin Amash volunteers circulated petitions and information about the congressman, while Democrat Lynn Mason and Republican Katherine Henry, both of whom are running for the seat in the state house currently occupied by Lisa Posthumus Lyons.

Joe VerPlank from Lowell hearing aids company iHear presented passersby with a basket of squishy disembodied ears. The company does hearing tests, as well as sales and repair of hearing aids.

"The squishy ears are a stress reliever," VerPlank said. "If you're stressing about your hearing, I figured it was a good idea to gain some awareness about hearing and have fun with it as well."

Girl Scout Troop 4186 from Murray Lake Elementary did a brisk cookie business. The Girl Scouts accept credit cards now, making it difficult for many passersby to pass up a box of delicious cookies.

Alexandra Hardy from Workbox Staffing passed out free candy and water bottles as they tried to fill positions at local companies.

"We're trying to give people jobs," Hardy said. "We have a lot of different jobs, mainly industrial and office work, in Lowell,



Expo, continued

Ionia, Saranac, all over the place. We have offices in Grand Rapids as well.

Marty Dahl, owner of Flower Designs by Marty, has been growing and arranging flowers since her childhood growing up on a farm.

"I offer weddings, funerals, birthdays and event work," Dahl said. "I also offer personalized designs with free consultations. I deliver all over Kent County, as well as eastern

Ottawa and western Ionia county. Lowell is centrally located and the expressways make it very easy to move around. We do classes. In the wintertime we did a wreath making class, which was a riot."

Another Lowell business success story, Dahl was able to move from her home to a shop downtown.

"I'm located inside the Red Barn Consignment and Antique Shop," Dahl said. "Technically I've been in business for over nine years. I worked out of my home before and on Nov. 1 I opened up my design studio at the design shop. They asked me if I wanted to rent the space and I said, 'Sure.' It was a little bit risky. It's not something that I thought I would be able to have but I decided why not take a chance."

James Chichester from Lowell Family Chiropractic, 1425 W. Main, let people choose Easter eggs, each containing a chance to win a one hour massage.

"We're out here just trying to meet people from the Lowell community and talk to them about chiropractic care," Chichester said. "Julie Syrek is a massage therapist in our office and she's doing free chair massages."

Jed Emms, who is a chiropractor at Grand Rapids Family Chiropractic, 6771 Cascade SE, is one of the few chiropractors who works on children and pregnant women.

"I'm a pediatric certified chiropractor, so I specialize in taking care of families and kids," Emms said. "Not every chiropractor can adjust kids. I personally specialize in what's called cranial adjusting. The bones



of the spine can misalign, but so can the bones of the head and skull. It's usually from traumas. It's important to get the stress off the brain, because that's the master control system."

Sharon Vosovic represented the Lowell Area Historical Museum while wearing a vintage-looking dress made by her sister.

"The pattern for the dress is from the early 1900s and I am wearing it to promote the Lowell Area Historical Museum," Vosovic said. "It's fun to

be able to introduce the museum to new people and let them know we're here in town."

"We are introducing the people to our historical museum and to our heritage in the Lowell area," said Lowell Area Historical Museum board member Bev Anderson.

Mark Looman, coach of Lowell's Odyssey of the Mind team, said his team will be going to the world finals this spring.

"We're going to be fundraising soon for the

world competition at the end of May," Looman said. "It's in Ames, Iowa. We're here to let people know what we do and that the kids are doing this. Odyssey of the Mind is about the kids creating a performance as well as solving a problem. They have to build an eight inch high, two inch wide structure that holds as much weight as possible."

The 2016 Lowell Expo was an awesome day of fun for the whole town.




May 14, 2016

Life Run/Walk 2016

We encourage runners and walkers to collect pledges to raise funds for the Alpha Women's Center of Lowell. For more information & to register go to...

<https://secure.ministrysync.com/ministrysync/event/?e=10747>

Alpha Women's Center of Lowell



Easter fun at Creekside Park

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Easter fun descended upon Creekside Park last Saturday when Lowell Moose Lodge #809 presented their 25th annual Easter Egg Hunt in coordination with generous community sponsors.

