

twilight walk



page 9

city manager's first year



page 3

still time for the fair



page 16

Lowell city officials set to revitalize downtown with MSHDA rental program

by Emma Palova

No more deserted Main Street on a weekend afternoon. The city is set to revitalize the downtown with a rental rehabilitation program administered by Michigan

State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA).

The city council has approved Revitalize LLC, based in Mason, as third party administrators to coordinate MSHDA grant funds.

Revitalize LLC principal owners, Lori Ware and Bruce Johnston, have been working with the state program for the last 10 years.

They have assisted developing the communities of Mason, Grand Ledge, Eaton

Rapids, Wesley, Alma, Marine City and Blissfield.

The program provides financial assistance for owners of downtown buildings to renovate second and third floors for residential use. These buildings are quite often in historical districts.

"It helps provide funding for existing traditional buildings to rehabilitate vacant or unused space into affordable apartments," said Johnston.

Property owners can receive up to \$35,000 per apartment in a deferred loan that would be forgiven after five years of compliance. There are no payments and no interest charge, but the owner must keep the apartments affordable for five years.

Downtown rehabilitation, continued, page 2



Several buildings in the historic downtown are either for sale or they can be leased.

Crowds show discontent over city's handling of union negotiations at council meeting

by Emma Palova

A full city hall Monday night resonated with discontent over the city's handling of union negotiations with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

The city and the Lowell Light & Power are currently in the middle of negotiations of a contract with IBEW that would impact a total of 11 employees.

However, according to many city residents, both sides have shown a lack of transparency during the negotiations.

The city is using the services of a mediator appointed by the Michigan Employment Relations Commission, while the union was recently behind the mysterious yellow signs popping up all over the town.

Carly Kermeen, Lowell resident of 27 years, questioned the city's use of a 'big shot' law firm from outside the area.

City council meeting, continued, page 4



Lowell residents showed support for the city and Lowell Light & Power workers. Pictured, on the left, in first row, are Jon and Melissa Francis.

First responders strive to make certain lifesaving defibrillators are readily available around town

by Emma Palova

The recent collapses from heart problems during the Sizzlin' Summer concert series have prompted the Lowell Police Department (LPD), together with the Lowell Fire Department, to write a grant for 24 defibrillators that will be placed all over town.

Acting police chief Steve Bukala expects to receive a grant from the

Lowell Community Fund after a defibrillator saved the life of a 60-year-old male who collapsed at the Kari Lynch concert last week.

The LPD had one defibrillator, also known as Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), left from a presentation by Northstar Medical of Ada.

Officer Christopher Hurst deployed the loaner device last Thursday, until

an ambulance arrived and took the patient to a hospital.

"It was a matter of luck that we had it," said Bukala. "Northstar left it for us on Wednesday."

Four weeks ago, band member Steve Richards from the Magic Bus collapsed from cardiac arrest and due to the lack of an AED device, the communi-

Defibrillators, continued, page 2



Acting police chief Steve Bukala demonstrates the AED.

50 CENTS



Defibrillators, continued

ty members performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) until the ambulance arrived.

“The goal is to have mobile and stationary devices throughout the city,” said Bukala.

The defibrillators, for a

(DPW), Lowell Light & Power (LLP), Lowell Arts, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, Flat River Outreach Ministries and Vergennes Township. Lowell Township already has one.

Training for CPR will be done in-house through

similar devices, but they got outdated and were too expensive to replace. The cost of replacement of the battery alone was \$1,500.

Now, AEDs cost \$1,125.

“The technology got better; they just need a software upgrade,” Bukala said.

A new battery for \$148 is required after four years.

“It’s more cost effective,” he said.

A defibrillator should be applied, at the maximum, in 10 minutes or less. The chances for survival are decreased by 10 percent for each minute lapsed after cardiac arrest, according to national average statistics.

The survival rate without an AED is three to five percent.

It is the goal to also have the devices not only in police cars, but also in DPW and LLP vehicles.

“That will cover the en-

tire town and townships,” said Bukala. “We want to have them strategically placed to maximize coverage.”

And the device is easy

to use because it talks the user through each step. Step one turns on the device; two, gathers info; and three, delivers shocks to start the heart back up.

“I cannot see anyone on the Lowell Community Fund saying no after what it [the AED] had just done for us and the man with the heart attack,” said Bukala.



Lowell police and fire departments hope to have 24 defibrillators placed all over town.

total cost of \$30,000, will be placed at the LPD, city hall, Lowell Fire Department, Lowell Area Schools, Department of Public Works

Lowell Fire Department and Northstar will come out to train personnel from the different entities.

The LPD used to have

Downtown rehabilitation, continued

Affordable housing means that 51 percent of all units created must be rented to people at or below 80 percent of median income. That means, according to Johnston, that four out of 10 people living in the Lowell area would be eligible.

The property owner must provide a minimum of 25 percent of the total cost of rehabilitation.

The rehabilitation turns the underutilized second and third story buildings into urban feel apartments, according to Lori Ware.

The completely rebuilt apartments have new electricity, mechanical, plumbing, new kitchens and bathrooms and they are insulated to new energy codes.

“The program is [an] intricate part of revitalization of downtown areas,” said Johnston.

It creates a completely new living experience for the renters, who utilize services in town, restaurants, bars and convenience stores.

“It’s all very positive,” said Johnston.

The company and the city officials will meet with interested owners to explain the program. Then the owners are qualified based on the ability to come up with 25 percent of the total cost of rehabilitation. Revitalize LLC applies for a MSHDA grant on behalf of the owners and works with the architect and contractors selected by the owner.

“This is the best program the state of Michigan has,” said Ware. “It’s a win win for everybody.”

The owner gets money to renovate underutilized space and he or she will be receiving income from renting. The tenants get a beautiful space to live within walkable distance to services in downtown. And the city has more people in the downtown area.

“The city has more vitality and a better tax base,” said Johnston. “Individuals

will get the best apartment in the community at an affordable price. Downtowns become more vital.”

And the commercial space has customers living directly above, so the downtown becomes the focal point of the community.

The involved parties expect to have an informational meeting sometime in the fall.

“I believe this is the key to downtown revitalization,” said Howe.

Some buildings have already been renovated, like the former Flat River Antique Mall, into condos and commercial spaces.

Mark Batchelor, of Architectural Building Restoration, restored buildings 15 years ago through a historic commission grant from the Englehardt fund. The buildings currently house both commercial, such as Ella’s Coffee and Cuisine and North Country Trails, as well as rental units. His rental space has 85 to 90 percent occupancy rate, but currently no apartments are available.

The apartments rent out quickly, according to Batchelor. He was surprised to hear that the state has monies available through MSHDA for renovation.

“It’s fantastic; it’s a good thing,” he said. “If you make them unique enough, people will come.”



along main street

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The Lowell Area Historical Museum is requesting pictures of the Showboat from the 50s, 60s and 70s. The Showboat’s 80th birthday celebration will be August 23 at the Sizzlin’ Summer Concert. A special exhibit with the history of the Showboat with pictures will be available for viewing. We can make a copy of your original photo to complete this exhibit. Call the museum at 897-7688 if you have any questions.

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Lowell's city manager confident with "great start" after one year on the job

by Emma Palova

It's been a year, officially in July, since Mark Howe took over the city manager post at the Lowell City Hall.

"We got off to a great start," he said. "We started the process of strategic planning that goes hand in hand with the budget."

So, among his accomplishments, Howe definitely placed the balancing of the budget on the top of the list.

To reduce the \$143,000 deficit in the general fund, Howe refinanced the city hall bonds and the outstanding water improvement bonds.

The total operating budget, including the enterprising funds and the street fund, is \$5 million.

The work continues on updates to planning and zoning to encourage development in the city.

"We want to make the city hall user friendly and to help people through the process," he said.

Finding grants to assist people with downtown improvements remains a top priority, as in the current implementation of the Rental Rehabilitation state program.

On the technology side, more features, like paying

taxes and viewing utility bills online, are now available on the upgraded city website.

"We've updated software and hardware to make everything more efficient," said Howe.

Under Howe, new lines of communications have opened up, such as the regular city column in the Lowell Ledger.

"We are building local partnerships," he said.

