

the lowell war of 1857



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Albert to seek reelection



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Board of Ed. views presentation on at risk teens, purchases 150 new computers

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell Area Schools Board of Education had their latest regular meeting in the Runciman building on Monday, April 9.

Lowell High School principal Amy Pallo and counselor Travis Slanger gave the board a presentation about their work with at risk teens in the district. Using demographic information, they are able to identify students who require a higher level of counseling based on three criteria: students with a high number of absences, students with failing grades and students who have had behavioral issues.

“We have really started to take a strategic look at the information that we have on our students so that we can focus in on what they really need,” Pallo said. “We use the information that we have in our student management system to look at what students really need.”

The board accepted a gift of \$1,000 from local resident

Kristy Rempalski to be used to support the Bridging the Gap program. Bridging the Gap is a program that helps provide counseling to parents and students who may not otherwise be able to afford mental health services.

The board voted to spend \$111,000 on 150 new computers, which will be purchased from Sehi Computer Products in Rochester Hills. The computers cost less than they

normally would because the district is buying them in bulk.

“This is a very good deal for us,” said Lowell Area Schools superintendent Greg Pratt.

The board’s next regular meeting will be in the Runciman Building at 7 pm on Monday, May 14. They will also have a work session meeting in the Runciman building at 6 pm on Monday, April 23.



LHS principal Amy Pallo described to board members how they are able to use technology to identify kids who need extra help transitioning between middle school and high school.

Girls Night Out celebrates Spring Break on Thurs., April 19

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Spring break will briefly return to Lowell’s shopping districts next Thursday, April 19, from 5-9 pm when the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce presents this season’s Girl’s Night Out event.

Celebrating “Spring Break,” the semi-annual local shopping party invites participants and vendors alike to embrace the night’s fun premise in their dress and shopping experiences.

More than three dozen local merchants will participate in the evening, first hosted by the LACC over a decade ago. “It was the brain child of Karen Hale from Cousin’s Hallmark and River Hollow. Karen had been hosting GNO events on her own. She was extremely involved in the merchant committee and thought it would be fun to include more merchants in the event,” explained LACC executive director Liz Baker. “So from that day, we have grown tremendously.

Looking back, we had about 20 locations and today we have grown to over 40 locations.”

Those locations will include long-standing participant Springrove Variety, North Star Antiques, Rookies Sportcards Plus and Station Salon, as well as up-and-coming businesses. According to Baker, “At the Chamber we have Khaila Allen representing LuLaRoe; downtown Fans in the Stands is a new business located in the old Pep Talk space; and uptown we have new business Jamaican Sun Tanning and Self Serve Lumber joining in the fun.”

Each shopping destination will offer its own specials, giveaways or treats for the night of fun and commerce, including the ever expanding selection of downtown eateries and libation stations. Big Boiler Brewing, Flat River Grill, McDonald’s, Sweet Seasons Cafe & Bakery, Larkin’s Fine Food & Spirits, New

Union Brewery and Main Street BBQ will all serve up specials for Girls Night Out participants taking a tasty break from their “spring break” shopping.

The event will feature a punch card program that allows shoppers, who have their cards validated in at least 15 locations, to enter into a grand prize drawing comprised of gifts from participating merchants. “Shoppers can drop their card [off] at any of the locations when complete. They will have a chance to win one of three shopping bags of gift cards and items. Each bag is valued at well over \$300,” stated Baker.

Transportation between uptown and downtown locations will not be provided as several uptown businesses are relocating downtown for the event. “Many of our uptown businesses have chosen to go in some of the downtown locations. Fans in the Stands will be hosting the Lowell YMCA and Mi

Hometown Furnishings will be hosting Grand River Orthodontics and Northern Physical Therapy,” explained Baker. “With that said, don’t forget to check out the other four uptown businesses that include Jamaican Sun Tanning, McDonald’s, Self Serve Lumber and Walgreens.”

Originally established as a way to thank shoppers, now GNO also serves as a fun night out that brings people together and encourages local shopping. “Our merchants really look forward to [these] events. In today’s times when it’s so easy for people to shop online, we give them a reason to come out and really get [to] know their local merchants. We are proud to promote local and we feel events like this say it all,” said Baker.

A full list of merchants along with their locations and specials can be found online at the LACC website www.discoverlowell.org

Red Arrow
Spring
SPORTS TEAMS
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lhs sports
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50¢



State Representative Albert to seek re-election

Highlights record of results for area families

State Representative Thomas Albert (R-Lowell) announced he will be running for a second term in the 86th House District, which covers portions of Kent and Ionia counties.

“It has been a great honor representing our local communities in Lansing,” Albert said. “Voters entrusted me to produce results. I have worked every day to address the long term challenges our state faces so that local

families have a chance for a prosperous future.”

Albert was selected as the Chair of the House Financial Liability Reform Committee. He also serves on the Agriculture, Law and Justice, Military and Veteran Affairs, and Legislative Council Committees. Albert was named by MIRS News as Freshman Legislator of the Year because of his efforts to make public pensions more sustainable for taxpayers and recipients. “The long-overdue changes

I led in Lansing were a result of focused effort and collaborating with others.. These are qualities I learned while growing up in West Michigan and while serving in the U.S. Marines,” Albert said.

Albert previously worked at the Michigan Department of Treasury as an investor for the state’s pension system. Pension costs have skyrocketed in recent years which have constrained teacher’s wages and taken money out of the classroom.

“Educating our children is critical to Michigan’s future.” Albert noted. “Michigan’s public school retirement debt is at \$40 billion and counting. The reform I led will allow for significantly more dollars to be spent in the classroom while also protecting the benefits our great teachers have earned,” Albert said.

While serving in Lansing, Albert has also been an advocate for the sanctity of life, supportive of Second Amendment rights and



State rep. Thomas Albert is seeking reelection



along main street

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES
Quarterly Food Commodities - April 11-13 during regular Food Pantry hours; Senior Food Commodities - April 11-13 during regular Food Pantry hours; Volunteer Orientation - April 19, 1-2 pm at FROM, 11535 Fulton St. For more information call 897-8260.

VETERANS POTLUCK
Any veterans, on Sun., April 15 at the Veterans Center, 3116 Alden Nash. Questions, call Vikisu at 616-481-7706.

GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE
Cardmaking Together - Tues., April 17, 2:30-4:30 pm. Join us in making handmade cards. All supplies provided and no experience required.

Chitchat Readers Book Club - Tues., April 17, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join other members in discussing an interesting book. Stop by the clubhouse to borrow a book.

Mindfulness Workshop - Tues., April 17, 4:30-5:30 pm. Join other members to practice the emotional and physical benefits of mindfulness and learn how to incorporate it into your daily life. Please dress comfortably. Presented by Jan Miller, LPC.

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

LOWELLARTS PLAYERS PRESENT 'RUMORS'
LowellArts players present a dinner theater production of 'Rumors' by Neil Simon. Directed by Kim Miller. Advanced tickets required for dinner theater, show-only tickets also available. Show dates are April 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, May 3, 4 and 5 with dinner at 6:30 pm and performance at 7:30 pm. Show-only matinee on Sat., April 28 at 2:30 pm. Performed on stage at the historic Strand Theatre, now called Larkin's Other Place, 315 W. Main Street. Contact LowellArts for tickets or information, 897-8545 or go to info@lowellartsmi.org

FOODMOBILE
Foodmobile at Lowell fairgrounds, April 21 at 10 am. For more information call FROM at 897-8260.

MAYFIELD & MOSAICS
LowellArts hosts two exhibitions simultaneously featuring two different art groups - the Mayfield Fibers Arts Group and the Mosaic Artists of Michigan. Both artist groups exist to draw attention to and educate people on their specific, time-honored art forms. Steeped in tradition, yet full of innovation, this exhibition highlights the work of contemporary mosaic artists and fiber/textile artists. Exhibits are April 21 - May 26 at LowellArts, 223 W. Main. Gallery hours are Tues. - Fri., 10 am - 6 pm and Sat., 10 am - 5 pm. For information call 897-8545 or go to info@lowellartsmi.org

a champion for policies which bring additional jobs to West Michigan. “Michigan has come a long way since the ‘Lost Decade’ Great Recession and I am committed to looking forward rather than backward in my work as a lawmaker. We can continue to help our families and businesses grow by lowering taxes, reforming our flawed auto insurance system and removing other barriers to economic growth. Our working families expect less rhetoric and more results.” Thomas and his wife Erica live with their three children in Vergennes Township. More information about Rep. Albert can be found at www.voteAlbert.com

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~ Kurt Vonnegut (1922 - 2007)

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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.

Alto Fire Department PANCAKE SUPPER
Saturday, April 14, from 5 to 8 pm
Menu: Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs, Applesauce
Cost - Donation at the door
At Alto Fire Department
6260 Bancroft Alto, MI
Proceeds used for training and equipment

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“The Railroad That Almost Came to Lowell” to be presented by area historian Tues., April 24

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Grand Haven historian Paul Trap will give a presentation called The Railroad That Almost Came to Lowell about what he calls the “mad scheme” to build a transcontinental railroad across Michigan in the 1850s. Trap’s presentation will take place at Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash SE, at 7 pm on Tuesday, April 24.

“I’m going to talk about the railroad’s arrival and

milling industry. They could now ship processed flour instead of raw wheat and it could take different routes. So that development of the milling industry that made Lowell successful killed the railroad.”

Trap said that the railroad was built with foreign money after American investors found the idea too risky. This sketchy foreign financing caused problems when workers were not paid and had to scrounge for food,

people in London, England and in Glasgow, Scotland to supply the capital to complete the railroad. They were aided by the Great Western Railroad of Canada, which was an English operation. They ended up providing the money to start the railroad and they also ended up taking control of it. When it was finished it was controlled by a British company. So the railroad was being constructed with borrowed money. Some of it was gained through honest endeavors and in other cases there were questionable business practices. The workers knew that the railroad had gotten a lot of money from England to pay for the work and they were not getting their fair share. The people who had not been paid started a riot generally referred to as ‘the Lowell War,’ in which they tried to hang the engineer of the railroad.”

An article two weeks before the riot in the Nov. 12, 1857 Grand Rapids Daily Eagle newspaper described the scene in Lowell:

“Crowds of laborers are standing, in tens and twenties, in different parts of the village. Some are for delaying two days and others for going up to the track at once and wreaking their vengeance on the property of the company, by tearing up the road and pulling down bridges. What they may do is beyond conjecture. They are all sober.”

A story in the Nov. 23, 1857 Eagle provided further details about the riot:

“Cattle and hogs have been killed; fields, barns and granaries plundered and apprehensions of even more serious troubles have been experienced by the residents in the vicinity of the railroad squatters. [...] Mr. Innes was locked up in an upper room of one of the public houses and guarded by a number of armed citizens; while the infuriated mob were demanding that he be delivered up to them that they might kill him, threatening to set fire to the building, etc.”

