

Riverwalk 2012 offers good mix of activities

by Emma Palova

It was a smorgasbord of activities and entertainment for everyone with the ubiquitous “Mighty Duck” mascot waddling around downtown sporting a blue rubber hat.

The 2012 Riverwalk Festival featured everything from highly-desired pontoon tours and kayak fun on the Flat River to street entertainment, as well as stage music, cars and more.

In the heat of the day, visitors flocked closer and closer to the river hoping to catch a little bit of a breeze. It was also hard to find an empty spot in the shade of trees on Avery Street to check out the cool cars.

The car show had a different format this year. Instead of rushing to the fairgrounds, people could enjoy the cars right in the heart of all the action with the new Riverwalk Cruise-in.

“The car show was a huge improvement and extremely successful. We had over 120 cars,” said chamber director Liz Baker. “The location is wonderful and it included them in the festival.”



Color guard, with bagpipers behind, opens the parade.

And although it did not have the highest participation, Baker expects it will climb in the future.

The crafters, peddling their wares, lined up along the Riverwalk almost all the way to the boat launch on the northeast side of the riv-

erbank. There were 93 arts, crafts, commercial vendors and nonprofits.

The highlight of the three day festival is always the parade that takes place at noon on Main Street. For the big event, people sought out shade along the buildings

of the former antique mall. However, the best view is from the second stories of local landmark buildings, such as the Main Street Inn.

The parade was escorted by the Motorcycle Rumble, the Riverwalk bikers, making the necessary noise.

The Poker Run had around 30 motorcycles with winner Laura Neubecker.

The parade entries varied from tropical floats to

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Behind The Scenes



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food fight winner



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stories of survival

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wild animal park



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Yellow signs signify continued negotiations between city officials and IBEW

by Emma Palova

Yellow signs stating support for the city and Lowell Light and Power (LLP) have popped up around town without any Political Action Committee (PAC) signing-off on them.

That’s because, the anonymous signs do not promote a political candidate or a party. Instead, they’re an indication of ongoing negotiations among the city of Lowell, the utility and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

However, it’s still a guessing game of who actually put the signs up. Even the city officials say they are not aware who is responsible for the signs, but believe that members of the union are distributing them.

“Regardless, our position has been to conduct negotiations directly at the bargaining table,” said city manager Mark Howe.

Few residents, like Diane LaWarre, are willing to go on the record wondering why the signs state something as obvious as support for the city.

“Of course we support them,” she restated in a telephone interview, her opinion voiced in a July 11th letter to the editor.

But, LaWarre questions the lack of transparency behind the so-called “yellow sign campaign.”

The call for transparency resonated with other residents as well, but they did not want their names attached to the issue.

Actually, some showed fatigue from fighting over previous issues, such as the preservation of N. Washington property.

“My concern is, are we going to be dealing with another cable company and tree cutting fiasco,” said Peggy Covert.

Still, most wished to remain anonymous while bouncing the issue around between the involved parties



Yellow signs in support of the city and Lowell Light and Power have popped up around town.

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Yellow signs, continued

like a Ping Pong match or a bad tennis game.

"I don't want my name associated with that," was the overwhelming response from board members to impacted employees and residents as well.

Even the affected employees, a total of 11 (three from LLP and eight from the Department of Public Works) were split on the issue, as the vote showed in December. Two workers voted against bringing in

the union to a city that never had one except for the police officers' Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council.

There are approximately 40 city employees, including the Lowell Light and Power.

On the other hand, there seems to be an outcry from the workers about unfair proposals from the other side of the bargaining table. These include the right to layoff and replace long-term workers with temporary employees, the

right to subcontract jobs without giving the right to file a grievance or to have a grievance procedure.

Also under fire is the manner in which the negotiations are being handled by the involved parties.

According to Howe, the parties have agreed to use the services of a mediator appointed by the Michigan Employment Relations Commission to assist in the process.

There will be a meeting with the mediator at the end of July.

"Our goal is to work with the union toward a contract," said Howe. "There is a process for doing that, which includes negotiating in good faith at the bargaining table."

Howe said the city is supportive of its employees so they are compensated fairly for their public service.

"At the same time, my first responsibility as the city manager is to the city council and the taxpayers of the city of Lowell," he said.

Utility general manager Greg Pierce confirmed Howe's position.

"We have a strong history of supporting our employees with fair compensation and working conditions," he said. "As the general manager I am ultimately accountable to

my board and the ratepayers of Lowell Light and Power."

And the board members, depending on who you talk to, agree that the employees are being fairly compensated. Some to a point, that they would like to get a job at the utility if they could.

An IBEW union representative could not be reached for a comment at the time of print.

Legislator touts Kent County fair in new MIplace Sweepstakes video

State Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons, R-Alto, is encouraging her constituents to enter the MIplace Sweepstakes, a promotion that provides the citizens of Michigan a chance to win free prizes and tell the world why they choose the state as their place to live, work, play and share the dream of homeownership.

Posthumus Lyons has gotten into the spirit of the contest by posting a video at MIplace.org (<http://www.miplace.org/your-stories>) in which she touts one of her favorite local attractions.

"One of my favorite Michigan places is the Kent County Youth 4-H Fair," she says.

The annual fair, slated this year for Aug. 6-11, is a slice of Pure Michigan, fea-

turing tractor and pony pulls, musical acts and livestock exhibitions.

"I am asking you to tell the world about why you choose to call Michigan home," Posthumus Lyons says in her video. "Enter the MIplace Sweepstakes. It's fast, easy and Pure Michigan fun."

She is among a dozen state legislators who appear in video testimonials describing their favorite Michigan places as part of the MIplace Sweepstakes.

The MIplace Sweepstakes, which continues through Labor Day 2012, is sponsored by Pure Michigan, Michigan-based Art Van Furniture, the Michigan Association of Realtors (MAR) and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA).

The promotion, launched on Memorial Day, encourages the citizens of Michigan to go to facebook.com/MIplace2012 and post an essay of less than 200 words or a video of no more than two minutes that answers a simple question: Why do you choose to call Michigan home?

All MIplace Sweepstakes entrants automatically receive a \$50 Art Van gift card (good with any purchase of at least \$499). The grand prize, to be awarded randomly after Sept. 4, is a \$3,000 Art Van shopping spree.

Nearly 700 residents from across the Great Lakes State have already become Facebook fans of the MIplace Sweepstakes.

"We're delighted that

so many people are showing their pride in calling Michigan home and are celebrating our state's great places," said Joe Borgstrom, MSHDA's director of downtown and community services.

MSHDA, MAR, Art Van, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), Michigan Municipal League (MML) and the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM) are among the organizations helping neighborhoods, cities, regions and downtowns promote "place" as a way to spur economic development and restore Michigan to prosperity.

Placemaking is the phrase commonly used to describe the growing consensus that people, companies and talent do not move to specific communities –

they move to regions. Thriving communities and successful regions are places that are attractive to employees, where connections can happen, where productivity and creativity increase, and where professional networks foster collaboration and innovation.

Michigan's placemaking education campaign includes efforts like the MIplace Sweepstakes and the debut last month of www.MIplace.org, Michigan's one-stop website for everything about placemaking – what it is, where it's happening across the state, and how to get started. The site offers inspirational firsthand accounts of Pure Michigan placemaking success stories, rich photography and videos, and the opportunity to engage in lively group discussions through the MIplace Facebook page at facebook.com/MIplace2012.

Beginning on Monday, May 28, 2012 (Memorial Day), Michigan homeowners are invited to submit their stories by answering the question, "Why is Michigan the place you call home?"

through a form on the MIplace Facebook page. It's fast, fun and easy. Stories can be in video or essay format, with videos of no more than two (2) minutes long and essays of no more than 250 words.

Once a participant's story is published online, the participant will receive an email including a link to the story and will be encouraged to share that link with friends, family and networks. Additionally, video submissions will be posted to the MIplace Facebook gallery page, with individual "Like" buttons allowing page visitors to view and share videos they like.

The sweepstakes will run from May 28, 2012, through September 3, 2012. At the sweepstakes' closing, the grand prize winner will be drawn at random from all eligible submissions. Upon entry, all sweepstakes entrants will receive a voucher, good for \$50 off a total purchase of \$499 or more at Art Van Furniture.



along main street

FREE COMMUNITY EXERCISE CLASS

Green Fit will be held Wed., July 18, at the Showboat Amphitheater from 6-7 pm. Look for the bright green shirts.

CIVIL WAR ERA YOUTH WORKSHOP

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will present another hands-on children's workshop, Thurs., July 19, from 9 am - 2 pm. Join us at Fallasburg Park Village (old schoolhouse) with Civil War re-enactor Bruce Butgereit. This youth workshop is designed for children ages 8 to 14. Call 897-7688 to register.

FELTING CLASS AT LOWELLARTS!

Artist Cindy Allen will teach a felting class at LowellArts!, 149 S. Hudson, Tues., July 24, from 6 to 8 pm. You will learn to wet felt fabric from fiber. After brief instruction, the class will be primarily hands-on. For more information, call 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartsmi.org

WIREWORLD JEWELRY CLASS

Artist Ronda Sherwood will teach "Wirework Jewelry" at LowellArts!, 149 S. Hudson, Tues. and Wed., Aug. 7 and 8, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. The first evening will introduce students to the basics of wire-wrapping. You will learn looping, shaping with wire and hammering metal. Each student should expect to finish two to three projects. The second session is designed for intermediate-level students - those who have completed session 1 or who have a basic knowledge of wire wrapping. Each student will learn how to create Ronda's signature "Tree of Life" pendant. For more information, call 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartsmi.org

BLUES, BIKES & CARS

If you like good music, beautiful motorcycles, old and fancy cars, beer and good food, you will want to be at the First Congregational Church, UCC, 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. on Sat., August 25, beginning at noon.