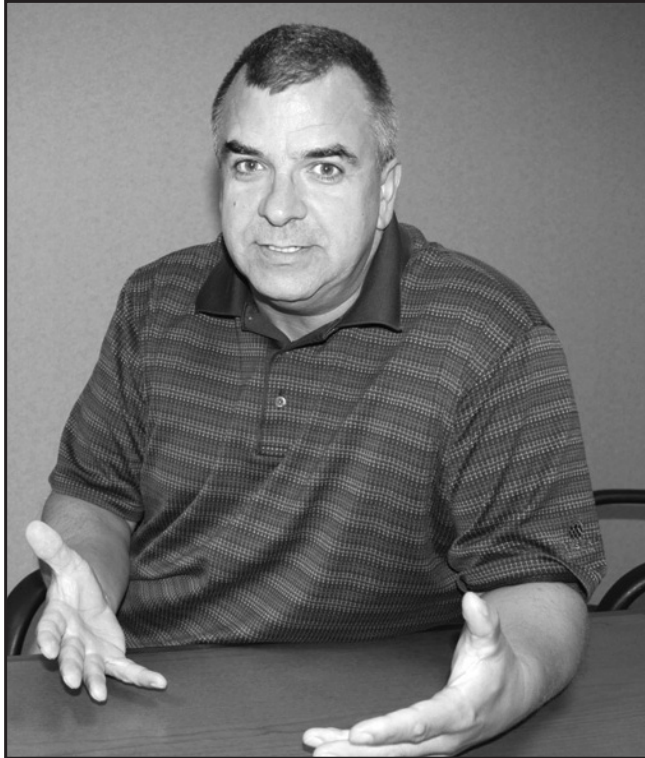
Among the things Howe hasn't yet accomplished is having a solid street plan to fix deteriorating city infrastructure, including sidewalks.

"It's complicated; streets are used in different ways; they're in different conditions and there are different sources of funding, but it's not enough," he said.

The city is working with consultants Williams & Works on a street plan, as well as finding funding for needed improvements.

Currently, the city appropriates one mill for streets, but even if combined with grants, the funding still lacks.

"Our goal is finding more money," Howe said.



Mark Howe talks about accomplishments and strategic planning.

In September, the city and the council will work on establishing goals based on strategic planning.

Howe values the most, the quality of the people on staff, on the city council and people in the community.

"There are great people who work here, hard core working people," he said. "And there is a general willingness to promote the community and do what's best."

It's the community

pride that prefaces everything that goes on around Lowell that Howe loves about the job.

"It's cool to be a part of that," said Howe.

If he could change anything at all, Howe would

like to eliminate the lack of hope for the future.

"I want there to be hope, confident hope," he said. "We think we can, but we can do more. A great example is the Pink Arrow [Pride]."

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City council meeting, continued

“What are you afraid of?” she asked. “It bothers me to see unfair practice.”

Kermeen said she was completely happy with the service Lowell Light & Power provides.

“They work in all hours and in all temperatures,” she said.

According to Kermeen, utility worker Joe Baker knows the city and the lines by the back of his hand.

“You can’t find workers like that,” she said.

Chuck Upton questioned the cost to the city of hiring contractors instead of paying full-time employees.

By doing this, Upton said, the city would be cutting salaries of workers who make \$15 to \$18 an hour.

“Why doesn’t the manager cut his own wages,” asked Upton.

City manager Mark Howe makes \$82,500 annually, while the lowest paid utility worker makes \$17.89 an hour and the highest paid

utility worker makes \$27.22.

Jeff Phillips said the city has dedicated employees in the department of public works who get up at 2:30 in the morning in December to clear the roads and sidewalks.

“Let’s support them and thank them,” said Upton.

Lowell resident of 65 years, Jerry Francis, said the utility has unsafe practices and the workers are not allowed to have other outside jobs.

“They’re not being fair to workers,” said Francis.

She said her son Jon once got out of the pool on his day off and went to do utility repair work when he got called.

“He was quick and right on the job,” he said.

Other residents, like Phillip Heche, also praised the city and utility workers for their prompt service.

“We don’t have to worry,” he said. “We’re getting

what we’re paying for. Our taxes are exuberant. The workers should not have to worry about having their jobs outsourced. What concerns me greatly is outsourcing of jobs.”

Heche said he understands what the men have gone through during the negotiations.

“It’s all one sided and heavy handed,” he said. “You can’t put the burden on workers. Spend money here or people are going to leave the city.”

In a telephone interview on Tuesday, Howe said the city’s previous attorney was earning \$225 an hour.

The city’s current labor attorney is John McGlinchey of Howell. He charges \$160 an hour.

“We will continue to work with the mediator the way [the] law has laid out the process,” he said.

The city is meeting with the union next week.

...
Those who would treat politics and morality apart will never understand the one or the other.

~ John, Viscount Morley (1838-1923)


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viewpoint

to the editor

city and LL&P respond

To The Editor:

The City of Lowell and Lowell Light and Power are now compelled to respond to inaccurate statements that have been made with regard to negotiations currently in process with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). The IBEW is currently representing 10 of the 40+ employees working at Lowell Light and Power and the City of Lowell.

We were served notice on January 3, 2012, from the Michigan Employment Relations Commission, that an election had been held and that certain employee classifications wished to be represented by the IBEW. We

recognized and honored the right of those employees to take this action and began collective bargaining negotiations with the attorney for the IBEW on a contract for the two new bargaining units (Lowell Department of Public Works and Lowell Light and Power lineworkers).

We believed that we could negotiate successfully and honorably across the bargaining table and never thought that the IBEW would resort to pressure tactics away from the table, such as filing unfair labor practice charges, repeatedly submitting requests for information (which, in many cases already had been pro-

vided) and convincing employees to distribute vague yellow signs that did not identify their source.

We support our employees, all of them, but we also recognize that we have a higher responsibility to the citizens and customers who utilize our public services. It is with this higher responsibility in mind that we have attempted to reach a labor contract that will ensure that decisions continue to be governed locally, not by a union headquartered far away from Lowell.

The City of Lowell and Lowell Light and Power currently have operating policies, procedures and employee handbooks in place that guide how we conduct business. These policies are updated periodically and represent current standards in both the public and private sector. The vast ma-

ajority of the contents of our proposals to the IBEW have been consistent with these policies and procedures.

In not one instance has either the City of Lowell or Lowell Light and Power proposed to reduce the rights and benefits that employees have under those policies. The union, however, has sought to take away fundamental rights of the City of Lowell and Lowell Light and Power.

For example, we currently have the right to contract any function of city government and have been successful in doing this in the areas of wastewater treatment, street sweeping, mowing, underground boring and high voltage line-work.

We currently have the right to hire temporary employees and have done so successfully in the past, yet

this has not resulted in any layoffs.

We currently have the right to determine whether or not a second job would be inconsistent with the employee's responsibilities. No prior request has been denied.

These are just some of the rights that the union is seeking to eliminate.

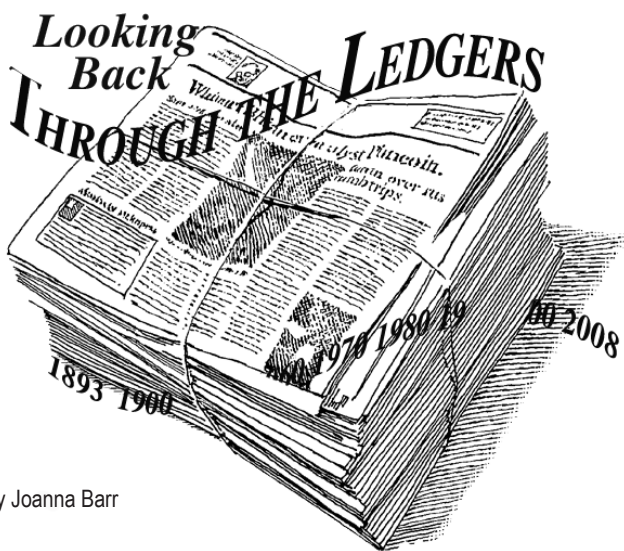
In addition, we currently have a grievance procedure and in negotiations have proposed an additional component in the process that allows our management decisions, with regard to employees, to be reviewed by our respective local governing bodies along with an outside neutral third party.

Michigan law outlines a process for negotiating a collective bargaining agreement. It is our intention to follow that process professionally and honorably. At

the same time, we recognize that the citizens we serve would like to be kept informed of the progress of negotiations. We will be happy to answer questions, but must be careful to follow the law, as well as not discuss issues in a public venue that could potentially compromise our position during the bargaining process.

We will continue negotiations in good faith, at the bargaining table, with the mediator and in the forum prescribed by law. At the same time, we recognize we are employees too and will represent our citizens and our customers by putting the needs of the public ahead of ourselves.

