

Sheri Liddle of Goodwill



page 16

Forestry workshop



pages 2-3

Paddy's Cure



pages 8-9

Sizzlin' Summer Concerts



page 4

WWC update at school board meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education had their regular monthly meeting at 7 pm on Monday, Feb. 11. The meeting lasted 41 minutes and was attended by 11 local residents.

The board heard an update about activities at the Wittenbach Wege Center from director Courtney Cheers. The center celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, and activities there grow more and more popular every year. Aside from all of their educational programs, over the last year hundreds of trees were harvested, a prairie was planted, some oak wilt fungus was eradicated and thousands of visitors attended community events such as the annual luminary hike.

"Community events keep growing, which is good," Cheers said. "Last year I asked if we could spread [the luminary hike] over two nights, and we had 800 people on Friday night and 1,500 people on Saturday night. The trails were still a bit bumpy because of all the logging, so I was a bit nervous, but everything went fine. [...] We had about 50 volunteers who helped us pull that off."

"Courtney came in, took a program and made it great, made it her own," said LAS superintendent Greg

Pratt. "She works diligently, sometimes more than she should. She's a little bit of a workaholic, but that's part of what makes her great."

"Anyone who says, 'We have an environmental immersion school' or whatever, well we've got the Wittenbach Wege Center, it'll beat you," said board secretary Pat Nugent. "There is so much educational curriculum but there is so much, also, for our community. It's really a point of pride for this district."

"It makes the school district a success because it promotes community involvement," said board president Jim Turner. "That is really the secret of its success."

The board voted to spend \$90,181 apiece on three new buses, for a total of \$270,543.

"The rotation that we've identified puts our buses out before their 15th year," Pratt said. "As the district grows as far as the number of students that we serve, we may want to look at more [bus purchases] down the road."

The board voted to approve three summer construction projects to be paid for from the sinking fund.

"We've been talking about [the three projects] for almost a whole year," Pratt



Wittenbach Wege Center director Courtney Cheers updated the school board about the activities that took place at the center over the past year.

said. "Asphalt paving down at the high school, press box window replacement and then the wood flooring at the gym at the high school, which is in dire need of replacement."

The school board's next regular meeting will be in the Runciman Building, 300 High St., at 7 pm on Monday, April 8. Their next work session meeting will be in the same location at 6 pm on Monday, March 25.

LMS band members play with MSBOA all-stars

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

On Monday, Jan. 12, nine Lowell Middle School band students participated in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's District 10 All-Star Bands.

"Participating in the seventh grade band from LMS this year were Jadyn Young, flute; Maya Kemp, clarinet; Brayden Holst, bassoon; Ali Bredwell, French horn and Alex Winter, tuba," said LMS band director Kate Bredwell. "In the eighth grade band, LMS was represented by Aidan Roustan, trumpet; Emmaline Wasciuk, trombone; Henry Vredevelt, bassoon and Reid Eldred, percussion. These students met for a full day



LMS band students performing with the MSBOA All-Star Bands on Monday, Jan. 12. [photo collage by Kate Bredwell]

Women's roles during WWI to be highlighted

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

There will be a special historic presentation called "Second Line of Defense: West Michigan Women in WWI" on Thursday, March 21, at 1 pm. The free event will include afternoon tea and the fascinating story of women on the homefront in West Michigan during WWI. It will be presented by the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council and hosted by the Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Friends of the Englehardt Library at Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash SE.

"Jo Ellyn Clarey will be the presenter at the program Second Line of Defense on March 21," said Melissa Fox, president of the GGRWHC. "She will not have any artifacts, but will have many images to share in her presentation. Women's contributions during WWI included working in factories and many other jobs while men were overseas at war. They also promoted war gardens, instituted important child welfare programs, filled roles as nurses, motor corp drivers, railroad operators and so much more. Locally, the work of women during WWI was uncovered over time, along with a set of 'Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense' registration cards, one of the largest such collections recovered. The history of women and WWI has been hidden in a way, not unlike the registration cards, so that once one element of their work is discovered, so much more comes with it. We are still uncovering more."

The presentation will include "tremendous visuals," according to the GGRWHC website.

For more information, call the Lowell Area Historical Museum at 616-897-7688 or visit the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council online at ggrwhc.org.

50¢



LMS band, continued, page 7

Free WWC forestry workshop on Wed., March 27

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Two forestry experts will host a free “Forests for Fish” workshop at the Wittenbach Wege Center, 11715 Vergennes, from 6:30 until 8 pm on Wednesday, March 27.

Jamie Vaughan, the project coordinator at Trout Unlimited, and Nicholas Sanchez, the Michigan Forestry Assistance Program’s conservation district forester for Montcalm, Kent and Ionia Counties, will lead participants through a recent timber harvest, teach them about invasive species and describe some of the possible financial benefits of owning forest land.

“Trout Unlimited got a grant to work with us on reaching out to more of these forest land owners, especially those that live along our waterways, primarily the Flat River, the Rogue River, the Thornapple River and all of the tributaries that flow into them,” Sanchez said. “Those are really the ones we’re targeting with this grant and this program. We’re reaching out to these landowners and putting on these workshops to promote the Forest Stewardship Plan. If you have concerns relating to disease or insect damage in your forest, the plan might proscribe you to take a certain action to address that issue. That plan is essentially having a consulting forester come out and do an inventory of your property. They’ll collect biological information about your trees, understory plants, the condition of your soil, streams or any water features on your property, and so forth. Once they collect that information, they take into account what the landowner’s goals and objectives are,

then they come up with a ‘prescription’ with the goals and the actions to take to reach those goals. The Forest Stewardship Plan is one of those programs that is offered through the state as well as the federal government too. It essentially offers financial assistance to private landowners to help them develop a forest management plan. They work with a consulting forester and have this plan written up. What the Forest Stewardship Plan does is it provides \$225 plus \$0.50 an acre off the cost of that plan. The cost can range, like if you had a tremendous amount of land it would be more. It really depends on the size of your property and the intensity of the information that you need collected. You can get more of a basic plan, or you can get things that are really detailed about specific management goals. It really just depends, but that rate is supposed to represent roughly about 25 percent of the cost of the management plan. If the health of your property is of interest, then maybe you want to look at getting a Forest Stewardship Plan and connecting with some of the resources that are available. We’re going to walk through a timber harvest aimed at forest health by showcasing one that was recently done at the WWC. They did some thinning in their red pine forest, which was an old plantation, and they also did some harvesting on an area that had the oak wilt fungus. This wasn’t just a rash decision to cut trees, there was a goal in mind. Because it was a variety of different species and a variety of different potential products, it likely went to many different

places. The red pine may have gone to fence posts or lumber. Some small-diameter maples came out of there, those may have gone to firewood, some probably went to pulp and some may have ended up as lumber too. Having a healthy market for the forest products industry is actually really beneficial to forest landowners being able to address issues with forest health and enhance wildlife habitat and sometimes even make money to offset the cost of taxes on the property. All of these things are dependent on a healthy forest products industry. Luckily, we have that in Michigan. If they have enough volume, you can make money off of your timber. Of course that’s

your money to do what you want with, but it could help offset taxes on that property and could help keep it in your family for generations to come. Using this timber harvesting tool, the WWC is able to address forest health issues and move their property more toward a natural state. They’re using timber harvesting, proscribed fires and planting - all of those things combine to restore the property back, hopefully, to a condition that’s healthier and more productive. We’re trying to move properties toward more of an oak woodland and savanna mix. Over time, it’s degraded away from that. That’s really the goal of land conservancy in West Michigan.”

There are an about 14

billion trees on 19 million acres of forest land in Michigan, over 50 percent of which are owned by private landowners. Jobs in the forest products industry contribute \$20 billion a year to the economy. Michigan’s trees also bring billions of tourism dollars to the state because of their recreational and ecological benefits.

“Our angle here is to really share with people the importance of forests,” Vaughan said. “First, we want to make sure that, if you have a forested property, that you’re actively managing your forest. Forests provide a significant amount of services for our water quality. The forest filters water that’s polluted, like stormwater. It cleans it

and lets it soak into the groundwater, and also takes it up into its roots. It provides fish habitat. In a longer stream, when those logs, branches and leaves fall into the stream, that’s really healthy for fish habitat. They create pools and diversity and the leaves feed the insects that the trout and other fish eat. If you have a damming problem, that’s different, but usually those logs are an indicator of a good, healthy stream. You can add woody debris if that’s lacking in your stream. Trees along a waterway also provide shade. Trout need cold water to survive, so when you have trees that are hanging over a water source, that is shading the water, keeping the sun

WWC, continued, page 3

FORESTS FOR FISH
FREE WORKSHOP SERIES

LEARN ABOUT:
INVASIVE SPECIES THREATS
& CARING FOR YOUR FOREST

FORESTS FOR FISH

WINDOWS/SIDING
DOORS/INSULATION/GUTTERS
SAVE **50% OFF**
HEATING/COOLING BILLS
GUARANTEED!!!

SAVE 10% OFF WITH THIS COUPON

897-7300 allweathersealinc.com

319 E. Main Lowell

All-Weather Seal

Not good w/any other offer! Good on initial presentation

Yep we cover Auto

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

Terry Abel
311 E Main Street, Lowell
(616) 421-4542
FarmBureauInsurance.com

the lowell **ledger**

(USPS 453-830)
Published weekly for \$25 a year for zipcodes beginning with 493 or 495; \$36 a year any other zip code.
Deadline for display advertising is Friday at Noon
Deadline for classified advertising is Monday at 5 pm

Jon Jacobs Publisher/Editor
Tim McAllister Reporter/Editor
Tammy Janowiak Classified/Accounting/Sales
Jon Jacobs Advertising Sales

(616) 897-9261
email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday
POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331
www.thelowellledger.com

WWC workshop, continued



off it and keeping it nice and cool. What we would advocate is to make sure that you have a healthy riparian forest buffer. A riparian area is an area along a stream. If you keep that natural and forested, you can plant a few trees or have some native grasses growing there. That is the number one defense for your river system.”

The workshop is recommended for people who own land with 10 acres or more of forest, but most aspects will be applicable to anybody who lives on a patch of land that contains a tree.

“The Michigan Forestry Assistance Program is a grant through the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development,” Sanchez said. “They have put grants out to local conservation districts. Every county has a conservation district. This Forestry Assistance

Program grant has allowed 20 different foresters to be spread across the state, pretty much from here north and up into the Upper Peninsula. The 20 foresters cover three or sometimes four counties. It’s a lot of land, a lot of driving. We’re here to help private landowners. People who own 10 acres or more, for the most part, are our clients. We’re going to help them. We’re the first person on the ground, in a lot of cases. If they have questions about their woods, if they want to do some management, if they notice a disease or trees dying, they can call our conservation district and we’ll go out to the property at no cost and we will be their source of information and their connection to other resources that are out there. There are a lot of resources through the state and federal government that the landowner can connect

to that most of them don’t know about. This would be like financial assistance or even tax incentives for forest land, and we provide a connection to private sector consulting foresters, sawmills and other services like that. We’re there to bridge the gap between the landowners and the services and programs that are out there. Invasive diseases and insects are a huge concern to forest land owners all across the state. A diseased tree can infect neighboring trees and spread. If it starts in your yard and moves around, then it becomes our problem, we visit those properties on occasion too. Really, with this project we are targeting landowners with 10 acres or more, what we could call a ‘forested property’ or a ‘wooded property,’ but we can help those with less than that address an issue on their property that effects forest

land.”

Before European settlement, most of the Lowell area and millions of acres of lower Michigan used to be a wild oak savanna. Today, less than 0.01% of this historic vegetation remains. An oak savanna is a fire-adapted ecosystem characterized by a mix of prairie species and woodland species. Dominant vegetation includes prairie grasses and flowers growing beneath wide-spread, open-grown oak trees.