The Easter bunny himself greeted youngsters as they flooded into the park for the free event under sunny skies Saturday morning. Welcoming children from age one to age nine, the Moose event is a longstanding tradition in the

community, now enjoyed by generations as it celebrated its 25th year this Easter.

Though the Moose has been the sole organizer of the event over its two-and-a-half decades, those on hand at the festivities were quick to point out that none

of it would be possible without the support of the community at large. "We call this the Moose Easter Egg Hunt but it wouldn't be possible without the merchants who donate to the event," said event organizer Ray Jones as he addressed

excitedly scrambled for eggs in hopes of earning candy and prizes, including the \$50 top prize given in each of the four age groups.

This year instead of using labor intensive hard-boiled and color dipped eggs for the event, Moose members opted for plastic eggs to create more ease in planning and execution. Each egg contained a single piece of candy and a slip of paper with a number corresponding to prizes later collected at the concession stand. In previous years only some of the eggs were numbered.

While the change went virtually unnoticed by younger attendees who

happily sprinted off to the playground after their hunts, it brought about much longer lines for prize collections with some families waiting up to 45 minutes. "We didn't anticipate that it would take this long," said Jones of the longer than usual lines. "We are trying something new and we thank everyone for bearing with us. Our volunteers did the best they can. It will not be like this again next year. I can guarantee you that."

Parent Kevin Howard of Saranac who joined the fun, with sons Ian and Avery, said that despite the line his family had a great time at the hunt. "This is a great event; my boys really



Children sprint from the start line at Creekside Park for the annual Lowell Moose Easter Egg Hunt.



Area children gathered thousands of eggs from the fields at Creekside Park.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING STATE OF MICHIGAN The Probate Court for the County of Kent

In the matter of LORRAINE MCDONALD, Guardianship

File No. 16-198,955-GA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including Sheryl Schwartz, Kelly Afton, and Karen Schmucker

whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on April 13, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian.

Dated: March 28, 2016

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner, 121 Franklin St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 616-391-1675

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC, Attys. for Petitioner by Amanda S. Van Essen (P75001) 3425 Kelly St. Hudsonville, MI 49426 616-633-0196

the eager egg seekers. "When you go into these stores later I want you to tell them thank you for the Easter egg hunt."

After lining up with their respective age groups, children toting bags and baskets hit a pastel egg littered field containing up to 1,000 eggs. Each participant

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enjoyed it. We will be back next year for sure. It is a really great thing what the Moose does here," said Howard.

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Looking back, continued

For the first time in two or three years the Board of Trade was back in the City Hall for a supper meeting and everybody seemed glad – not that they have not been treated well in other places but because the old City Hall is so well liked by most of us, perhaps because of memories of many other happy occasions held there. We are told that the interior is to undergo extensive improvements including repainting and varnishing the floors and new dishes for the tables.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger April 7, 1966

Virginia Myers is elected to council seat. Mrs. Virginia Myers won a position on the City Council in the annual Lowell City election Monday. Also elected to serve on the council were two incumbent members, Richard F. Schlernitzauer and Philip Schneider. Charles Doyle, who had defeated Mrs. Myers in last year's election, by 30 votes, was beaten for re-election by a 25 vote margin. Schneider and Schlernitzauer will receive two year terms and Mrs. Myers will hold the one year term. They will join Herbert Reynolds and Mayor Arnold Wittenbach on the council. There were 384 voters out on Monday for an average city election turnout. Mrs. Myers will be the second woman to hold a Lowell Council post. Mrs. Lylia Johnson, served on the village council for a two year term, previous to Lowell becoming a city.

Discover stolen car on farm north of city. Lowell Police reported Tuesday that the 1958 Chevrolet stolen from Smith and Clemenz Car Sales on M-21,

Thursday, March 24, was found at the farm of Roy C. DeWitt, 13434 Beckwith Drive. The DeWitt's live in Lowell; their home burned to the ground in January. The car was spotted by Ed Marshall while driving along the road. The motor, transmission, a wheel and tire had been removed from the car.