Mark Howe
Manager, City of Lowell
Greg Pierce
General Manager, Lowell
Light and Power



By Joanna Barr

140 years ago Lowell Weekly Journal August 14, 1872

On Friday of last week, the residence of Mr. David Skidmore, of Bowne, was entirely destroyed by fire. The fire originated from a defective stove or stove-pipe in the summer kitchen and made such rapid progress that only a part of the contents was saved. The house was insured for \$800.

Last Saturday was the busiest day of the season. Farmers from all points came to town to buy goods cheap and make the merchants happy. At one time in the afternoon there were eighty-seven teams on Bridge and Main streets. Pretty good for a dull day.

The Sentinel says that W. W. Mitchell of Ionia has sold his span of roadsters to a Chicago man for \$1,125 and a three-year-old stallion for \$700. Come to Michigan for good horses.

A fisticuff entertainment took place on Monday afternoon, near the D. & M. depot, between two or more pugilistic individuals. Sundry bruises, the result.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger Aug. 8, 1912

Headline: ACCIDENT AT RACES – Driver Slaughter of Grand Rapids Injured in Free-for-All. Although marred by an accident, the matinee races at Recreation Park last Thursday were declared by

good judges to have been the best in the point of sport ever held here. In the free-for-all, Driver Slaughter of Grand Rapids had two ribs broken, being thrown to the ground in a mix-up with Hakes' horse, Marcus, which was somewhat injured and handicapped for the remaining heats, but was all right again after several days. As usual rain threatened, but the races were enjoyed by an attendance of 1,100.

Headline: A NEW WAREHOUSE – Being Built by Charles Jakeway at Lowell. A produce warehouse and elevator, 34 X 76 feet and three stories high, is to be built by Charles Jakeway on the land south of the McQueen livery and bus barn and adjoining the Pere Marquette track on the north. The building is to have a concrete foundation and is to be brick veneer and cost approximately \$4,000. Mr. Jakeway expects the new building to be ready for business by October 1. He is buying his material of local dealers and excavation work has already begun. The business will be the same that is done at Moseley, handling potatoes, beans and fruits. The new warehouse will be finely located for business and the shipping facilities are unexcelled. Mr. Jakeway is well pleased with the outlook for fall business.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger and Alto Solo August 12, 1937

Showboat Boy Soprano Escapes Death – Clarence Gittins, the fifteen-year-old soprano of Detroit who was received with great favor at last year's performance of Lowell Showboat, is recovering nicely from injuries received Saturday afternoon when he was struck by a car while riding a pony five miles west of here on M-21. The pony could not be halted as the car of C. E. Berg of Muskegon came near and the animal headed into the path of the automobile. The pony was injured so severely that he later had to be killed.

A fire occurred last Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Emma Austin on Pleasant St. with an estimated damage of about \$500 from fire and water. It was believed that the fire started from sparks which had blown from a nearby bonfire, igniting the wooden shingle roof. The local fire department responded to the call and had the blaze checked in a short while.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger Aug. 9, 1962

One of the features of the annual 4-H Fair next week at the Lowell fairgrounds will be the Midway. The A. J. Carl Shows of Utica, Michigan, will bring six big rides, five kiddie rides and many carnival concessions to Lowell for the event. Other attractions will be the many 4-H projects and swimming for 4-H club members at the King Memorial Pool, adjacent to the fairgrounds.

Work is expected to start next week on a \$83,700 sewer, water main and street project to service the Valley Vista plat of the Lowell Development Co. on the west side. Contracts were signed Monday at the city council meeting with the Lowell Development Co. for a special assessment district to finance the work. Wendell Berman, president of the company, placed \$79,000 in an escrow account at Old Kent Bank to pay for the development company's part of the job. The low bidders on the project, Bultema Bros. and Dykema Excavators were given the go-ahead and they will start work as soon as all the paper work is completed. This work will bring water in from Foreman Street and sewer in from Main Street.

25 years ago The Grand Valley Ledger August 12, 1987

A farm truck hauling fence and posts caused damage to the canopy, lights and ceiling tiles at the Crystal Flash filling station on West Main St., Wednesday, Aug. 5, when the driver, Peter Teeron, 56, of Benzonia, attempted to drive under the structure.

Two subjects are being sought by Lowell Police for the breaking and entering of Bushnell School early Friday morning. The pair broke into the building and took an Apple computer, disk drive and screen from the building.

Arrested and lodged in the Kent County jail on charges of disorderly person was Jose Zamora, 20, of Lowell, Sunday evening, August 9, after he reportedly kept stepping into traffic on S. Hudson St. Zamora will be arraigned in 63rd District Court, Monday, on the charges.

area births

Serne



Vivienne Mae Serne

Michael and Sara Serne of Lowell welcomed their new daughter, Vivienne Mae, into the world on April 27, 2012. She weighed 7.4 lbs. and measured 20 inches. She is the granddaugh-

ter of Joann and the late Michael Serne of Ada; and Duane and Christine Nash of Ionia. She is the great-granddaughter of Virginia Van Tassell of Ada; and Elaine Nash of Ionia.

Area church helps public schools with "Love Week" projects

by Karen Jack

A couple weeks ago, members of Impact Church in Lowell participated in their "Love Week." The church instilled "Love Week" in their ministry for the upcoming year. This being the first one, the "impact" they had on the local schools can be seen by all. Their goal was to help where the budget fell short.

The plan was to help improve the grounds at all the schools, both here in Lowell and in Saranac as they have a campus there too. Putting in 695 hours with 222 people over a week in Lowell and 181 hours with 87 people over three days in Saranac, they did much more than just improve the grounds.

They also added some special projects at Cherry Creek Elementary and at the high school. At Cherry Creek, they revitalized the outside basketball court, repainting the lines and backboard. They also re-painted all the signs at each school.

At the high school, they improved all the landscaping on Vergennes, repainted the Bob Perry sign on the football field and repainted the LHS rocks on the football field as well. The tennis courts were in special need of cleaning, as they had a lot of rocks on them from oth-



Members of Impact clean the grounds at the administration building.

er sports practicing around them.

They also worked at the administration building and the bus garage, repainting all the stripes for the buses.

Impact plans on having two more "Love Weeks," with one in the fall and one in the spring, that will be community-based. They're not sure what the next two will entail, but they do know it will show love towards the community.

"We also do mentoring programs with the schools, so this was a logical place for us to start," said Bon-

nie Davis, the Community-Life director at Impact. "It also gave families a chance to work together and get to

know each other outside the walls of our church. We're looking forward to our next one."

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AUGUST 12

Robin Briggs, Linda Uzarski, Steve Martin Sr., Gaylord Heaston, Alex Richmond.

AUGUST 9

Pamela Esparza, Steven Burrows.

AUGUST 13

Robert Hewitt, Ryan Christenson, Ryan Roe, Mike Roth.

AUGUST 10

Madeline Scott.

AUGUST 14

Adam Billingsley, Aaron Christenson, Betsey Brenk, Bob Wilzcewski.

AUGUST 11

Mike Wilzcewski, Jordan Warren, Nicholas Brzezniak.

area churches

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Vergennes resident, entrepreneur provides high speed Internet to township

by Emma Palova

Call it a hyper local venture; all made in Vergennes Township. The Vergennes Broadband LLC was in the planning stages for a year and after six months of operations, it is now self-sustaining.

Founder Ryan Peel, a resident of the township, started the service because of the lack of reliable or unavailable Internet service in the area.

"We're 100 percent up and running," said Peel.

The first customer started receiving service on Jan. 6 and since then Peel has been busy taking phone calls and scheduling subscribers as they come.

"Our cash flow is positive and we have three vertical assets," he said.

Some subscribers in the township, like Doug Lindhout, call Peel a true problem solver.

"All the rest of us just complained about it, but Ryan rallied and pulled a lot of people together," said Lindhout.

Like many residents of the township, Lindhout has been through the ordeal with the other providers. Starting with Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) in the 1980s and satellite using Wildblue Internet provider.

"We've worked our way through as many technologies as we could," Lindhout said.

The satellite service was susceptible to weather that caused the loss of signal, plus the company over-subscribed causing propagation delays.

"It was not a high quality experience, so when Ryan proposed his system, we were early supporters," said Lindhout.

Lindhout's wife, Sandy, works full-time out of the home with her transcription service "The Last Word" and Doug has an office, CDH Consultants in Grand Rapids, but quite often works from home.