“It seems a little counterintuitive, but to be able to have your forest be wild and function properly doesn’t mean ‘don’t touch it,’” Vaughan said. “It means you need to be active and continue to manage it so that you are giving it its best shot. In a perfectly natural world with no outside factors that may be the case, but here there are a lot of threats. So

it needs some help, and that takes a lot of work.”

“There are a lot of challenges that forest land owners face, like development pressures, different diseases and insects that are new to our landscape,” Sanchez said. “If you do nothing, you can do a lot of damage to the ecosystem by not paying attention to what’s going on. If you have insects and diseases in your forest, they’re causing a lot of damage. They are reducing the diversity in your forest and making it so certain species of wildlife don’t have the habitat that they use. Paying attention to your forest is really critical.”

Sanchez and Vaughan have both been fascinated by the outdoors since childhood.

“I grew up in Chicago and I’ve always cared about the Great Lakes,” Vaughan said. “I never really expected that I’d be working for a fly fishing organization, but it was a perfect fit. I love our rivers and I love working in urban areas too. We have such a big population that has access to trout fishing, which is pretty unique. I love telling people about the rivers and how they can use them. Even if you’re not a fly fisher, if you’re a paddler, a wildlife photographer or things like that, then you’re an advocate for clean water.

[Today] I work on the Rogue River Home Rivers Initiative, a project focused on the Rogue River just north of Grand Rapids. We do everything from restoration projects to youth education and things like that. I coordinate all of those activities. We believe that taking care of the watershed will take care of the fishing. Trout are an

indicator species - we know if we have trout in the river then we have a healthy system. We love to fish, we love to support anglers, but we want healthy, clean water too.”

“My parents always took us camping growing up, and we always had nature documentaries on, like “Wild America” on PBS and that type of thing,” Sanchez said. “I fell in love. That was a big part of my childhood. When I got to college, I thought I should go into something that I was very passionate about and something that I would actually want to do for the rest of my life. Forestry was a great fit.”

For more information, visit forestsforfish.org, call 616-987-2565 or look for the WWC on Facebook.

“I’ve been to the WWC before and I think it’s a fantastic resource,” Vaughan said. “They have awesome naturalists and educational programs. Nick recently led a walk through those woods and talked about forest health, I thought that was fascinating. It’s a really cool property and I think it’s really cool what they’re trying to achieve there.”

“If they can’t attend, they should call us and we’ll come out to their property and walk them through these resources and help them make those connections,” Sanchez said. “We can come to your property and help you think about what your goals and objectives are. If you want to keep it in a natural state, maybe we could help you see what that would look like. Landowners can work with us to identify what the concerns are on their property, what they want to do about it and figure out what resources are there to help them.”

BETTER HEALTH STARTS HERE AT FAMILY DENTISTRY OF LOWELL

7AM and Friday appointments available

We provide state-of-the-art dentistry along with the health care extras that set us apart, such as blood pressure screenings, salivary testing and nutritional counseling.

Experience better health through dentistry.

Family Dentistry of Lowell
147 North Center Street, Lowell
616-897-4835
www.familydentistryoflowell.com

ANN WILSON, D.D.S. | JENNIFER BYRD, D.D.S.

the lowell ledger

Like us on facebook

11:59 PM

facebook

The Lowell Ledger

- Stories
- Photos
- Comments
- Information

business directory

ANDREWS McMEEL ALMANAC

Today is the 72nd day of 2019 and the 83rd day of winter.

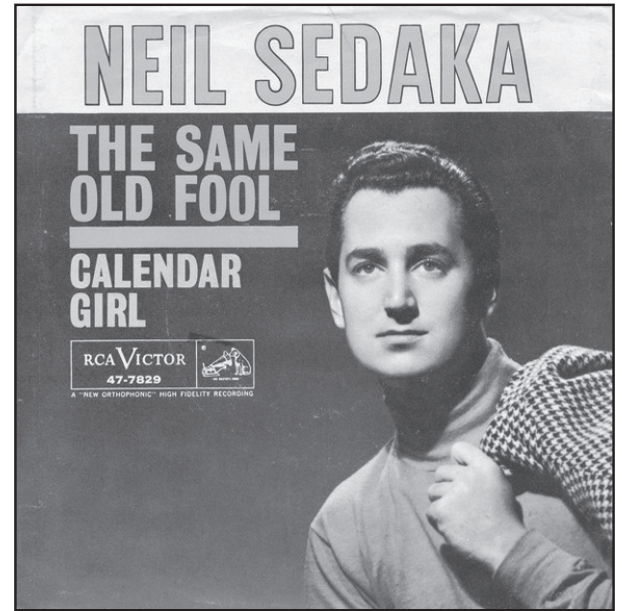
TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1781, German-born astronomer William Herschel discovered the planet Uranus.

In 1865, the Confederacy approved the use of slave troops against the Union armies.

In 1925, a law prohibiting the teaching of evolution went into effect in Tennessee. In 1991, the U.S. Justice Dept. announced that Exxon had agreed to pay \$1 billion to settle all claims resulting from the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska.

In 2013, Pope Francis was elected 266th pope of the Catholic Church.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Percival Lowell (1855-1916), astronomer; Giorgos Seferis (1900-1971), poet; Walter Annenberg (1908-2002), publisher/philanthropist; Sammy Kaye (1910-1987), bandleader; L. Ron Hubbard (1911-1986), author/Church of Scientology founder; Al Jaffee (1921-), Mad Magazine cartoonist; Neil Sedaka (1939-), singer-songwriter; William H. Macy (1950-), actor; Dana Delany (1956-), actress; Common (1972-), rapper/actor; Johan Santana (1979-), baseball player; Emile Hirsch (1985-), actor.



TODAY'S FACT: The 27 known moons of Uranus are named after characters from the works of William Shakespeare and Alexander Pope.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1960, the NFL approved the relocation of the Chicago Cardinals franchise to St. Louis.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "To say what you want to say, you must create another language and nourish it for years with what you have loved, with what you have lost, with what you will never find again." -- Giorgos Seferis

TODAY'S NUMBER: 14.5 -- length in miles of the undersea portion of the Seikan Tunnel in Japan, the longest and deepest operational rail tunnel in the world, which opened this day in 1988.

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (March 6) and first quarter moon (March 14).

FRY DADDYS
608 West Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331
897-FISH FISH SHRIMP
Wing Dines
CHICKEN STRIPS
DAILY SPECIALS
CLOSED SUNDAY
OPEN MONDAYS 4-8 PM
MONDAY SPECIAL:
POLLOCK BASKET \$4.99!!!
Best Fish In Town!!!

Rich's Service Co.
In-Home Appliance Repair
Dryer Vent
Cleaning
INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS
GARBAGE DISPOSALS • STOVES • DISHWASHERS
209 E. Main St. RICH CURTIS
Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686

KIRK COLLINS
Owner
Showboat
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.
Auto Value
1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI
(616) 897-9231
HOURS: MON - FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3

897-4123
Arctic Inc.
Heating & Cooling
• Heating & air-conditioning • Wall hung boilers & water heaters
• Geo Thermal systems • Radiant floor heat • Snow melt systems
• Whole house generators • Duct work • Humidifiers
SALES, SERVICE AND INSTALLATION, UPGRADES, NEW HOMES
www.HeatingCoolingOnline.com

BILL WHEELER
Certified Public
Accountant
W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN
103 Riverside Dr.
Lowell, Michigan 49331
616-897-7711

CENTRAL MICHIGAN BUILDERS
House Roofs • Pole Barns •
Siding • Concrete • Garages
FREE ESTIMATES
Donald Martin
989-248-3284

NEWSPAPERS Outperform Cable Television in Michigan

More adults in Michigan read a newspaper than watch news networks* on cable television.¹



Newspapers are the most trusted media source.²

Adults, across all generations, identify newspapers as their most trusted source of news and information – well ahead of radio.

the lowell ledger

Newspapers are the preferred source of shopping information over television.³

47% of adults in Michigan choose newspapers for shopping information.

Michigan adults make more purchases as the result of newspaper ads than television ads.³

65% of U.S. adults say television ads are intrusive, and 42% feel unfavorably about them³

43.3% Only 43.3% of U.S. adults purchased or sought out information about a product as the result of a television ad⁴

Cord Cutting is Increasing.

25% of all U.S. households have eliminated cable or satellite television services.⁵

61% of new cord cutters will be married.⁵

56% of new cord cutters still have children under 18 in their home.⁵

54% of new cord cutters will have household income over \$75,000.⁵

Top 5 Frustrations Driving Cord Cutting⁶

1. Not getting competitive, reasonable rates/pricing
2. Having to pay for channels/content not watched
3. Being nickel and dimed with multiple fees and charges
4. Can no longer afford paid television/it was too expensive
5. New customers get better deals than existing ones

¹2017 Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved; ²Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; ³Morning Consult; 4GfK Ownership and Trend Report from The Home Technology Monitor™; ⁴Forrester Research; ⁵cg42 Cord Cutter & Cord Never Study; ⁶NAA

2019 Sizzlin' Summer Concerts announced

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The lineup for this year's Sizzlin' Summer Concerts in Lowell was announced last week. The free concert series will take place on Lowell's scenic Riverwalk each Thursday evening at 7 pm between June 13 and August 22. Presented by LowellArts and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Sizzlin' Summer Concerts bring over 1,000 people to downtown Lowell every week, all summer long.

"These concerts showcase and support a diverse selection of musicians and musical styles from throughout Michigan," said Liz Baker, executive director of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. "Styles include blues, world music, country, rock, big band, and jazz."

Parking is free, seating is free (but bring a folding chair if you don't want to sit on the ground or in the bleachers), it's wheelchair accessible and there will be plenty of food and drinks to enjoy.

For more information, visit lowellarts.com or discoverlowell.org.



Pictured: the B-Side Growlers [Facebook photo]

- June 13: Alan Turner [alanturnermusic.com]
- June 20: Blue Soul Express [bluesoulexpress.com]
- June 27: Deep Green and Blues [deepgreenmusic.com]
- July 4: Rick Reuther and the River City Jazz Ensemble [rivercityjazzensemble.com]
- July 11: Max Lockwood and the Insiders [theinsidertribute.com]
- July 18: The Jet Beats [thejetbeats.com]
- July 25: Jesse Ray and the Carolina Catfish [jesserayandthecarolinacatfish.com]
- August 1: Roosevelt Diggs [rooseveltdiggs.com]
- August 15: Desmond Jones [desmondjonesband.com]
- August 22: The B-Side Growlers [b-sidegrowlers.com]

viewpoint

to the editor

Dear Editor,
I read the article on this project and just said WOW! I want to be careful and not take sides at this point as there is always more to the story. No sense being like our politicians in Washington, RIGHT? My primary concern is how legal counsel for both parties the CITY and ZANDSTA allowed the property to be purchased without adequate surveys and documentation. On the surface both parties are guilty of a lack of oversight and both are culpable. If

this goes to court I predict thousands will be spent in legal support and the resolution will be to make Zandstra and his investors whole by the city and have him walk away from this project. Then the city can lick its wounds hire new legal counsel to correct the poor survey documentation and then start the process of selling the property all over again. Very poor professionalism shown by both groups in this fiscal.

Joe Sejat
Lowell



125 years ago Lowell Ledger March 17, 1894

Samuel Rensser has sold his farm known as the Colds place at Fallasburgh for \$3-400, to Sheppard P. Hale and Herbert A Richmond. Mr. Rensser we are informed has rented for a term of years, Mrs. Jane Donovan's large farm on section 23, in Grattan.

The Lowell Cutter factory has been furnished with a new blow pipe and dust arrester system. The company has also purchased the necessary land, and will have a side track to the factory from the I. & H. "Progress" seems to be the company's watchword.

A Sparta banker attends a meeting and offers to cut himself to pieces among his creditors. Silence, until one old fellow calls out, "That's a square proposition - I'll take the gall for mine."

parents are Mr. and Mrs. Edward G. Fritz of Naples, FL and great-grandmother Marv E. Mason of Lowell.

Vaughan's Seeds of Chicago will give 20 varieties of flower seeds to any teacher who will apply and agree to plant them with the pupils and report back at the end of the season.