Petition for zoning in Lowell Township. A petition has been received by the Lowell Township Board requesting the enactment of a zoning ordinance in the township. The board will take the matter up at the next regular meeting. Zoning was proposed in the township about three years ago and was turned down in an election. Since that time Lowell Township has been one of the last areas of the county where trailers and sub-standard housing has been permitted.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 3, 1991

Council votes to remove half of downtown trees now and the rest in the fall. The Lowell City Council was urged by the Lowell Chamber of Commerce not to rush into removing the downtown area of trees. Rather, work with the Chamber of Commerce to replace the downtown trees by relocating trees in the ground, sidewalk or parking lot areas without the use of pots. The Chamber proposed a three-year plan in which to do this. What it got was, having half the present tree plantings removed now and the other half in the fall. In between this period, members of the City and Chamber will get together to study and look into plans for starting another tree program.

Lowell driver's failure to stop delays traffic on Main St. Traffic at the intersection of Hudson and Main Street was delayed Wednesday evening (5:35 p.m) following a four-car accident whereby minor injuries were incurred. Keith Phillip Swanson, 17, Lowell, was eastbound on Main Street when he failed to stop his vehicle after the cars in front him spiked their brakes, according to Lowell Police officer Jim Valentine. Swanson was driving on Main Street and had just crossed Hudson Street when the traffic came to a stop. Swanson was cited for failing to stop in an unclear distance. The car Swanson struck was driven by Laura Lee McCormick, 30, Lowell. The impact of Swanson's blow forced her car into a third car driven by Carl Lysle Smith, 77, Lowell who was then pushed into a fourth vehicle driven by James Edward Reagan, 33, Lowell. Laury Topping, Lowell, a passenger in McCormick's vehicle was transported to Metropolitan Hospital by Rockford Ambulance. According to Valentine, she was treated and released. Smith, driver of the third car, and his wife, Ruth, a passenger, were transported to Butterworth Hospital by Lowell Ambulance. Witnesses all stated the vehicles in front of Swanson had stopped for other eastbound traffic which had stopped for a vehicle making a left turn.

Motorhome burns. Louis King's 1977 Atalla motor home was destroyed in a fire late last week. King pulled into his yard when he noticed smoke coming out of the hood of his motor home. Shortly thereafter the motor home bursts into flames, according to Lowell Fire Chief Frank Martin. Lowell's Fire Chief said the motor home was totally destroyed. Martin estimated the value of the damage to be roughly \$4,000.

...

Never let your head hang down. Never give up and sit down and grieve. Find another way. And don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines.
~ Richard M. Nixon

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LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

The online application must be submitted by April 15, 2016 for consideration. Please visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell to submit your application.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations for innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

obituaries

GEELHOED

Phyllis Beverly Geelhoed, age 93 of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, March 22. She was preceded in death by her husband, Cornelius. She is survived by her children Marc Geelhoed and Dennis (Laura) Geelhoed; grand-nephew, Samuel Laase; grandchildren Karlie Paulin, Jason (Wendy) Ehlert, Samantha (Andrew) Tidball and Maislyn Geelhoed; as well as great-grandchildren, Jolie, Desmond, Briley and Evangeline. She is also survived by her brother, Robert (Bonnie) Hoseth, along with several nieces and nephews. Phyllis was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and aunt. She was known for always welcoming others into her home with warmth, generosity and love. Services were held. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association West Michigan, 2944 Fuller Ave NE, #101, Grand Rapids, MI 49505.