The Detroit and Milwaukee Railway company called the Kent County sheriff who, fearful of the large crowd of angry men, roused two Grand Rapids militias, the Valley City Guards and the Ringgold Light Artillery. Luckily for the engineer, the companies agreed to pay and the situation in Lowell quickly and quietly sorted itself out. The militias only made it to Ada before they were told to turn back.

The Lowell War was summarized a few decades

later in the Jan. 1, 1888 edition of the Eagle:

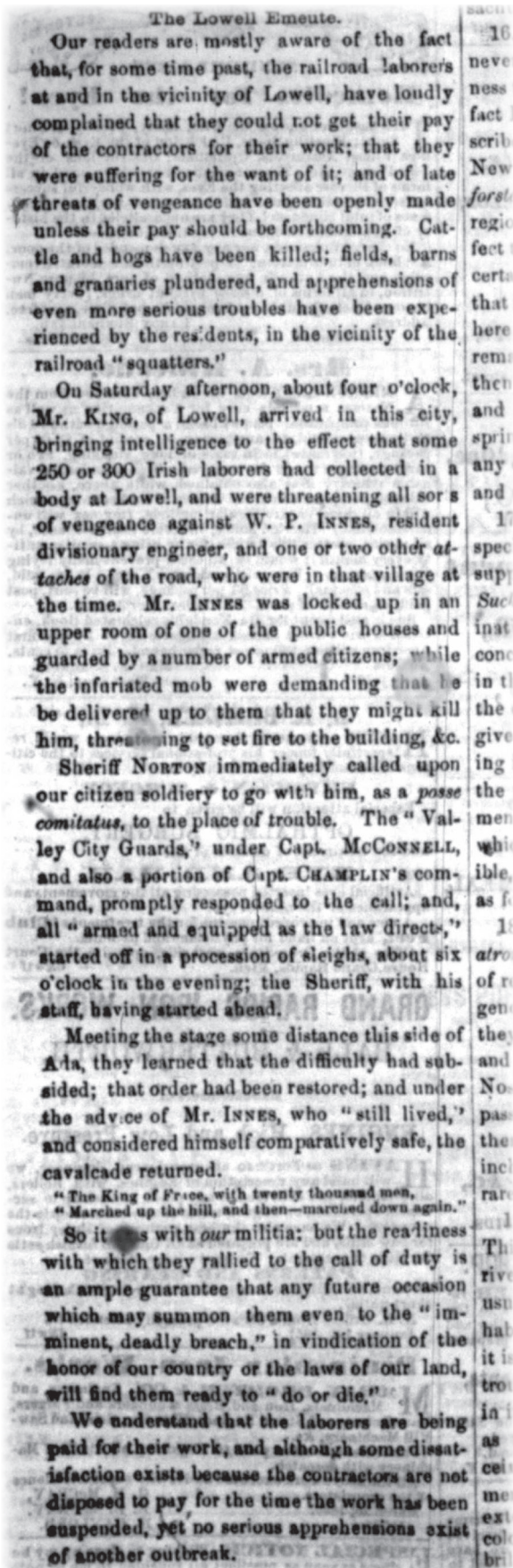
“Do you remember that thirty years ago there was no railroad running into Grand Rapids? If not, then of course you don’t remember the ‘Lowell War.’ But many readers of the Eagle do remember it. It was a strike of the laborers on the Detroit and Milwaukee railroad, at Lowell. They loudly complained that they could not get their pay of the contractors for their labor; that they were suffering in consequence; and there were mutterings of vengeance if their cash was not quickly forthcoming. Along the line where they had been working they had foraged in the fields and barns and granaries, and residents had suffered the loss of cattle, hogs, chickens and grain, which no doubt had gone to appease the hunger of some of the desperate men. Finally, they struck for bread or blood and on Saturday, Nov. 21, 1857, word was brought to the city that 200 or 300 of them had besieged a hotel at Lowell, where Wm. P. Innes, resident engineer, and one or two other attachés of the company, were locked in an upper room and guarded by armed citizens, while the infuriated mob were threatening to fire the building unless Innes were surrendered, so that they might take his life. The affair

proved not quite so serious as that; but this first news of it was serious enough to arouse much consternation, as it was accompanied with a request for a sheriff’s posse and the Grand Rapids militia. Sheriff A.N. Norton, at once, called upon our citizen soldiers to go and with his deputies, they started ahead. The Valley City Guard, Capt. D. McConnell and a part of Capt. S.G. Champlin’s company responded promptly, armed and equipped as the law directs. It was snowing and blowing and growing cold and as the soldier boys gathered they naturally needed something warming. The ‘Maine law’ was then in full blast, consequently as they came up Canal and Monroe streets they could only find something warm at about every third or fourth door. But they came into Canton Smith’s National Hotel in good spirits and after warming there started at about 6 pm in a procession of sleighs for the seat of war. The Ranger accompanied them as war correspondent of one of the daily papers. At Fisk’s hotel at the lake they halted, feeling chilly and took something warm. Forward they bravely moved, but before reaching Ada they met the stage coming and learned that order was restored, the siege raised. All was quiet

on the Flat River and Innes was alive and unhurt. So the little army that had so valiantly marched up the hill turned and as courageously marched down again. They called at Fisk’s and warmed themselves, came into town, broke ranks, dismissed the sleighs, warmed at the National, and dispersed to their several homes, to tell their families of their valor. The Lowell War was ended.”

Trap said that after he was freed, William P. Innes, the kidnapped railroad engineer, went on to have a long career in railroad engineering.

“The engineer was saved and went on to have a rather illustrious career, both in the Civil War and in railroading in general,” Trap said. “He became the Michigan Railroad Commissioner at one time. The citizens of Lowell protected him long enough for the railroad officials to come in and actually pay the people the money that they were owed. So the riot was quelled but the Grand Rapids militia that was being sent to quell the riot was very unhappy with the results. There was no action so they didn’t get paid what they expected to. They were offered a free ride on the railroad rather than a cash payment. Later in the Grand Rapids Eagle it said they shouldn’t expect to get paid because they didn’t shoot anybody.”



This story in the Nov. 23, 1857 Grand Rapids Daily Eagle described the Lowell War.

its impact on Lowell, why the railroad was built, why it missed Lowell and why Lowell’s success led to the failure of the railroad,” Trap said. “The Detroit and Milwaukee Railway was the name of the company. They were hoping to haul grain and wheat through Canada to Europe. The development of roller mills like the one in Lowell changed the whole

sometimes stealing from farmers’ fields. This led to what is known as ‘the Lowell War’ on Nov. 21, 1857 when about 250 railroad laborers poured into town and rioted.

“They were building a railroad in the middle of the wilderness,” Trap said. “It was hard to get money for that kind of project so they had to turn to the money

LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS


To be considered, all proposals
must be submitted online by
April 20, 2018.

Visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell
to submit your application.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell Area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

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Welcome to springtime in Michigan, where it's still snowing deep into April. There is more snow in the forecast for Monday, April 16, plus low temperatures in the 30s and 40s for at least the next ten days. Winter simply refuses to release its icy grip on the Midwest.

Women's history and Social Security

March is Women's History Month. This is a time to focus not just on women's achievements, but on the challenges women continue

to face. In the 21st century, more women work, pay Social Security taxes, and earn credit toward monthly retirement income than at any other time in our nation's history. Knowing this, you can take control of your own rich and independent history, with knowledge you can get from Social Security.

for women in the United States rising, many women may have decades to enjoy retirement. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a female born today can expect to live more than 80 years. As a result, experts generally agree that if women want to ensure that their retirement years are comfortable, they need to plan early and wisely.



marriage, widowhood, divorce, self-employment, government service, and other life or career events can affect your Social Security. Your benefits are based on your earnings, so create your personal my Social Security account to verify that your earnings were reported correctly. Your account also provides estimates of your future retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. You can access my Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

If you want more information about how Social Security supports women through life's journey, Social Security has a booklet that you may find useful. It's called *Social Security: What Every Woman Should Know*. You can find it online at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10127.html.

to face. In the 21st century, more women work, pay Social Security taxes, and earn credit toward monthly retirement income than at any other time in our nation's history. Knowing this, you can take control of your own rich and independent history, with knowledge you can get from Social Security.

A great place to start is with Social Security's Retirement Estimator. It gives you a personalized estimate of your retirement benefits. Plug in different retirement ages and projected earnings to get an idea of how such things might change your future benefit amounts. You can use this valuable tool at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

You should also visit Social Security's financial planning website at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners. It provides detailed information about how

Social Security has served a vital role in the lives of women for over 80 years. With longer life expectancies than men, women tend to live more years in retirement and have a greater chance of exhausting other sources of income. With the national average life expectancy

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

viewpoint

Trail should be on city owned property

Dear Editor,
In several council meetings, property owners along Bowes Rd. came forth and stated that they didn't want a trail going across their property but the city council went ahead and applied for grants anyway. During public comments at the April 2 council meeting another Bowes Rd. resident declared by letter that she

didn't want the walk path in her front yard. How many more property owners have to come forward to voice their displeasure over a trail going across their property before the city council ends their jaunt down Bowes Rd.? Or could it be the city council has no intention in doing so? Does anyone really think that a trail extension is going to

help downtown businesses flourish? If they do I believe they're fantasizing at the cost of others. First of all, I can't see people that are out hiking or biking buying much more than a hot dog and a bottle of pop, if they do that. You have to ask yourself, is a hot dog or bottle of pop worth the grief that this trail extension is causing others? I believe

a trail can go in and out of the downtown area by the use of city owned property, only maybe not by the route that's being proposed but I believe it can be done. If a trail is to be done it should be done the right way by not putting the trail where it's not wanted.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard
Lowell Township

Community comes together in recent flood

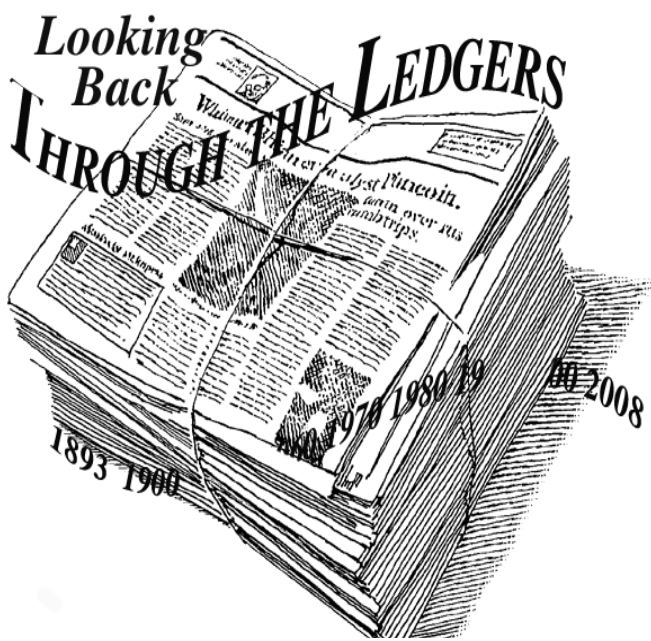
Dear Editor,
It has been my privilege to coordinate the flood relief efforts for the recent flood, representing Flat River Outreach Ministries and Lowell United Methodist Church. Once again, our city of Lowell has proven to be a kind, generous and caring community. There have been so many acts of kindness. Personal stories are many of selfless acts on the part of individuals and businesses. Those within the area hit the hardest reached out to their neighbors while the water was rising in their own homes. Neighbors helped to get furnaces and hot water heaters moved out of the basement prior to the water's rising. Many people in this community signed on to help by serving food, cleaning, raking, shoveling, bleaching basements,

pumping water out of basements and serving as consultants for construction decisions.