100 years The Lowell Ledger March 13, 1919

Two Vergennes men were before Justice Andrews Tuesday for violating the game law as respects to digging out skunks. As it was on their own premises, they were given a deferred sentence on payment of costs. Complaint was made by Deputy Game Warden Johnson of Grand Rapids.

A club for the purpose of studying all subjects on which the voting woman should be well informed, was organized Saturday afternoon, Mar. 8 at the home of Mrs. Mary Adams. Mrs. J. S. Hooker was elected president. Name of the club to be study club and membership limited to 15. Next meeting will be Saturday, Mar. 15, at three o'clock with Mrs. Hooker, Secretary.

Take Michigan today. It is the center of the world's automobile industry, yet it is notorious for its bad roads. Tourists in the east will tell you they want to come to Michigan's greatest play-ground of the nation, but the pleasure would be more than offset by the trouble and expense of traversing endless mileage of roads that do not deserve to be dignified under that title.

James Hosmer Andrews of Vergennes dies. With a brilliant record as a member of the Civil War Michigan 25th Infantry, he was chosen as one of President Lincoln's pallbearers and was in the Guard of Honor at the funeral.

Michigan proposes laws prohibiting aircraft from hitting each other or molesting birds.

75 years The Lowell Ledger March 16, 1944

The Lowell Youth Guidance Committee meeting in the high school building, Monday, Mar. 6, was called by its president, Rev. C. E. Pollock, to take action regarding the possibilities of a recreation center, a petition for the project having been signed by 140 of Lowell youth.

A part of the revenue act passed by Congress over President Roosevelt's veto on February 25, provided that a new schedule of postal rates would go into effect 30 days later. March 26 is that date, and people will find that they will be paying a penny more here and there as they do their mailing. The two-cent postage on local letters is out. Three-cent stamps will be uniform on letters both in and out of the county. Parcel post rates have been increased about one cent per pound with the increase slightly less than that in the larger packages sent to distant zones.

Dairy farmers are having serious help shortages because of sons going to war and increased demand for food (soldiers eat more than civilians.)

50 years The Lowell Ledger March 13, 1969

A pair of high-speed chases, both involving 22-year-old drivers, were terminated by cohesive police action during the past week. Kent county Sheriff's deputies were called to handle an accident early Thursday morning when a Clarksville man ran off the road at a high rate of speed on M-91 while attempting to out-distance Lowell police. In turn, Lowell police succeeded Sunday morning in blockading a Lowell-area motorist who was seeking to elude sheriff's deputies on 36th Street.

A full-scale parade, carrying the theme of "March for Millage," will be held in Lowell this Saturday

morning. Under the auspices of the Citizens for Better Education, the parade is expected to include some 20 or more units, including representatives from every club and organization in the Lowell school system. Marchers will assemble at Ricards Park and will get underway at 10 am along a route to Main Street, then east to Washington.

Lowell's school millage problems will be aired on WZZM-TV because they are typical of those across the state and nation.

The state legislature mulls over taxing professional sports 10 percent on gate receipts.

25 years The Lowell Ledger March 16, 1994

Following the recommendation of the Michigan Township's Association, the Vergennes Township Board Decided not to hold its annual meeting this year. However, the decision was met with some resistance from Vergennes Township residents who felt the meeting was a good forum for citizens to interact with their elected officials.

Agreeing that there should be sidewalks in all areas of the city was the easy part - so the Lowell City Council has learned. Deciding how it's going to pay for its portion of the sidewalk project is the difficult part. After discussing the financial issue, the council directed city manager Dave Pasquale and public works director Art Gall to put some numbers to the few financial options available and the present their findings at the April 4 meeting.

The Fallasburg Historical Society was given approval by the Vergennes Township Board to request a grant for the Department of Natural Resources for the purchase and transportation of a mill to a four-acre site along the Flat River. The Waterville Mill, currently located in Saranac, would be moved to the site near the river and opened to the public. The mill would be used to teach visitors old milling procedures.

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes letters to the editor from readers, but there are a few conditions that must be met before they will be published.

The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per month.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced.

HEALTH

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



happy birthday



- tummy time

Parents of newborns are encouraged to keep their babies on their backs while sleeping. This has been shown to reduce the incidence of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or SIDS. Unfortunately, some babies may spend too much time on their back and develop a condition called Positional Plagiocephaly, also known as a positional head deformity. This occurs because the infant develops a preference for laying their head in a certain position. When they lay in one position for too long, they can develop a flat spot on one side of their head. Over time this flat spot may resolve as the child grows older, but there is a chance that it may persist throughout their life, causing a misshapen head.

The best way to prevent infants from developing this condition is to begin "tummy time" exercises early. "Tummy time" refers to time spent on their tummies when they are awake and alert. This allows them to strengthen

their postural muscles as well as neck muscles. By developing these muscles early, they will be able to turn their heads much easier when sleeping on their backs. They will also reach developmental milestones, such as rolling over and sitting up, sooner.

"Tummy time" should only be performed when the infant is awake, on the ground or on a parent's chest. The infant must be observed closely to prevent accidental injury from rolling over or objects blocking their airway. Initially, infants may not tolerate "tummy time" for very long, as they may tire easily and cry. However, if you start slowly and gradually increase the time spent on the tummy, they will become stronger and enjoy it more.

For those infants that do develop a positional head deformity, there are treatments available. Those treatments may involve physical therapy and possibly a cranial helmet for a few months.

MARCH 13

Sophia Beachum, Dode Dey, Paul Seese, Tyler Schneider, Jack Robert Malone.

MARCH 16

Greg Briggs, Louise Weeks.

MARCH 14

Mike Stevens, Dan Baird, Kari Merriman, Chase Peterson, Shannon Lambert, Sara Schoen, Layla Yeiter.

MARCH 17

Renee Barnes, Logan Landman, Zach Breimayer.

MARCH 18

Bruce Phillips Jr., Chase Treglia, Jim Hacker.

MARCH 19

Jeremy Barber, Terry B. Abel, Kimberly Dixon, Sean Ellison, Alberta Ryder.

MARCH 15

Daniel Vegter, Ward Boulard Jr., Brett Hobrla, Margot Miller.

MLE Staff Member of the Month

Brooke Culver is the Staff Member of the Month at Murray Lake Elementary. "Brooke goes above and beyond her job duties every day. She is always willing to jump in and help out when needed. She is a true team player and a huge asset to the Murray Lake staff. I appreciate her positive attitude and willingness to do whatever it takes to help all of our students and teachers be successful," commented Molly Burnett. "Being a teacher at Murray Lake is truly

amazing and special. The students, parents and all the people I work with make it the most wonderful place. Our principal challenges, appreciates and encourages every student and staff member. Teaching special education is the most rewarding of careers and I learn from my students as much as they learn from me. I am happy to not only be a teacher here, but also be a Murray Lake parent. Go Mustangs." said Culver.

business matters



Greenridge Realty announced that Corey Lee received Realtor of the Month in February. This award recognizes Lee for his outstanding success and achievements.

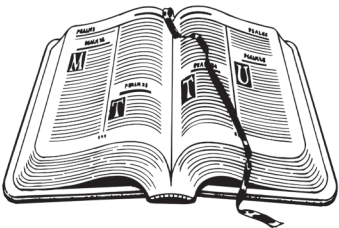


Brooke Culver

Keep it fresh by supporting the independent local merchants who make our community unique!

Shop Local - Shop Lowell!

area churches



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

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
897-7060
Ryan Landt
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM
Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM
Nursery available at both services
Barrier-Free

St. Mary Catholic Church
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com

Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm

Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
865 Lincoln Lake SE • 616.897.5906

Pastor Jon Propper
Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
Lowell's Open Table - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM
Serving meals and providing fellowship to the greater Lowell community

OPEN AND AFFIRMING
www.lowellucc.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
Pastor Andrew Bolkom • Pastor of Discipleship
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries

SUNDAY WORSHIP..... 9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
LIFE GROUPS..... 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
discover. grow. share
621 E. Main Street
897-5938
www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance

WORSHIP
9 AM - Traditional • 11 AM - Contemporary
Kid's Crew 11:15 AM
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice to Creditors
Decedent's Estate
Estate of
Debbie J. Probst
Date of Birth
07-17-1951

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Debbie J. Probst, who lived at 213 Jane Ellen Drive, Lowell, MI 49331, died 02-14-2019.

presented to Phillip Todd Probst / Trustee or Frederick Addison Probst / Trustee, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless

Trustee: Phillip Todd Probst, 6830 Rix Street, Ada, MI. 49301 (616) 551-6311.
Trustee: Frederick Addison Probst III, 405 Mill Street #1, Wayland, MI 49348, (616) 299-1639.
Dated: March 8, 2019

The insect apocalypse?

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Scientific researchers Francisco Sánchez-Bayo and Kris Wyckhuys reviewed 73 insect population studies from around the world and came to the conclusion that we are in the middle of an insect armageddon that they say was caused by agriculture and climate change.

“Our work reveals dramatic rates of decline that may lead to the extinction of 40 percent of the world’s insect species over the next few decades,” it says in their report, titled ‘Worldwide Decline of the Entomofauna: A Review of Its Drivers.’ “Lepidoptera, hymenoptera and dung beetles (coleoptera) are the taxa most affected. Four aquatic taxa are imperiled and have already lost a large proportion of species. Habitat loss by conversion to intensive agriculture is the main driver of the declines. Agro-chemical pollutants, invasive species and climate change are additional causes.”

According to a summary of the Sánchez-Bayo/Wyckhuys report in the UK newspaper The Guardian, “The planet is at the start of [the] sixth mass extinction in its history, with huge losses already

reported in larger animals that are easier to study. But insects are by far the most varied and abundant animals, outweighing humanity by 17 times. They are ‘essential’ for the proper functioning of all ecosystems, the researchers say, as food for other creatures, pollinators and recyclers of nutrients.”

The data assessed by Sánchez-Bayo and Wyckhuys was not comprehensive. Most of the studies they analyzed were from the USA and Europe. A few were from Australia, China, Brazil and South Africa, but very few from anywhere else. Also, very little is known about many types of flies, ants, aphids, crickets and other bugs, and undiscovered specimens are being discovered all the time. It is difficult to come to a definitive conclusion using limited data of an incomplete picture.

“It’s as if our global climate dataset only involved 73 weather stations, mostly in Europe and the United States, active over different historical time windows,” said University of Texas at Austin professor Alex Wild on Twitter. “Imagine that only some of those stations measured temperature. Others, only

humidity. Others, only wind direction. Trying to cobble those sparse, disparate points into something resembling a picture of global trends is ambitious, to say the least.”

Meanwhile, for years there have been reports of a mysterious decline in the bee population. In 1947, the number of honeybee colonies in the US was 6 million. Today it is 2.5 million. To make matters worse for the bees, last week the EPA revealed that in 2018 they issued “emergency approvals” to spray sulfoxaflo, an insecticide considered “very highly toxic” to bees, on more than 16 million acres of crops, including sorghum and cotton, in 18 states: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

“Spraying 16 million acres of bee-attractive crops with a bee-killing pesticide in a time of global insect decline is beyond the pale, even for the Trump administration,” said Nathan Donley, a senior scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity in an interview with EcoWatch.com. “The EPA is routinely misusing the ‘emergency’ process to get sulfoxaflo approved because it’s too toxic to make it through normal pesticide reviews.”

Emergency exemptions for sulfoxaflo aren’t some new way Trump dreamed up to kill bees. When he was president, Obama issued similar exemptions for sulfoxaflo year after year. The most



LMS band, cont.

of rehearsal before performing their evening concert for a packed house at East Kentwood High School’s Performing Arts Center.”

At the event, area middle school band directors nominated students for the groups based on their students’ playing abilities. After the nominations were submitted, students from each instrument section were randomly selected to participate, instantly forming brand new seventh and eighth grade bands from among the nominees.