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MORSE

Thomas Roger Morse, of LeRoy, passed away peacefully Wednesday, March 23, 2016, surrounded by his family. He was 80 years old. He was born April 13, 1935, in Grand Rapids to Verne and Earladean (Duemler) Morse and was a 1953 graduate of Lowell High School. He attended Western Michigan University with a major in music. On September 21, 1957, he was married in the Lowell United Methodist Church to Vivian Mae Davenport who survives him. Thomas was employed over the years as a millwright with the Dexter-Lock Co., Knapp-Vogt Co., Lacks Industries Inc., and with the Grand Rapids Metropolitan Hospital from where he retired. He was also co-owner of a squab farm and co-owner with his sons of a Morse Tree Farm and operated a Christmas tree lot on Cascade Road. He was a member and trustee of the LeRoy United Methodist Church. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and was an avid golfer. Thomas was a devoted father, grandfather and husband who will be dearly missed. He is survived by his wife, Vivian; children, Leila (Gene) Durfee, Roger (Laura) Morse, Deborah (Brian) McMurray, Robert (Julie) Morse; grandchildren, Thomas Durfee, Jackson Morse, Andrew Morse, Gabriel Morse, Landon Morse, Cole Morse, Brooke Morse; great-granddaughter, Chloe Durfee; siblings, Michael (Theresa) Morse and Mary Mulvaney. He was preceded in death by his parents, Verne and Earladean Morse; brother, Vern Morse; and his nephew, Blair Morse. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 26, 2016, at the LeRoy United Methodist Church with Rev. Scott Loomis officiating. In lieu of flowers, a memorial contribution may be made in his name to either the LeRoy United Methodist Church or to the LeRoy Fire Department. Online obituary may be viewed and condolences offered at www.pruittlivingston.com



WARNING

Arthur William Warning, age 85, of Lowell, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 12th. He was preceded in death by his wife of 42 years, the love of his life, Patricia. Art is survived by his children, Gail (Joe) Parker, Lynn Warning, and Gary (Terri) Warning, his grandchildren, Casey (Jason) Gordon and Calvin Warning, his great-grandson, Zachary Gordon, his sister-in-law Dixie (Ken) Bart, his brother Ron Warning, sister Ruth Adams, and his dear friend Lisa Thomas. Art was the owner of Art's TV for over 30 years on Main Street in Lowell. He worked at Atwood, was a member of the Lowell Lions Club and a former Lowell City Councilman. Art loved 4-H and spent many a hot dusty day on the rail watching his daughters and granddaughter show their horses. Art loved baseball. When his son played in a game he simply put up a closed sign on his business and went to the game. Art was a lifelong fan of the Detroit Tigers. Nothing was better than watching the great Al Kaline throw the ball into home plate from the back wall. Art loved his dogs and would drive them down to Ball's for ice cream cones. Art loved to wear Hawaiian shirts, work in his yard, and drive to Keiser's Kitchen for his lunch. The family would like to thank the staff at Laurels of Kent for their compassion, kindness and care of Art. A celebration of life memorial for Art and family burial will take place at a later date to be announced.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 16-198876-DE

Estate of **DIANE DENMAN**, aka **DIANE M. DENMAN**, deceased. Date of birth: 00/00/1944.

TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, **M. Denman**, died 12/10/2015.

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

March 22, 2016

Craig A. Bruggink (P29358)
429 Turner Ave., NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-456-5048

Bill Perkins
1395 E. Main
Lowell, M 49331
616-897-4010

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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ROUSH

Fay Edrie Roush, age 96 of Lowell, went to be with her Lord on Monday, March 28, 2016. She was preceded in death by her son Stephen Roush and daughter Rebecca Roush. She is survived by her children Robert 'Butch' (Kathleen) Roush, Shirley Anthony, Gary (Kathy) Roush, Barbara (Ron) Graham and Michael (Sharon) Roush; daughter-in-law Peggy Roush; 19 grandchildren, many great and great-great grandchildren. A funeral service will be held Saturday 11:00 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI. Pastor Robert 'Butch' Roush officiating. Interment Merriman Cemetery. Visitation Friday 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at the Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to Our Daily Bread Ministries, 3000 Kraft Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512 and Mel Trotter Ministries, 225 Commerce, SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



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LMS students of the second trimester



Lowell Middle School announced the students of the second trimester. Teachers chose the following students who have been outstanding in the categories of academics, citizenship and attitude, Madison Alcala, Neely Bardwell, January Basinger, Dominic Bristol-Seese, Miya Cance, Owen Carpenter, William Compton, Sam Decker, Dillon DeGood, Gavin DeKam, Miles Droski, Riley Fuller, Jaydon Gates, Emily German, Leah Halstead, Ethan Hoevenaar, Elliana James, Lexy Kapcia, Sophia Katsul, Elliott Kelley, Sam Lixie, Natasha Marsh, Nolan Mazarka, Grace Nielsen, Soraya Noall, Mallory Price, Nathan Ryan, Jacob Scheid, Tyler Sikkenga, Ryan Sikkenga, Nolan Smith, Lara Steffens, Kelsey Stephens, Matelyn Torline, Ryan Virsik, Taylor White, Shelby Wilcox, and Jenner Willard.