Our city provided extra hours in preparation for this event. When the water arrived, the Red Cross provided cleaning supplies. The Salvation Army provided lunches and suppers for the first week of recovery. Lowell United Methodist Church housed and served those meals. Flat River Outreach Ministries provided five dumpsters and support for those families who suffered significantly.

As a city, we can be so proud of those people who have endured the flood of 2013 and now 2018. For their sakes, may we return to that 100 year flood prediction.

Ann Dimmick
Lowell



125 years ago Lowell Journal April 15, 1896

Drs. Snyder and Van Kammen, of Grand Rapids, have opened a dental office in the Graham double brick residence corner of Main and Hudson sts. All who are interested in the painless extraction of teeth will find no method so perfect and satisfactory as by the use of their Vitalized Air, Cocaine used on all who desire that method. They have many old patients in this vicinity who are very glad to welcome them here.

Orchards of J. Frost and Jesse Frost and son, seven miles north of Lowell, show enough live buds for a full crop. Orchards contain 4,000 trees set out in spring of '95. Jay Frost has a tree of the early Crawford set out in 1880; it has produced the last four years 38 bushels of saleable fruit, sold on an average net of \$1.10 per bushel, \$41.80; 1892, 6 bushels; 1893, 10 bushels; 1894, 12 bushels; 1895, 10 bushels. We think that this tree beats everything in the state.

The township and village have joined hands and rented offices in the Fox building. The Town Clerk and Village Recorder will have their offices there; besides the Supervisor and Highway Commissioner and the village President will have desks, and the meetings of the Common Council and Township Board will be held there.

The Detroit and Cleveland Steam Navigation Company's steamers are now running daily (except Sunday) between Detroit and Cleveland. When traveling east or west, north or south, try to arrange to take advantage of these luxurious steamers between Michigan and Ohio. If you are contemplating a summer outing, write A. A. Schantz, G. P. A., Detroit Mich., for illustrated pamphlet which gives full information of a trip to Mackinac via the Coast Line.

A letter from Dr. J. D. Robertson, of Chicago, came to J. H. Rickert last week announcing the death of two

of his children from membranous croup. The many friends of Dr. and Mrs. Robertson, here, extend to them their deepest sympathy and condolence.

Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Hicks, were in Saranac, Friday, attending the funeral Mrs. Geo. Potts, wife of the editor of the Saranac Local, who died at that place last Tuesday night. Mrs. N Potts had been an invalid for several years and was a woman universally loved.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger April 11, 1918

On Saturday, April 20, at 1:30 sharp at The Ledger office, the annual meeting of The Lowell Ledger Press club will be held. As it is the election of officers and other important business to be brought before the club, every correspondent of The Ledger and also of The Alto Solo is urged to be present. At the close of the business session our editor has planned to give a treat that you do not want to miss. Let us surprise him by each one bringing in one new subscriber to his valuable home paper; as our boys at the front want to hear how all the home folks are. You can do this through the medium of The Lowell Ledger. Now hoping that not one of our correspondents will slight this invitation but will be on time, I remain Sincerely, Mrs. Earl Curtiss, President.

A grand patriotic rally in the interests of the Third Liberty Loan will be held at the City hall in Lowell Friday evening, April 12, and a packed-to-the-doors house is expected. Do your part to make it so. Rev. A. W. Wishart and Mrs. David Mills of Grand Rapids will be the principal speakers. Rev. Wishart has been with the troops on the Mexican border and recently returned from the battle front in France. He knows whereof he speaks. He will make a better American of you. Mrs. Mills is said to be one of the best orators in the state. The ladies will all want to hear her. Now is the time. Vocal music will be rendered by a delegation from the St. Celilia society of Grand Rapids and the Lowell male quartet. Open-air music by the Lowell band at 7:30. Members please be prompt. Exercises in the hall at 8 o'clock. Pass the word. Turn out.

The Board of Education has engaged Harold H. Smith as superintendent of the Lowell schools for the 1918-19 school year to succeed Superintendent S. L. Mitchell, who is considering other opportunities. The Board desired to retain the services of Mr. Mitchell and offered him a substantial increase of salary; but war conditions work to the disadvantage of the small towns. Mr. Mitchell is a successful educator and himself and Mrs. Mitchell have participated actively in the community and social affairs of the town, making a host of friends who will wish them well wherever their lot may be cast. Mr. Smith has been principal of the High school during the last year, is well acquainted with the needs of the Lowell schools and will maintain the high standard of the past. Announcement of the teaching staff for the 1918-19 year will be made soon.

John Kellogg is making a good recovery from his serious illness, after having had several bad attacks of heart failure.

George P. Taylor, whose illness from blood poisoning has been mentioned in these columns, remains in a critical condition. Mr. Taylor is in his seventy-seventh year, and prior to this illness has been a man of remarkable strength and activity.

Looking Back,
continued, page 7

We love to hear from you!



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.

health

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

24th annual crop walk to fight hunger slated for May 6

- sport related concussion

Concussion is caused by a strong impact to the head that leads to problems with thinking or other neurological symptoms. Concussions can occur in any sport when there is a blow to the head, neck or body that sends a strong force to the head. The symptoms of concussion include headaches; cognitive problems, such as mental fogging or changes in memory; problems with balance and coordination; behavioral changes, such as irritability; and slow reaction time. Although most concussions are not associated with loss of consciousness, temporary loss of consciousness can occur.

In cases of suspected sports related concussion, athletes should immediately be removed from play

and assessed by a physician or other health care professional. If the assessment is suspicious for concussion, the player should be taken to the sidelines or locker room for a more detailed neurological evaluation. If concussion is confirmed, the player is placed in return-to-play protocol. The general approach to recovery from concussion involves both physical and mental rest for the first few days after the injury, followed by gradual increases in activity over time. Mental activities, such as schoolwork, should be gradually resumed as tolerated. The decision to return to play should be individualized and athletes should be cleared by a health care professional before returning to full contact practice and regular play.

submitted by Louis H. Graham (Bowne Center United Methodist Church Crop Walk coordinator)

At Bowne Center United Methodist Church "A little child shall lead them" has proved to be the case, at least as far as its participation in the Lowell Area Crop Walk is concerned. Last year Bowne Center United Methodist Church's total, raised for the walk, was \$2,548.00 and of that amount children raised \$1,998.00.

This year's 24th annual Lowell Area Crop Walk will take place on May 6th with registration

and a small soup lunch starting at 1:00 and the walk starting at 1:30. The starting location is at the Lowell United Methodist Church.

The walk is five kilometers (3.1 miles) long and raises money for Church World Services to help fight hunger worldwide. The distance walked represents the approximate average distance walked for water in the underdeveloped countries. 25 percent of the money that we raise stays in the Lowell

area and helps both Flat River Outreach Ministries and the Lowell Senior Neighbors program.

The area churches involved in the last few years are Alto United Methodist Church, Bowne Center United Methodist Church, Calvary Christian Reformed Church, First Congregational Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lowell United Methodist Church, Vergennes United Methodist Church and your church can take part also. The total amount raised over the 23-year

history of the walk is \$385,507.00

If anyone would like to join and/or donate, please contact Pastor Matt Stoll at (616) 438-2647 or email him at vergennesspator@gmail.com Pledge forms are available through arrangements with Pastor Matt Stoll or at the Lowell United Methodist Church on the day of the walk. You can also go to crophungerwalk.org/lowellmi for more information or to make a donation.

business matters

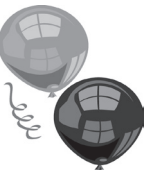


Greenridge Realty announced that Dave VanKeulen received Realtor of the Month in March.

This award recognizes VanKeulen for his outstanding success and achievements.



happy birthday



APRIL 11

Toni Blough, Delores Gabrión, Adaline Thaler, Al Roe, David Johnson.

APRIL 15

Craig Yeiter, Margaret Yoder, Charles Behnke, Fred Oesch Jr., Dave Carpenter, Terry Kinsley.

APRIL 12

Sarah DeShane-Dalga, Jesse Lewis-Anes.

APRIL 16

Sam Roudabush, Kathleen Zywicki, Jack Ryder, Jacob Billingsley, Lori Gerard, Steve Kropf, Angie Farrell, Kristin Lee, William Mitchell, Rayce Darby, Olivia Foster.

APRIL 13

Addie Abel, Pete Baker, Marv DeVries, Carol Brzezniak, Melissa Quada.

APRIL 14

Dennis Rasch, Joshua Anderson, Nichol Gurney, Bernie Boersma, Brenda Stuart, Cole Wade, Stephanie Ossewaarde.

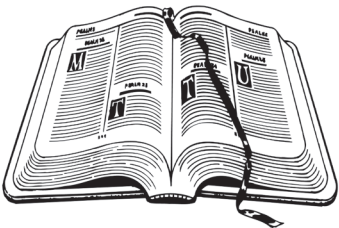
APRIL 17

Elsie Franks, Heather Vezino, Dennie Ryder, Joe Merriman, Jill Harris, Lucille Erickson, Betty Erickson, Gary Pieroni, Candice Bowne, Jace Eliason.

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area churches



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www.lowellucc.org

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
103 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
www.goodshepherdlowell.org
Worship Service Sunday - 10:30 AM
Sunday School..... 9:15 AM
Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

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2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
897-7168 - www.fbclowell.org
Pastor Jon Pickens, Lead Pastor
Pastor Phil Severn • Youth Pastor
Christi Swain, Director of Children's Ministries
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
SUNDAY School.....11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM
Middle & High School - Mon-school year*Wed,summer, 7 PM

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
897-7060
Rev. Dr. Paul Mpindi PHD
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Morning Worship.....10:00 AM
Sunday School.....11:20 AM
Evening Worship.....6:00 PM
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St. Mary Catholic Church
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Kid's Crew 11:15 AM
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Red Sky's a Blazin' Prophecy Conference
South Boston Bible Church
Lowell, Michigan
With Evangelist Norm Sharbaugh

April 13-15, 2018

Subjects Covered in PowerPoint Presentations

- Reasons Why the Rapture Could Be Soon
- The Coming World Church and the Tribulation Judgments
- The Antichrist
- Is the USA in Bible Prophecy?
- Glimpses of the Millennial Period
- Armageddon
- And more...