The two groups were conducted by District 10’s two most recent ‘Teacher of the Year’ winners, Ron Good, a retired teacher from Hudsonville, and Amy Kool, a retiree from Grandville.

The MSBOA All-Star Band event has been happening every other year for almost 20 years, with LMS band students participating each time.

“I couldn’t be more proud of our students,” Bredwell said. “They worked hard preparing their music ahead of time and rehearsing together all day before the performance. The concert was outstanding!”

START A PRAIRIE THIS WINTER
Broadcast seed onto bare dirt or dead grass. Clip the weeds this year.

MONARCH & POLLINATOR MIXES

Custom application available with 30, 40 or 60 ft air seeders.
We need more growers and custom applicators using our equipment or yours.

john@prairieseedsfarms.com
641-766-6790

HOME EXTERIOR SOLUTIONS INC.

PROVIDING ROOFING, WINDOWS, SIDING AND REPAIRS



We purchase our products manufactured direct and pass the savings on to you.

Jeff Martin
Local Owner

jeffmartin1962@gmail.com
cell: 616-293-2293

Receive **5% off**

with combined purchases of \$10,000

Expires March 31, 2019

Free Estimates
Licensed & Insured

WE OFFER GOOD, BETTER OR BEST OPTIONS!

BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Bowne Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2019/2020 at the Historic Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto, MI 49302 on Monday March 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The property tax millage rate of 2.4566 proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

A copy of the proposed 2019/2020 budget will be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the township office Wednesday 9-12 & 1-3, Thursday 9-12 & 1-3, Friday 9-12.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

Paddy's Cure at Larkin's on Friday, March 15

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Paddy's Cure is playing at Larkin's, possibly for the last time, on Friday, March 15. Four of the five band members live in Lowell; two are local school teachers.

The group (Rob Leonard, Brian Hauenstein, Stan Dec, Lindsay Bredin and Eric Bredin) has a special connection to Larkin's. The Main St. bar was where they formed, played their first shows and owner Mike Larkin was immortalized in their song "Throwdown at Larkin's."

"Honest to goodness, 'Throwdown at Larkin's' is as true as can be told," said vocalist and guitarist Rob Leonard. "We were playing at Larkin's on either a St. Patrick's day or a halfway to St. Patrick's Day show, I can't remember which. We were just doing our thing, then all of a sudden I looked up and there was a cluster of people in the center of the room between the bar and the band. I saw Mike with his hand around somebody's neck, and the guy looked like he was back on his heels. I looked over to see if anybody in the band had noticed, and when I looked back it was done, it was all clear. The people hadn't disappeared, but it was clear that whatever the issue was, it was settled. It was just one of those things, it was the melee that almost was, the throwdown that almost was, but it just never happened. That was the inspiration for that song. I was really trying to build one of those songs that has

the audience participation component that a lot of Celtic music does, and at the same time commemorate and celebrate Mike Larkin, because Larkin's is where it all started for us. We've played there at least twice a year for ten years. We started playing there, doing Irish stuff, before we were even Paddy's Cure. I was in a two-piece band with my brother-in-law years ago, and we covered a few Irish tunes. People loved it. Stan [Dec, vocals and banjo] was down here one night at Larkin's, and he said to Mike Larkin, 'How would you like live music on St. Patrick's Day?' He said, 'I would like that!' Stan and I pulled together Eric Bredin [mandolin, concertina and harmonica], who was playing with another group. We had an opportunity to weave him into some of the stuff that Stan and I were doing. Brian Hauenstein, our bodhran player, I worked with him. He actually helped the two-piece get rolling probably five years prior to that. We probably had about 10 Irish tunes, we did a four hour show, and it was packed. We don't do those anymore, absolutely not. Six months later, we asked Mike, 'How would you like a halfway show,' and he said, 'Yeah, let's try it.' That was packed again. The next spring we thought we'd better come up with a name, because this may have some legs. Every time we did a show we learned more and more Irish

tunes, and by about the third time we had a full Irish set. That was about nine years ago or so."

That track is on their self-titled CD, which will be for sale at the show. The nine-song CD also includes some traditional Irish classics like "The Leaving of Liverpool" and "Nancy Whiskey," plus one Steve Earle song and two original compositions. Another original Paddy's Cure song, "April McGuire," uses the names of some Lowellians in its tale of unrequited love.

"She and her husband live in Lowell, and they're both mentioned in the song," Leonard said. "They would show up at a number of our shows and I would go chit chat with them at the bar. They'd have to remind me of their names, and after about four or five times of me just being a dope and not remembering, I said, 'This is the last time, I swear I'm going to remember this time.' He told me his name was Charlie Beer, and I said, 'Yeah, that's right!' Then he said, 'And this is April McGuire,' and I was like, 'April McGuire, I need to write a song called that!' I was just kidding. My wife and I were driving north in our old 1979 Dodge Class C motor home, I had a little pad and I was jotting lyrics and ideas down as they came into my head. We camped for a couple nights and then came back and unloaded everything. I picked up my guitar, and in about 20 minutes that



Paddy's Cure will perform Irish and Celtic music at Larkin's on Friday, March 15. [photo courtesy paddyscure.com]

song was written. It's a fictitious story, it's sort of about a guy who's smitten with this woman named April McGuire, and she just doesn't want to have anything to do with him because she's in love with a guy named Charlie Beer. It's a completely fictitious story, but the names April and Charlie are real people, and that song was inspired by my inability to remember their names."

"I wrote an instrumental tune called 'O'Doyle's Garage,'" Bredin said. "I have three little kids, and when the kids were babies I could never practice inside, so I got into the habit of playing outside in my detached garage after hours, after everybody went to bed I'd play. I kept up two years of this and now it's a habit. After two years, I found out

that my neighbors could hear the sound, and they had no idea where it was coming from. I was keeping them awake practicing my mandolin. Shortly after that, they decided to build this garage next to my little detached garage. This garage they built was about the size of their house. It's the Taj Mahal of garages, it's got five stalls, it's got two stories - you could live in the upstairs of this garage. I was out there doing my thing and I thought that maybe with this garage, I'm not going to bother them practicing out here. I started playing this tune, and we named it after them. Their last name is Doyle, we added the O, so it's called 'O'Doyle's Garage.' I don't know if I've ever told them that whole story. Another song I wrote is called 'Life in an Irish Band.' What I frequently do when I practice is kind of come up with these little riffs and melodies just for fun. One of them really stuck in my head. I was just thinking about how to write an Irish song and about all the experiences that I've had. It was making me chuckle, so I thought someone else might get a chuckle out of it. If no one else, the people in the band would."

"To be clear, the song is about things that we have observed while we were performing or things that happened while we were performing," Leonard said.

"Everything from the half-drunk MC tripping up the stage and knocking over Lindsay's cello to the woman who needed a ride home but didn't know where she lived," Bredin said.

"She said she lived 'just around the corner,' but it took 90 minutes to get her there because she couldn't figure out where she lived," Leonard said.

"We put a few of those stories together, and that's

'Life in an Irish Band,' Bredin said. "I'm sure our stories are not unique, I have a feeling that every Irish band could add a verse to the song."

Celtic music is currently very popular, especially in Michigan, so the group has a full calendar with about 25 concerts annually all over the state, including nearby shows at LowellArts and the Fallasburg Festival, plus concerts in Holland, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Lansing, Kalamazoo, Big Rapids, Saginaw and many, many other locations. March, naturally, is their busiest season.

"Our footprint has been Big Rapids to Kalamazoo, north to south, and the lakeshore to Lansing," Leonard said. "We occasionally get outside of that, for example this summer we're playing at a Celtic festival in Saline, right outside of Ann Arbor. We play two or three times a year locally. We did a concert at LowellArts to help them raise money for their house concerts. We went in and played for free, we had some refreshments and passed a hat. I think they were very pleased with the results, and we enjoyed playing there, so it was a win-win for everybody."

"I love playing at the Fallasburg Festival. We'll also do a pro bono show at Lowell Senior Center on St. Patrick's Day, just to bring some of that Celtic cheer to those folks. It's a blast! It's not a huge room, it's a captive audience, and we go in without any electronics, we just go in with our acoustic instruments and we play and tell a few stories. Those kinds of shows are often the most satisfying."

"I think the popularity of Celtic music has to do with people seeking out their heritage or their roots,"

"Paddy's Cure, continued, page 9

Happy Sunday
St. Patrick's March
Day 17th



**REAGAN
FAMILY
DENTISTRY**

207 W. Main Street
Lowell, Michigan

**JAMES E. REAGAN,
DDS**
www.jamesreagondds.com

Phone
897-7179

Fax
897-7189

Member of Michigan Dental Association
Since 1984



NCT volunteers

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

Volunteers founded the North Country Trail Association in 1981 in response to Congress officially establishing the trail as a National Scenic Trail in 1980. The association's primary duty is to maintain the 4,600 mile trail that spans from North Dakota to New York. The headquarters for the center is located downtown Lowell at 229 E. Main Street.

The association has a handful of employees that work out of the downtown location but also several employees that work remotely. The Ledger spoke with Valerie Bader, the director of trail development who works out of Pennsylvania, about the trail and the role of volunteers in the association.

"[The North Country Trail Association] is the lead non-profit partner in managing the North Country National Scenic Trail, so we work with our local National Parks Service office," Bader said. "I am the director of trail development. I lead our trail management program. We have regional staff across the trail. We have one who manages Minnesota and North Dakota, one who manages the trail in Wisconsin and one in Michigan, and I kind of oversee our whole trail management program."

Besides trail management, the association advocates in Congress on behalf of the policies that fund the North Country Trail and other National Scenic Trails around the country. Bader excitedly discussed recent news about a public-lands bill passed by Congress that

affects the trail.

"Actually [there has been news] in the past couple weeks about a big public-lands bill that just passed," Bader said. "There's actually a big route adjustment for the North Country Trail in there, so it will change where the trail goes in Minnesota and it will add some to the trail so we will connect with the Appalachian Trail in Vermont. This bill has passed the Senate, passed the House, and just needs to be signed by the President."

Although the trail gets funded by Congress, much of the maintenance of the trail relies on volunteers.

"Last year we had just under 1000 volunteers who reported hours across the trail," Bader said. "They did 66,834 hours across the trail, so that is a huge contribution to the success of the trail. We have just under 30 local chapters that we work with who each manage a section of the trail, and the amount of work they do is just absolutely unbelievable. These people are working more than 40 hour work weeks as volunteers!"

There are many opportunities for volunteers to help out with the trail.

"I think we have great projects across the trail," Bader said. "They are all advertised on our website. We've put up an events calendar for every chapter, so if you're anywhere from North Dakota to New York, chances are you are within distance of one of our existing chapters. And we need help with everything from outreach, events, leading hikes, participating in hikes, to coming out and

building trails. [There are] a bunch of opportunities to get involved right outside your back door."

According to the North Country Trail website, "Western Michigan is the NCTA's largest chapter, with more than 300 members. We are a hard working, fun, diverse group of people of all ages who love the outdoors."

Wendie Preiss is one of the local volunteers for the trail. She is the volunteer membership coordinator for the Western Michigan chapter of the North Country Trail Association, which takes care of the area of the trail within Kent and Newaygo counties. It contains the original headquarters for the North Country Trail Association - a former schoolhouse north of White Cloud - along with the current headquarters in Lowell. Regularly using the trail was what eventually motivated Preiss to volunteer.

"My husband and I have been using the trail," Preiss said. "We do trail running, we probably go three times a week, and we will run for a few miles. I happened to come across the Riverwalk tent for the North Country Trail last summer, and got to talking with folks. They had a brochure about what positions they needed and what type of work they needed, and I wasn't really all that aware of just what was going on. I knew we used the trail quite a bit, but I was not as familiar with the association. I just felt like, gosh, we are using this trail all the time, I feel responsible to try to contribute to it. So I explored what to do for that, and then the next thing I knew I was the volunteer membership coordinator."

The type of volunteering



NCTA volunteer membership coordinator Wendie Preiss.

done for the trail varies greatly based on interests, ability levels, and the amount of time available to help. They have opportunities to report trail conditions to the association as well as scheduled workdays for specific projects.