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South Lowell team wins 2012 Food Fight

submitted by Rick Seese

The South Lowell team has evened up the four year series by winning the 2012 Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) Food Fight. "We received nearly 40,000

ed boost we needed to help serve the Lowell community."

The friendly Lowell community competition has become a rivalry of sorts, pitting everyone north of

was determined on Saturday at the conclusion of the Riverwalk Festival "FROM the Heart Food Fight Parade." "The final parade collections were pretty similar between North and South," said Tay-

lor. "The South team went into the parade with a sizable lead and held on to win." The final score was South 20,430 to the North 18,894. This was the largest margin of victory thus far in

the short history of the event. In 2011, the North team won by a mere 29 items after a total collection of about 32,000. In 2010, the South team won by 337 after collecting about 16,000 items. "The four year totals are just shy of 100,000," said Kraig Haybarker, FROM board member. "That is just fantastic. What a great event for FROM and the people we serve."

The South team seemed intent on evening up the score early in the contest. "The South jumped out to the lead and never looked back during the entire first half of play," said Dave Emmette, FROM board member. "The North team finally kicked it in during the third quarter and actually took the lead."

The lead proceeded to change hands several times throughout the fourth quarter and the North team had a slim lead with just five days remaining in the contest. "The South team really poured it on during the last few days," said Kurt Lardie, FROM board member. "It was a pretty exciting finish, a huge team effort from

all of the South team members."

"We can't begin to express our thanks to all of the sponsors [and] businesses for their Food Fight Specials and all of our collectors and contributors throughout the event," said Ann Dimmick, FROM board chair. "Lowell is such a giving community. FROM is so blessed to have such wonderful friends and supporters."

Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. seeks to meet the needs of people in the Greater Lowell Area in their time of hardship.



food items and dollars this year and that is fantastic," said Sylvia Taylor, FROM board member and Food Pantry supervisor. "Food Fight really gave us the add-

Main Street against everyone south of Main Street. The goal is to see which team collects the most non-perishable food items and dollars to benefit the FROM Food Pantry. The final score

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Blue Star memorial dedication

On Saturday before the Riverwalk Parade, about 145 people gathered along Main Street to observe the dedication of the Lowell Showboat Garden Club's Blue Star memorial. The sun was already hot at 10 am, but the crowd listened to the words of three speakers who spoke briefly about the Blue Star's history and the reason why we should all remember that the Blue Star memorials represent the lives of veterans, past, present and future.

to always be a nation prepared. Also speaking were the president of the Michigan Garden Clubs and Betty Deans, the president of the

by Girl Scout cadets, Samantha Celori and Fiona Thompson; an Invocation by Rev. Chris Schwab of Lowell Congregational



Lt. Colonel Dean DeGrote, a recent army retiree and a two-tour Afghanistan veteran from Lowell, spoke of the need to remember our past experiences of conflicts and the need

Lowell Showboat Garden Club. The formal program involved a color guard of local veterans, a bagpipe band, the singing of the National Anthem by Becky Reagan, the Pledge of Allegiance

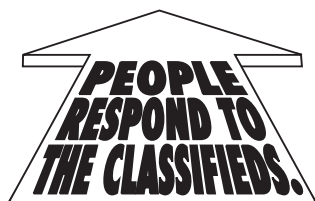
Church, a twenty-one gun salute and TAPS by Jack Meisner. Dave Thompson, who chaired the event, also acted as the master of ceremonies.

Lowell Lions Club elects officers



The Lowell Lion's Club, in existence since 1955, held their annual election of officers in June.

The officers for the 2012-2013 year are pictured, left to right: Dave Gerst, second year director; Dennis Anchors, secretary; Bob Ford, president; Bob Reagan, first year director; Frank Martin, tail twister; and Terry Conley, treasurer.



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Lowell Showboat **Sizzlin' Summer Concerts**

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Formed in 2005, Grand Rapids-based Creolization has become a local-area favorite for their gumbo-like-blend of Rhythm and Blues, Pop, Rock, and the exuberant Creole dance music known as Zydeco. Besides drawing from a broad and exciting palate of musical styles, with two multi-instrumentalists in the band, the variety and frequent change in instrumentation also keeps their shows fresh and unexpected; the band's founder, leader, and songwriter, David Molinari (WYCE Jammie Award for "Outstanding Male Artist Of 2011), sings lead vocals and switches between piano, organ, guitar, cajun accordion, and harmonica, while Michael Van Houten switches between rubboard, keyboards, guitar, drums, and vocals. Rounding out the rhythm section are longtime musical cohorts Mark Lundell (bass, vocals), Mark Edwin (lead guitar, vocals), and Brett Beelen (drums).

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Are you a "hands-on" investor?

The investment world can be complex - so you may not want to navigate it alone. But when it comes to getting professional advice, you certainly have an abundance of choices. How can you know which approach is right for you?

The answer depends, to a large extent, on how you choose to work with a qualified financial advisor - someone with the training and experience to help you work toward your financial goals. When you work with a financial advisor, he or she will analyze your financial situation - your income, current assets, family status and short- and long-term investment goals, such as helping pay for your children's (or grandchildren's) college education and attaining a comfortable retirement.

You can choose different ways of working with a financial advisor - and a deciding factor may be how "hands on" you want to be with your investment strategy. To illustrate this concept, let's look at two common ways investors interact with financial advisors:

- Taking recommendations and making choices - After evaluating your financial situation, goals, risk tolerance and time horizon, your financial advisor can recommend appropriate investments. Over time, your financial advisor will communicate with you regularly to keep track of changes in your life and to suggest any changes you may need to make in your portfolio. Of course, you have the final say in accepting or rejecting these recommendations, which is why this method is considered a hands-on way to invest.

- Investing through a managed account - In this situation, your financial advisor will help you create, implement and refine your long-term financial strategy, but the money managers will make the daily investment decisions, relying on a variety of criteria pertaining to your situation. For example, if your portfolio has become overweighted in a specific asset class, such as stocks or bonds, and is no longer aligned with your goals, it may automatically be brought back into balance.

So which method of investing is better for you? There's really no one right answer for everyone. If you're the sort of person who likes to make all your own decisions, then you might be better off following the hands-on approach with your financial advisor. On the other hand, if you are particularly busy and just don't feel you have the time to be actively involved with day-to-day investment decisions, you might want to consider a managed account.

In any case, you'll want to be comfortable with the method of investing that you've chosen. So do your homework beforehand. Whether you're interested in a hands-on relationship or a hands-off approach, you still need to interview several financial advisors to find one who has worked with people in your situation and who seems genuinely interested in helping you. During these interviews, make sure you understand everything related to working with a financial advisor - the fees involved, the way decisions will be communicated to you if you choose a managed account, and so on.

Deciding how you want to invest is your first step in working toward your financial goals - so make the choice that's right for you.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

health



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

poison ivy, oak and sumac

Poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac are plants that can cause contact dermatitis. Contact dermatitis is an itchy, blistering, allergic skin rash that is caused by exposure to the oil found on these plants. A person can be exposed to this oil directly by touching one of these plants or indirectly by touching objects, such as gardening tools, gloves, camping

equipment and even a pet's fur. If one of these poisonous plants is accidentally burned, the smoke can cause serious irritation to not only the skin, but also the eyes, nasal passages, throat and lungs.

Typically, a rash will develop at the sites where the poisonous oil touched the skin. Once the oil has been washed off the skin with soap and water, it can no longer

be transferred to other bodily locations or persons. The rash can take from one to seven days to erupt and become irritating. Some locations react instantly, while others may not appear for days. This causes many people to believe they are contagious for several days because new lesions continue to arise. This is not true. Once they have properly bathed after the exposure, they are no longer contagious to themselves or others. The typical rash lasts from one to two weeks, but in severe cases can last up to one month.

Treatment for the itch associated with minor rashes includes over-the-counter medications, such as Benadryl and cortisone cream. Rashes that cover a larger area of the body or that involve the face or genitals may require stronger medicines and should be evaluated by your health care provider. For serious reactions that involve swelling or difficulty breathing, seek medical attention immediately.

Prevention of contact dermatitis includes learning to identify these poisonous plants ahead of time and avoiding them. If you plan to be in the woods where these plants are prevalent, wear protective clothing, including long sleeved shirts, long pants, boots and gloves.

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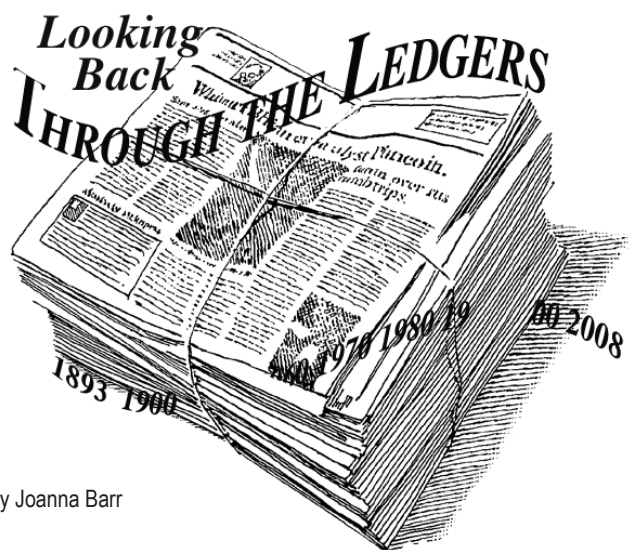
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viewpoint



By Joanna Barr

135 years ago Lowell Journal July 18, 1877

Rowland Rider was thrown from a wagon last Thursday and severely injured. Two ribs were broken and one shoulder badly bruised. He is confined to his room, unable to move himself. He was driving a four-horse team at the time the accident occurred. A dog frightened the horses, a runaway came next, with the serious results above stated. We hope Rowl will soon be gathering himself up and be vigorous as before.