Friday—Saturday 6:30 PM
Sunday Morning 10:00 AM
Sunday School 11:15 AM
Sunday Evening 6:30 PM

6958 Kyser Road 616/897-7623
Pastor Ronald Tuinstra

Looking Back, continued

75 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
April 15, 1943

When school reopens on April 26, after spring vacation, classes in the upper 6 grades will start at 8 o'clock. In all other grades classes will begin at 8:30 o'clock. Noon hour will be as usual. All grades will be dismissed at 3 o'clock. Supt. Gumser states that this move has been made to conform with wishes of citizens and pupils to give more time for work on farms and victory gardens.

The war is bringing benefit to housewives which probably will linger on if they have anything to say about it. For generations they have tossed away millions of pickle, mayonnaise, coffee and shortening bottles when they were emptied. Today the makers of most of these products are putting them out in jars which may be used for canning with only the purchase of new caps. There is little doubt that there will be a terrific yell from housewives if after the war the companies decide to go back to the use of bottles which have to be thrown out now that it has been learned that tops can be standardized for re-use in canning.

The Norris Tavern, 305 E. Main, has apparently closed for the duration. A sign on the door reads: "Closed 'til After Hitler's Funeral."

John Callier of South Boston, who celebrated his 82nd birthday last week, on Tuesday started the task of raising 1300 baby chicks. In addition to this he already has a flock of around 500 laying hens – all of which is a real job for a much younger man. Mr. Callier is showing real patriotic war spirit.

The Office of Price Administration on Sunday at midnight slashed the point value of sausage products and certain pork cuts by 14 to 50 per cent. Included in the slash are wieners, bologna and pork sausage, scrapple, chitterings and pork neck and back bones.

The Second War Loan opened officially throughout the nation on Monday morning and continues every day until the end of April. Here in Lowell the purchase of war bonds started early and by Tuesday noon sales had totalled upwards of \$10,000. One of our leading citizens has already purchased five \$1,000 bonds. Every three dollars put into war bonds returns four dollars on the investment.

There will be no school Friday in the high school as all high school teachers will be in Ann Arbor attending a School-Masters' Club meeting for all secondary teachers in the state. Mr. Gumser and Mr. Jessup are on the program.

Mrs. Charles Doyle, chairman of the local Red Cross solicitation drive, reports the total amount collected as \$2,189, which does not include a few outstanding pledges.

50 years ago
Lowell Ledger
April 11, 1968

Today's edition marks the start of the 75th year of continuous publication for the Lowell Ledger. History records, however, that the Ledger was actually "born" in June, 1813... and the diamond jubilee will be celebrated in that month with a special edition featuring stories and pictures of events that have taken place down through the many years.

A beautiful new four-color brochure, long a dream of the Lowell Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled to go to press this week. Members are urged to place their orders with C. of C. President Larry Wittenbach.

Gordon Johnson, back from an extended stay in Florida, reports that it is almost impossible to journey anywhere in the Sunshine State without running into folks from the Lowell area. There are so many Michigan license plates down there, he adds, that it seems just about half the state picked up and left those of us not so fortunate behind to brave the wintry blasts.

Perhaps it's the lingering cold, but folks continue to gravitate to the southland. Recently-elected Councilman (or should it be Councilwoman) Mrs. Virginia Meyers and her husband, Dr. Harold Myers, are vacationing in New Orleans . . . Marcel Kropf of McQueen Motors is in Florida and Keith Caldwell of State Savings Bank of Lowell is scheduled to depart soon for Biloxi, Mississippi, where he hopes to get the kinks out of his golf game.

Other travelers from Lowell are Mr. and Mrs. Dean Manigold, who departed over the weekend for London (to visit a new grandchild) and Frankfurt, Germany.

Dean's timetable calls for him to return in time for the trout fishing opener late this month.

Old time devotees of the Ionia Free Fair will no doubt remember Billy Lorette, nationally famous clown who performed at the fair for many years. Billy died last week in Illinois at the age of 81. Billy was a show in himself and gave one of his most memorable performances when, following a sudden downpour, water filled the race track at Ionia. He entertained the water-soaked crowd for more than an hour using the flooded track as his one and only prop.

25 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
April 14, 1993

When will Lowell Township have enough industrial development? This question faces the planning commission in regards to a proposed industrial site between 52nd and 60th off Foreman Rd. The land consists of 110 acres of wetlands and prime agricultural farms. Concern over the land came at last week's township board meeting, when the Township Supervisor, John Timpson, asks why the land had been targeted for industrial use in the future. Commission members could not give a definite reason as to why the land was put on the land use plan as an industrial site. It was speculated by several members that the land was set aside for future use when the industrial site at I-96 was too full to house any more industry. According to one commission member, the idea was to deal with the entire industrial issue so the commission would not have to go through all formalities in the future. Another member stated it was best to take care of the issue now before the courts did. "We wanted to settle this issue before a developer could take us to court, then the court would decide where to put industry in the township," said commission member David Simmonds. If the proposed site is left on the land use plan it would give Lowell more industrial land than all but two Kent County Townships, with 390 acres allocated for industrial use. Roland Lubbinge thinks the current land use plan is not beneficial to the community or to residents whose land has been designated industrial. "Were not doing justice to landowners when we split their land in half, making half of it agricultural and the other half industrial. How are they supposed to sell that property?" said Lubbinge. He went on to state "If

we (Lowell Township) need more industry, that is one thing, but why do we need it at such a large scale."

Board of Education members Jack Lane and Charlie Kohler were impressed by the updated information that will be taught through the eighth and ninth-grade health education curriculum on HIV/AIDS. Monday night, at the Lowell Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the HIV/AIDS updates for the eighth and ninth-grade health curriculum. Kohler said the updated information shows we all can stand to go back to school. "I learned some things reviewing this information," he said. Ray Quada, Board President, reflected on how far schools have come, as far as discussion in a classroom. Jim White, Director of Special Education and Instruction, said Lowell has been teaching students about HIV/AIDS in health classes for the past five years. "The information talked about tonight provides us with the latest information available." The updates were reviewed by a community group as part of the requirement under P.A. 226. White stated that the curriculums, as well as the reproductive health units, emphasize abstinence first and foremost. "Other preventative measures are addressed as information items and the decision making that must accompany choices that teens make," White said.

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
March 26, 2018

Discussion:

- 1.) Informational meeting regarding a proposed sewer assessment district for the lakefront owners of Cowan Lake.

Our next Township Meetings will be **April 9th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.** and **May 14th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**
 The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at www.grattantownship.org

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Rev. John J. Thome Trust

Re: John J. Thome, Decedent, Date of Birth 03/08/1922

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, John J. Thome, who lived at 1200 104th Ave. SW, Byron Center, MI 49315, died on November 23, 2017.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased or the

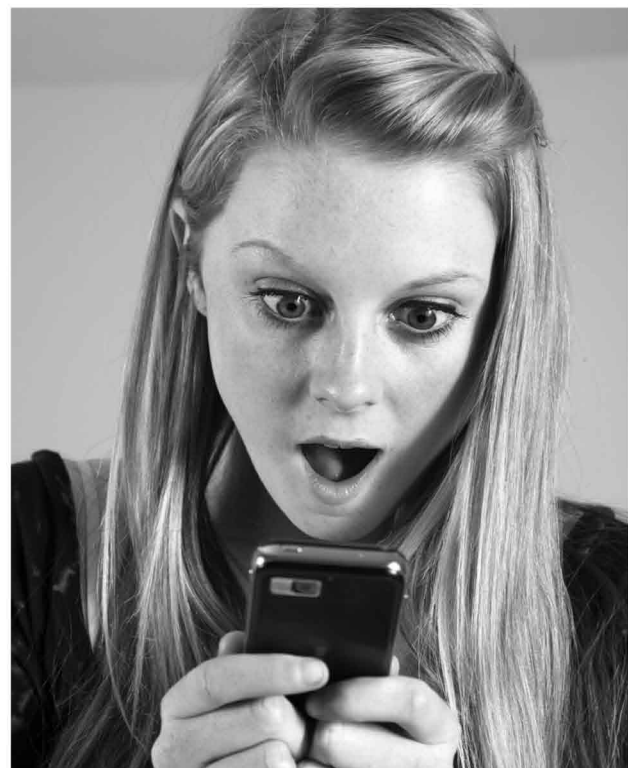
trust will be forever barred unless presented to REV. FREDERICK J. KAWKA, Trustee, of 4020 North Castle Lane, Lake Isabella, MI 48893, within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: March 3, 2018

John T. Conroy, Attorney (43709) CONROY LAW, PLC 410 Bridge St. NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-454-4119

Rev. Frederick J. Kawka 4020 North Castle Lane Lake Isabella, MI 48893

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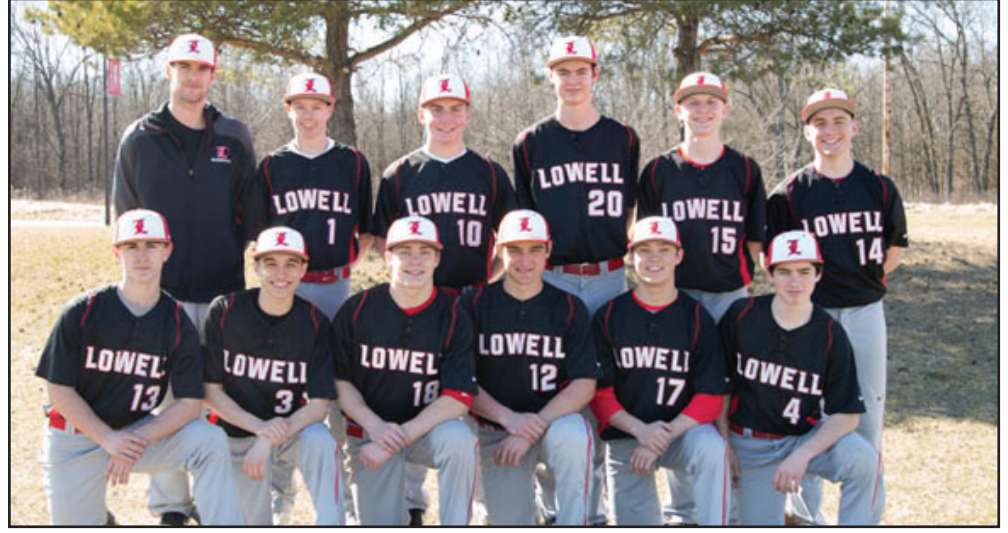


Spring SPORTS TEAMS



VARSITY BASEBALL

Front row: Josh Hackstedt, Brady Douma, Channing Perry, Jackson Helder, Gavin Hoffman, Kyle Bibbler, and Nick Weston; back row: coach Miller, Garrett Pratt, Connor Douma, Austin Whaley, Logan Staley, Jordan Dent, Travis Cornell, Nick Struckmeyer, Zackery Post, and coach Pike.



JV BASEBALL

Front row: Aiden Malone, Bryce McCune, Brennan Pawloski, Grady McDonald, Cade Solomonson, and Ben Davis; back row: coach Steele, Nolan Mazarka, Matthew Stephens, Tyler Lange, Brett Spanbauer, and Grant Pratt.