"There are opportunities to do [a] maintainer type of role, which means you walk the trail a couple of times a year and just check it and report back if there is severe damage or something like that, or maybe you pick up trash" Preiss said. "This spring we will be doing some work between Flat

River and Fallsburg where we're going to be getting hand equipment out there to try to repair the trail. We will have big group of people out there, and it will be like a day of activity, and it is a little more intense."

While these volunteer roles deal directly with maintaining the physical trail, the association welcomes more unique volunteer help as well.

"What we're trying to do is leverage the people's experience and strengths that they have," Preiss said. "An example right now is, we are looking at developing some marketing materials for this schoolhouse, which is something our chapter has in [Birch Grove]. We are looking at having some of our graphic artists who are volunteers develop some materials for us."

Preiss's own experience and expertise are part of what landed her the volunteer membership coordinator position. After working for Amway for nearly fifteen years, she recently founded Blazing Trails Change Management, LLC, which works with companies experiencing management transitions. She came up with the name as a nod to the time she spends hiking and trail running.

Preiss has been pleasantly surprised by the dedication

of staff and volunteers for the association to the trail.

"[There are] a lot of great people, very kind people, resourceful people," Preiss said. "Because in general, there is not a whole lot of money for these types of activities, people donate a lot of their time. Our president last year, she received a reward for a 1,000 hours of volunteer time. [There are] so many dedicated people that maintain these trails, and to have some extra help with that so that folks can spend more time enjoying them rather than maintaining them would be really helpful. The people are amazingly dedicated to this trail, and not just the trail, but the excitement and passion around being outdoors. I know for me being outdoors is like my reenergizing opportunity. It gives me energy to remind other people that it's a great tool we have, it's right here in Lowell and it's so easy to get to."

The North Country Trail Association will be at the Lowell Expo on Saturday, March 23, and they are also at the Lowell Riverwalk festival in the summer. For more information on the trail or on volunteering, visit their website at northcountrytrail.org or email the West Michigan chapter at wmi@northcountrytrail.org.

Paddy's Cure, continued

Bredin said. "The whole culture of Irish and Celtic music is a little in vogue. It's not about drinking, but people like to drink and listen to Irish music, just relax, have fun and have a beer. The whole idea is that Irish music is not a spectator sport, we all do this together. Our band is not necessarily there to be the center of attention, we don't go there just to entertain you, we go there to be entertained with you. What's fun for us is when we're in an environment where people are a part of what we're doing. It's about having a fun time together, and we'll be the vehicle that takes you there. I think that most Irish music is along that line, and that's part of the reason why it does have its popularity. But at the same time it's unique in that there are only certain times when people want to do that."

"We learned very early that if an Irish band plays a pub on any given Friday of the year, often it doesn't go over very well," Leonard said. "Non-Celtic and Celtic people alike tend, in the middle of March, to all feel like celebrating with the Irish. Everybody is Irish on St. Patrick's Day. But the rest of the year, not so much. There's March, there's halfway season in September if you want to create an event like that, but outside of that it's really sort of boutique, one-off events, or it's Irish music festivals."

As opposed to the traditional, folk-based Celtic groups like Peat in the Creel, Paddy's Cure shows have a party vibe more reminiscent of the Pogues or Flogging Molly.


"At Larkin's, we typically do a three hour performance," Leonard said. "Sometimes we'll do

two sets with a 20 minute break, sometimes we'll break it into three sets with two 12, 15 minute breaks. At festivals you only get about 45 minutes and that's it."

"If it's at Larkin's, sometimes we just keep playing," Bredin said.


"Larkin's is the only place where we sort of take some liberties with the time," Leonard said. "As long as the bar is full, Mike's happy! But we'll enjoy playing that show as much as we enjoy playing a strict 45 minute set in a park on a Wednesday evening. They're different, but I think they're both equally enjoyable."

For more information about Paddy's Cure, look for them on social media or visit paddyscure.com. To explore Michigan's Celtic musical and cultural scene in depth, visit miirish.com.



American Red Cross

Alabama Tornadoes Devastate Communities



Our hearts are with the people of Alabama after last weekend's dangerous tornadoes that led to 23 fatalities and numerous injuries. The National Weather Service reports at least one of the tornadoes was classified as an EF4 storm with winds as high as 170 miles per hour.

The American Red Cross is on the ground, helping people impacted by these deadly storms. Currently, more than 50 Red Cross disaster workers are providing shelter, meals, relief supplies, health services and comfort. The Red Cross is working closely with government and community partners, such as the Salvation Army and United Way and local faith-based organizations to coordinate relief efforts.

HOW YOU CAN HELP... You can help people affected by disasters like storms and countless other crises by making a gift to American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small. Call, click, or text to give: visit redcross.org, call 1-800 RED CROSS or text the word RED CROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

the lowell
ledger

105 N. Broadway
Lowell • 616-897-9261
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com



Gov. Whitmer signs new executive order aimed at cleaning up Michigan's drinking water

Creates Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to oversee Offices of Climate and Energy, Clean Water Public Advocate, Environmental Justice Public Advocate

Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed a new executive

order to continue moving forward on her commitment to create the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), which will fight for clean drinking water, protect the Great Lakes, mitigate PFAS, and address climate change. The new executive order was issued to replace Executive Order 2019-2, which was voted down on a party-line vote by the Michigan Legislature.

"Every Michigander deserves safe, clean drinking water, and I'm not going to let partisan politics slow down the important work that needs to get done right now to protect public health," said Whitmer. "That's why I'm taking action to sign this new executive order so we can start cleaning up our drinking water, protect the Great Lakes, and take action to address climate change."

Executive Order 2019-6 restructures the Department of Environmental Quality as the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, which will be focused on improving the quality of Michigan's air, land, and water, protecting public health, and encouraging the use of clean energy. The new department will serve as a full-time guardian of the Great Lakes, our freshwater, and our public water supplies. EO 2019-6 requires submission to the legislature and takes effect after 60 days.

Per the order, the Environmental Science Advisory Board will be eliminated. The Environmental Rules Review Committee and the Environmental Permit Review Commission will remain intact while the governor awaits a response from the Attorney General on the legality of these commissions.

Executive Order 2019-2 received strong bipartisan support from Michigan businesses, environmental groups, and advocates such as Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha and Governor Snyder's former director of the Department of Environmental Quality, Heidi Grether.

Michigan again ranked No. 1 for nation's most expensive auto insurance

The Zebra's annual State of Auto Insurance report pegs the average annual premium at \$2,693

Michigan again ranks No. 1 for saddling its residents with the most expensive auto insurance premiums in the country, according to The Zebra's annual State of Auto Insurance report. The average auto insurance premium in Michigan is \$2,693, while the national average is \$1,470.

"It's a shame Michigan once again has the unfortunate distinction of having the most expensive auto insurance premiums in the country," said Tricia Kinley, executive director of the Insurance Alliance of Michigan. "This report shows that when it comes to car insurance, Michigan is No. 1 for all the wrong reasons."

Michigan drivers pay more than double what those in neighboring states pay for car insurance, according to The Zebra. Ohio drivers pay, on average, \$1,032 for car insurance, which is the 6th lowest in the nation, followed by Wisconsin drivers at \$1,070. Not to be outdone, Indiana drivers pay \$1,150, on average, for car insurance, while Illinois drivers pay \$1,222.

Detroit drivers once again pay the highest auto insurance premiums of any city in the country, averaging \$5,464 a year for car insurance.

"This report reinforces what we, and others, have been saying for years: Michigan's auto no-fault system is broken, outdated and in desperate need of reform," Kinley said. "Michiganders shouldn't be forced to choose between paying their car insurance bill or paying rent, buying groceries or affording life-saving prescriptions."

Michigan is the only state in the nation that requires drivers to purchase unlimited, lifetime medical benefits with their auto insurance policy. This costly mandate is one of the biggest contributors to the high cost of auto insurance in Michigan.

In order to bring down the cost of auto insurance for Michigan drivers, the Legislature must enact legislation to:

Crack down on fraud and abuse, which costs the average family hundreds of dollars a year in additional premiums.

Stop medical providers from dramatically overcharging for medical procedures to treat people injured in a car accident.

Give consumers a choice in their level of medical coverage, just like other states do.

Gov. Whitmer, House Speaker Lee Chatfield (R-Levering) and Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) have made auto no-fault reform a top priority in 2019. The Michigan House created a special committee tasked with finding ways to lower the cost of auto insurance, and a Michigan Senate committee has held four consecutive hearings to explore different options for reform.

"We are encouraged by the governor and legislative leader's commitment to enacting commonsense reforms that will lower the cost of auto insurance for drivers across the state," Kinley said.

EMPLOYMENT POSTING

Maintenance Worker

The City of Lowell (population 3,783) is accepting information from applicants for the position of Maintenance Worker for the Department of Public Works. The City of Lowell is a vibrant and progressive West Michigan community located in the metropolitan Grand Rapids area with a diverse economic base and an excellent school system.

The Maintenance Worker will work independently or under the general direction of the Assistant City Manager/ Director of Public Works or others as assigned and in accordance with city, state and federal policies, rules, and applicable regulations and according to the City's employee handbook. This skilled position will focus on assisting with the distribution of treated water, collection of wastewater, discharge of storm water, water meter maintenance and data collection, and all related facilities. In addition, the position will require some knowledge of facility maintenance practices and procedures and equipment operating.

Typical Qualifications: Interest and aptitude to learn about the principles and practices involved in the operation and maintenance of water production and distribution equipment and facilities, sewer collection and disposal facilities, and storm water. Ability to communicate effectively, verbally and in writing. Ability to perform heavy manual labor for an extended period of time in all types of weather and under various working conditions. Able to lift at least 55 pounds. Able to stand, walk, climb, stoop and crawl unimpeded as the work environment requires.

Desired Qualifications: Required training and experience includes a high school diploma, preferably an Associate's Degree in environmental science, engineering, or chemistry; and education supplemented by three years of experience in water distribution system construction, maintenance and/or repair work. A Michigan Distribution System Operator S-2 certification is preferred but will consider other water distribution licenses or must have the ability to obtain required license within one year of hire. A valid Michigan driver's license with CDL or ability to obtain a CDL within 3 months is required.

Salary range is \$37,750 to \$45,700 per year depending on qualifications. The City of Lowell also offers a competitive benefit package with additional license pay, standby and overtime compensation.

Interested applicants should submit cover letter, resume, salary history and at least five references to:

City of Lowell
DPW Maintenance Worker Review Team
Attn: Lori Gerard
301 East Main Street
Lowell, Michigan 49331

For complete job description visit website: www.lowellmi.gov

First review of applications will be March 15, 2019.

The City of Lowell is an Equal Opportunity Employer



Deborah Wilks, Agent
11827 Fulton St E
Lowell, MI 49331
Bus: 616-897-9237
dwwilks@deborahwilks.com

When everyone forgets how to drive.

I'm your agent for that.

On those crazy days, just know that I have your back. With my help and the backing of my great team, I'll have you back on the road and driving happy in no time. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.® CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7.

 **State Farm**™

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
Bloomington, IL

1001195.1

LMS announces students of the second trimester

Lowell Middle School has announced the Students of the 2nd Trimester. Teachers chose the following students who have been outstanding in the categories of academics, citizenship and attitude:

First row: Anna Forney, Liam TenHarmsel, Ethan Morgan, Emily Zou, Danielle Topolinski. Gavin Stewart, William Mrozinski, Anderson Stoner, Julia Meier, Calla Swayze, Jordan Tyler, and Charles Howe; second row: Caden Dennie, Caden Barnes, Jacob Hofman, Lydia Wells, Jacob VanDrie, Vaughn Outman, Brady Swift, Emma Bruwer, Gavin Barber, Carly Hornbrook, and

Alexis Martin; third row: Isabelle Kuntz, Courtney Witten, Emily Ake, Nicholas Seddon, Macy Luce, Stephanie Spinella, Zoey Mierendorf, Makayla Kyes, Ian Berrington, Kiera Sandman, and Savannah Brown.