Perhaps no town in Michigan goes ahead of Lowell in the way of inventions. In addition to several patents already issued to Lowell inventors, there are now several patents applied for by others here, viz. machine for administering death doses to potato bugs, by A. M. Esworth; improved bee-hive by J. C. Train; fire escape by J. C. Moore. All said to be useful and valuable inventions.

We forgot to mention that Severy's tinshop is now on the bridge, west of Foreman, who by the way, has enlarged his harness shop, so as to have room according to his strength and increase of business.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 18, 1912

Headline: Pioneer Crosswalk – Uncovered by paving gang last week. While at work removing road material to lower the street grade for the paving job on Hotel Waverly corner last week, workmen uncovered at a depth of three feet below the recent street level an old crosswalk in such a good state of preservation that it held up the working teams and their loads. Questions arising as to when the walk was built, we referred (the question) to our old pioneer friend, J. S. Hooker, who kindly furnishes the following data: "In April 1855 the first blow for improvement on the west side of the Flat river at Lowell was struck by C. S. and J. S. Hooker. The first frame building was the north part of the Franklin hotel, which was opened on Christmas day of that year. From that time on improvements and building continued rapidly. In 1856 walks were put down along Main street, also several cross walks, among others, was found by the men now preparing the street for paving. One reason for its being put in at that point was, at that time there was a strong talk of erecting a church on the spot where Hotel Waverly now stands and as it was to cross the street it was thought only proper to make the foundation of heavy oak timber. A few other walks were constructed in the same manner in after years. Some were taken up and others left and covered with gravel as the streets were being filled. This one of which I speak was found nearly three feet from the street bed. But very few people are now living in Lowell who were here at that date. The lumber was hewn by Henry Montague and drawn and assisted in laying by J. S. Hooker."

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo July 22, 1937

Headline: Boy of 17 Drowned – Gordon Thompson, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson of R. No. 2, Lowell, drowned early Wednesday evening while in swimming with several boys in McEwen Lake in the south part of Lowell-tp., near Alto. According to his companions, Gordon, who it is said could not swim, had just gone in the lake and walked out to a make-shift diving raft. The others who were with him, Clifford Evans, 22; Francis Sterzick, 18; and Richard Kinyon, 15; all walked out to the raft. The raft broke its moorings and drifted out over the drop-off about 25 feet off shore, all but Gordon jumping from the raft. When Gordon jumped he found the water too deep for him and struggled to keep his head above the surface. He yelled for help once and Evans swam near, catching hold of his bathing suit, but in his struggles Thompson broke loose from Evans' grasp. Sheriff Hugh Blacklock and two other deputies were summoned and dragging started about ten o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson, parents of Gordon, were in Lowell at the band concert when word reached them of the tragedy.

Chesaning put on a Showboat performance on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings of last week. It was largely patterned after the Lowell Showboat and was well received by large audiences. Chet Howell, editor of the Chesaning Argus, deserves much credit for promoting the enterprise. The event was marred by a near fatality when Joe Swartzmiller was seriously injured while getting the compressed air whistle ready for the first evening's performance. The air pump exploded and Joe was blown high in the air. He was taken to an Owosso hospital where it was found that eleven bones in his body were broken in addition to other injuries.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 19, 1962

A record 111 acts tried out in the preliminary auditions Saturday afternoon for the 1962 Lowell Showboat Amateur Contest and 39 finalists appeared before the judges and an estimated crowd of 2,000 people at the evening event in the Showboat Stadium. Conducting the preliminary screening in the afternoon were members

of the Showboat Amateur Night Committee, headed by Dr. Herbert R. Mueller. Judges in the evening contests were three staff members of Grand Rapids radio stations, Ed Kemp, Tom Lewis and Skip Bell. Three of the six winning acts came from Grand Rapids, one from Rockford, one from Battle Creek and one from Big Rapids. One amateur act will ride down the Flat River with the Robert E. Lee XXXI each night during the Showboat's six-night run, beginning next Monday. Appearing Monday night will be the "Glow Worms," a Big Rapids dance group. Tuesday night's performer will be Buck VanderMeer, Rockford accordionist and Wednesday night will feature the Dixieland Kings, a six-man jazz band from Grand Rapids. For the Thursday evening performance, the amateurs will be the acrobatic Platte Sisters of Grand Rapids, with the musical "Compos" following them on Friday night. The coveted Saturday night berth this year will be held by young Mike Holden, comedy tapper from Battle Creek. Proceeds from last Saturday's Amateur Night came to \$511.80, chairman Mueller announced this week. This total is approximately \$100 more than the amount taken in last year.

25 years ago The Grand Valley Ledger July 22, 1987

Much of the downtown area east of Hudson St. and some residential neighborhoods were without power Tuesday morning from a little after 6:00 until nearly 8:00. Herb Haines, superintendent of Lowell Light & Power, said a main line near the post office shorted out because of the heavy load. Haines explained that the extraordinary high temperatures and humidity caused an increased load on the system because of all the air conditioners and fans in use. Keiser's Kitchen was likely the hardest hit by the outage as they lost two hours of their busy breakfast trade. Lowell police officer Calvin Kamphuis was busy throughout the power failure directing traffic at the corner of Main and Hudson streets. Haines says the city's electrical demand has been growing at the alarming rate of 2 million KWH per year. "We're up to 38 million now and we've got to do something about it," Haines says. An engineering firm is due to begin a survey of the city's electrical system soon.

outdoors

bow season



Dave Stegehuis

Preparing for bow hunting season may be the last thing that comes to mind during summer celebrations and unusually hot weather. For those of us who don't shoot a bow year around, it is time to get started.

Archery demands physical and mental conditioning much like golf. Longbows require muscle strength to pull and hold the string at full draw. Compound bows require the same initial force to pull the string, but because of mechanical advantage are easier to hold at full draw. Drawing, holding, aiming at the target, and then releasing the string are accomplished by following a series of fundamental elements of form. This routine must be executed exactly the same way every time. It takes mental discipline and focus and must be repeated on a regular basis in order to develop muscle memory and consistent form which will, with enough practice, become automatic.

Hunting, as well as competition shooting, presents a new set of variables not experienced when shooting in the backyard or practicing at a range. Tournament shooters have the distraction of onlookers and the pressure of competition to contend with. Hunters must be ready to call cold stiff

muscles into action, sometimes in a matter of seconds, and focus on the shot which could turn out to be the only opportunity of the season after months of practice and preparation. There are several hours in which to win or lose a golf match, but sometimes only a few seconds to successfully bag a deer.

I begin summer practice by shooting targets at close range to build up strength and concentrate on form. I don't worry about where the arrows hit. The next step is to drop back to reasonable hunting distances and work on accuracy. Eventually it is time for full dress rehearsals. That means shooting in hunting clothes, from blinds, elevated stands, or duplicating whatever other hunting conditions may be encountered.

Hunting activity is confined to open seasons so it is easy to neglect practice in between times. Taking the life of a wild animal is a serious responsibility. Respect for the animal and ethics require doing all that is possible to insure a humane kill. There are many good reasons to get out and shoot a bow, but best of all it is just plain fun.

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At Your Local Library

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

Family Geocaching

Geocaching is a high-tech blend of hide-and-seek, scavenger hunting, puzzle-solving and navigating. It's also a great way to get outside and experience nature while having tons of fun with family and friends! Come to this event prepared to be inside and outside the library and we'll show you everything you need to know in order to get started. For families. Tuesday, July 24, 6:30 pm.

Consumers Energy warns customers about utility-bill payment scam

Consumers Energy is warning its customers to be aware of a nationwide utility-bill payment scam that's made its way to Michigan.

Under the scam, a customer may be contacted in person, through fliers, social media or text messages. The scammers claim that President Obama will pay a person's utility bills through a new federal program.

Customers are asked to provide their social security numbers or other per-

sonal identifying information in exchange for a bank routing number that will allegedly pay their utility bills. In reality, there is no money, and customers believe they have paid their bills when in fact they have not.

"For your protection, never disclose personal information, including financial account numbers or social security numbers, over the phone or internet to someone you do not know," said Doug Deter-

man, customer care manager for Consumers Energy.


Customers with questions or concerns that they may have participated in this scam can call Consumers Energy at 1-800-477-5050.

More information on this scam, including tips to avoid becoming a victim, is available here: <http://www.bbb.org/us/article/president-obama-is-not-offering-to-pay-your-utility-bills-34928>

Tips on preventing utility fraud include the following: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/mpsc-ca_utilityservice-fraud_211946_7.pdf

Consumers Energy, the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy (NYSE: CMS), provides natural gas and electricity to 6.8 million of Michigan's 10 million residents in all 68 Lower Peninsula counties.

In Loving Memory of our Husband, Father & Grandfather



BOB PERRY
March 26, 1926 - July 23, 2005

Not, How Did He Die, But How Did He Live?

Not how did he die, but how did he live?
Not what did he gain, but what did he give?
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Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.
Not, what was his church, nor what was his creed?
But had he befriended those really in need?
Was he ever ready, with word of good cheer,
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?
Not what did the sketch in the newspaper say,
But how many were sorry when he passed away.

happy birthday!