VARSITY GOLF

Front row: Zachary Galle, Tyler Kaptcia, John Russell, Brad VandenHout, Joel Fritsma, and coach Fredline; and back row: Drew Davidson, Gavin Coxon, Marcel Primeau, Mike VandenHout, Atlas Barrie, Ethan Furtaw, and Noah Barnhart.



JV GOLF

Front row: Noah Oswald, Will Brandt, Jacob Scheid, Luke Landman, Alex Pollock, Tommy Grover, and Kenny Kropf; back row: coach Stevens, Bruno Redondo, Jacob Clearer, Keegan Laux, Nolan Cusack, Simone Ingrassia, and Carl Jungerth.



VARSITY LACROSSE

Front row: Josh Harey, Jacob Hessler, Jon Berklich, Charlie Hayes, Case Olesko, Mason Godbold, Gramm McCormack, Gabe Smith, Jake Nugent, and Zach Phipps; back row: manager Xavier, Logan Cunningham, Zach May, Conner Nugent, Dylan Jernberg, Blake McVey, Addison Buckius, Ethan Meyer, Jayme Schlanderer, Chase Anderson, Ethan Quiggle, and manager Jacob Huts.



JV LACROSSE

Front row: Jared Lardie, Cole Huisman, Sam Lixie, Carter Sherman, Conner Balabuck, Mitchel Snarski, and Grant LeBarre; back row: Breyden Race, Darl Decator, Gibson Raimor, Spencer Primeau, John Sherman, Keegan Nugent, Logan Wood, and Chris Stewart.



FRESHMAN BASEBALL

Front row: Bradley Salgat, Andrew Hackstedt, Rohan Dixon, Tyler Spinella, Braydon Teft, and Terrick Stewart; back row: coach Davis, William deVoest, Josiah Kloster, Xander Reisbig, Reid Reynolds, Kyle Teachworth, Ethan Hall, Parker Davis, and coach Eveland.

Catch Up On Lowell High School Sports

Go Red Arrows!

the lowell ledger



Spring SPORTS TEAMS



VARSITY LACROSSE

Front row: Ashley Anheuser, Lilly Cooper, Marissa Berg, Delaney Beimers, Kacey Leverence, Brooke Meijer, Olivia DeCator, Nichole Anheuser, Renee Lefebre, Amaya Hansen, Ruthie Anderson, and Kate McDowell; back row: Jennifer Cooper, Skylar Young, Skylie Raab, Tristan Thomas, Olivia Rose, Nicole Paulus, Kenzi Uhen, Ava Frederickson, Claire Gussman, Ella Dougherty, Samantha Peterson, Amiya Schaefer, and coach Vasquez.



CREW

Front row: coach Brim, Irene Trierweiler, Sydney Riffle, Abby Davis, Olivia Kamradt, Delaney Duimstra, Adrienne Johnson, Alyssa Cadwallader, and coach Lamoreaux; back row: coach Chittenden, coach Glinzak, Hailey Boggs, Logan Riffle, Mitchell McMillian, Jacob Beke, Evangeline Hoke, Abigail McMillian, Emily Brown, and coach Cadwallader.



VARSITY SOCCER

Front row: Riley Fuller, Hannah VanDeWeert, Khloe Hayes, Riley Conlan, Maura Fitzpatrick, Darby Dean, Regan Coxon, Isabel Remar, Katherine Kroll, and Lexi Gonzales; back row: Jenna Lyon, Jaki Hayes, Aly Holdridge, Molly Frederickson, Maddie Halfmann, Anneke Breuker, Savannah Crace, Hailey Hoevenaar, Abby White, Amber Clouse, and Callie Ingrahm.



JV SOCCER

Front row: Averi Haas, Natasha Marsh, Faith Stepek, Bridget Gray, Julia Gwisdalla, Madison Alcala, and Stephanie Zalis; back row: coach Lincolnhol, Sydney Hults, Mackenzie DeRaad, Maloryn Mrozinski, Anna Snell, Jasmine Donahue, Anna Gaskin, Reese Gonzales, and Molly Meyers.



BOYS TRACK

Front row: Dillon Hieshetter, Brandon Hare, Thad Swart, Will Reynolds, Justin McWayne, Casey French, Samuel Misak, Kenneth Stump, Austin Pollock, Jake Rau, Marrison Ismond, Alexander Brandt, Cameron Cheney, and Devin Dietz; second row: Kola Miller, Raven Adamczak, Sam Dougherty, Nigel Mika, Casper Broene, Lucas Cossar, Austin Smith, Collier Kaufman, Aidan Kelley, Austin Hendricle, Ben Kinnucan, Jaden Yang, Korbin Williford, Will Kuhns, and Caleb Swart; back row: Jakob Reynolds, Michael House, Dan Herrmann, Cameran Pawloski, Brett Evink, Landon Grant, Zach White, William Wurtz, Brandon Baker, John Lothian, Caeden Kaufman, Ian O'Strander, Mason Winters, and Calvin Simmet.

GIRLS TRACK

Front row: Isabella Blakely, Selina Doty, Diana Roth, Autumn French, Kendra VanOverloop, Laura Lachowski, Madeline Taylor, Katrina Droski, Amber Brown, Elizabeth Kuhns, Alexis Cook, Abby McDowell, Joanna Link, Haley Nieuwkoop, and Grace Osterander; second row: Madi Wade, Mya Kaywood, Julia Pytlik, Kyleigh Rau, Anna Forker, Tressa Huizinga, Hanna Schmidt, Reese Gonzales, Marlie Fowler, Lauren Aud, Kyra Snyder, Neely Bardwell, Phoebe Looman, Hannah Diamond, Kerstin Johnson, Jada Windsant, and Ashley Boehr; back row: Theresa Judd, Tyleighsha Hopkins, Julia Tuuri, Melissa Field, Autumn Serylo, Madison Brown, Maddie Culbertson, Ting-Yu Yeh, and Jada Windsant.



Red Arrow

- SOCCER

SPORTS

Girls shut out Greenville 8-0 in first OK White contest of season

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The Lowell girls varsity soccer team shut out their first OK White opponent of the season on Monday tearing through the Greenville Yellow Jackets 8-0 in their home opener.

Seniors Darby Dean, Riley Conlan and Maura Fitzpatrick along with junior Jaki Hayes will co-captain the team this season. "We have many leaders on the roster this spring, but our captains and upperclassmen have the responsibility to lead this program to new heights," explained head coach Dan Lipon.

Coming off a successful 7-3 run through the conference last season, the girls now sit at 1-0 after five Red Arrows found the back of the net in the offensive



Junior Isabel Remar en route to one of her three goals.

onslaught that left the Yellow Jackets' goalkeeper scrambling. Lowell led 7-0 by the half with single goals from junior Aly Holdridge, junior Jaki Hayes and sophomore Khloe Hayes. Multiple goals were earned by juniors Isabel Remar and Regan Coxon, who scored three and two respectively. Assists were credited to Dean, Conlan, K. Hayes, senior Hailey Hoevenaar and Coxon.

According to Lipon, the bench is filled with top players this season. "We have leaders and talent throughout the roster this season. Offensively our top two goal scorers are returning from last season. Regan Coxon and Khloe Hayes are the most dynamic

players in the conference. In addition, we have a lot of depth with multiple athletes who will contribute to our success," said Lipon.

Unable to gain a shot on goal the entire game, Greenville was also crushed by the Red Arrow defense of junior goalkeepers Abby White and Callie Ingram, as well as the defensive line. "Darby Dean will anchor our back line this spring," said Lipon. "Dean's leadership, athleticism and composure will compliment her defensive back line of senior Hailey Hoevenaar, sophomore Molly Frederickson, and sophomore Maddie Halfmann," added Lipon.

Optimistic with where the team is headed this

season, Lipon concludes, "The work rate has been really positive. The expectations are high this spring and the girls realize they need to put in the work. We just need to focus on improving everyday as a unit, because we have the personnel to play really good soccer this spring!"

The ladies faced nonconference competitor Muskegon Reeths Puffer on Tuesday and jump back into the OK White on Friday to host Cedar Springs. Action is scheduled to begin at 6:45 pm.

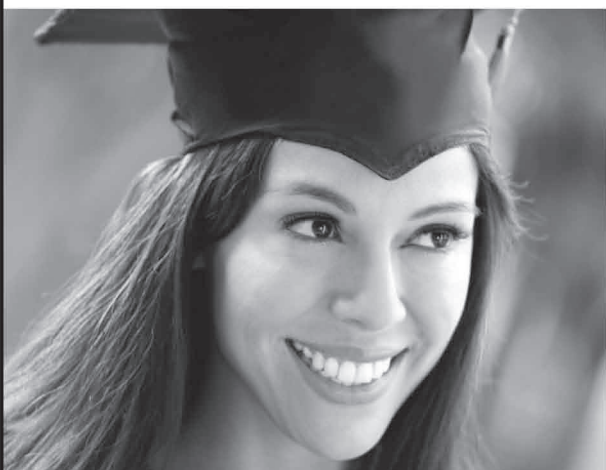


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Junior Regan Coxon on the field for the Red Arrow varsity soccer team.

Red Arrow

- TRACK

SPORTS

LHS sports team named Michigan Chocolate Milk Mustache celebrities

The snow is melting, the temperature is rising and a local sports team has started the spring season as celebrities...Chocolate Milk Mustache celebrities. Lowell High School boy's track and field team has been named one of United Dairy Industry of Michigan's (UDIM) Chocolate Milk: Nature's Sports Drink grant recipients, which emphasizes good nutrition.

This spring, 88 Michigan high school sports teams were awarded funds to purchase and provide low-fat or fat-free chocolate milk to help their student athletes get the nutrition that they need after practices, games and competitions.

Chocolate milk is one of the most nutritious choices that students can make at home or at school. It's a natural, nutrient-rich beverage

and an excellent source of nine essential nutrients – calcium, potassium, protein, phosphorus, vitamins A, D and B12, riboflavin and niacin – nutrients that students need for good health.

"According to the 2015 Dietary Guidelines, Americans, of all activity levels over the age of eight, should include three servings of low-fat or fat-free milk or milk products in their diet every day. Chocolate milk is a nutritious option to help meet these recommendations," says Melissa Gerharter, registered dietitian, UDIM. "And what's really great about chocolate milk is that it packs a powerful nutrient-rich punch, it's affordable and it tastes great."

"Since the grant began in 2011, we've awarded over 800 grants to high school sports teams across

Michigan," states Gerharter. "We're happy to see the impact that it has had on the overall nutrition of many student athletes already and we can only hope that it will continue to gain momentum."

To build awareness around the importance of good nutrition, the Chocolate Milk: Nature's Sports Drink kit includes promotional items and educational materials. Winning teams will also receive posters of their Chocolate Milk Mustache celebrities photos to display around town.