Not pictured: Emma White, Isabel German, Anne Greenfield, Sarah Harper, Ellery Ostrander, Kira VanGorp, Kaidance Martino, Eliana Tucker, and Isabelle Field.



Murray Lake Volunteers of the Month

Murray Lake Elementary has named Cheri Krueger and Lindsay Kepley as their February Volunteers of the Month.

"I'm so grateful for their help in the classroom and for making all 24 of my students "My Intent" bracelets. We love our volunteers. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to help make MLE a better place to be," said Lori Cyrocki.

learn, open up to me, and grow throughout the year. I am very honored to be able to help and work with these kids," commented Krueger.

"I love volunteering at MLE. It is an awesome way to connect with teachers, staff, and students. I enjoy seeing my kids interact with their classmates and I feel more involved in their academics when I can watch firsthand what

they are working on. The teachers and staff at MLE put so much time and effort into providing our kids with a great education, volunteering is just my way of saying "thank you" for all they do for us," said Kepley.

Laura Franks, Laura Weston, and Deb Cross have been named Volunteers of the Month for March. "These ladies volunteer to run our school store two times a month. I appreciate their willingness to run the store and help order items when we are getting low. They always greet our students with a smile. Without their support, we would not be able to have this store open for our students to enjoy. Thank you for dedicating your time to help make Murray Lake a great place to be," said Molly Burnett.

"I love volunteering for the school store because I enjoy seeing all of the smiling faces," commented Franks.

"When I left teaching six years ago to be a

stay-at-home mom, I looked forward to the day when I could be a part of a school community again. My son, Auggie, started kindergarten at Murray Lake in 2017 and since then, I have loved volunteering. I work in his classroom once a week and I get to help with the school store each month. I get so much enjoyment from meeting all of the kids and watching how excited they get to pick out the perfect little trinket! Thank you to the teachers and staff for being so welcoming. It makes me so happy to be involved in such a wonderful community again," said Weston.

Deb Cross said, "As a kindergarten parent, I was looking for opportunities to volunteer at school, and the school store has been such a fun experience. I love watching the kids look and pick out their items, and many times, helping them

count coins and learn how to make change. Thank you and the staff for such a great experience." to Murray Lake Elementary



Deb Cross and Laura Franks



Cheri Krueger

"I love Murray Lake. I love volunteering because I like to help out the teachers at Murray Lake as much as possible. The staff at Murray Lake is amazing and have such great attitudes. They always have a smile on, and have made me feel very welcome. If there is any bit I can help, like reading to kids, help with writing, or finishing projects, it means so much to me. It means so much to see the kids in the classroom



Oak Meadow

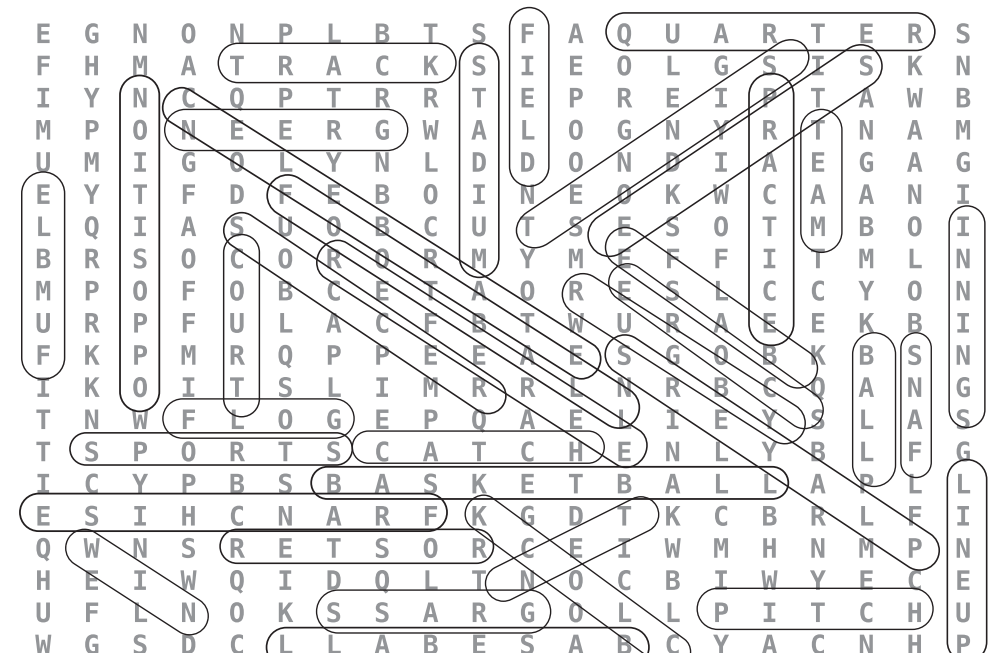
TREE SERVICE INC.

Your Local Tree Care Experts

- ~ Tree & Shrub Fertilization
- ~ Disease & Insect Control
- ~ Pruning & Tree Removal
- ~ Stump Grinding
- ~ Fully Insured

Call Today!
616-890-2348



obituaries

DORAN

Sean Patrick Doran, 61, of Belding, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, March 2, 2019 at home. Sean was born on November 7, 1957 in Grand Rapids, the son of John G. and Gail Doran. Sean graduated from Lowell High School with the Class of 1976. Throughout his whole life Sean was a people person. From a young man to later in life he always looked to illuminate the positive aspects of each individual that he encountered. Being nearly 100 percent Irish Sean truly had "the gift of gab" and could make conversation with anyone, mainly driven by his love of family and friends, and served as an encouragement to others during difficult times. That same resilient spirit helped Sean in his life and trials that he faced; he would do anything for anyone. During downtime, he enjoyed fishing and had an avid love of literature. He was tough as nails, but had a big heart and strong faith in Jesus Christ- he always knew the best in life was yet to come. What earth has lost, heaven has gained and he will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Sean is loved and survived by his daughter, Amanda (Jason) Johns of Chattanooga, TN; grandchildren, Jameson and Isla; mother of his daughter, Bambi Frazier of Chattanooga, TN; mother, Gail Doran Vanstee of Lowell; siblings, Colleen (John) Timpson of Lowell, Kathy (David) Hoseth of Lowell, Christy (John) Ray, Tim Doran, Kim Doran (Daron Ensign) all of Belding; several nieces and nephews whom he adored dearly. Sean was preceded in death by his father in 2015. A graveside service will take place in the spring at St. Patrick Cemetery, Parnell. In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to the Lowell Library Children's program or the Belding Library Children's program. Envelopes will be available at Johnson-Feuerstein Funeral Home, Belding where cremation services have been entrusted. To share a message of condolence, light a candle in Sean's memory or order flowers; please visit www.jffh.com



Sean graduated from Lowell High School with the Class of 1976. Throughout his whole life Sean was a people person. From a young man to later in life he always looked to illuminate the positive aspects of each individual that he encountered. Being nearly 100 percent Irish Sean truly had "the gift of gab" and could make conversation with anyone, mainly driven by his love of family and friends, and served as an encouragement to others during difficult times. That same resilient spirit helped Sean in his life and trials that he faced; he would do anything for anyone. During downtime, he enjoyed fishing and had an avid love of literature. He was tough as nails, but had a big heart and strong faith in Jesus Christ- he always knew the best in life was yet to come. What earth has lost, heaven has gained and he will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Sean is loved and survived by his daughter, Amanda (Jason) Johns of Chattanooga, TN; grandchildren, Jameson and Isla; mother of his daughter, Bambi Frazier of Chattanooga, TN; mother, Gail Doran Vanstee of Lowell; siblings, Colleen (John) Timpson of Lowell, Kathy (David) Hoseth of Lowell, Christy (John) Ray, Tim Doran, Kim Doran (Daron Ensign) all of Belding; several nieces and nephews whom he adored dearly. Sean was preceded in death by his father in 2015. A graveside service will take place in the spring at St. Patrick Cemetery, Parnell. In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to the Lowell Library Children's program or the Belding Library Children's program. Envelopes will be available at Johnson-Feuerstein Funeral Home, Belding where cremation services have been entrusted. To share a message of condolence, light a candle in Sean's memory or order flowers; please visit www.jffh.com

HOY

1947 -- 2019

Kenneth Staines "Ken" Hoy, age 71, of Ionia, passed away on March 5, 2019 in Lowell. Ken was born on May 1, 1947, the son of Glen S. and Edith (Thomas) Hoy. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; a brother, Robert W. Hoy; a brother-in-law, Harry "Joe" Lehman; a nephew, Edward Lehman; and many aunts and uncles.



Ken enjoyed live music, BINGO, watching soap operas, NASCAR, football (Lions) and baseball (Tigers). He was a good natured, "smart alec". He had a twinkle in his eye, while he was joking with people. His joy, jokes and pure heart will be dearly missed. He is survived by two sisters, Peggy Lehman of Ionia, Betty (Jack) Harter of Fenwick; one brother, David L. Hoy of Ionia; a sister-in-law, Bonnie Hoy of Fenwick; a special niece, Christina Hattis of Lowell; a special cousin, Mary Ellen Walter; and many nieces nephews, cousins and friends. Private family visitation services were held at Verdun Family Funeral Home in Belding and a Graveside Service with Committal Prayers will take place on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at Sunny Hill Cemetery where he will be interred next to his parents. For additional information, please contact Verdun Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Belding at (616) 794-1300.

LITTLE

Michael R. Little, age 73 of Lowell, Michigan, passed away in his home surrounded by his loving family on Sunday, March 10, 2019. He fought the past 3 months from lung and brain cancer.

Preceding him in death was his parents, Ed and Ruby Little and son, Michael Little, Jr. Michael was born in Cadillac, Michigan, served 3 years in the Army and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a past member of the American Legion of Greenville. Surviving him are his devoted and loving wife of 54 years, Gladys; loving son Tim and daughter-in-law, Dawn; his devoted granddaughter, Courtney Zellers (Ben) of Portage, MI and his 2 great-grandchildren, Greyson and Mackenzie who were so important to him. Michael is also survived



by his 2 brothers, 3 sisters, 4 other grandchildren and 3 other great-grandchildren not living in the local area. Michael worked the past 20 years for Welcome Home for the Blind in Grand Rapids before his retirement in 2005. He as well as his wife enjoyed retirement, traveling, and the lake he loved and the family he adored. He never tired of fishing and hunting. Visitation will be Saturday, March 16 from 10:00-11:00 AM with a service at 11:00 AM at the Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Interment Fort Custer National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Spectrum Hospice and Palliative Care, 100 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and Lowell Pink Arrow, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, Michigan 49331.



WOODMAN

Craig Arnold Woodman, age 70, of Alto, passed away Sunday, March 10, 2019. His untimely death leaves behind his wife of 48 years, Linda; sons, Rory and Shaun; parents, Leonard and Kathleen Woodman; sisters, Barbara (Albert) Orsborn, Jillayne Mautz; sister-in-law, Anne Permoda; grandchildren, Brianna, Liam, King and Kymoar Woodman; nieces, Courtney Mautz and Sarah Permoda; and nephews, Christopher and Kevin Orsborn and Scott Permoda. Craig was born in Sand Lake on May 8, 1948, and moved to Lansing in middle school. He graduated from Lansing Eastern High School and Michigan State University with his undergrad and MBA. Craig's diverse list of occupations included CPA and banking and finance. His hobbies were gardening, fishing, reading, traveling and a love of history. He would always take time to share his knowledge of the things for which he had a passion. Craig was a loyal, loving husband, father and grandfather as well as a diehard MSU fan. Craig attended Ada Bible Church where the memorial service will be held on Friday, March 15 at 11 AM at the Cascade Campus, 8899 Cascade Rd SE, Ada, MI 49301. Rev. David Blackburn presiding. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Craig's memory to Mel Trotter Ministries, 225 Commerce Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, Wounded Warriors Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675 or Mully Children's Family at www.mullychildrensfamily.org.