- JULY 18**
Dianne Scanlon, Bette Phillips Haybarker, Emily Borton.
- JULY 19**
Bob Elzinga, Danielle Rittersdorf, Marcia Baird.
- JULY 20**
Cara Thaler, David Thaler III, Maureen Pawloski, Beth Berry.
- JULY 21**
Dara Anchors, Stephanie Wade, Carolyn Mercer, Jeff Gurney, Kelly
- Tulecki, Alexander Stiles, Ethan VanDerWarf.
- JULY 22**
Kelly Marie Roth, Richard (Dick) Roth, Laurie Fonger, Eric Shear, Noreen Myers, T.J. Butler.
- JULY 23**
Dave Fosburg, Nathan Swift, Heather Pretzel, Robert Jahnke.
- JULY 24**
Nathan Bush, Mike Lally.

college news

Grand Valley State University announces the names of students who were placed on the dean's list for the winter 2012 semester. The list includes those students who have maintained a 3.5 grade point average and been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits.

Students honored for the winter semester include:

Ada: Colin M. Beerens; Laura A. Brady; Renee K. Buist; Lauren E. Chan; David A. Emery; Ruth A. Farnsworth; Anthony N. Hage; Zachary P. Hamersma; Gregory A. Harmon; Zachary M. Harmon; Elizabeth A. Harris; Sage M. Heiss; Ryan C. Hoogmoed; Mohammad Asad B. Ilahi; Megan R. Jones; Colin A. Kammeraad; Robert M. Kintz; Karissa D. Kresge; Nathan T. Lake; Daniel J. Merck; Hannah M. Morgan; Kaylie S. Petroelje; Brittany B. Poppen; Anna E. Stehouwer; Utah A. Taylor; Katherine R. Tompkins; Kelly M. Trapp; Travis J. Trapp; Garret D. VanGessel; Robert S. VanVossen; Karen B. Verbrugge; Dillon J. Vrosh; Katherine N. Wehby; Peter M. Weiblen; Paul D. West-

dale; Rose K. White; Michael J. Yanoschik.

Alto: Andrea K. Baker; Kelsey L. Canada; Rebekah L. Daining; Kelsie E. Frick; Leslee J. Haisma; Lauren E. Jablonski; Heidi A. Lenartz; Brittany L. Litchfield; Ashley M. Metternick; Hannah D. Miller; Troy M. O'Connor; Joseph E. Smith; Lindsey J. Trierweiler; Trevor C. Vrona; Kelsey L. Wilson; Andrew J. Wisniewski.

Lowell: Nathan W. Baker; Cheyenne A. Brown; Benjamin D. Cain; Kathryn Ann Collins; Kristen E. Dyksterhouse; Kacey A. Fitzpatrick; Alissa M. Ford; Anthony S. Herrera; Randal J. Hogan; Kallie S. Holzhueter; Alison M. Huffman; Sabra N. Kinsley; Kimberley R. Kline; Mattie M. Kropf; Roy H. Lowing; Mitchell C. Malling; Jessica M. Mankel; Katlin J. Manszewski; Nathan G. Marculus; Mason D. McGillicuddy; Ashley L. Penninga; Brandy L. Phillips; Kathryn E. Rottier; Rhonda L. Svoboda; Olivia M. Taber; Nathan N. Vaught; Amanda Renee Vezino; Kelly L. Walker.

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John Zielinski



Business: Lowell Area Schools (LAS)
Position: Chief Financial Officer
Residence: Mecosta County
Education: Bachelor's in mathematics and education, minor in computer science, master's in educational technology and administration
Experience: Teaching grades 5-12 in Akron-Fairgrove, Stockbridge and Sparta, assistant principal in Sparta, principal at Northview schools, assistant superintendent for finance and personnel operations in Northview, CFO for five years in Lowell
Family: Married to wife Tangela
Hobbies: Golf, downhill skiing and boating



Lowell Area Schools' CFO enjoys variety of tasks

by Emma Palova

Holding one of the top positions in the public school system hierarchy, John Zielinski likes to use his NO button to answer various funding requests.

As the CEO (chief financial officer) for the Lowell Area Schools' district, Zielinski gets a lot of those. But, in a time of budget cuts, decreasing or stagnating en-

rollment that corresponds to similar financing from the state, Zielinski has to use the NO red button quite often. "It's the perfect answer button from Hallmark," he laughed. "I got it as a gift." As the saying goes, it can be lonely at the top, but not for Zielinski who takes his job and responsibilities with a healthy amount of humor and outlook on life.

rollment that corresponds to similar financing from the state, Zielinski has to use the NO red button quite often.

the nuts and bolts of administration from business managers, Jim Lilligan and Ron Archer. Although, the transition from building administration to central office meant losing direct connection with the kids, on the other hand it also enabled Zielinski to see the organization in the big picture.

"I am able to help direct

stantly changing rules and regulations pertaining to legal issues, school finances and staffing.

"We function under a little bit different mode every year," he said, "and we have to make adjustments. We find ourselves with less financial resources."

So, the teamwork in a financially strapped and

tration, Zielinski has seen many changes. The job used to be pretty basic, managing public finances and hiring teachers. The state provided the financing.

Today, the job entails managing multiple pension plans, legal issues pertaining to parents' and children's rights, multiple reporting components in regards to staff, student counts and federal grants, as well as educational achievements.

Zielinski and staff spend approximately 20 to 25 percent of time on some type of reporting.

"It runs the full gamut and it takes a lot of attention," he said. "Everything we do has to be reported."

So, a lot of the time is spent on either getting ready for reporting or physically working on multiple reporting.

"Our physical resources have shrunk due to finances and the reporting has expanded. We're doing more with less."

Zielinski divides the goals he sets into personal, professional and district.

"I give 100 percent of my abilities always to something that will improve the district, the working environment and conditions, so the district and community continue to grow."

The main district goal is to give the best education possible with limited resources.

"It's an ever changing target, academically and financially," he said. "We have to provide high quality product education, so the students are prepared for life."

As far as motivators go, Zielinski follows the role model of his father.

"My father instilled a work ethic that continues to motivate me to be successful," he said.

And the variety of solving different problems makes for great motivation.

Even from the 10,000 foot level of a top administrator, Zielinski likes to present an image of an open and approachable person that people shouldn't be afraid to talk to.

"I value my integrity and honesty, which are critical in building relationships and earning respect," he said. "I hope that's how people view me."

And even though at times, Zielinski has to be that NO guy, he still wants to remain approachable.

"I want to be a resource," he said. "I want people to come to talk to me and hopefully I can get an answer. I am open to questions."

In a business that is 100 percent people oriented, it boils down to dealing with students, staff or team members.

"My role is to protect the district and make sure it is fiscally sound," Zielinski said.

What makes LAS on the cutting edge in an era of heavy competition is definitely the staff, according to Zielinski.

"They're team members and life coaches," he said.

The biggest project of the year is the budget that has to be reviewed daily or monthly. In May, one budget closes and another one gets projected. The board adopts it in June. In October, the student counts get calculated in as a critical piece of

the foundation grant. The budget is then amended in January to reflect the student enrollment, financial changes from the state, staffing changes and facilities or operations.

Technology and innovations have helped the district to be more efficient and to stay ahead of the curve.

Zielinski credits his classroom experience to his success as an administrator.

"I was in the classroom; I understand the reasons for requests," he said. "Classroom and business experience is a good blend to have. My mathematic background makes things more defined and more result driven. I like to see solutions and coming down to a conclusion that has that math structure and an end point to it."

The plan for LAS for the next five to 10 years is to have better financial resources and continued involvement with the community.

What does a bad day look like at LAS was one of the many questions, Zielinski had to field.

"Facing a situation that has no easy solution or finding a solution that will change relationships we have is very difficult," he said.

A good day means walking away from a situation that has been resolved with satisfaction on both sides.

"Overall, public schools are an easy target, but the job is very rewarding," said Zielinski.

To this day, he has hired some of his former students. That all may be attributed to the perfect answer button somewhere along the way.



rollment that corresponds to similar financing from the state, Zielinski has to use the NO red button quite often.

this organization and make it better," he said.

The path from a college classroom to central office wasn't always clear and never followed a straight line from point A to point B.

Zielinski started out in engineering. Having a strong background in mathematics, he volunteered at a local school. That must have been a turning point in his career. He added educational components to his schooling and eventually chose education over the computers that were already big in mid 1980s.

"I find it very rewarding," he said. "I would do it all over again. I have no regrets."

The early challenges first in his teaching career were many. It was a lot of trial and error and overcoming different personalities, which led to Zielinski's better understanding of students, adults and organizational needs.

Zielinski sums up the challenges at the central office level as the "certainty of uncertainty," due to con-

ever changing school environment is critical. The teams, consisting of administration and the school board, have to be on the same page, working toward the same result.

"We're open to different perspectives and ideas, but we have to find the best solution for the district," he said.

And like in most working environments, some days can be more stressful than others.

"I like the challenge of problem solving," he said. "I just take the emotion out of it. We're all in the same boat."

During his eight years in public schools adminis-

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A Community Fighting Cancer

9.7.12

The following is the third in a series of stories that The Lowell Ledger, Buyers Guide and Pink Arrow Pride will highlight by area cancer survivors.

Each writer will convey, in their own words, their personal journey as they walk through the many phases of this disease toward health.