"Now I can participate in video conferences," he said. "It's been good all the way around."

Peel now has three towers in the works. One completed on Vergennes Road and one on Beckwith near Fallasburg. He is planning to build a third tower northeast of Vergennes Township near 4 Mile and Fallasburg Park Road.

"With three towers we have the ability to get a lot more spots," he said. "In pocket areas, we can extend coverage in between the towers."

And although the trees

cause the difficulty, Peel has been able to overcome that with localized access points. The advantages over

competition in the township, now from Michwave, are many, including unlimited data.

"It's hyper local," said Peel. "I take service from my own company. You're

dealing with somebody who cares about the service."

If there are any problems, Peel usually can take care of them himself and he employs a part-time technician. Peel is also certified to climb the towers to place the equipment on them. The tower on Vergennes Road, near Boynton, is 160 feet tall and Peel placed the antennas on it himself.

"That's the part that I enjoy the most," he said.

The plans are for a fourth tower and to offer greater speeds than competitors within the next six months.

"I need four towers to complete the Vergennes Broadband build out," he said.

Peel assessed the need for a fourth tower based on studies and experience.

The start-up cost for the Internet service is approximately \$200 to \$300, which entails the technician coming out and installing the equipment. The service cost is \$39 to \$79 per month with the first month free and a two-year agreement.

And there is a lot of capacity on the towers, with approximately 50 customers per tower.

"We have low latency compared to satellite," said Peel. "Streaming video, VPN and gaming are no problem," he said.

Peel has been working with the township, which re-

quires a building permit per each tower.

Recently, competitor Michwave put up a tower in the township without a permit.

"I provide sealed and stamped drawings from an engineer," he said.

Peel works as a web application manager for Hastings Mutual Insurance Company managing IT personnel. He works 40 hours in Hastings and 30 hours on Vergennes Broadband.

"I wanted to bring a service needed in the township, including myself," he said. "I wanted it to be profitable to pay back the investors and myself."

Peel provides the users with the best technology from Purewave Networks based in California.

"I want to be profitable and the provider that finds the creative way to get the job done," he said. "I have a lot of passion and drive to do the right thing. The profit and salary are a side effect."

Peel raised the start-up money for the project through promissory notes from investors.

"Ryan has raised the level of service using quality technologies," said Lindhout. "I would recommend the service without hesitation. It's absolutely worth every penny spent."

For more information, go to the website vergennesbroadband.com



Ryan Peel stands in front a tower in Vergennes Township.

LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

All Proposals Must Be Submitted Online No Later Than August 17, 2012 to be considered.

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

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

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August primary draws a mix of voters

Both first- and long-time voters came to vote in the Aug. 7 primary. David Vogel, newcomer to Lowell, voted for the first time at the city hall. "Why not?" he said.

On the other hand-election greeter Bill Wood hasn't missed an election since the late 1940s when Truman was elected.

Bernadette Johnson votes because her mother and father taught her to do so. She has voted in every election except when being sick.

By noon on Tuesday approximately 70 people voted. However, election officials expect a huge turnout for the November general election because of a crowded ballot with issues and candidates.

"We're going to have a huge ballot," said clerk Betty Morlock.

The ballot had to be adjusted, so the information about how to vote is now on the front of the voting folder.

"Come out and vote," said Wood.



Blues – Bikes – Cars comes to Lowell

by Karen Jack

The First Congregational Church of Lowell will be hosting the first annual Blues – Bikes – Cars on Saturday, August 25, from noon to 4:30 pm.

Aiming their efforts at having the best local church festival, they will be having a car show from noon to 4:30 pm. They will have dash plaques for the first 100 entries. There is no pre-registration for the car show, but each entrant will have to pay \$10.

They will also host a motorcycle ride and rally, with a blessing of the bikes

following the ride at 3:45 pm. Registration for the bike ride will be from noon to 1:00 pm at a cost of \$10 per bike. The ride will begin at 1:00 pm and last until about 3:00 pm.

Registration for both the car show and bike ride also includes a meal ticket and entry into the music portion of the day.

To add to the entertainment, Upstage Crew Blues Band will play from 4:30 pm to 5:45 pm. Upstage Crew has performed at the B.O.B. for the Blues Fest in Grand Rapids. Their drum-

mer, Mark Hines, graduated from Lowell High School.

Following that performance is Thirsty Perch Blues Band from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Thirsty Perch's own Chris Collins also graduated from Lowell High School and has two CDs out. They have headlined at Quake on Lake in Detroit and have opened for Kenny Wayne Shephard as well.

"This will be some of the best blues playing around," noted Kelly Holt, one of the organizers for the event.

The event will also have kids' games, an auction and beer tent. Bingo will be hosted by the local Moose

Club and will go from noon to 3:00 pm.

Of course, food will be available as well, including a pork sandwich, cole slaw, baked beans and a drink for \$6.00, as well as a hot dog, chips and drink for \$5.00. They will also have papaya while supplies last. If anybody is interested in hosting a food booth, please call Nancy Wood, the food coordinator, at 897-8546 as soon as possible.

"This is the first time we're doing this, but we wanted to bring some fun to the local community, plus raise money for our church's building fund. That way, we can keep giving back to the community," added Holt.



Pastor Chris Schwab, Nancy Wood and Kelly Holt of First Congregational Church of Lowell.



At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe St. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

The Orphan Train in Michigan

Nearly 12,500 children from New York City and the Boston areas, riding aboard the Orphan Train, were placed in Michigan from 1854 to 1927. Father-son team, Al and David Eicher, research historians and television producers whose family has ties to the orphan train, have researched and documented those events and will present a program co-sponsored by the Friends of the Englehardt Library and the Lowell Historical Museum. Program to be held at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash SE. For adults. Tuesday, September 18, 7:00 pm.

Running with the Pack benefit raises \$3,650 for Dani Knight fund



A benefit was held last Saturday to raise money to help Dani Knight. A fund has been set up for Knight, a Lowell Middle School student recently diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer. The event raised \$3,650. Brothers Paul and Pat Cornish, of Running with the Pack Motorcycle Club, presented a check to Adam Chilver of Huntington Bank. Additional contributions can be made at any Huntington Bank branch.

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Grattan Twilight Walk raises \$11,000 for Gilda's Club

by Karen Jack

With overcast skies for the day, even a little bit of rain earlier in the day, the coordinators of the Grattan Twilight Cancer Walk were worried they wouldn't have a large turnout. And in true community fashion, the walkers came and raised a lot of money for Gilda's Club of Lowell.

Being the second largest contributor to Gilda's Club of Lowell, the walk brought in over \$11,000 this year, with 250 walkers, all dressed in blue.

With many corporate sponsors giving them a jump start, they started out with \$4,380 before even starting the walk. Some of those sponsors included

Subway of Lowell, Chad Steendam Farms, Northern Properties and Internio.

The event was littered with several different booths, including a silent auction, a "swag" booth, where people could buy various cancer-related necklaces, key chains and other swag; and a booth where people who are cancer survivors could get their purple ribbon to signify they are survivors.

One such survivor, Joyce Belka of Grattan Township, had a positive biopsy five years ago. She underwent surgery and radiation therapy and now is almost five years' cancer-free. "It makes you stop and appreciate everything

you have. This is my first year walking in this and I'm proud to be part of a wonderful event," Belka said.

Another amazing survivor, who has spoken at every single Twilight Walk since it started four years ago is Judy Joppie. She's a huge believer in Gilda's and spoke this year about how she was diagnosed with left, upper lobe lung cancer in 2007 and beat it. But then earlier this year, was diagnosed with a new kind of lung cancer, this time in her right upper lobe. She went through four months of chemotherapy and was told four weeks ago, she is again cancer free.

Joppie's a true believer

in Gilda's Club, as she attends their support group weekly, where she can talk to others going through the same thing. She said it's so much better to have a Gilda's Club closer to home, especially when she wasn't feeling exceptionally well. "That 40 minute drive to the other Gilda's Club would have been tough for me. But these meetings were so important to me, that I am so thankful there is one right in Lowell."

Her husband has also taken advantage of the Gilda's Club through their family support groups. "Cancer affects the whole family," added Joppie. "My husband has gone through all of this with me and while it might not be the same as what I'm going through, he needed the support too."

"Gilda's has meant so much to me. I've made a lot of friends and they've become my other family," said Joppie.