...

You cannot control the behavior of others, but you can always choose how you respond to it.

— Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*

In Memory of Dorothy Ann Lacic House

Mrs. Dorothy Ann Lacic House, of Lowell, passed away Thursday, February 16, 2012. She was born June 11, 1954, in Grand Rapids to Albert and Dot (Hanes) Lacic. She was employed in quality control at Lescoa Kentwood. Dorothy is survived by her parents, Albert and Dot Lacic; two sisters, Adeline Brower of Stanwood and Mary (James) Dillree of Big Rapids; two brothers, Arthur (Eileen) Lacic of Lowell and Russell Lacic of Lowell; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son, Johnathon House.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

2	7	5	3	4	6	9	1	8
4	1	8	7	9	5	3	6	2
9	6	3	1	2	8	4	7	5
5	4	1	8	3	2	7	9	6
3	9	7	6	5	1	8	2	4
6	8	2	9	7	4	5	3	1
8	3	4	2	1	7	6	5	9
1	5	9	4	6	3	2	8	7
7	2	6	5	8	9	1	4	3

R	O	D	E	O	S	E	M	I	T	E				
D	E	M	A	R	C	U	S	C	O	U	S	I	N	S
I	C	D	I	A	T	H	E	S	I	S	M	O		
D	I	A	S	T	A	N	R	U	I	L				
O	P	T	S	P	E	N	E	S	S	A	T	I		
E	R	C	A	R	S	A	M	B	I	D				
E	T	O	N	P	A	D	R	E	S					
F	L	A	M	R	E	I	S							
S	A	L	U	T	E	S	A	N	D					
A	N	I	E	D	P	M	A	T	G	A				
M	A	S	T	D	E	L	E	D	S	E	E	S		
A	T	A	R	O	W	E	D	A	R	A				
R	I	C	A	R	P	E	T	B	A	G	A	C		
A	C	C	O	M	P	L	I	S	H	M	E	N	T	S
S	E	S	A	M	E	P	A	R	S	E				

--IN MEMORIAM--

Edwin C Roth

8/20/1919 - 3/8/2018

We can't believe you have been gone one year. We dearly miss your sense of humor, the stories of how you grew up on the farm and the technology improvements you witnessed, your teachings of healthy eating and exercise, promoting travel and learning, volunteering and appreciation of what you have.

You are loved always in our thoughts and hearts.



Steve & Barbara, Jeanne, Nancy & Michael and all the rest of your family and friends

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

classifieds

for sale

EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND VALUE - Requires less wood & provides more heat. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge OUT-DOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today! 616-554-8669. SOS Property Maintenance LLC, 6950 Hammond Ave, Caledonia. We are your local sales, service & parts dealer! ^{TFN}

LOG SPLITTER - Three point connection for a tractor. It's used, but works as of last use, \$300. Contact 616-295-1412, please leave a voice mail if interested.

NEWSPAPER ENDS ROLLS AVAILABLE - Many uses. Usually \$3-\$5 each. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway.

Attention: Oxygen Users! Gain freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks and refills! Guaranteed Lowest Prices! Call the Oxygen Concentrator Store: 855-496-0417 (MICH)

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

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

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. No refunds if ad is cancelled early. Call 897-9555.

SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00- **MAKE & SAVE MONEY** with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-576-0404 Ext.300 (MICH)

USED TIRES - Call with size, 616-292-7649/616-295-8820. Rob's Auto - thanks. ^{TFN}

REACH OVER 100,000 AREA HOMES - with our Marketplace! One call & one payment, only \$40! Includes 20 words & 1 black & white photo. Only items for sale please. The ad runs in the Lowell Buyer's Guide & News, Hastings Reminder, Marshall Advisor/Chronicle & Battle Creek Shopper News. Call 897-9555 for more info.

help wanted

NOW HIRING - - We are taking applications carriers to deliver the **Buyers Guide on Saturdays. Must be dependable! Work less than 1 day a week! Get paid weekly, pickup papers at Buyers Guide office. Apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell. No phone calls accepted regarding this position.**

COACHES - Girls JV Basketball & Boys Assistant Football. Please send a letter of interest including coaching experience to: Mr. Kim Stevens, A.D., Saranac Community Schools, Saranac, MI 48881. Deadline to apply is March 29, 2019. EOE.

for rent

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

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of 196. 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}

WHISTLE STOP MINI STORAGE - 12661 Vergennes, N. of Lowell. 5x10; 10x10; 10x20; 10x30; 12x40. Fenced lighted, key code entry. Call for more information, 897-8872.

wanted

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

services

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

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.

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

EVERYDAY MILITARY DISCOUNT - 10% off any service when showing your military ID. 24-Hour towing, tire change, lock out, jump starts, fuel delivery. J&K Roadside Service, 616-690-0983.

ZOOLAND DAYCARE - has 3 before and after school openings and 2 summer time openings. 897-8386 or 308-0195.

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555 or email to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

services

FAX SERVICE - We send or receive a fax for you! Great Rate - \$1 for the first page & 50¢ for each additional page. Buyers Guide, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9555.

misc

LENTEN FISH FRY - Knights of Columbus #7719 at St. Mary's Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell. Fridays March 8 through April 12, 5-7 pm. Dine in or take out. \$8 ages 13 & up, \$4 for children 12 & under or \$25 for families. Cash, check & credit cards accepted. All you can eat menu: baked & fried cod, mac & cheese, fries, cole slaw, applesauce, cornbread, juice & coffee. Proceeds to be dedicated to: FROM, Lowell Baby Pantry, Archdiocese for the Military Services & Vacation Bible School.

misc

ATTN: LOWELL CLASS OF 1969 - 50-year class reunion on June 22 at King Building, 224 S. Broadway, Lowell (old field house). Please email Mary Miller Strauss at marystrauss15@yahoo.com for more information. Please pass this info onto any classmates.

SAVE ON YOUR NEXT PRESCRIPTION! World Health Link. Price Match Guarantee! Prescriptions Required. CIPA Certified. Over 1500 medications available. CALL Today For A Free Price Quote. 1-855-972-1693 Call Now! (MICH)

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.

Community Calendar

March

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.

ATTN: LOWELL CLASS OF 1969 - 50-year class reunion on June 22 at King Building, 224 S. Broadway, Lowell (old field house). Please email Mary Miller Strauss at marystrauss15@yahoo.com for more information. Please pass this info onto any classmates.

SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE - West Michigan Women in WWI with tea at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE on March 21 at 1 pm. Enjoy tea while learning about the contributions of local women to the World War I effort in West Michigan. Hosted by the Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Friends of the Englehardt Library. 897-7688.

MOVIES WITH MARY - March 23 at 1 pm. Dr. Stage Love or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964). Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

MATTER OF BALANCE - 8-week program, Thursdays, March 28 - May 16, 1:30 - 3:30 pm. This 8-week program meets 2 hours per week & helps many older adults learn ways to manage & conquer their fear of falling, leading to less falls & a more active & engaged lifestyle. In partnership with Senior Neighbors. Reserve spot by calling 616-233-0283.

Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

TECH SAVY SENIORS - 3rd Wednesday (March 20, April 17, May 15), 1-2 pm. For older people in a digital world, it's easy to become overwhelmed or feel intimidated by all the new technology around us. Join us to discuss current tech topics & gain the skills and confidence to access information & services online. No registration required. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

MINECRAFT - 1st Monday (April 1, May 6) at 4:30 pm. Get your Minecraft fix & show off your world-building skills. The library has a limited number of computers & licenses for Minecraft. First come, first served. No registration required. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY COOKBOOK CLUB - March 25, 6:30 pm. Appetites: A Cookbook, Anthony Bourdain. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

FAMILY STORYTIME - March 14 - April 25, 10 am. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

TODDLER TIME - Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. March 12 thru May 7. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY - a Christ-centred, Biblically-based 12 step program for people with hurts, hang-ups and habits. Meets every Thursday from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Impact, 1069 Lincoln Lake Ave, Lowell. Open to all who are 18 years or older. Fourth Thursday of each month is Chip Night when we celebrate a meal together starting at 6 pm.

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.

BOY SCOUT 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.

AMERICAN LEGION #152 MEETING - fourth Monday of the month, 7 pm. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash, Lowell.

TECH HELP - Thursdays by appointment from 1-3 p.m. Help with internet searching, computer basics, Facebook, ereaders, library downloadable books, etc. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372 - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. in the activity room at Schneider Manor, 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.

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

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 - Open Radio Room Thursdays, 7 pm at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St. E. General meeting 3rd Thursday. www.w8lrc.org 145.27 MHz.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES TREASURE THRIFT SHOP HOURS - Tues - Fri. 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 - 2 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Resource Center, 897-8260.

VETERANS POTLUCK - second Sunday of month, 2 pm. Bring a friend. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash, Lowell.

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.

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

WE SHIP UPS



The Buyers Guide

105 N. Broadway
Lowell • 897-9555



Gov. proposes gas tax increase for road repairs

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

On Tuesday, March 5, governor Gretchen Whitmer presented her \$60.2 billion budget to the legislature. The part of the budget proposal that gained the most attention was the \$0.45 per gallon increase in the gasoline tax to “fix the damn roads.”

“It’s not easy. I know that it is going to be hard for some people to pay,” Whitmer said. “Our infrastructure is at a \$2.5 billion price tag now because our leaders have not been honest with us and have not forged real solutions. [...] The fact of the matter is that the price tag is \$2.5 billion and we have to get to work now to keep families safe, to save money so that you are not spending it to repair your car [and] to make Michigan competitive. And this is something that is getting worse by the day when we don’t fix it right.”

According to the Associated Press, about 50 percent of the new tax money would go to fixing interstates and freeways, 30 percent

would go toward the most heavily traveled non-freeways, 16 percent would go to local and rural roads and seven percent would go toward “bridges and transit.”

“Without a new funding revenue package that the governor has proposed, we are looking at about 50 percent good and fair condition roads and bridges [by] the year 2030,” said Kari Martin, university region planner with MDOT, in an interview with Fox News.

The tax increase would raise over \$2 billion a year for road repairs, but it would also leave Michiganders paying the highest fuel taxes in the US.

Whitmer’s plan calls for a \$0.15 tax increase on regular and diesel fuel on Oct. 1, another \$0.15 on April 1, 2020, and a final \$0.15 on Oct. 1, 2020. Whitmer’s budget also included a 20 percent increase in vehicle registration fees. To somewhat soften the blow for working

families, Whitmer’s budget proposed doubling the Earned Income Tax Credit for low and middle-income workers.

Our last gas tax increase was \$0.073 per gallon on regular and \$0.113 per gallon on diesel, which will add approximately \$400 million to the Michigan Transportation Fund this year, a primary source of state and local road repair funds.

So far this year, the state has appropriated \$357 million from surplus general funds to spend on road repairs.

Overall, Gov. Whitmer’s \$60.2 billion state budget is only 3.6 percent higher than this year’s budget. According to the American Road & Transportation Builders Association, there are currently proposals in 22 states that would increase motor fuel taxes.

On Tuesday, March 12, Gov. Whitmer issued a press release stating that the national transportation research group TRIP determined that the average Michigan driver spends \$646 a year on car repairs, up from \$562 in previous reports.

“Every driver in Michigan is already paying a hidden tax on our roads, and the cost just went up,” Whitmer’s press release said. “If we don’t raise the \$2.5 billion we need to actually fix our roads the right way, with the right materials, the cost will continue to go up year after year. Patching potholes and ignoring the problem isn’t working. Instead, it’s hurting our families and businesses and holding our economy back. I’ve offered a real plan to raise the revenue we need to fix the damn roads and ensure we can attract businesses and talent to our state, and I’m ready to work with everyone who’s ready to solve these problems.”



Last week, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced a dramatic increase in the gasoline tax.

...
**That which is possible
is inevitable.**

~ William Carlos Williams (1883-1963)

JUST CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU'RE READING ON THE INTERNET?