Photos by Modern Photographics

Gavin Anderson

At the time I was 40 years old, just had had a complete physical and the results came back with a clean bill of health. Fast forward six months to the summer of 2007, just another summer coaching and playing baseball. One evening I noticed I had blood in my urine. Didn't think much of it; I thought I just injured myself somehow playing baseball. The next day it went away. One week later the same thing happened. The next day I was golfing with a friend, who happened to be a doctor and I explained to him what was going on and he said, "that's not good, we need to get you in for a CAT scan." Doctors and CAT (Computed Axial Tomography) scans was all new to me. I had never had any health issues. After the CAT scan, they noticed a 14cm mass growing on my kidney. Now, I needed to have a biopsy to see if the mass was cancerous or not. It never crossed my mind that I could have cancer. Wow, what a shock! I couldn't

stop thinking of my wife and two young boys. Once the results came back that it was cancer, I never said, "why me," rather, "how do we attack this?" Well, they had to remove my kidney because the cancer was so big it stopped the one kidney from functioning. The type of cancer they found was a rare form of kidney cancer called Chromophobe Renal Cell carcinoma. With my type of kidney cancer there is no treatment, chemo, nor radiation that will cure me. The only options I

"I don't mean to scare people with my story; this is my cancer journey."

had were surgery and hope it doesn't come back or drugs to slow it down. Following surgery and after six weeks of recovery, life seemed to return to normal for three years. Normal now includes CAT scans and checkups. After the third year, they noticed another tumor in the same place as the last

one. Another surgery and six weeks of recovery and again the doctors seemed to think they got all the cancer.

In the spring of 2011, the doctors found more cancer; this time the cancer had spread throughout my abdomen. My oncologist suggested putting me on drugs to slow it down. I asked him about more surgery. That is when he referred me to the University of Michigan. More doctors, more opinions. There was a doctor (Dr. Khalid Hafez) that was willing to take on my case. He felt I was young and healthy enough to go through this, but they had to schedule three teams of surgeons to do this. I told my wife at this point the biggest disappointment would be for the surgeons to get in there, see too much and sew me back up. During the 14 hour surgery, the doctors thought one of the tumors was wrapped around my vena cava, which is a main artery from my heart and they would have to do a transplant. The doctors asked my wife what she wanted to do because there was a thirty percent chance I wouldn't make it out of this. It was a tough decision

for her, but she remembered what I told her and she told them to go forward.

I made it out of the surgery but then developed a blood clot they had to deal

with. Back into surgery I went to remove more tumors and lymph nodes. I was then sent home and again, began to fill up with fluid. Back into surgery I



with. While they were dealing with that, my chest was filling up with fluid and collapsing my lungs. I couldn't breathe; it felt like I was drowning. Back into surgery I went to insert a tube to drain five and a half liters of fluid off my lungs. I was then sent home and had to continue to drain fluid for eight more weeks.

Six months later, they found some more cancer below where they had pre-

viously been. Back into surgery I went to remove more tumors and lymph nodes. I was then sent home and again, began to fill up with fluid. Back into surgery I

went to insert another tube to drain the fluid off my abdomen for eight more weeks. While I was home I developed an infection which was a whole other set of issues. As for now, I'm home enjoying my family. I wish I could say I'm cancer free, but only time will tell.

I don't mean to scare people with my story; this is my cancer journey. I just want them to understand that without the people in

you keep me fighting every day. To the Pink Arrow Pride supporters and contributors, to know that the community is so supportive and caring, thank you. To Noel Dean thank you for listening and being there when I needed you. Thank you to those who have kept me in their prayers and to my wife who has never left my side; she is truly an angel. Don't cry for me for I am truly blessed.

Laura S. Neubecker

It was in November, last year, when I felt a lump in my right breast. I called my primary care physician's office and was seen the next day. Two days later I was having a mammogram

and an ultrasound. After my ultrasound the radiologist came in the room and told me that what he saw looked "very suspicious." This was on a Friday. He told me that he was going to call my

primary care physician, let him know the results and if I hadn't heard back from his office by Tuesday, to be sure that I called them. Well, it was later the same day when my doctor called me. He asked me which breast surgeon I wanted to see. I gave him the name and he sent out a referral. I was scheduled for an evaluation by the surgeon on Tuesday.

My husband Mark and I met with the surgeon. She told us, after reviewing my mammogram and ultrasound and performing a breast exam, that she would be surprised if it wasn't cancer. We went back to her office the next day and I had a core biopsy done. Then, the wait began. It was Thanksgiving the next day and therefore, a long weekend ahead. We talked about the likelihood of me having cancer. It didn't seem possible! Yet, we were both preparing for the worst news but also hoping for the best. I decided that I was not going to

spend my holiday weekend worrying about something that I couldn't control.

It was Monday and my phone rang. Yes, I had cancer. Stage one invasive ductal carcinoma. Now what? I should know because I am a nurse, right? WRONG! I work with critically ill adults. Cancer was something I knew very little about. My doctor wanted Mark and I to see her the next day to talk about my "options." I didn't feel sad, get upset or feel sorry for myself. This would be no "journey" for me. No way! I declared war against my enemies, the cancer cells!

Along with my cancer surgeon/oncologist, we added a plastic surgeon to my team. Two weeks later, on Dec. 15, I had a double mastectomy and the start of my breast reconstruction done. It was a good thing I opted to have my left breast removed. It had multiple areas of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), stage zero cancer, that were not detected by the mammogram. The cancer in my right breast ended up being

stage two. It also had spread to my lymph nodes so those were removed. I started chemotherapy in January. I had six treatments that were three weeks apart. It wasn't as bad as I had expected it to be, but it was definitely not fun. During chemo I would visualize the drugs chewing up the cancer cells, just like the Pac-Man game. My last treatment was May 9. My next ally was the radiation oncologist.

"I encourage everyone to support the Pink Arrow Pride. It really does touch people's lives, and in my case, my heart."

I was scheduled for 33 radiation treatments. They are every day except for weekends. I have 11 more treatments left. I have to say that the staff at the Lemmon-Holton Cancer Center are amazing (more allies)! Because the cancer was hormone receptor positive, I had to have a hysterectomy. That was done June 12. I also have to take an oral

chemo agent, Femara, every day for the next 10 years. I will be able to have the rest of my reconstructive surgery in six to nine months. Throughout this war I have been able to work part time. What a blessing that has been!

The best weapons I have are the people who have been fighting along beside me. I know this has been harder on Mark than myself. I am so thankful for his love and support! I also could not be winning without the support of my family, friends, work family, prayer warriors, and the community of Lowell. I thank you all! The only tears I have shed are those of gratitude. I have always bought the Pink Arrow t-shirts, not really thinking about what the project does. Now I have benefited from it. I encourage everyone to support the Pink Arrow Pride. It really does touch people's lives, and in my case, my heart. I am blessed! I am winning this war!



9.7.12

A Community Fighting Cancer

9.7.12

Cara Sauber

My name is Cara Sauber. I was raised in Lowell. After graduating from high school I moved to Grand Rapids and 20 years later I am back in Lowell, married to the man of my dreams, my biggest supporter, Rick. I came back to the community where I belong.

My cancer journey actually begins in 1989. My mother, Maureen Mikulski was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer; she was 42 years old. It was a death sentence. She had a mastectomy and started an aggressive form of chemotherapy and radiation followed. My sister and I were teenagers and my brother was just 10. She was a fighter. She went into remission and had recurrences over the years, always more surgery and chemo. She went through more than many of us could ever handle. She ended up with lymphedema. Due to her surgical removal of so many lymph nodes, her arm swelled so large it was hard for her to find shirts that would fit. Then in 2003 she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, stage three. The doctors gave her five to 10 years with surgeries and chemo. She did it all. One

Aug 22, 2010, eight months after her mother, who also died of ovarian cancer.

The pink game was played about three weeks after her passing. So many donations were given in my mom's name for the Pink Arrow Pride we were able to bid on a jersey that was worn during the game. It was number 28. This just happened to be her birthday. It was such an honor.

It was in 2004 that my mother's oncologist suggested that her family, sisters and daughters specifically, be tested for a mutation in a gene called BRCA2. The official name of this gene is "breast cancer two" early onset. The genes are associated with hereditary breast-ovarian cancer syndromes. The numbers were staggering. A positive test for the mutation meant chances of getting breast cancer were close to 90 percent and 40 percent for ovarian cancer.

Our family met with a specialist in gene counseling. We discovered that the gene mutation was likely on my grandmother's side of our family. My aunt has been working on our family history and found cancer has taken young lives

what to do with this information? The answer is to remove healthy organs and breasts or wait for cancer. At this time there is no effective screening for ovarian cancer. Because of this and the high mortality rate associated with ovarian cancer, we were advised to have risk-reducing salpingo-oophorectomy (RRSO). This is the surgical removal of both ovaries and the fallopian tubes. It would reduce the risk of both ovarian and breast cancer.

The next step is a bilateral prophylactic mastectomy. It is not an easy surgery. It averages about eight hours. Many people associate it with a "boob job." It is not! The surgeon removes the glandular tissue and leaves little or no tissue behind in an attempt to prevent the disease of breast cancer from occurring under the skin, but conserves the skin and then works with a plastic reconstructive surgeon to replace that breast tissue with either

a saline (salt water) implant or the patient's own tissue from their lower abdominal area. The women in our family chose to have reconstruction with tissue expanders. The implant involves a staged approach. A tissue expander is a temporary device that is placed on the chest wall deep to the pectoralis major muscle. The purpose of the expander is to create a soft pocket to contain the permanent implant. Most expanders have a fill port that is built into the front of the device. This port is accessed with a needle through the skin. Expansion takes a few minutes and the amount of fluid that is placed is limited by the tightness of the patient's skin and pain tolerance. This process happens over several appointments after surgery.