Take advantage of great spring birding opportunities

With the snow melting and days getting longer, Michigan's spring birding season is almost here, and now is the time to start making plans.

"New activities for Michigan's birding community have increased over the last few years," said Department of Natural Resources Field Operations Manager Keith Kintigh. "It's exciting to have these opportunities to get folks outdoors and enjoying Michigan's natural beauty."

Among the great birding opportunities is the 2016 Warblers on the Water event, celebrating Beaver Island's unique location and its spectacular birding over the Memorial Day weekend, May 28-29. Guided field trips, demonstrations and presentations will be scheduled on the island, showcasing the Beaver Island Birding Trail. Visit the Beaver Island Birding Trail website to register.

Additional Michigan birding events in April and May include the Whitefish Point Spring Fling in Paradise (April 29 - May 1), the sixth annual Thornapple Woodpecker Festival in Middleville (April 30), the Mackinaw Raptor Fest in Mackinaw City (April 1-2) and the Tawas Point Birding Festival in East Tawas (May 19-22).

Great birding trails throughout the state along well-known driving routes include:

- Superior Birding Trail – Michigan's oldest birding trail, with plenty of birds and other wildlife. The trail includes 14 sites along 145 miles in the Upper Peninsula, from Seney National Wildlife Refuge to Whitefish Point.

- North Huron Birding Trail – Michigan's newest birding trail will include stops along the north shoreline of Lake Huron in the Upper Peninsula. The official "launch" of the trail will occur during the second annual Aldo Leopold Festival in the Les Cheneaux region May 13-15.

- Sleeping Bear Birding Trail – A 123-mile trail from Manistee to Traverse City, along the scenic M-22 highway and Lake Michigan shoreline. It features more than 35 birding sites, including a "bonus loop."

- Saginaw Bay Birding Trail – This new trail, following the Lake Huron shoreline, is over 140 miles long. It stretches from Port Crescent to Tawas Point State Park and includes more than 20 birding sites.

- Sunrise Coast Birding Trail – Soaring along the Lake Huron coast, this trail features more than 28 sites along its approximately 145-mile route from the Au Sable River in Oscoda to Mackinaw City.

"Spring birding has the potential to help tourism in many small communities," said Kintigh. "Birders are grabbing a meal, getting gasoline, or even staying in a hotel, well before most other tourists have arrived."

Kintigh added that birding is a great way to enjoy the diversity of Michigan's wildlife and habitats and to build a true appreciation of all that the state's unique natural resources have to offer. These trails are made possible through the efforts of, and partnerships with, Michigan Audubon chapters, government agencies, land conservancies, private industries and many dedicated individuals working together to expand opportunities to experience the outdoors and visit local communities.

For more information, visit the Michigan Audubon Society birding trail website or www.michigan.gov/wildlife