"We have always encouraged our distance athletes to bring some type of protein to eat/drink right after the hard workouts. By teaming with the United Dairy Industry of Michigan we are given a fun, good tasting way to promote it with all our athletes, with

the goal that it becomes part of what we do. We have already seen some of the benefits of the program as more students are taking chocolate milk to our away meets for in between events," said Judd.

"Habits take time and by having the chocolate milk there every day for the next three months, we expect that many of the student athletes will continue to practice this habit going forward. The benefits will also be part

of our parent and student meetings going forward."

To learn more about why chocolate milk is naturally Nature's Sports Drink, visit <https://www.milkmeansmore.org/athletes/chocolate-milk/>



Red Arrow Spring SPORTS SCHEDULES

BOYS & GIRLS VARSITY TRACK

* Denotes a meet at Red Arrow Stadium
L 4/17 at 4:15 pm at Greenville

GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE

* Denotes a home game at Red Arrow Stadium
 4/14 at 11 am at Grand Ledge
 4/16 at 7 pm at GR Christian
 4/18 at 7 pm West Ottawa*

BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE

* Denotes a home game at Red Arrow Stadium
 4/12 at 7 pm at Caledonia
 4/14 at 12 pm at Forest Hills Eastern
 4/17 at 7:30 Spring Lake at Davenport University

GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS

* Denotes a game at LHS tennis courts
L 4/12 at 4:15 pm Wayland*
 4/17 at 4:15 pm at Cedar Springs

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

* Denotes a home game at Red Arrow Stadium
 4/13 at 6:45 pm Cedar Springs*
 4/16 at 6:45 pm Northview*
L 4/18 at 6:45 pm at Greenville

BOYS VARSITY GOLF

* Denotes a meet at Deer Run Golf Course
 4/12 at 1 pm Kent County Classic at Thornapple Pointe
 4/14 at 9 am GRC Invite at Quail Ridge
 4/16 at 3:30 pm at Portland
 4/18 at 3:30 pm Jamboree #1 at Cedar Springs

GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL

* Denotes a meet at Cherry Creek Field
 4/13 at 4:15 pm at Northview
 4/16 at 4:15 pm at Cedar Springs - double header
 4/18 at 4:15 pm Cedar Springs*

BOYS VARSITY BASEBALL

* Denotes a meet at Cherry Creek Field
L 4/13 at 4:15 pm at Northview
 4/14 at 11 am Traverse City West*
 4/16 at 4:15 pm at Cedar Springs - double header

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obituaries

AFTON 1948 -- 2018

Margaret Anne (Slonecki) Afton, age 70, of Lowell, passed away on Friday, April 6, 2018 at Faith Hospice, Trillium Woods, in Byron Center. She was born on February 22, 1948, in Grand Rapids, the daughter of Francis Benjamin and Esther Kathryn (Wronski) Slonecki. She attended St. Isidore Catholic Elementary School and Catholic Central High School. She continued her education at Grand Rapids Community College and earned an Associate's Degree in nursing and worked as an LPN for many years. During her nursing career, she served patients in hospital, nursing home and home-health environments. She also worked as a Pharmacy Technician for several years. Margaret attended St. Mary Catholic Church in Lowell for many years. Margaret leaves a loving family to cherish her memory including her daughters, Heather (Bill) Doane of Lowell and Jennifer Afton of Kalamazoo; dearly loved grandchildren, Aaron Schulte, Evan Schulte and Emma Schulte; a sister, Kathryn (Fred) Faiks of Greenville; step-siblings, Cindi Zdroy and Frank (Leslie) Zdroy both of California; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Joseph Slonecki; her step-mother, Eleanor Slonecki and a step-sister Nadine Campbell. Visitation and Funeral Mass will take place on Friday, April 13, 2018 at St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 Amity Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331, with Fr. Aaron Ferris the Celebrant. Visitation will take place at the church from 10:00 am until 11:00 am and the Mass will be Celebrated beginning at 11:00 am. Private Interment is being planned at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery, Lowell. Memorial contributions are recommended to Faith Hospice or the Franciscan Life Process Center near Lowell. Memorial donation envelopes will be available at the services or may be requested by contacting Verdun Family Funeral Home at (616) 794-1300 or www.verdunfh.com

BENNETT

William (Bill) V. Bennett, 80, of Ionia, went to be with his Lord and Savior April 5, 2018, at his home, on the same land where he was born. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, LaVonne; son, W. Rance (Linda) Bennett; daughter, Laura (Glenn) Bennett-Kimble; grandchildren, Kristina (Tyler) Groendyke, Joshua Clark, Noel (Jason) Evans; four great-grandchildren; sister, M. Jean Bennett and brother, Richard (Nancy) Bennett. He was preceded in death by his parents, Seigel and Harriet (Simmons) Bennett; sister, Mary Jane Bennett; and one stillborn child. He was known for his quiet wit, friendly smile and kind heart. An auto body man for decades, Bill owned and managed shops, taught body work at the Michigan Training Unit and did beautiful custom body and paint work. He will be sorely missed by his family. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements cared for by Lake Funeral home in Ionia. Donations may be made to Spectrum Health Hospice and Palliative Care or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Online condolences may be made at www.lakefuneralhomes.com

GRAMES

Janice Marie Grames, age 76, of Lowell, passed away Monday, April 2, 2018, at her daughter's home in Howard City, under the loving care of her family and Emmanuel Hospice. The daughter of Samuel Nelson and Verna May (Nerham) Russ, she was born on February 15, 1942 in Morley. For many years, Janice managed an adult foster care home in Grand Rapids and had also worked at Curtis Cleaners in Lowell. She enjoyed playing poker, trips to the casino, her weekly visit to Kentucky Fried Chicken, and finding a bargain at the thrift stores. She was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Donna Russ, Phyllis Laper, and Myrtle "Mert" Russ; two brothers, Jack Russ and Gene Russ; and two grandchildren, Crystal Drayton and A.J. Drayton. Surviving are her four daughters, Linda Kazermier of Belding, Tena and Allen Drayton of Howard City, Kimberly Bagwell of Lowell, and Salena Jewell of Belding; two sisters, Maxine Pfeiffer and JoAnn Laper, both of Lakeview; eight grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Relatives and friends are invited to celebrate Janice's life from 2-6 pm on Sunday, April 15, 2018 at the Coral Community Center, 4662 N. Bailey Road, Coral; with a sharing of memories and prayer service beginning at 2:00 pm. A time of food and fellowship will follow. Honoring her wishes, cremation has taken place. To send a message of sympathy to the family, sign Janice's online guest book or to share a favorite memory, please visit: www.ChristiansenCares.com Arrangements were entrusted to Christiansen Cremation & Funeral Care, Greenville.

HENTSCHEL

Eugene Francis Hentschel (Gene), age 87, passed away Wednesday, April 4, 2018 after courageously and uncomplainingly fighting pancreatic cancer, surrounded by his family and under the care of Emmanuel Hospice. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 59 years, Meg (Margaret), in December 2013; as well as 10 siblings. Gene is the devoted and loving father of James of Kenosha, Wisconsin, and Stephan



(Lucynda) of Shelbyville, Michigan, Mary Clare (Thierry) Lach of Clinton Township, Michigan, Lisbeth Johnson of Grand Rapids, Michigan; adored grandfather of Erik, Mark, Alex, Gladys, Nicole, Tanya, Amanda, Richard, Karolynn, Andrea, Clarissa, Seth, Laura, Andrew, Nicholas; and beloved great-grandfather "Two-Papa" of 16: Anthony, Isaac, Aaron, Amya, Amani, Andre, Jonathan, Matthew, Dante, Lydia, Kaden, Liam, Amelia, Julian, Judah, Amilia Rose; and was awaiting the birth of another great-grandchild this summer. Gene enjoyed Bible study and prayer, travel, especially to Ireland, studying history, photography, reading, nature, cooking, and classic movies. He could repair almost anything and took meticulous care of his home, car and yard. He is the grateful friend of Bill W. Gene was involved in jail and prison ministry for many years, and was cheerful and talkative. He unnecessarily kissed the Blarney Stone twice. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, April 10, at St. Mary Catholic Church, Lowell. Rev. Aaron Ferris presided. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery, Grand Rapids. Memorial contributions may be made to the Adrian Dominican Sisters, 1257 E. Siena Heights Dr., Adrian, MI 49221.



MALCOLM

James Patrick Malcolm, age 69 of Grand Rapids, passed away Friday, April 6, 2018. He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Stella Malcolm. He is survived by his children, Jamie (Doug) Johnson, Ryan (Jessica) Malcolm; brothers Jerry Malcolm, Tony (Candis) Malcolm, Howard (Connie) Malcolm; sister Leona (Wayne) Rhodes; grandchildren Kelli and Murphy Malcolm, Bailey and Morgan Groendyke, and Henry and Emma Johnson. James graduated from Lowell High School in 1966. Afterward, he served in the Army Military Police Corps from 1968-1970 in the Korean Demilitarized Zone. He worked for 37 years at Rapistan (Dematic), and served as a committee man for over 20 years in the UAW. James loved sports, especially baseball, which he continued to play after high school, and golf. With his wonderful sense of humor, he had many friends, and he will be dearly missed. He was a devoted grandfather to his grandkids, and loved his dogs Maggie and Bully. A Funeral liturgy will be held Saturday, April 14, 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, 1253 52nd St. SE, Kentwood, MI 49508. The family will greet friends and relatives one hour prior to the liturgy. Rev. Peter Vu presiding. Military honors will be held under the auspices of the US Army Honor Guard and Kent County Veterans Honor Guard. Interment Chapel Hill. Memorial contributions can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-9959.



PAGE

James Percy Page and Frances Louise Page (Crane), of Wyoming, formerly of Lowell, passed away from accidental injuries Tuesday, April 3, 2018. James, born January 13, 1933, grew up in Lowell; and Frances, born September 23, 1939, grew up in Lansing and moved to Lowell at the age of 13. James and Frances met in Lowell, and both graduated from Lowell High School. They were married 61 years. James is preceded in death by his parents, Dale and Thelma Page; and sister Anna Jankowski. Frances is preceded in death by her parents Rolland and Mary Crane. Both James and Frances are survived by their daughter, Mary (Mark) Anderson; James' sister Jackie Guild; grandchildren, Michael Anderson, Matthew (Christa) Anderson; great-grandchildren Perrin, Olivia and Eisen Anderson; and nieces and nephews. Visitation will be held Wednesday, April 11, 12:00-2:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. A private service will be held by the family with burial at Oakwood Cemetery.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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classifieds

for sale

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BOB'S 21ST ANNUAL SPRING BIRD HOUSE SALE - Bluebird scouts are arriving, time to get your new bluebird houses up. Also nice selection of wren & bat houses, bird feeders & squirrel feeders. All cedar, built to last many seasons. Best prices. Taking orders for wood duck nesting boxes & screech owl boxes. Call for available time, Bob's Birdhouses, 12279 60th St., Alto, 868-6633.

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2011 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500 HD - Ext. cab, short box in excellent condition. Southern truck. 185,000 miles. removable cattlemen brush guard, with light bar, \$13,200. Call 269-953-7452.