The first one of my aunts at age 53 had a hysterectomy, then at age 55 in 2007 she had her mastectomy. It was not without problems. She discovered some other health issues that she

had the surgery and went home with surgical drainage tubes and all, but was not healing well. In early December I was re-admitted to the hospital, with an infection, for IV antibi-

he was about 15 and he was asking so many questions about my pain level, 1-10. I finally told him, "Look Seth! Hook me up to the Dilaudid and then we'll talk!" Eventually my doctor just

put a stop to everything and had me rest until we could try surgery again on June 5. Things went better this time and I was sent home again with drainage tubes, this time for three weeks. My doctor is taking it slow. At this time I have had three fills and besides being uncomfortable, things are going well. I feel afraid and blessed all at the same time. I still need at least two more "procedures" until I can look "normal." But I am alive and cancer free. I am also lucky enough to have a husband that thinks I am beautiful no matter what my chest looks like. He has been through it all. His mother, Marilyn, is also a breast cancer survivor.

Sometimes I wonder if we are just ticking time bombs. Did we do all this to avoid the inevitable? I have

one cousin that tested positive that is still trying to decide what to do. I guess only time will tell. What about my daughter, nieces, younger cousins and future grandchildren? I miss my mom everyday. Without her urging us to be tested, who knows how many more people we would have lost in our family? She was the ultimate sacrifice. She was our hero and may have saved us all. I still have to wonder. How far back does this really go in my family? How far in the future will it have its hold on us?

The Pink Arrow Pride has meant so much to my family. The support from the community gives hope to so many people. Please consider buying a t-shirt and attending the game on September 7.



Modern

“ I feel afraid and blessed all at the same time. ”

time she told me, "I don't want to be a fighter anymore. I just want to be a regular slob like the rest of you!" I don't know how she kept her sense of humor. I really feel like it's one of the gifts she gave me for my journey. She made it seven years. Several different chemotherapies kept her going. She eventually went through everything they had to offer. She became very ill in the summer of 2010. She was sent home from the hospital with hospice care. The community of Lowell wrapped its arms around our family. The Pink Arrow Pride called immediately to find out what our family needed in this difficult time. That support meant so much to us. It made getting through the most difficult time of our lives a little more tolerable. She died on

in our family as far back as 100 years. It started with my great great great-grandmother and her two sisters all dying from breast cancer in their early 50s; my great great-grandfather died at age 49 of prostate cancer; his daughter, my great-aunt died at age 39 of breast cancer; my grandmother died of ovarian cancer at age 87 (it is believed that a hysterectomy in her 30s may have changed her course); and my mother died at age 63 from ovarian cancer (after bouts of breast cancer).

Both of my mom's sisters, my sister and I and one cousin have tested positive for a mutation in the BRCA2 gene. Only one cousin is negative so far. Our attitude has been knowledge is power. How different would my mom's life had been if she had known earlier? Now,

still deals with today. Then my mom's youngest sister at age 49 had her surgery in 2009. Cancer cells were discovered. Her surgery did not go as well. She is still having corrective procedures done to this day. My sister was next, at age 35, for her hysterectomy and then two years later her mastectomy. Her surgery went well but she rejected part of the expander. She had to have a second surgery to clean and reinsert her expanders. She ended up having five surgeries until she received her permanent implants.

I had a mammogram in October of 2011, a lump was discovered. That's all I needed to hear. What was I waiting for? I am 41 years old and the lump was in the same place my mom's cancer was found. My surgery was in November 2011. I

otics. Nothing seemed to work. I was either allergic or just kept getting sicker. It was almost two weeks before the doctor decided my body was rejecting the implants and they needed to be removed. The second surgery was done and I was sent home again with drainage tubes and still not doing well. My chest looked like someone threw a grenade at me. It was not an easy adjustment. I ended up back in the ER a few times. Once passing a kidney stone and once with gall bladder problems. I had a lot of issues with scar tissue. I remember telling my dad it felt like someone was crushing my ribs. I never knew how many prescription pain medications existed but suddenly became a pro. We even joked about it one time in ER. My nurse looked like

LOWELL COMMUNITY WELLNESS

PINK ARROW HEALTH FAIR

TUESDAY, JULY 31 • 11:00 - 6:00 PM



Riverwalk, continued

a Batman float and historical memorabilia, such as the calliope and a miniature model of the Showboat.

“It was a smaller parade,” said Baker.

There were approximately 45 entries.

It wouldn't be a parade without clowns and politicians. The clowns have traditionally collected food for the Flat River Outreach

Ministries' "FROM the Heart Food Fight Parade."

The politicians ranged from the local city council members: mayor Jim Hodg- es, Andrew Schrauben and mayor pro tem Sharon Elli- son to state representatives and senators.

A concert by Sea Cruis- ers entertained in the af- ternoon on the Riverwalk stage.

“Overall the festival was a great success; we had lots of people in spite of the high temperatures and humidity,” said Baker. “The fireworks display was great. Things ran smoothly and we are very excited to begin working on next year's festival.”



Historical pontoon rides with long wait lines.

Duck Race winners announced

The annual Duck Race that takes place on the Grand River makes for a welcome change of the setting and the pace to the busy Riverwalk Festival. Quiet and secluded, away from the bustling festival crowds, the final release of the ducks into the green waters of the Grand is sort of a finale.

As the ducks make their way to the finish line by the boat launch, into the capturing device, many get entangled in branches or they wander off to the banks.

But, for the winners, there are monetary prizes.

This year, the \$1,000 winner is Sally Golds of Lowell.

The \$100 winners are: Amy Riddle of Lowell, Brenda Angelo of Lowell, Ed Marshall of Howard City, Austin Koning of Hudsonville, Brittany Rose of Lowell



Cruise-in cars stationed on Avery Street.



People on the riverbank, near the crafters, try to catch some cool air.



Historical memorabilia floats: the calliope and a miniature Showboat.



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WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

Riverwalk, continued



Crafters' Lane with its colorful vendors.



Variety of music embellishes the Riverwalk Festival

by Emma Palova

The music at the Riverwalk Festival featured different styles from the energetic Bronk Brothers rockin' hillbilly extravaganza to the country and rock of Gunnar and the Grizzly Boys, as well as the gentle rolling of the Sea Cruisers.

The Bronk Brothers played on the opening night of the festival on the Riverwalk. The act has performed with more than 75 national touring country artists. In 2008, the brother duo earned a slot opening for Kenny Chesney in the national Next Big Star Contest.

Gunnar and the Grizzly Boys played the stage on Friday night. The band, still looking for its own way in the world, puts on a great rock and roll show.

Saturday afternoon belonged to the Sea Cruisers, who play the music of the 50s, 60s and the 70s. The

band hits it with fans of all ages. Over the years, the band has worked with performers such as the Association, Chubby Checker, Pete Wittig and Tommy James and the Shondells.



Photos by Lorain Smaligan



Photo by Emma Palova

Jared's Team thanks the following businesses and organizations for their support with the Jared Sweet Golf Outing to benefit Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy. We could not have done it without you!

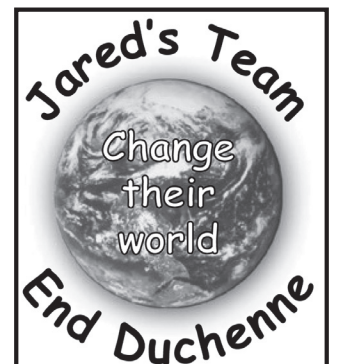
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- Grand Rapids Public Museum
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obituaries

McQUEEN

Yvonne McQueen, age 56 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly Friday, July 13, 2012. She is preceded in death by her father Harold Downs and father-in-law Marvin McQueen. She is survived by her soul mate and husband of 17 years, Marv; daughters, Nicki (Jason) Mollien, Mandi (Brett) Bittrick; grandchildren, Landon, Pace and Ava Bittrick; expectant grandson, Abel Mollien; mother, Gerry Downs; mother-in-law, Delores McQueen; sister, Earlene (Jack) Bravata; brother, Mike Downs; many nieces and nephews; also her pug puppy Bella. Yvonne was a lover of the outdoors, enjoyed nature, birds, time with her grandchildren, and a faithful blood donor of over ten gallons. She was an employee at Baker Publishing Group. A Memorial Service will be held Wednesday, July 18, 7:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Pastor David Vander Meer of Rockford Springs Community Church officiating. Visitation 5-7:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan, 989 Spaulding Ave. SE, Ada, MI 49301 or please consider making a blood donation at your nearest Michigan Blood Donor Center - for locations log on to www.miblood.org.



RITTERSDORF

Jacqueline "Jackie" Lee Rittersdorf, age 74 of Ada, passed away Saturday July 14, 2012. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ronald. She is survived by her children, Kimberley (Clay) Greenwald, Julie (Vincent) Myers, Susan (Robert) Krenselewski; grandchildren, Marni and Tegan Greenwald. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Wednesday 11:00 a.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 4351 Parnell N.E., Ada. Fr. Patrick Grile presiding. Visitation will be Tuesday 2-4:00 and 6-8:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. The Rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. The family would like to thank the staff at Heather Hills Retirement Village and the Village Care staff for their outstanding care of their mother. Memorial contributions may be made to Spectrum Health Hospice, 100 Michigan Street N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503



WINGEIER

Stanley Gordon Wingeier, age 64 of Smyrna, passed away July 13, 2012. He was preceded in death by his father, Vern. He is survived by his mother, Virginia; daughters, Brandy (Major Matthew) Arrol, Shannon Wingeier; grandchildren, Jackson and Sydney Arrol; brothers, Roger and Rodney; and special friends Mary VanMeter and Troy VanMeter. A Memorial Service was held Monday at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Memorial contributions may be made to Alton Cemetery Association, 2780 Lincoln Lake Road, Lowell, MI 49331.