Donna Gundrum, one of the coordinators of the event said, "The Faasen's (the owners of Grattan Raceway) have been so wonderful to donate everything for this event. They're pillars of this community and are very



philanthropic. I'm just glad we have them here in Grattan and they let us tap into their facility."

"It's important that we grow every year," said April Kole, another coordinator. "We need to keep giving to

Gilda's Club of Lowell because we see the difference they make to our friends, family and neighbors. While we know the economy isn't where we want it to be, I'm amazed at how many people just keep giving."



financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Diversify your investment risk

All investments carry risk. But, as an investor, one of the biggest risks you face is that of not achieving your long-term goals, such as enjoying a comfortable retirement and remaining financially independent throughout your life. To help reach your objectives, you need to own a variety of investment vehicles — and each carries its own type of risk.

If you spread your investment dollars among vehicles that carry different types of risk, you may increase your chances of owning some investments that do well, even if, at the same time, you own others that aren't. As a result, you may be able to reduce the overall level of volatility in your portfolio. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification can't guarantee a profit or protect against all losses.)

To diversify your risk factors, you first need to rec-

ognize them. Here are some of the most common types of investment risk:

- **Market risk** — This is the type of risk that everyone thinks about — the risk that you could lose principal if the value of your investment drops and does not recover before you sell it. All investments are subject to market risk. You can help lessen this risk by owning a wide variety of investments from different industries and even different countries.

- **Inflation (purchasing power) risk** — If you own a fixed-rate investment, such as a Certificate of Deposit (CD), that pays an interest rate below the current rate of inflation, you are incurring purchasing power risk. Fixed-income investments can help provide reliable income streams, but you also need to consider investments with growth potential to help work toward your long-term goals.

- **Interest-rate risk** — Bonds and other fixed-income investments are subject to interest-rate risk. If you own a bond that pays four percent interest, and newly issued bonds pay five percent, it would be diffi-

cult to sell your bond for full price. So if you wanted to sell it prior to maturity, you might have to offer it at a discount to the original price. However, if you hold your bonds to maturity, you can expect to receive return of your principal provided the bond does not default.

- **Default risk** — Bonds, along with some more complex investments, such as options, are subject to default risk. If a company issues a bond that you've bought and that company runs into severe financial difficulties, or even goes bankrupt, it may default on its bonds, leaving you holding the bag. You can help protect against this risk by sticking with "investment-grade" bonds — those that receive high ratings from independent rating agencies such as Standard & Poor's or Moody's.

- **Liquidity risk** — Some investments, like real estate, are harder to sell than others. Thus, real estate is considered more "illiquid" than many common investments.

Make sure you understand what type of risk is associated with every investment you own. And try to avoid "overloading" your portfolio with too many investments with the same type of risks. Doing so will not result in a totally smooth journey through the investment world — but it may help eliminate some of the "bumps" along the way.

AAA: Motorists to make extensive behavior changes as gas prices near \$4 a gallon

Retail gas prices are on the rise again and Michigan motorists are prepared to make money-saving changes now that gas prices have surpassed \$ 3.75 a gallon.

Almost one in six Michigan motorists (13 percent) will make extensive behavior modifications to save money now that gas prices are between \$3.75 and \$4 a gallon, according to a AAA Consumer Pulse™ survey. However, one in four survey respondents (26 percent) said they will not make behavioral changes until gas prices range from \$4 to \$4.25 a gallon.

Consumers are almost evenly split on who they blame for the rise in pump prices:

50 percent blame oil companies; 30 percent blame a lack of more U.S. drilling; 27 percent blame the Mideast; 26 percent blame commodity speculators; 26 percent blame a

higher international demand for oil; and 22 percent blame oil cartels.

Half of consumers (50 percent) blame oil companies for the rise in gas prices, but it's commodity speculators who often have more impact on oil prices that affect what motorists pay at the pump. Currently, tensions with Iran have created concern among speculators of a possible global supply disruption that led to an almost immediate rise in both oil and gas prices. In addition, speculation that European leaders will take action to spur economic growth has also placed upward pressure on prices.

"Michigan drivers are concerned about fast-rising gas prices and are prepared to do what they can to help cut their fuel costs," said Nancy Cain, AAA Michigan spokeswoman. "Unfortunately, rising crude oil prices, along with some refinery

issues affecting the Midwest -- including Michigan -- are prompting higher prices at the pump."

Other AAA Consumer Pulse™ survey findings:

Top four things consumers have cut back on as a direct result of increased gas prices are:

shopping for pleasure (43 percent); dining out at restaurants (37 percent); taking weekend trips (27 percent); and going out to lunch during the week (27 percent).

Top four things consumers do to make up for the increased expense of gasoline are:

consolidate errands (53 percent); drive less (47 percent); cut back on discretionary expenses (34 percent); and budget better (33 percent).

Gas prices, continued, page 11

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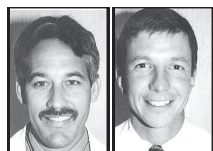
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health



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



Osteoporosis

Osteoporosis is a disease that causes loss of bone mass. When bones thin, they become more fragile and tend to fracture easily. It mainly affects older men and women, but can strike at any age. One out of every two women and one in eight men over 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetime. When osteoporosis becomes severe, these fractures tend to occur with minimal stress or injury. These fractures tend to occur in the spine, which leads to loss of height, chronic pain and a "stooped-forward" posture. They may also occur at the hip with minor trauma. This can lead to decreased mobility, which can be detrimental to seniors. The good news is that osteoporosis can be prevented and treated in most cases.

Factors you cannot change that put you at risk for osteoporosis, include age, gender, ethnicity and family history. Risk factors you can change, include poor diet, poor calcium and vitamin D intake, inactivity, smoking and certain medication usage.

Prevention of osteoporosis should begin at an early age and continue throughout your lifetime. All post-menopausal women and at risk men, should have a bone densitometry (or DEXA scan) performed in order to determine their bone quality. If you presently have osteoporosis, make sure you are being treated with one of the newer medications, in addition to modifying your risk factors. Talk to your health care provider about developing your own strategy to prevent and/or treat osteoporosis.

...
**We should every night call ourselves to an account;
 What infirmity have I mastered today?
 What passions opposed? What temptation resisted?
 What virtue acquired?
 Our vices will abort of themselves if
 they be brought every day to the shrift.**

~ Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD)

lend a hand
volunteering opportunities

The Literacy Center of West Michigan has scheduled an information session on Thursday, August 9, 2012, for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 pm and lasts one hour. It allows per-

sons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to find out more about the center and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Literacy Center of W. Michigan is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in our community. Based on 1990 census figures, at least 19,000 adults in Kent County cannot read at a functional level. At least 6,000 adults cannot speak or understand English well. By training people to be tutors, the center can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The information session will be held at the Literacy Center of West Michigan, located at 1120 Monroe Ave., NW, Suite 240, Grand Rapids, MI. Please call us at 459-5151 (ext. 10) to register.

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Flat River Outreach Ministries joins the Michigan Loan Closets

Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) has joined the Michigan Loan Closets to help families in need obtain necessary medical equipment that they may not be able to afford due to lack of insurance coverage or high deductibles. Sponsored by Lending Hands of Michigan, Inc., the Michigan Loan Closets is a collaborative effort to help Michigan residents find affordable durable medical equipment in their local community. FROM registered in July to make the durable medical equipment loan program available to the broader community.

FROM's Medical Equipment Loan Program enables families in need of medical equipment to borrow items, free of cost, for as long as necessary. Ann Mulder, a retired registered nurse, oversees the Medical Equipment Loan Program at FROM.

"We have quite a variety of equipment and can often meet the specific needs that people have," Mulder said. "Most of the equipment has multiple features which helps."

Mulder enjoys helping people who might otherwise go without medical equipment that can make recovery easier in many situations: like twelve-year-old Maria, who had a stroke in utero, causing damage to the right side of her brain which left Maria unable to properly control her right leg and foot.

Maria's muscles in her right foot and leg tighten up and constrict, causing pain and a turning-in of her foot. For a time, Botox injections in her leg relieved the pain by relaxing the muscles, but in February Maria needed surgery on her right leg to lengthen and move the tendons in an effort to strength-

en her leg. The surgery included realigning her foot and heel with screws and pins. Just one day after a successful surgery, Maria returned home to sleep in her own bed, but not without the need of some medical equipment, equipment that FROM was able to provide at no cost to Maria's family.