BEWARE of online bloggers and wannabe news sources that can publish whatever they please without repercussions.

MOST ARE JUST LETTING OFF STEAM OR WORSE, HAVE A PURPOSE THAT IS NOT DISCLOSED OR A HIDDEN AGENDA.

Be sure your news source puts their readers first, is audited and is a member of the Michigan Press Association.



Spring home improvement

Running in the March 24
edition of the
Buyer's Guide & News
Deadline is 5 pm Thurs., March 21

According to a recent independent Circulation Verification Council (CVC) readership survey, readers were asked of future purchases for the next 12 months. 82% of readers frequently purchase products seen in the Buyer's Guide & News. In the next 12 months of the polled readers....
33% plan on purchasing home improvement supplies
53% plan on purchasing home furnishings
38% plan on purchasing cleaning services
16% plan on purchasing flooring

Your ad in this section would reach
over 13,000 homes & businesses!
If you have any questions or would like to reserve space...

Contact Tammy or Jon
displayads@lowellbuyersguide.com
897-9555

Buyer's
Guide and News

105 N. Broadway, Lowell

The Hastings Reminder, the Marshall ad-visor&chronicle and the Battle Creek Shopper News are also running Home Improvement Sections - Call for special multi-paper rates.

Advertising Prices

2 col. x 4 inch - \$52.48
1/8 page - \$65.67 • 1/4 page - \$127.20
1/2 page - \$243.36 • full page - \$464.64
1 color - \$50 • full color - \$90

FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

3		1			2		4	
	9							
		2	4	8				3
		6	1				3	2
			3					6
		5						
		4	2					
6			7			9		
9					5			8

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

TEAM SPORTS WORD SEARCH

E G N O N P L B T S F A Q U A R T E R S
 F H M A T R A C K S I E O L G S I S K N
 I Y N C Q P T R R T E P R E I P T A W B
 M P O N E E R G W A L O G N Y R T N A M
 U M I G O L Y N L D D O N D I A E G A G
 E Y T F D F E B O I N E O K W C A A N I
 L Q I A S U O B C U T S E S O T M B O I
 B R S O C O R O R M Y M E F F I T M L N
 M P O F O B C E T A O R E S L C C Y O N
 U R P F U L A C F B T W U R A E E K B I
 F K P M R Q P P E E A E S G O B K B S N
 I K O I T S L I M R R L N R B C Q A N G
 T N W F L O G E P Q A E L I E Y S L A S
 T S P O R T S C A T C H E N L Y B L F G
 I C Y P B S B A S K E T B A L L A P L L
 E S I H C N A R F K G D T K C B R L F I
 Q W N S R E T S O R C E I W M H N M P N
 H E I W Q I D Q L T N O C B I W Y E C E
 U F L N O K S S A R G O L L P I T C H U
 W G S D C L L A B E S A B C Y A C N H P

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

Puzzle solutions on pages 11 & 12

TEAM SPORTS WORD SEARCH

BALL
 BASEBALL
 BASES
 BASKETBALL
 CATCH
 CELEBRATE
 CLOCK

COURT
 FANS
 FIELD
 FOOTBALL
 FRANCHISE
 FUMBLE
 GOLF
 GRASS
 GREEN
 INNING

LINEUP
 NET
 OPPOSITION
 PITCH
 PLAYERS
 PRACTICE
 QUARTER
 REFEREE
 ROSTER
 RUGBY

SCORE
 SOCCER
 SPORTS
 STADIUM
 STRIKE
 TEAM
 TENNIS
 TRACK
 WIN

Guess Who?

I am an action star born in California on July 18, 1967. Before my film career, I worked as a bouncer in nightclubs in New York. I'm known for two popular film franchises, one of which features me driving furiously fast.

Answer: Vin Diesel

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to bicycles.

A G E S R E

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Grease

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	
12						13	14						15
16			17										18
19			20			21				22			23
24		25			26				27		28	29	
	30			31			32		33		34		
		35	36					37		38			
	39								40				
41					42			43					
44				45		46		47			48	49	
50			51		52		53				54		55
56			57	58		59				60			61
62			63		64				65				66
67		68										69	
	70												
								71					

CLUES ACROSS

- Where to shop
- A descendant of Shem
- NBA big man "Boogie"
- Integrated circuit
- Voice
- Larry and Curly's buddy
- Beloved English princess
- Used to emphasize
- Sun worshippers want one
- Atomic # 44 (abbr.)
- Lincoln's state
- Selects
- Organs present in invertebrates
- Self-immolation by fire
- Trauma center
- Automobile
- Mustachioed actor Elliott
- Something to do at auctions
- British School
- San Diego ballplayers
- Drumming pattern
- One-time Portuguese currency
- Honor
- Beaches have it
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Electronic data processing
- Where wrestlers ply their

CLUES DOWN

- Cooks need one
- A mystic syllable
- Male parents
- Greek goddess of discord
- U.S.-based church (abbr.)
- Movies have lots of them
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Influential naturalist
- Ancient town
- Atlanta-based rapper

- Animosities
- Pop singer
- Speak
- One who lives in northern Burma
- Not liquids
- A framework
- Peter's last name
- Plants have it
- To shorten a book
- French philosopher
- Murdered in his bathtub
- Greek letter
- A hiding place
- Crazed supporters
- Winged nut
- Doctor of Education
- Unhappy
- Popular celeb magazine
- ___ and greets
- Poke holes in
- Beloved Mexican dish
- Monetary unit of Angola
- More wise
- Pouches
- Hindu's ideal man
- Type of gazelle
- Revolutions per minute
- Energy unit
- Cerium
- Canadian peninsula

Sheri Liddle



Name: Sheri Liddle

Position: Business Engagement Specialist

Residence: 22 years in Saranac; grew up in Grayling, MI

Education: Grayling High School, BA from Ferris State University

Experience: 7 years at American Heart Association, Goodwill for 3 years

Family: married, 2 children

Pets: 1 dog, 1 cat

Hobbies: sewing, travel (especially cruises)

Longtime Saranac resident Sheri Liddle connects employees and employers with Goodwill programs

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Sheri Liddle is a business engagement specialist for Goodwill of Greater Grand Rapids. Her job involves scouring the community for job opportunities and then connecting employers with people who have had trouble finding employment for various reasons. Liddle was at the Ledger office on Friday, March 8 to accompany a young man named Matthew during his first time ever working at a job.

“My job is to go out and create relationships with business owners and organizations so that when I find a participant I can fit them into an environment where they might flourish and that’s a good fit for them,” Liddle said. “Whenever one of our career coaches needs some assistance placing someone or has a participant that they think that I would connect with best, they connect with me and I meet them and find a spot. I work with every program, and we have many programs. I’m familiar with the businesses and familiar with the area and I can connect them with a position that is a good fit. I work all over Kent County, in the Grand Rapids area, Caledonia, Rockford, everywhere. In Lowell, over the last couple of years, we have probably placed, in all of the various programs, about 10 to 12 participants into placements where they learn how to work. I’m not going to be the next one to let them down, I will do anything to find something that’s good for them, where they can create a good, positive work experience. There are businesses, mostly small business owners, that will commit to their community and help create better opportunities for those with barriers to the workforce. Sometimes there will be a job posting, which was Matthew’s case, and sometimes there won’t be, so I spend a lot of time canvassing everywhere. [...] After we make a placement of a participant in a job, we provide retention services

for one year. We check in weekly at first and then monthly with the employer and the employee. We help remove any barriers that may arise and help bridge communication gaps or help our participants to adapt to change. That follow-up year is an amazing time, there is so much growth and self confidence that evolves.”

Liddle said that correctly matching the employee with the employer is the most crucial aspect of successful employment. Success at employment increases confidence and can make some of life’s other challenges seem less daunting. “You really have to find a good fit, I’ve seen things go horribly wrong when it’s not a good fit,” Liddle said. “That can really take somebody down, when we’re trying to lift them up. I do not want to be the one who lets somebody down and puts them in a bad position. I take their specific barriers and compare them to the environment.

If someone has an aversion to loud noises and buzzers, for example, the beep of a forklift backing up or a fast food drive-through where a bell goes off, we wouldn’t want to place them in an environment that has those things. Sometimes the barrier can be that you’re 17 years old, pregnant, never worked and have no family support. Another barrier could be that you have autism, you’re on the spectrum, and social cues are really tough for you to grasp. We need to be aware of all of those types of barriers and then find a good fit. We would need an employer that would

be very supportive, who understands, who is looking to build someone up and be a soft place to fall, rather than a harsh environment. One of the soft skills we teach is that

one of the biggest successes that our participants may have had so far in their lives. For some people, at some point they’ll work part time and they’ll be able to leave

Things like communication and promptness. Those are two of the biggest deficits in the younger employment sector. Sometimes if we have a participant in Lowell, we need to find something in Lowell. The number one barrier to the workforce in Kent County is transportation.”

Liddle said that her career at Goodwill has rewarded her far beyond what any salary and benefits package possibly could.

“This has been one of the best experiences in employment that anyone could ever have,” Liddle said. “It has filled my heart with joy so many times over. When you see someone whose whole sense of being changes. On Wednesday they’re getting nowhere, they’re hitting brick walls, then on Thursday you’re able to make a connection for them. After that, you can see that they feel the self worth in themselves changing. When people think that they’re at their rock bottom, and you’re there to say, ‘Let me see what I can do for

you, let’s see where we can go with this,’ and you connect them with the resources that they need, help them find a job and do it on their own, it’s incredible, the changes are just amazing. This is the best thing I’ve ever done in my life.”

If you were thinking, ‘How can I help?’ you may already have. Anybody who has ever dropped something off at a Goodwill location has helped make these programs possible.

“The stores actually fund the placement activity,” Liddle said. “The donations from people driving up and dropping off bags clothes

from the back of their car are the only reason we can do this. We have some new goods, but it’s a very, very, very small percentage. It’s mostly donated furniture, clothes, jewelry, kitchenware, everything. We even have an online store. We have really strong online sales. All of that funds what we can do for our participants.”

Liddle said that people who want to know more should call the employment center at 616-532-4200 or attend one of their weekly information sessions, which take place at the local Goodwill headquarters, 3777 Sparks Dr. SE, Grand Rapids.

“We have an information session every Friday at 10 am,” Liddle said. “They explain the programs and figure out which ones you might fall into, then help get you where you need to be. If someone doesn’t qualify or doesn’t screen into one of our programs, we will figure out which of our collaborative partners you could work with. We also work with ‘returning citizens,’ meaning former inmates. We have three different programs for them. There are federal grants that cover the costs of those programs, they are not paid for by the store. We have many different programs for if you’re mentally impaired, learning disabled, on the spectrum, or disabled physically. We have life skills classes that are two weeks long and are life-changing. I’ve been going to some of them myself. Those are incredible. It’s not just how to fill out an application or create a resume, it’s how to redesign the way you think about yourself, self esteem, your dreams and the brick walls that are in front of you, realizing that if you want the dream bad enough you either go around it, go over it or go through it, and how you do that. We have a CNA program to train certified nursing assistants. There is a night class or a day class and we have grants for that. It’s a great opportunity.”



you don’t quit a job until you have another one. We’ll have a talk about how happy they are, I’ll ask what they wish was different, does anything make them nervous, are they worried before they come to work. Sometimes mom or dad comes with. Usually I have a very good relationship and a very trusting relationship with our participants and they’ll answer honestly. Goodwill’s slogan is ‘changing lives through the power of work.’ Getting on their own and being more independent, even four hours a week to start, creates such courage, such self confidence. It’s

mom’s house and they’ll be able to be on their own. Making social relationships while they’re at work is also important. It just warms your heart. It fills your soul. I’ve seen a difference with placements, when someone has never held a job and feels like maybe they can’t, but then they do hold a job and discover that they can, when it’s a good fit. Sometimes it’s a short term placement or sometimes we’ll use our Goodwill store and they will come in and learn how to work, learn how to fit in at a workplace, learn about workplace etiquette and all about soft skills.