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 12-192384-DE

Estate of HOWARD
RAYMOND GAYLORD.
Date of birth: 10/05/1921.

TO ALL CREDITORS: 07/10/2012

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Howard
Raymond Gaylord, died
06/15/2012.

personal representative
or proposed personal
representative, or to
both the probate court
at 180 Ottawa Avenue
NW, Grand Rapids, MI
49503 and the named/
proposed personal
representative within 4
months after the date
of publication of this
notice.

John D. Flynn (P27413)
1275 Hawthorne Hills SE
Ada, MI 49301
616-897-6632

Creditors of the
decedent are notified
that all claims against
the estate will be
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CITY OF LOWELL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST OF THE OPTICAL SCAN TABULATING EQUIPMENT FOR THE AUGUST 7, 2012 PRIMARY ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the public accuracy test of the Optical Scan Tabulating Equipment for the August 7, 2012 Primary Election will be conducted on Monday, July 23, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at Lowell City Hall, Council Chambers, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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

classifieds

for sale

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

200 APPLIANCES - Washers, dryers, refrigerators & stoves. Guaranteed. From \$69. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.

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KENMORE REFRIGERATOR & STOVE SET - (2006), cost \$900, sell \$199 for pair. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.

LAND FOR SALE - Lowell schools, walk to HS, Alden Nash West subdivision, .63 acre, \$49,900, sign on property. Call Chuck at 1-517-282-2460 after 10 a.m.

BED & MATTRESS SET - queen, Sealy, \$95 includes frame. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.

REDUCED PRICE ON KEY CARDS - Now \$20. Help support the LHS Academic Boosters. Stop by & get your card today, Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway. Cash or check only please.

FOR SALE - 1993 Chevrolet S10 pickup w/a cap, automatic, 4.3 V6, 95,200 original miles, truck is in excellent condition, \$3,500 obo. Call after 6 p.m., 897-4349.

MATTRESS SET - Queen pillowtop, new in plastic, \$150. 616-805-9282.

FIREWOOD - Seasoned hardwood, \$75 - 1/3 cord (rick) or \$165 - cord. Delivery available. Multiple cord discount. Call Mike, 616-490-2283.

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES - for sale. Call 616-293-5653.

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

lost

LOST DOG - white tri-colored male beagle mix in the Peck Lake Rd./Hastings Rd. area. Please call 616-293-4163. Reward.

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WE ARE SEEKING - positive, high energy individuals to work in our job site department. Responsibilities include: passing out fliers around our job sites in nice suburban neighborhoods. Applicants should be clean cut, well groomed, & have excellent communication skills. Daytime & evening shifts available. Average producers make \$300-\$600 per week. For consideration please call 897-7300 & ask for Dan.

DETAIL DEPARTMENT - part-time, must be 21 (for insurance purposes), experience not necessary but helpful. Call 897-9227, ask for Tim.

OCCASIONAL PET SITTER WANTED - person experienced w/especially birds & wide variety of pets. Must love animals & be very dependable. Excellent references required. For details call Linda at 897-9202.

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wanted

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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.

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sales

GARAGE SALE - Thurs., 7/19 & Fri., 7/20. 9-6 p.m. Rain or shine. 13405 Beckwith Drive, Lowell. N of Vergennes, off Lincoln Lake. Corner computer desk, black leather couch, decorations, pictures, piano, pool, clothes, '04 Ford Explorer & much more.

BENEFIT GARAGE SALE FOR NEPHEW W/CANCER - 3441 Timpson, July 21, 9-5 p.m. All donations accepted. Numerous items to choose from.

GARAGE SALE - kids stuff, generator, clothes, electronics, misc. other items. Thurs. thru Sat., 7/19-7/21, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 10690 Bailey Dr NE.

MULTI FAMILY GARAGE SALE AND CRAFT SALE - computer desk and many new items added. 889 Flat River Ct. July 19 & 20, Fri. & Sat. 9-5; July 21, Sun. 9-3.

misc.

SUPPORT THE LOWELL AREA FARMERS' MARKET - Thursdays 12:30 - 6 p.m. at the Tractor Supply parking lot. Call Dave & Betty Deans for more info, 897-9186.

in memoriam

In loving memory of our son & brother
MARK TAYLOR KROPF
 JULY 21, 1965 -
 JUNE 18, 1970

He shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not worry him, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember him.
 Your family

CLAYTON ENGLE
 Sadly missed one year
 7/17/2012.
 Our hearts are broken.
 We love you,
 Laura, children,
 all grandchildren &
 great-grandchildren

card of thanks

A BIG THANK YOU - to staff & physical therapist at Laurels of Kent for recovery of my broken leg. Couldn't have healed without your help. Janet Twesten

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IN & OUT REMOVAL - Electronics, appliances, cars, lawn mowers, farm equipment, etc. Free pickup. Call Joe 616-890-5210.

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Coming Events

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are ran on a space available basis & ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO RUN. If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not run ANY Garage or Rumage Sales as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

KNITTING 101 - Every Tues., 10 a.m. - noon. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main St., Clarksville. 616-693-1001.

FREE SENIOR PANCAKE BREAKFAST - Every third Wed. from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Laurels of Kent, 350 N. Center St. RSVP 897-8473.

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

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

CARVING CLUB - Thursdays from 6:30-8 p.m. New members welcomed. Call for information, 616-752-0096.

NEW ALTO FARMERS MARKET - Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Veterans Memorial Park, downtown Alto. Sponsored by Alto DDA.

FAMILY GEOCACHING - Tues., July 24, 6:30 p.m. High tech blend of hide-and-seek, scavenger hunting, puzzle-solving & navigating at Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell. 784-2007.

viewing from the www.wlhistv.org website. Many athletic contests & concerts can also be heard 'live' from the www.wlhradio.org website.

STORY-RAMA - Thurs., Aug. 2, 10:30 a.m. Kids bring favorite stories & fables to life thru audience participation, puppets & props at Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell. 784-2007.

RHYME TIME MUSIC & MOVEMENT - Fridays, July 20 - Aug. 17, 11 a.m. Activities to help children ages 6 & younger develop motor, listening & literacy skills at Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell. 784-2007.

MINUTE TO WIN IT - Tues., July 31, 2-4 p.m. for teens, grades 6-12. Test your ability to perform tasks individually or as a team at Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell. 784-2007.

COULD YOU SURVIVE THE HUNGER GAMES? Tues., Aug. 14, 1 p.m. for teens, grades 6-12. Tribute teams amass points in challenges to determine who will survive at Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell. 784-2007.

REPTILE GUY - Thurs., July 19, 1 p.m. Boulder Ridge Wild Animal Park visits Clarksville Area Library Summer Reading Program at Clarksville Elementary School Pavilion, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

CLARKSVILLE SUMMER READING PARK PARTY - Thurs., July 26, 1 p.m. at Clarksville Elementary School Pavilion, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

COMPUTER & eREADER CLASSES - Tuesdays, July 24 & 31, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. One-on-one sessions by appointment only at Saranac Public Library, 61 N. Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

COMPUTER & eREADER CLASSES - Thursdays, July 19 & 26, 1 - 4 p.m. One-on-one sessions by appointment only at Saranac Public Library, 61 N. Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

REPTILE GUY - Thurs., July 19, 10 a.m. Boulder Ridge Wild Animal Park visits Saranac Public Library, 61 N. Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

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

ALVAH N. BELDING LIBRARY - will be offering "Quilts of the Underground Railroad" by Joan Miller Moran on Wed., July 18 at 6:30 p.m. Call the library to register, 794-1450. Learn the part quilts have played in our American history.

EVERY THURSDAY - Night service at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 865 Lincoln Lake SE at 6:30 p.m. Public welcome.

Wild animal park in Alto is a sight to see

by Karen Jack

Boulder Ridge Wild Animal Park in Alto may not be known by many because this year is their first full season of opening to the public. The owners, Dawn and Dave Hoekstra, started out with raising deer, then advanced to antelope. Before they knew it, they had a full farm of wild animals, which expands for about 80 acres. This is definitely not your average zoo.

When asked why they started it, Dawn said she did a favor for a friend and allowed her to bring her class out to see all the animals they were raising. When they were done, her friend told her she should open it to the public, which would also help raise money to feed all the animals. With the economy going down, they decided they would delve in and do it.

It's apparent why they decided to do so. Upon entering, people were milling about, young children were laughing and families were having fun together.

The Hoekstra's employ about 15 people, all who seem very passionate about their jobs. One specific employee, Rick the Reptile Guy, took me on the grand tour. At one point, this reporter felt like she was in the presence of Steve Irwin, known more commonly as the Crocodile Hunter. Pret-

ty ironic, seeing as Steve Irwin is the one who named Rick as "The Reptile Guy."

foot Burmese python he got from a lady in Ann Arbor. She called him and asked



Rick the Reptile Guy shows off his Burmese python.

He even offered to jump in with the alligators and show me how they feed them. His passion is that of the Crocodile Hunter.

He had stories about almost every reptile they display, not to mention all the animals in the park. Each of his reptiles were donated – usually by people who wanted them out of their house. One beauty is a 20-

foot Burmese python he got from a lady in Ann Arbor. She called him and asked if he would come get the snake. His passion for the reptiles is more than apparent and he's very entertaining with the kids. He told about one child who came and was blind. Rick gave him the tour and he was so excited because he got to feel the animals (not all of them though). Afterwards he told his dad, "Wow dad, today I could see."