TROYBILT RIDING LAWN MOWER - excellent condition, \$600. Please call 616-868-6840.

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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. TFN

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. TFN EOW

wanted

SCRAP METAL DRIVE - April 1 - April 30. Drop off your unwanted scrap metal today! Lowell Fairgrounds, (enter off S. Hudson Street). METAL ONLY, no TV's, plastics or furniture. Sponsored by Boy Scout Troop #102, Lowell.

LOOKING FOR ROOM TO RENT - inside the city of Lowell. Mid-twenties, respectful, clean and honest! Will be attending GRCC. 616-523-2105.

PAYING CASH FOR OLDER STUFF! - Furniture, art, jewelry, toys, collections, military, games, retro, industrial, advertising, sports, estates, much more. Call 616-319-1215.

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

GITAR WANTED! Local musician will pay up to \$12,500 for pre-1975 Gibson, Fender, Martin and Gretsch guitars. Fender amplifiers also. Call toll free! 1-800-995-1217. (MICH)

memorials

IN MEMORY OF Jim Fahrni

So many great memories, hunting trips, fishing trips, motorcycle trips, crazy times together I will never forget, Thank you for all, my brother.

Tom

help wanted

ATTWOODHIRING! - Open interviews. Wednesdays 7 am - 10 am & 3 pm - 6 pm. Resume or completed application appreciated. www.brunswick-careers.com, 1016 N. Monroe, Lowell, MI 49331.

PART-TIME OUTDOOR EMPLOYMENT - evenings & Saturdays near Parnell & Bailey. Call 676-9257. TFN

LOWELL AREA SCHOOL ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS - for the following: Snapper 52 in. walk behind mower, model CV144; JD 110 tractor, no mower deck - does not run; 8 ft. Ebling & Son back blade. 8 ft. contractors top; 2003 Ford F150, 125,616 miles, 5.4 liter Triton engine, automatic trans, 4x4, 7 ft. Western ultra mount plow. Send bids to John Zielinski, jzielinski@lowellschools.com. To see equipment call Steve Turnbull, 987-2514 for an appointment. Please have all bids in by 4/20/18.

CAREGIVER FOR ADULT FOSTER CARE HOME - Looking for a friendly and motivated caregiver to help our elderly residents who live in our AFC home. Willing to work weekends. 616-446-2882, leave message.

BUFFERS, POLISHERS & GENERAL LABOR - will train. Good attendance a must! Benefits include medical, dental & 401K, positions available for 1st & 2nd shift at our Lowell location and 1st. shift at our Kentwood location. Apply in person for an on the spot interview between the hours of 8 am - 3 pm. Blough Inc., 9885 Centerline Rd., Lowell, MI 49331.

MECHANIC/DIESEL TECHNICIAN HIRING EVENT - Tuesday 4/24, 7am-6pm. Penske Truck Leasing, 5161 Falcon View Ave SE, Kentwood, MI 49512. All Skill-Level Technicians Welcome. Qualified diesel tech applicants eligible for up to \$2,000 sign-on bonus and receive same day job offer!! Call Bryan to get pre-registered: 855-849-6933.

PRAIRIE FARMS DAIRY - a farmer-owned producer & supplier of quality dairy products currently has an opening for warehouse/route driver at its Clarksville facility. Seeking self-motivated individual with the capacity to service customers responsively & proficiently. Class A or B CDL preferred however will consider training candidate with good driving record. Full-time position with excellent benefits. Package includes medical, dental, paid vacations & retirement plan. Apply in person at Prairie Farms Dairy, 7390 Nash Hwy, Clarksville.

SCANNING SERVICE - Do you need something scanned & emailed? The Buyers Guide/Lowell Ledger now offers this service! Mon. - Thurs., 8 - 5 p.m. & Fri., 8 - noon. Ph. 897-9555 with any questions.

services

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

PROFESSIONAL TREE SERVICE - needs work. Call Dan, 616-970-3832.

TWO BROTHERS AUTO SERVICE - 5400 Ivan Rd., Saranac, 642-9180. Dave Traver, head mechanic, formerly of McCaul's Auto Service. 30 years experience, state certified, licensed & insured. Mon. - Fri., 8 am - 5 pm.

services

WORK WANTED - Double D's Bucket Van & Handyman Service. 40' bucket, tree trimming & removal, gutters, window washing, power washing, buildings, barns, homes, decks, etc. Insured. Call Dave Delinsky, 616-212-3008. Free estimates.

COMPUTER REPAIR & SALES - Computers repair and refurbished computers for sale. Call Jim at 616-897-7570. All work guaranteed or no charge.

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USE HAPPY JACK® - ToneKote® to restore nutrients necessary to prevent allergies in dogs & cats. At Tractor Supply. (www.kennelvax.com)

STUMP GRINDING - Call Dan for free estimate. 616-970-3832.

POWER WASHING SERVICE - Siding, driveways, fences, roofs and more! Spring specials! Call Mitten Power Washing today at 616-558-4605.

BUSINESS CARDS - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

Community Calendar

April

AND ONGOING 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 on a space available basis & **ARE NOT GUARANTEED**. 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 accept ANY Garage or sales (including fundraisers) 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

THE LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS - Rebecca Finneran, MSU Kent Co. Extension Educator, who will give us a presentation on "Getting to Know Woody Plants". This exciting program will be held at the KDL Lowell Englehardt Library on April 16 at 6:30. Public is welcome.

CARDMAKING TOGETHER - April 17, 2:30-4:30 pm. All supplies provided & no experience required. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

CHITCHAT READERS BOOK CLUB - Tues., April 17, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join other members in discussing an interesting book. Stop by the Clubhouse to borrow a book. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

MINDFULNESS WORKSHOP - Tues., April 17, 4:30-5:30 pm. Join other members to practice the emotional & physical benefits of mindfulness & learn how to incorporate it into your daily life. Please dress comfortably. Presented by Jan Miller, LPC. Gilda's Club, Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

READY TO READ MICHIGAN: I GOT RHYTHM - Get ready to groove with Ready to Read, Michigan's 2018, *I Got the Rhythm* by Connie Schofield-Morrison! Featuring musical and rhythmic stories, activities and crafts. For ages 6 and younger. April 26, 10 am at Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

LOWELLARTS EXHIBITION: MAYFIELD & MOSAICS - April 21 - May 26. LowellArts hosts 2 exhibitions simultaneously The Mayfield Fibers Arts Group and the Moscaic Artists of Michigan. LowellArts, 223 W. Main, Lowell. Gallery hours: Tues.-Fri. 10 am - 6 pm & Sat., 10 am - 5 pm. www.lowellartsmi.org

DENIM PLANTER ADULT CRAFT - April 25 at 5 pm. Supplies provided. Clarksville Area Library, 165 N. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

DENIM PLANTER ADULT CRAFT - April 24 at 2 pm. Supplies provided. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

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

BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY - meets the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Historical Museum at 84th/Alden Nash.

NEEDLERS - Meet the second & fourth Wednesday of the month from, 5 to 8 pm at Englehardt Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell.

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.

BOYSCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Clay VanderWarf, 616-485-3429 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

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

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

TECH HELP - Thursdays by appointment from 1-3 p.m. Help with internet searching, computer basics, Facebook, ereaders, library downloadable books, etc. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372 - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. Key Heights, 11335 Fulton, Lowell.

CUB SCOUT PACK 3188 - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

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

KNITTING GROUP - Tuesdays 10 a.m. - noon. Meets at the Village Hall. Beginning to advanced knitters welcome. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

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 - Tues - Fri. 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 - 4 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Resource Center, 897-8260.

TECH HELP - Wednesdays by appointment from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Help with internet searching, computer basics, Facebook, ereaders, library downloadable books, etc. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

ALPHA FAMILY CENTER OF LOWELL - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. & Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Diapers, formula, clothing & free ultrasounds & pregnancy testing available. www.afclowell.org

ALTOLIBRARY HOURS: Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed., 12 - 8 p.m.; Thurs., 1-6 p.m.; Fri. 9:30-6 p.m. Info., call 784-2007.

EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: I need to get my roof replaced as a result of storm damage (thanks global warming!). Is Tesla's solar roof a good deal and do other companies offer similar products—with the photovoltaic cells integrated into the roofing material? -- Kenny S., Vero Beach, FL

It would be a stretch to call Tesla's new Solar Roof a "good deal" given that it costs more than just about any other rooftop solar option, but there are some scenarios where it might make sense anyway. For instance, some housing developments or homeowners' associations don't allow traditional photovoltaic panels to muck up roof sightlines for aesthetic or other reasons, so solar collectors integrated into a traditional looking roof may be worth the extra expense.

According to EnergySage, a solar information clearinghouse and matchmaker for 500-plus pre-screened solar installers, replacing a roof on a 3,000 square foot home in Southern California with another regular roof and then adding photovoltaic panels on top would run around \$34,000 in gross costs all told (\$8,000 for a new asphalt or slate roof and \$26,000 for the photovoltaic equipment and installation). Of course, some solar installers will lease the panels to you, so you would just pay a smaller monthly fee akin to your old electricity bill.

Meanwhile, gross costs for putting in a full Tesla Solar Roof top out over \$50,000, a 33 percent price premium for the sleeker look and added cool factor. But given all the turbulence in the solar industry in recent years, Tesla

customers are also happy to pay a premium for the peace of mind of knowing they are dealing with a company that won't be going out of business anytime soon. Tesla is already the dominant force in the sector given its 2016 acquisition of leading residential solar installer SolarCity and vertical integration with electric cars and lithium-ion battery arrays. They also have pretty deep pockets: Tesla went public in 2010 and has been a darling of tech investors ever since. The first Tesla Solar Roofs have already started going up in California, with a roll out to other states planned by the end of 2018.

But Tesla is far from the only game in town when it comes to so-called "building integrated" photovoltaics (BIPV). Forward Labs, a venture capital backed Silicon Valley start-up, has started installing its own integrated solar roofing systems around the San Francisco Bay Area and plans to expand beyond California in 2019. Unlike Tesla's tiled roof design, Forward Labs' "single-surface" look—more akin in style to a metal roof—features layers of solar cells and tempered glass that can take on any color the customer chooses. The start-up claims its solar roofing technology can produce almost double the energy output of Tesla's tiles while costing 33 percent less. While we know less about the technical details, the Japanese company Solar Frontier plans to roll out its own solar roof technology across Japan in 2019.

Yet with all the hype about solar roofs, we can't forget about the technology's forbear, solar shingles. While not technically integrated into the roof, solar shingles lay flat on existing roofing, keeping a low-profile and requiring less installation time than traditional photovoltaic panels or fully-integrated solar roofs. RGS Energy's PowerHouse and CertainTeed's Apollo have been around since 2011 and can achieve efficiencies similar to traditional photovoltaic panels at a price point far below fully integrated solar roofing.