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr

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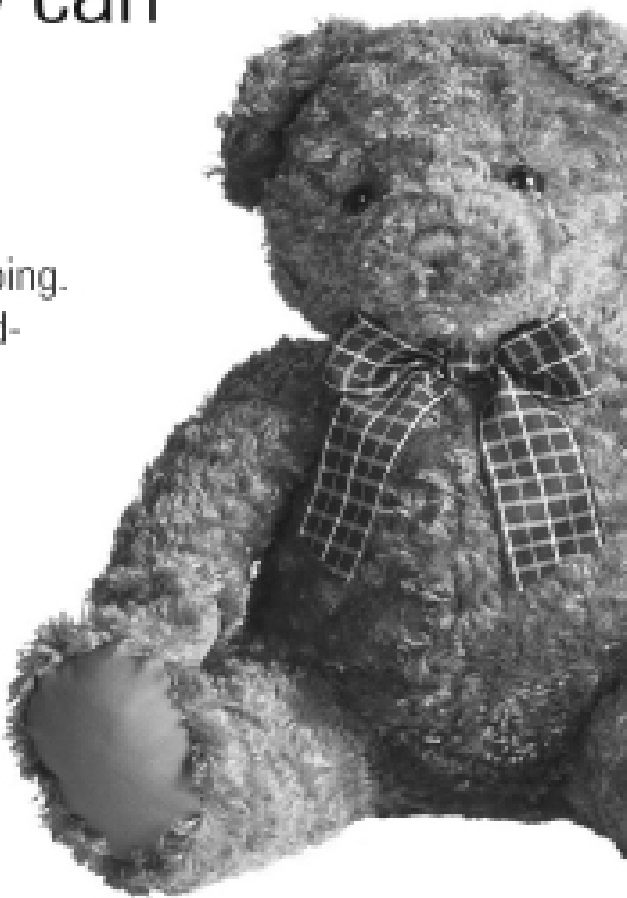
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ACROSS

1. Egypt's sacred flower
6. Spinning toy
9. Hoodwink
13. Resembling an orangutan
14. Biology class abbr.
15. Printer cartridge contents
16. Ranees's wrap
17. Long, long time
18. Valued for its soft down
19. *He ruled Nottingham
21. *Evil and No, e.g.
23. Reggae precursor
24. Apiece
25. *Lex Luthor breached the Hoover _____ in "Superman"
28. Center of activity, pl.
30. Not digital
35. 500 sheets
37. Australian palm
39. Mediterranean appetizer
40. World's largest continent
41. Run _____ of the law
43. Wildly
44. Going to
46. Intense rage
47. Fine threads
48. As opposed to shut down
50. Miss America's accessory
52. To boot
53. Facebook's "psst"

CROSSWORD														
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72						73				74				



MARCH 23 - MARCH 29

- Cat survives an eight-day flight in the mail from southwestern England to West Sussex. After accidentally mailing her Siamese cat named Cupcake in a box with DVDs, owner Julie Baggott said, "We looked everywhere for her." With the help of a microchip, Cupcake was returned to her owner. The cat will need treatment for dehydration, but should make a full recovery.
- One of the most consistently active volcanoes on the Aleutian arc, Pavlov Volcano, erupted Sunday afternoon on Alaska's Aleutian islands. The eruption led to tremors on the ground and sent ashes 20,000 feet in the air.
- Snow that fell Sunday could help firefighters battling the biggest wildfire in the history of Kansas. The fire is largely contained, but efforts could be hindered by anticipated gusty winds. Nobody has been seriously injured in the sparsely populated area, but at least 2 houses have been destroyed.
- President Xi Jinping arrived in Prague on Monday on the first visit by a Chinese head of state to the Czech Republic. The 48-hour visit focused on business cooperation with Czech President Milos Zeman was met with well-wishers along with dozens of pro-Tibetan demonstrators.
- The court case between the FBI and Apple has been dropped. The FBI found other means to break into the San Bernardino shooter's iPhone and no longer needs Apple's help.

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55. Opposite of their
57. *_____ Bill of "The Silence of the Lambs"
61. Opposite of greenhorn
65. Wombs
66. "_____ My Children"
68. Church assembly
69. Motion Picture Association of America, e.g.
70. Waikiki wear
71. Last letter of Greek alphabet
72. First-rate, slang
73. In the past
74. Gossipy
25. *Rocky's Russian rival
26. "The Tortoise and the Hare" author
27. Easternmost state
29. *McFly's bully
31. "Poor me!"
32. As far as one can go
33. Convex molding
34. *Greedy corporate financier
36. "Buddenbrooks" author
38. Saint's "headdress"
42. Popular disinfectant
45. Type of nanny
49. Short for "politician"
51. *Baby Jane
54. Aussie bear
56. "No _____ or reason"
57. Followed by "excuse me"
58. Home to Bryce Canyon
59. Greek cheese
60. Worry unnecessarily
61. Hodgepodge
62. Afresh
63. Wooden pegs
64. June 6, 1944
67. *Disney villain, "Peg-_____ Pete"