"It was so hard for Maria to do everything on her own during her recovery process," her grandmother Kathy said. "The shower seat and transfer board from FROM has helped tremendously. I don't know how she would have been able to shower if not for that shower chair," Kathy said. "It's been a life-saver."

"We have the basics, like shower chairs, wheelchairs, crutches and canes," Mulder said, "but we also have larger items like hospital beds. The inventory

changes all the time because things come in and go out regularly and new equipment is donated at times. If someone is looking for something specific, it's best to call and check."

Flat River Outreach Ministries is a nonprofit organization whose mission is serving the people of the greater Lowell area in their time of hardship. More in-

formation can be found at www.fromlowell.org, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fromlowell or by contacting the office at 897-8260.



business matters



Greenridge Realty announced that Selena DeGrote received Sales Associate of the Month in July.

This award recognizes DeGrote for her outstanding success and achievements.

Gas prices, continued

The Auto Club Group (ACG) is the second largest AAA club in North America. ACG and its affiliates provide membership, travel, insurance and financial services offerings to approximately 8.8 million members across 11 states and two U.S. territories, including Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; most of Illinois, Minnesota; and a portion of Indiana. ACG belongs to the national AAA federation with nearly 53 million members in the United States and Canada

and whose mission includes protecting and advancing freedom of mobility and improving traffic safety.

The AAA Consumer Pulse™ survey was conducted online among residents living in Michigan from May 3-5, 2012. A total of 428 residents completed the survey. The survey has a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 4.7 percentage points. Overall survey responses are weighted by gender and age to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the adult population (18 and older) in Michigan.

DNR warns of prohibited species that may be available at pet, aquarium stores

The Department of Natural Resources wants to remind consumers and pet traders alike to be aware of prohibited species that could potentially be sold at pet and aquarium stores throughout Michigan.

Michigan has a Prohibited and Restricted Species statute that prevents citizens from possessing numerous plant, crustacean, fish, insect, mammal and mollusk species. The list includes known invasive species the DNR wants to either prevent from entering and establishing populations in Michigan or limit their further spread throughout the state. Introduction or spread of these species poses risks to native plants and animals, could potentially cause harm to human health, and would be costly, if not impossible, to eradicate or control.

DNR employees familiar with prohibited and restricted species have found numerous examples of them being sold in pet and aquarium stores throughout the state. Store owners should be aware of the Prohibited and Restricted Species list to prevent legal ramifications from selling them, and consumers should be aware of the list to help prevent their introduction and spread.

"It's important that those looking to purchase a

pet, or those looking to add plants, fish or other live materials to their aquariums, are educated to prevent the establishment and spread of unwanted species in Michigan," said Tom Goniea, DNR fisheries biologist. "The more familiar people are with the state's Prohibited and Restricted Species list, the better we are able to ensure that does not happen."

Prohibited and restricted species that have been found in Michigan pet and aquarium stores include the Brazilian elodea plant (a water plant that may be sold for aquarium use) and fish from the snakehead family (a highly invasive fish that has established populations in numerous East Coast states).

Any person or business owner who intentionally or accidentally finds themselves in possession of a prohibited or restricted species is recommended to immediately kill/ euthanize the specimen in question before disposing of it in a certified landfill.

The Prohibited and Restricted Species list is part of Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act of 1994. The full list can be found at www.michigan.gov/fishing.

Any person in possession of live prohibited/re-

stricted species or who has planted them anywhere in Michigan, including on private as well as public land and water, is subject to a civil fine of up to \$10,000 and may be subject to property seizure and felony prosecution and penalty. Any person or company selling prohibited or restricted species is subject to a civil fine of up to \$20,000 and may be subject to property seizure and felony prosecution and penalty.

The DNR encourages persons with knowledge or

information about the live possession, introduction or sale of prohibited/restricted species in Michigan to contact the Report All Poaching (RAP) hotline at 1-800-292-7800.

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

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Lowell
616.897.9261**



obituaries

ZERBE

Marjorie Louise Zerbe, age 85, of Alto, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, August 1, 2012. She was preceded in death by her son, David Wheeler, in 1986 and a daughter, Doreen Zerbe, in 2011. Surviving are her husband, Fred Zerbe; her children, Sonja Ryan, Connie (Rick) Taylor, Gary (Donna) Wheeler, and John (Julie) Zerbe; and thirteen grandchildren. A memorial service will be held for Marjorie and Doreen at 1:00 pm on Saturday, August 11, 2012, at the Zerbe farm, 13290 84th St., Alto, MI 49302. www.MichiganCremation.com

POWERS JR.

Roger Dee Powers Jr., born September 23, 1950 passed away August 5, 2012 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was preceded in death by his parents, Roger Sr. and Hazel, and mother-in-law Doris Kremer. He is survived by his loving wife of 41 years Sue; children, Kimberly (Floyd) Thomas, Todd (Krista) Powers; grandchildren, Brendan, Elizabeth, Riley, Grace, Ashley, Ryan and Karlee; great grandchildren, Johnathon, Allissia, Karson; brother, Calvin (Kay) Powers; sisters, Shirley (Roy) Rood, Barbara Manley; best friend-brother,



Larry Precious; and many other special family members. Roger served in the US Marine Corps and worked at Amway for 43 years. He will be remembered for his quick wit, sense of humor, intelligence and enthusiasm for life. He loved 50's/60's music, books, technology, sci-fi, scuba diving, weight lifting, astronomy, DJ/KJ events, photography, craft beers, diet coke but most of all – his family. He will be missed by all who knew him. Funeral Service will be held Wednesday, August 8, 11:00 a.m. at Saranac Community Church, 125 S. Bridge Street, Saranac. Pastor Becky Poor officiating. Visitation Tuesday August 7, 2-4:00 and 6-8:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Memorial Contributions may be made to Gilda's Club of Lowell, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331 or Hospice of Ionia, 601 E. Washington, Ionia, MI 48846



LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 12-192378-DE

Estate of SHIRLEY
JOANNE CORNELL.
Date of birth: 11/04/1936.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS: The
decedent, Shirley
Joanne Cornell died
03/22/2012.

Creditors of the
decedent are notified
that all claims against
the estate will be
forever barred unless
presented to Clare R.
Colwell, ICNB Mortgage

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

July 30, 2012

Lawrence P. McKaig
(P24014)
267 E. Main Street
PO Box 4
Ionia MI 48846
616-527-4990

Clare R. Colwell, ICNB
Mortgage Company,
LLC
302 W. Main Street
PO Box 180
Ionia, MI 48846
616-527-7753

Voter Information goes mobile

Secretary of State offers smartphone version of elections website.

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson today announced a smartphone version of the state's Michigan Voter Information Center to provide convenient election information in today's mobile society.

"You can already access your voter registration information and see a sample ballot by going to www.Michigan.gov/vote," said Johnson, the state's chief elections officer. "This smartphone version of the

website is designed to help you more easily view the same information while you're on the go."

The site is designed to work with most smartphone web browsers on a variety of mobile platforms. Visitors away from their computers can go to www.Michigan.gov/vote and choose a link that offers the mobile setup. From there they can access voter registration information, sample ballots, an election calendar, absentee voter information and instructions on how to use voting equipment. They can also find

their local clerk's office and polling place. A corresponding Quick Response (QR) code is also available that allows people to bring up the site by scanning the code with their phone.

Johnson encouraged residents to check the website for information on upcoming elections. If residents have not yet registered for the Nov. 6 general election, they can do so at their local clerk's office or any Secretary of State office.

For more information about Secretary of State office locations and additional services, visit www.michigan.gov/sos. Sign up for the official Secretary of State Twitter feed at www.twitter.com/michsos and Facebook updates at www.facebook.com/michigansos.

Customers also may call the Department of State Information Center to speak to a customer-service representative at 888-SOS-MICH (767-6424).

...

It is better to sleep on things beforehand than lie awake about them afterward.

~Baltasar Gracian

Advance Planning Special

Traditional Burial Service

Casket included
\$4,990*
(\$480 Savings)



Simple Direct Cremation... \$1,030**
(\$100 Savings)

Payment Plans Available
Offer ends August 20, 2012

*Does not include vault or cash advance items.
**Does not include urn or cash advance items.



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(616) 866-7200

Kurt B. Stegenga Owner, Manager

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP TOWNSHIP BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Board will be held on **Monday, August 20, 2012 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider a special exception use permit as follows:

Michwave Technologies, Inc. is applying for a special exception use permit for a 100 foot tall tower attached to a Silo to hold broadband internet antennas. The silo is on property owned by Greg Hewitt at 10496 Bailey Dr. NE, Lowell, Michigan.