CONTACTS: EnergySage, energysage.com; Tesla Solar Roof, tesla.com/solarroof; Forward Labs, www.forwardlabs.com; RGS PowerHouse, rgspowerhouse.com; CertainTeed Apollo, certainteed.com/solar/products/.

EarthTalk® is a weekly syndicated column produced by Doug Moss and Roddy Scheer for the non-profit EarthTalk. To find out more, submit a question, or make a donation, visit us at EarthTalk.org.

5 more facts you might not know about Social Security

What kind of questions do you and your friends ask about Social Security? When do my benefits arrive? What are Social Security work credits, and do they have anything to do with the way my benefits are figured? Will I be automatically enrolled in Medicare? Read on to find the answers to these questions.

1. Social Security benefits are paid in the

credits to be eligible for benefits, but your work credits alone do not determine how much you will receive each month. When we figure your retirement benefit, we use the average of your highest 35 years of earnings. See *Your Retirement Benefit: How It Is Figured* at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10070.pdf.

5. If you receive retirement benefits before



month following the month for which they are due. When you meet all the requirements for eligibility, the benefit check you receive is payment for the prior month's benefits. To know when checks will be paid, you can save the *Schedule of Social Security Benefit Payments* to your "Favorites" or print it by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/calendar.htm.

2. We don't pay benefits for the month of death. Social Security uses the same throughout-the-month rule to determine eligibility for the benefit that is due for the month of death. You must live through the full month to be eligible for the payment.

3. Survivors benefits can replace a percentage of the worker's earnings for family members. Survivors benefits usually range from about 75 percent to 100 percent of the deceased worker's amount. Visit our *Survivors Planner* for information on survivor benefits for your family if you pass away and how you may qualify as a survivor on someone else's record. www.ssa.gov/planners/survivors/

4. Work credits determine eligibility for benefits, but your lifetime earnings are used to calculate your monthly benefit amount. Retired workers need 40 work

you reach age 65, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare. Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) helps pay for inpatient care in a hospital or skilled nursing facility following a hospital stay. It also pays for some home health care and hospice care. Medicare Part B (medical insurance) helps pay for services from doctors and other health care providers, outpatient care, home health care, durable medical equipment, and some preventative services. When you're already receiving retirement benefits, we automatically sign you up for Medicare Parts A and B when you turn age 65. You can then decline Part B if you choose, since it requires a monthly premium. If you are not receiving retirement benefits as you approach age 65, you should contact Social Security three months before age 65 to sign up for Medicare Part A and B. Even if you don't want to retire at 65, you should sign up for Medicare only. For more details, check out our Medicare page at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare.

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

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME:
ENGLISH ROYALTY

ACROSS

- 1. Piggy's glasses ("Lord of the Flies")
- 6. Strike caller
- 9. Not a hit
- 13. Earth in Latin
- 14. Fa follower
- 15. Half of diameters
- 16. Architectural projection
- 17. Down Under bird
- 18. Mountaineer's tool
- 19. *Royal family since 1917
- 21. *2018 royal bride
- 23. Stumblebum
- 24. Ship wrecker
- 25. *A national color
- 28. Ditto
- 30. Poster heading
- 35. "It aint over till it's "
- 37. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
- 39. Hindu sage
- 40. Not all
- 41. World Series mistake
- 43. Not Sunni
- 44. Augmenting
- 46. Hatha or bikram, e.g.
- 47. Teller's partner
- 48. Take the first steps
- 50. Bar bill, pl.
- 52. *The British Royal Navy secures it
- 53. Strip of wood
- 55. Bebop, for short
- 57. *Cause of 1936 abdication
- 60. *#29 Down's co-ruler
- 64. Dam
- 65. Fuss, to Shakespeare
- 67. Dhaka, formerly
- 68. Black tie ____
- 69. Biochemistry abbr.
- 70. Foe
- 71. Between bleu and jaune
- 72. Seasonal blues

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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73. ____ sociales or social networks
- DOWN**
- 1. Put in the hold
 - 2. ____meter or ____ scope
 - 3. Sportscaster Andrews
 - 4. Words to live by
 - 5. Pico de gallo and such

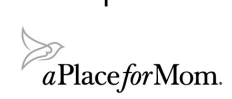
- 6. Drug addict
- 7. *Catherine of Aragon to Bloody Mary
- 8. Musketeer's hat accessory
- 9. Speed of object divided by speed of sound
- 10. Brainchild
- 11. a.k.a. Xi'an, ancient capital of China
- 12. *How many wives did Henry VIII have?
- 15. Ships' masts and sails attendant
- 20. "Coming ____"
- 22. Get it wrong
- 24. *Get engaged
- 25. *Symbols for Houses of Lancaster and York
- 26. Call forth
- 27. Call it quits
- 29. *#60 Across' co-ruler
- 31. Bit of smoke
- 32. " ____ we all fall down"
- 33. German wine valley

- 34. *Present Prince of Wales' first wife
- 36. First woman Attorney General
- 38. Frat house party garb
- 42. Torah teacher
- 45. Esophagus
- 49. ____ chi
- 51. Fuse together
- 54. Former Russian leaders
- 56. Heathrow craft
- 57. We have
- 58. Affirm
- 59. Pre-easter period
- 60. Blue dyestuff
- 61. Latte choice
- 62. "The Road Runner" corporation
- 63. The Say Hey Kid
- 64. Leo in Russian
- 66. "23andMe" type of test

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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			3					
		7		2				9
1	4						2	
6			8		5			4

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

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What's your favorite Lowell event?

- Girls Night Out..... 0%
- Fair..... 0%
- Summer Concert Series..... 100%
- Other..... 0%

WWW.
thelowellledger.com

Cyclists gathered at Fallasburg Park for the Lowell 50 race last Saturday

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Bicycling enthusiasts gathered for the spring edition of The Lowell 50 last Saturday morning, coming together at beautiful Fallasburg Park. Trekking the 15, 34 or 100 miles of gravel roads that surrounds the county park, the cyclists were racing towards more than \$1,000 in cash prizes.

The rugged and frigid gravel road race is part of the Flat River Race Series and was established in 2011 by race director Jeff Zvirzdinis. Offering a selection of race lengths, the race launched in several stages, including jaunts over the park's historic covered bridge and returned to the warmth of the lodge where an awards ceremony was given. The site of many foot and wheel races Zvirzdinis said that Fallasburg is an ideal location for the races' start and finish lines. "Fallasburg is one of the most beautiful parks in west Michigan and we have an abundance of low use gravel roads in Kent and Ionia counties."

This spring 275 registered racers enjoyed the varied landscapes and countryside of the unmarked

courses, which includes the brand new 100 mile course called The Rogue. This path included nearly five miles of off road challenges through the surrounding forests of the state game area. Racers were chip timed and also clocked at the finish line with timing mats and high speed video. Participants also had the option of navigation guidance provided through their smart phones.

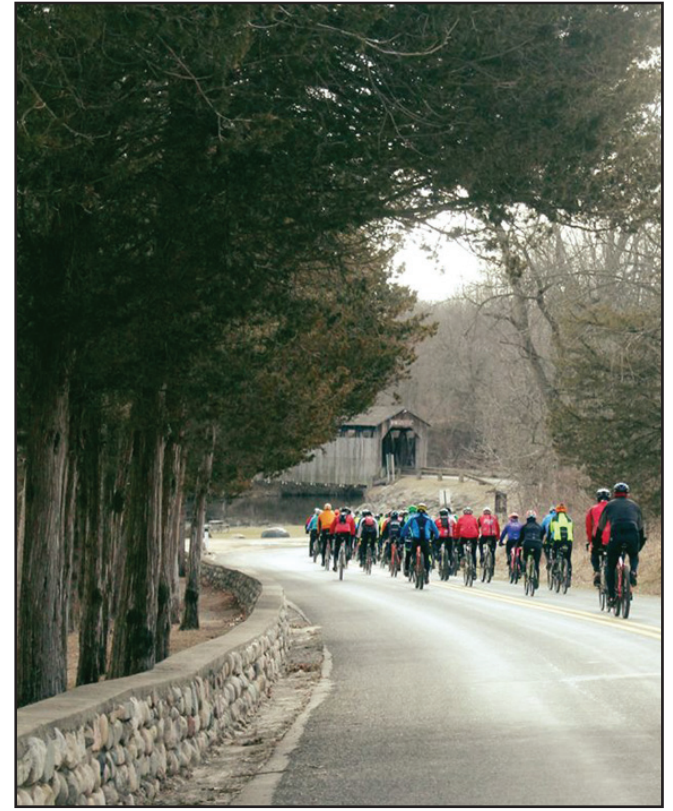
Zvirzdinis said he created the race to promote exercise and a healthy lifestyle, as a former long-distance runner and an ardent cyclist himself. Zvirzdinis said his wife, retired Murray Lake Elementary teacher Susan Day, and Lowell High School graduates, daughters Maryann and Christine, help him plan and execute the event along with a host of other keystone assistants. "We also have a number of

irreplaceable volunteers that help make this event happen."

Earning the overall best time on the 15 mile race was Hayden Fox of Grand Rapids who clocked a 54:56 to also lead the boys 13-17 category. Winning for the men was Steve Arrugia of Hudsonville (58:38) and for the women, Priscilla Cuneo of Cedar Springs (1:10:25). Claiming the overall win



Some of the 275 racers set forth on their gravel journeys at the semi-annual event.



Bicyclists cross over the historic covered bridge at Fallasburg during the Saturday race.

for the 34 mile race was William Martin of Goshen, IN (1:39:47) while Wendy Adrian Zamzow-Blumeri of Adrian got the top women's spot (1:50:57). Danny Soltan of Ann Arbor earned the first overall victory on The Rogue 100 mile race crossing the finish line at 5:23:17. Mary Penta of Bloomfield, IN, was the first woman to beat the tough and lengthy course coming in at 5:38:49.

The next race of the semi-annual event is scheduled for October 27th, just in time for the fall splendor of Michigan. Zvirzdinis encourages anyone who loves cycling and the outdoors to come out and enjoy the event. More information can be found at www.thelowell50.com

Tractor Supply store supports local school garden

The Lowell Tractor Supply store is supporting Alto Elementary School in developing a school garden that will provide students with an enriched, hands-on learning experience.

"The School Garden program provides kids with an opportunity to use their hands and minds in a way that's not typically available in a traditional classroom setting," said Dave Fosburg, manager of the Lowell Tractor Supply store. "We're hopeful that this garden will not only give students at Alto Elementary School a better understanding of where their food comes from, but

will also encourage them to continue exploring how the world around them works."

The rural lifestyle retailer, which carries all of the supplies necessary to start or sustain a garden including mulch, live plants, regular and organic seeds, and garden tools, will provide Alto Elementary School with a starter kit that will assist in the establishment of the garden.

Interested schools can contact or visit the Lowell Tractor Supply store at 616-987-9338 for more information. Lowell Tractor Supply is located at 2111 West Main Street.

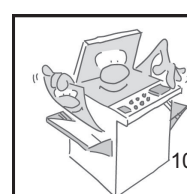
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