DOWN

1. Bonnie one
2. Moonfish
3. Michelin product
4. Internet patrons
5. Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, e.g.
6. Not kosher
7. Lennon's widow
8. *The evil Tai Lung in 2008's "Kung Fu _____"
9. "Just _____"
10. Back arrow key action
11. Jury colleague
12. Makes mistakes
15. House music
20. Flora's partner
22. South American edible tuber
24. Adhere to certain

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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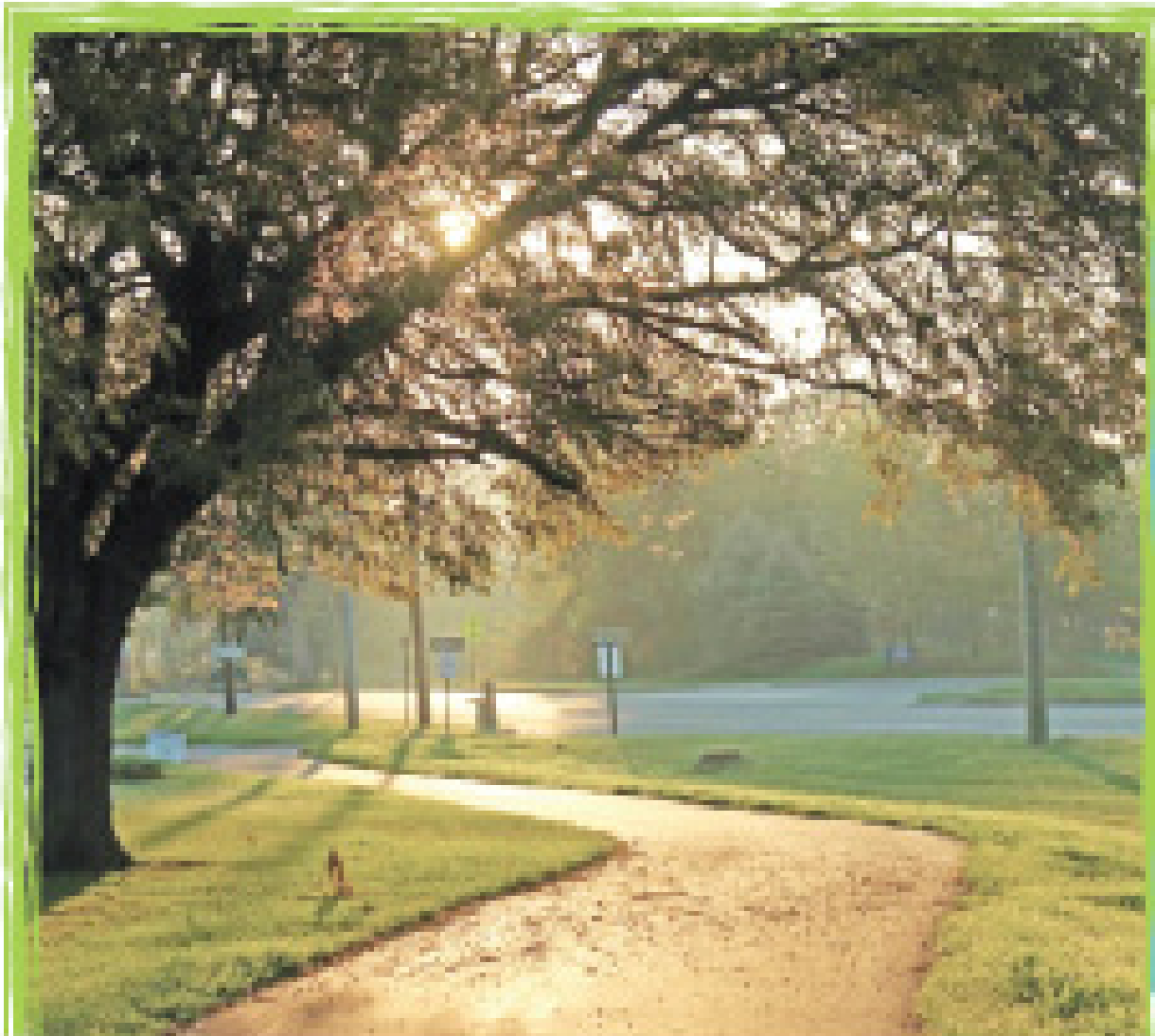
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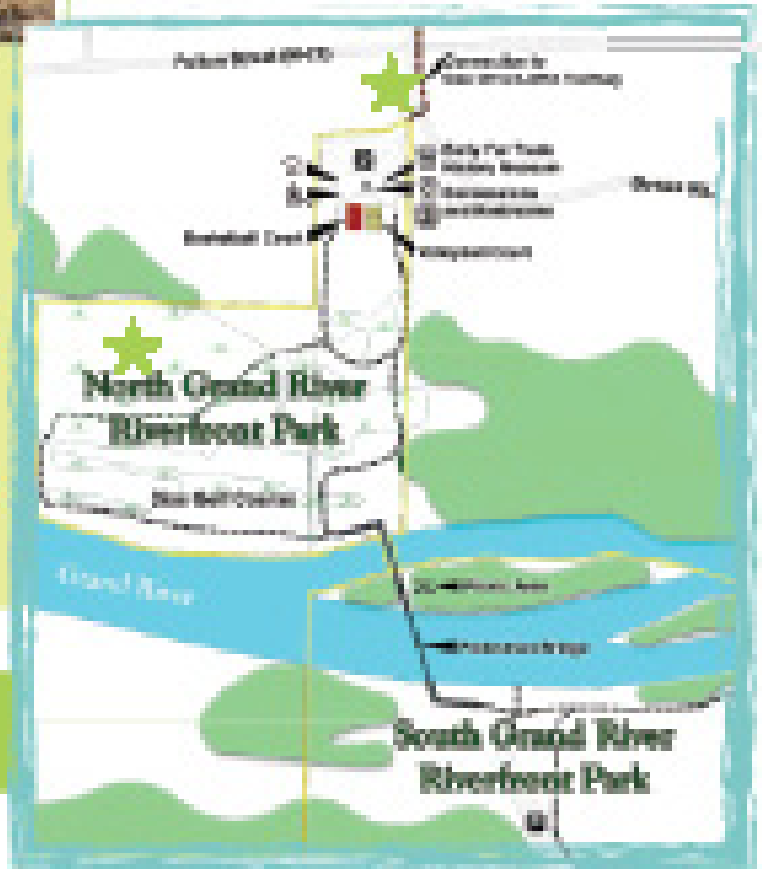


The Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA), which is made up of the City of Lowell, Vergennes Township and Lowell Charter Township, is extending existing paved trails from Gee Drive to Fulton St (M-21) along Alden Nash in the City of Lowell.

This extension will connect to the new Lowell Township North Park (behind Walgreens on Bowes Rd), businesses on the West End of Fulton Street, Stoney Lakeside Park, the Dog Park, the Kent County Fairgrounds and the future bridge across the Grand River to the current Lowell Township Park on Grand River Dr.

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US HELP OUR COMMUNITY OF LOWELL AS WE EXTEND OUR EXISTING PAVED TRAILS AND BUILD THE NEW LOWELL TOWNSHIP PARK.

LARA and Lowell Charter Township are seeking funding with sponsorship opportunities from local businesses and private donors to help reach our goal of \$600,000. There is no donation too small for this fundraising effort.



The new Lowell Township North Park, which will connect to the extended trailway, was designed to provide the community with different recreational opportunities than our current community parks offer. Lowell Township North Park will boast over 30 acres of recreation such as Frisbee Golf, a Gaga Pit, Volleyball Courts, Basketball Courts, the Lowell Area Historical Museum Early Fur Trade Building, Concessions and a paved trail throughout.

Donations can be mailed to: Lowell Area Recreation Authority, PO Box 98, Lowell, MI 49331 or Lowell Charter Township, 2910 Alden Nash, Lowell MI 49331. Please contact Betsy Davidson at 616-293-3206 or Jerry Hale at 616-897-7600 with questions or visit www.twp.lowellmi.us and www.lowellareatrailway.org.