Rick the Reptile Guy has three alligators at the park that are easily seen, including Stephanie, who is 600 lbs. and pregnant. She's the first alligator to have a baby in Michigan.

The park boasts many different wild animals, including several Watusi, which are in the cattle family. They have the biggest horns of any animal and are massive.

Also included in the array of animals are the black buck antelope, that can run 68 miles per hour; the Kulan wild donkey, in which there are only 300 left in the wild; the water buffalo, that weigh one ton; the black wildebeest, East African crowned crane, the eland, which can jump an eight-foot fence from a standstill; and the scimitar-horned oryx. They even have kangaroos, who just had babies that are living in their pouches.

The list of animals they feature is extensive and they are continually obtaining new animals, with their newest find being a binturong. The binturong are often called bearcats and live in the rain forest. Originally from southeast Asia, Malaysia and Indonesia, their job in the forest is to help spread seeds from the fruits they eat to help replant the rain forest.

"We wanted it to be different and more hands-on," said Hoekstra, which explains the petting zoo for a lot of the animals that are featured. They also offer guided tours in a wagon as part of the park admission.

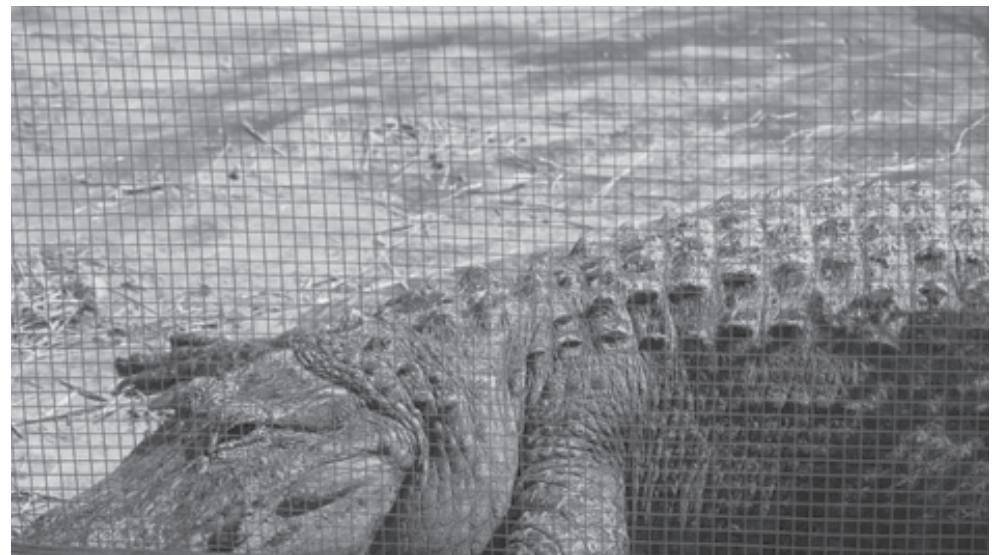
Plans in the future include a school bus that has had the top taken off and also has a wheelchair lift so wheelchair-bound people can also go on the tour. The park has an area for birthday parties that can be hosted there as well.

Hoekstra explains, "My ultimate goal is to have a giraffe one day." With all the other animals, the giraffe would fit right in.

Their hours are Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm and Sundays from 12:00 pm through 5:00 pm. Cost of admission is \$8 for ages three and up. You can keep up with their newest animals and get the latest information by looking at their Facebook page. You can also get more information about the park at www.boulderridgewap.com



The baby is inside this kangaroo's pouch with its hooves sticking out.



Stephanie, the pregnant 600 lb. alligator.

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THEME: UNDER THE SEA

ACROSS

- 1. One who pretends to be something he is not
- 6. Cruise or Hanks, e.g.
- 9. A tropical South American monkey
- 13. Far beyond norm
- 14. Bleat
- 15. Floor covering
- 16. Slanted or listed
- 17. Bow shape
- 18. Tripod
- 19. *Pinching crustacean
- 21. *Underwater flower
- 23. Make lacework
- 24. Go cold turkey
- 25. International Monetary Fund
- 28. Holier than who?
- 30. A hand tool for drawing angles, pl.
- 35. "Yes, ____!"
- 37. "Layla" singer-songwriter
- 39. Roman king's abode
- 40. A fit of shivering
- 41. On fishing pole, pl.
- 43. "Coal Miner's Daughter"
- 44. Whatchamacallit
- 46. Relating to the ear
- 47. Caricatured
- 48. *Octopuses
- 50. On top of
- 52. Put to the test
- 53. Duds or threads
- 55. Wound fluid
- 57. Ancient wind instrument
- 61. *Daryl Hannah in "Splash"
- 65. Archeologist's find
- 66. Maiden name indicator

CROSSWORD

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DOWN

- 68. ____ Domingo
- 69. Kiwanis and Elks groups, e.g.
- 70. Even (poetic)
- 71. ____ Park, CO
- 72. Contributions to the poor
- 73. H1N1, e.g.
- 74. Crevice stuffers
- 1. Door sign
- 2. Margarine
- 3. Back wound?
- 4. German surrealist Max
- 5. Knocks on the door, e.g.
- 6. Ski lift
- 7. *Rowboat propeller
- 8. Reverted to China in '99
- 9. Now Thailand
- 10. In addition
- 11. Type of eye?
- 12. ____ of Man
- 15. Move unsteadily
- 20. Olden days anesthetic
- 22. Writing point of pen
- 24. Eternal sleep
- 25. Idealized image
- 26. Ex-Laker Johnson
- 27. He sold his soul to Mephistopheles
- 29. Popular dunking cookie
- 31. A sails-shaped constellation
- 32. It borders Mediterranean and Red seas
- 33. *The Titanic was one of these
- 34. *Spongebob's air-breathing friend
- 36. Office communique
- 38. Paper holder
- 42. *A peri ____ lets a submariner see above water
- 45. Light studies
- 49. Charged particle
- 51. Florence Nightingale and the like
- 54. Thief, Yiddish
- 56. New show with Debra Messing
- 57. *Black and white killer?
- 58. Independent unit of life
- 59. Obama to Harvard Law School, e.g.
- 60. Barbequed anatomy
- 61. Carte du jour
- 62. Not in favor
- 63. Individual unit
- 64. Sleep in a convenient place
- 67. *It can be electric

Puzzle solutions on page 12

SUDOKU

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JULY 11 - JULY 17

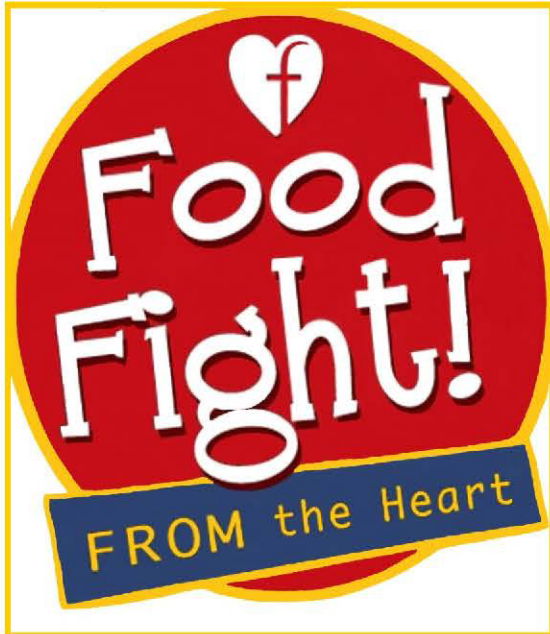
- After Penn State football coach Joe Paterno died, artist Michael Pilatro put a halo over Paterno's head in a mural he has displayed at the university. After a report that the famed coach may have tried to hide allegations of child sex-abuse against his assistant coach Jerry Sandusky, Pilatro removed the halo. The artist had already removed the image of Sandusky from the mural.
- Sage Stallone, 36, son of actor Sylvester Stallone, was found dead in his Los Angeles' home. No sign of foul play and no cause of death was evident. An autopsy is being performed.
- An Illinois parent went to check on his one-year-old son to find a two-foot python wrapped around the baby's foot. The snake was apparently an escaped pet. The owners of the snake were fined; the snake now resides at animal control and the baby is doing fine.
- A baseball fan at a Toronto Blue Jays/Cleveland Indians' game had his hands full of soda, popcorn and nachos when a foul ball came his way. No problem. He thought quickly and caught the ball with his thighs.
- The Detroit to Windsor tunnel was closed for nearly four hours last week after a bomb threat was phoned in on the Canadian side. No explosives were found.
- For the first time in fifty years, a cargo ship left Miami directly for Cuba carrying a load of humanitarian supplies. The US embargo against Cuba was declared by President John F. Kennedy in 1962.
- Commenting on Mitt Romney's refusal to release additional tax returns, senate majority leader Harry Reid suggested Romney would never win senate confirmation for a cabinet position because, "he won't show anybody his tax returns." "He not only couldn't be confirmed as a cabinet secretary, he couldn't be confirmed as a dog catcher, because a dog catcher - you're at least going to want to look at his income tax returns," Reid said.
- "You know, I'm going to be telling this story for the rest of my life." That's what the waitress who received a \$500 tip told the family of Aaron Collins. Collins' last wish was for his family to dine on pizza, then give the server a \$500 tip. He didn't have the money to fulfill his wish but through donations after the story surfaced, his family was able to do so.

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