The complete application can be reviewed at the **Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674]**. Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Clerk at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to: clerk@vergenne-nestwp.org

Mari Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

A RETROSPECTIVE

Jon Eron (Christian) Silvis
will be remembered
and honored at an open house

August 9-12
Daily hours 3-9 p.m.
or by appointment: 897-7216
family home, 230 N. Jefferson.

Jon's artistic work will be shown.
Bring your memories.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

1	5	8	7	9	6	3	2	4
4	3	2	5	8	1	6	7	9
6	7	9	3	2	4	5	1	8
3	6	7	9	4	5	2	8	1
2	4	1	8	7	3	9	6	5
9	8	5	6	1	2	4	3	7
7	2	4	1	3	9	8	5	6
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office hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - noon
closed Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

1961 800 SERIES - Ford tractor, approx. 1300 hrs, \$4200; 12 ft. Sea Nymph flat bottom row boat, \$500; 6'x14' hay wagon, \$400; Winchester manufactured model 42, 1942, \$1500. 560-5157.

DINING SET - antique oak drop leaf table w/4 press back chairs. Also, a 2-piece hutch. \$1,200 OBO. Amazing shape. 989-745-3884.

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

TFN

U PICK BLUEBERRIES - netted, excellent picking. 3100's Hawley Hwy., Belding. Pete Marhofer, 616-794-0358.

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.

CENTRAL BOILER CLASSIC - Outdoor Wood Furnace. Eliminates high heating bills. Helps reduce your carbon footprint. 97% efficient. EPA qualified. Great summer sale. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

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.

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

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

GMC 2000 EXT CAB PICKUP - nice, \$6,800 OBO, V6, auto, A/C, 85,000 miles. Adult nonsmoker lady owner. Call 897-5743.

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

TFN

DACHSHUND PUPSAK - smooth coat, red males, vet checked, first shots, ready for new homes. Call 897-5676.

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

help wanted

COMMERCIAL CLEANING POSITION - Janitorial position available in the Cascade/Ada area. Part-time, 10 hours per week. Reliable transportation & valid drivers license required. We offer competitive wages. Stop in soon & fill out an application: Metropolitan Building Maintenance, 868 Barnum SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49509

DENTAL ASSISTANT - experience required & Dextrix computer knowledge helpful. Please fax resume to 897-7189 or mail to Dr. James E. Reagan, 207 W. Main, Lowell, MI 49331.

COOK - Green Acres of Lowell is currently seeking an experienced part-time cook to prepare nutritious tasteful meals & snacks for residents. Candidate will need to be available to work weekends. If you have a passion to work with the elderly & truly want to make a difference, then we want you! For immediate consideration, apply in person at: 11530 Fulton Street SE, Lowell, MI. No phone calls please.

NOW HIRING - and training for career positions with West Michigan's leading real estate company. Call Rick Seese, Greenridge Realty, Inc. for a confidential interview. 616-437-2576 or 616-974-4250.

RN/LPN - Green Acres Retirement Community is seeking a part-time RN/LPN. The ideal candidate must have strong managerial & communication skills & a love for seniors. Previous experience in geriatrics is a plus. We offer the right candidate a generous compensation package, benefits & the opportunity to join a winning team. For consideration, please send your resume in confidence to: Kelly Johnson, 11530 Fulton Street SE, Lowell, MI 49331.

STALL CLEANER NEEDED - 3 days per week, approx. 3 hours per day. Please call 616-328-1913.

HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE STUDENT - needed a few days a week from approx. 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. to hang out with a cool middle school student. Must enjoy talking about boys, hanging out at Subway after school & having fun. Must have transportation. Best after school job ever! Call Mikie at 616-204-2500 or cmcvey@khps.org

TFN

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

TAP SHOES & BALLERINA SHOES - size 11 & 11 1/2, for little girls 5 & 6; dance/ballerina tights and dance outfits, sz. 6 or 6x. 897-4389.

for rent

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.

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

misc.

DO YOU IDENTIFY WITH THE FOLLOWING - hurts, anger, shame, guilt? Anxiety, depression, trouble saying no? Unhealthy relationships? Problems with food, gambling, porn, alcohol, drugs? If so, come to Celebrate Recovery & find out how Jesus can & does help. Impact Church, 1070 Hudson, Thurs., 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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.

sales

ESTATE SALE - SARANAC - Aug. 10-11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 5609 Riverside Dr. Lots of household items, canning equip., tools, fishing & hunting gear, books, collectibles.

ALTO - More stuff. Lots of fabric, scrapbooking supplies, bentwood boxes and wood cutouts to paint, ribbon, lace, beads, jewelry, primitive kitchenware, depression glass, old furniture, owl & angel collection, 1980s Cabbage Patch Kids, craft show booth, & much more. Priced to sell. Thurs., Aug. 9 - Sat., Aug. 11, 9 to 5, 5911 Snow Ave. (take Whitneyville to 60th, east to Snow, north to house or Alden Nash to 60th, west to Snow).

YARD SALE - 14195 Cascade Rd., Aug. 8, 9 & 10, 9-5 p.m. Tons of girls clothes (sz. 2T- 12); boys clothes (sz. 4-6); household misc. See Craigslist ad for more details.

ESTATE / BARN SALE - Sat., Aug. 11, 11 to 6 p.m. Furniture & misc., farm equipment & tools - old & numerous, 786 Flat River, Lowell (approx. 2 miles north of town).

317 KING ST - Thurs. & Fri., Aug. 9 & 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sat., Aug 11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Clothing, toys, home decor, toddler race car bed w/mattress, fire truck bed w/o mattress.

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

services

CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT - by local counselor. Relaxation exercises, guided imagery, hypnosis & others. 238-2116 Life Transitions Therapy.

NEED A DUMPSTER? - 14 to 20 yards available. Garage, attic, household cleanup, roofing, trash, junk etc. Dependable service & affordable prices. Call for free estimates. Contact Doug 616-295-6640.

COMPUTER PROBLEMS? - Call Ryan at 616-890-7979.

PROFESSIONAL TREE CLIMBER NEEDS WORK - Fully insured. Removals, trims, chipping, stump grinding. Call Dan for free estimate at 616-970-3832.

YOGA CLASSES - Mon. 8:00 a.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 6:30 p.m. Walk-in \$8, located at 901 W. Main, Lowell. Specials & schedules: www.thehammockllc.com or 893-5661.

DISCOVER CARPET CLEANING - \$20 a room. We use only the best truck mounted machines. 6 years experience. IICRC certified. 616-987-9460.

services

TAXES, PAYROLL, QUICKBOOKS, & ACCOUNTING SERVICE - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351.

PROFESSIONAL WINDOW WASHING - Mid-summer special discounts for seniors & members of the armed forces. Call Time To Shine Window Washing for your free estimate. 616-292-0695.

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

in memoriam

REMEMBER ME
Olive G. Cook
 5-27-28 to 8-12-11
 Remember me when flowers bloom, early in the spring. Remember me on sunny days, in the fun that summer brings. Remember me in the fall, as you walk through leaves of gold. In the wintertime, remember me in the stories that are told. But most of all... remember each day right from the start, I will be forever near, for I live within your heart.

Remembered always,
 your loving family

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.

SUMMER SOCIAL: MEXICAN FIESTA - Tues., Aug. 14, 5:30-8 p.m. All members invited for Mexcian food, crafts, raffle prizes, games & music. Sign up at Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell. 897-8600.

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

NOOGIELAND - Tuesdays 6-7:15 p.m. Supervised play for children kindergarten or younger on a cancer or grief journey. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

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

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

ALTO LIONS CLUB - Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday at 7 p.m. at Keiser's Kitchen.

COFFEE WITH THE COUNCIL - Come meet & have a cup of coffee with your city council members. First Saturday of each month at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, Lowell. 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

CIVIL AIR PATROL - Meets the second & fourth Tues. of the month, 6 p.m., Benz Aviation Building at Ionia Airport, teen/adult programs available, Call Shawna, 616-430-1348 or visit online http://ml222.miwg-cap.org

KIDS TALK - Every Tues., in 1st - 4th grade on a cancer or grief journey. Incorporates curriculum-based activities, dicussion & playtime. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell, 897-8600.

ADULT CANCER SUPPORT GROUP - Every Tues., 6-7:15 p.m., for adults diagnosed with cancer. Gilda's Club - Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell.

FREE SENIOR COFFEE - Every fourth Friday, 8-9 a.m., sponsored by Laurels of Kent, Lowell McDonalds, 1300 W. Main St.

FOOD PANTRY - First Friday of month at Lakeside Community Church, 6201 Whitneyville Rd. Free frozen, perishable food. Registration 1 p.m., distribution 4 p.m. Bring own containers. 868-6402.

MOMS IN TOUCH GROUP - forming for Alto Elementary. Call Suzanne for more info, 868-7337.

FREE SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES - offered at Lowell Family Medical Center. Call 616-446-7058 to register. The class runs for 8 weeks. Evening & weekend sessions are available. Time & dates will be determined by those registered.

LOWELL WOMEN'S CLUB - Meets the second Wed. of each month, Sept. - May, 11:45 a.m., Schneider Manor. For more information call Jan at 897-2533.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY - Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. A Christ centered program to help overcome life's hurts, habits, hangups. Impact Church, 1069 Lincoln Lake, www.impact-church.org or www.celebraterecovery.com

FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAYS - Fun at Calvary for boys & girls preschool-8th grade. Cadets for boys 1st-8th; GEMS for girls 3rd-8th; Kingdom Kids for boys & girls preschool-2nd grade. 1125 W. Main, Lowell. Ph. 897-7060, email: lowellcalvarycrrc@yahoo.com

LOWELL - Varsity sporting events, concerts, school board meetings, city council meetings, etc., can be downloaded for viewing from the www.wlilstv.org website. Many athletic contests & concerts can also be heard 'live' from the www.wlilstudio.org website.

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

FIT CLUB - Every Tues. at 9 a.m., Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, 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.

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

EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: Commercial whaling was banned around the world years ago, but some nations continue to hunt whales. Why is this and what's being done about it? -- Jackie O'Neill, Hershey, PA

Sadly for our world and its biodiversity, whales are still being killed despite an international ban on commercial whaling. Indeed, rampant whaling over the last two centuries has decimated just about every whale population around the globe. According to Greenpeace, many whale species are down to around one percent of their estimated former abundance before the days of commercial whaling.

Fourteen whaling nations came together in 1946 to form the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to manage whale stocks and recommend hunting limits where appropriate. But the continuing decline of populations forced the IWC to call for an outright ban on all commercial whaling in 1986. But Japan, Norway and Iceland continue to defy the ban, each harvesting hundreds if not more whales every year.

"The Japanese invented the concept of 'scientific' whaling in 1987 as a way around the moratorium on commercial whaling," reports Greenpeace. "Their research is not really research. It is an excuse for supplying whale meat on the Japanese market." The research consists, among other things, of analysis of the contents of the digestive tract. The data on what the animals eat is then used to argue that whales eat too much commercially important fish and that the populations should be culled to save the fish, argues Greenpeace, and that the Japanese selectively release data on certain species and ignore data on others.

Norway resumed whaling in 1993 "as an attempt by the political party in power at the time to gain popularity in northern Norway," says Greenpeace. "In order to justify its hunt, Norwegian scientists calculated a population estimate, which was later found to be much higher than the data supported."

And Iceland increased its whaling dramatically in recent years. "In 2010 alone, Icelandic whalers killed hundreds of whales — including endangered fin whales — and shipped more than 750 tons of whale meat and products to Japan, whose market is already glutted with whale meat from its own 'scientific research whaling' program," reports the non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

Several green groups including NRDC recently petitioned the Obama administration to take action against Iceland under the Pelly Amendment to the Fisherman's Protective Act. "The Amendment allows the President to impose trade sanctions against a country that is 'diminishing the effectiveness' of a conservation agreement — in Iceland's case the whaling moratorium and another international treaty that prohibits trade in endangered species," says NRDC. The petition names several Iceland firms — including major seafood companies with ties to Iceland's whaling industry — as potential targets for trade sanctions.

Greenpeace has been pressuring Japan to not only end its own whaling but also its support of whaling by other nations not abiding by the IWC moratorium. "We are working around the world to increase the pressure put on Japan by conservation-minded governments at the IWC to close the political loopholes that allow the reckless hunt to continue," says Greenpeace, "and to highlight the vote-buying that keep these loopholes in existence."

CONTACTS: IWC, www.iwcoffice.org; Greenpeace, www.greenpeace.org; NRDC, www.nrdc.org.

Dear EarthTalk: I couldn't believe my ears: "genetically engineered mosquitoes?" Why on Earth would they be created? And I understand there are plans to release them into the wild? -- Marissa Abingdon, Sumter, SC

Yes it's true, genetically engineered mosquitoes, which were bred in the lab to transmit a gene during the reproductive process that kills their offspring, have already been used on an experimental basis in three countries — the Cayman Islands, Malaysia and Brazil — to counteract the quickly spreading mosquito-borne viral infection dengue fever. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that as many as 100 million cases of humans infected with dengue fever — which causes a severe flu-like illness and can in certain instances be fatal — occur annually in more than 100 tropical and sub-tropical countries.

The British company behind the project, Oxitec, is focusing initially on dengue fever, given that the particular virus which causes it is only carried by one sub-species of mosquito. This makes the illness easier to target than malaria, for instance, which is carried by many different types of mosquitoes.



Oxitec first released some of the genetically modified mosquitoes in the Cayman Island in the Caribbean in 2009, much to the surprise of the international community and environmental advocates, many of whom are opposed to genetic engineering in any of its forms due to the unknown and unintended side effects that unleashing transgenic organisms into the world could cause.

In Brazil, where the largest experiments have been carried out to date, the government is backing a new facility designed to breed millions of genetically engineered mosquitoes to help keep dengue fever at bay.

Dengue fever isn't considered to be a big problem in the U.S. as yet. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that most of the dengue fever cases showing up in the continental U.S. are among those who have travelled to sub-tropical and tropical areas of the world. Still, WHO reports that the incidence of dengue fever in the U.S. has increased some thirty-fold over the last half century.

A proposal by Oxitec to test its transgenic mosquitoes in the Florida Keys has some locals upset. In April 2012, the town of Key West passed an ordinance prohibiting the release of the mosquitoes pending further testing on possible implications for the environment. In the meantime, Oxitec has applied to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for a patent on their mosquito and permission to release them in the U.S.

Some 80,000 people have signed onto a campaign on the Change.org website calling on the FDA to deny Oxitec's application. Mila de Mier, the Key West mother who launched the campaign, is concerned about the potential consequences of releasing an experimental organism on a delicate ecosystem.

"Oxitec's business goal is to sell genetically modified mosquitoes in the United States," said de Mier. "...we've already said we don't want these mosquitoes in our backyards, but Oxitec isn't listening." More definitive scientific study is needed, she says, that looks at the potential long-term impacts.

CONTACTS: Oxitec, www.oxitec.com; Change.org, www.change.org. EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Subscribe: www.emagazine.com/subscribe. Free Trial Issue: www.emagazine.com/trial.

college news

Almost 4,000 students earned degrees from Grand Valley State University during the last academic year. A list of the names of Grand Valley's most recent graduates, graduating fall 2011 in December or winter 2012 in April, follows:

Ada: Hillary W. Baker, BS; Colin M. Beerens, BA; Tanner J. Boyko, BBA; Alyssa M. Bryson, BS; Renee K. Buist, BS; Calvin T. Clark, BS; Talitha M. Clark, BS; Timothy E. Dawe, BS M; Matthew R. Entingh, BFA; Brittany A. Foley, BS; John E. Gallagher, BBA; Meaghan L. Gallup, BS; Zachary J. Garlets, BS M; Kevin P. Gavigan, BS; Alec J. Gilbert, BS; Tyler W. Hamersma, BA; Zachary M. Harmon, BS M; Seth P. Johnson, MED; Hannah H. Kaufman, MPAS; Laura C. Kivell, BS; Kristen M. Kroon, MSA; Jared D. Lanning, BS; Kathryn R. Lantz, BA; Marisa R. Lesiewicz, BS; Sonja Milanovic, BA; Kristine M. Mora, MST; Lindsay D. Mundt, BSW; Kelly K. O'Brien, BA; Diane R. Peneycad, MED; Beena Philip, BSN; Jonathan W. Rasmussen, BBA; Jaime B. Reuter, MED; Jordan M. Sayfie, BA; Britany M. Spinner, BS; Anna E. Stehouwer, BS; Bert A. Vandenberg, MS; Karen B. Verbrugge, BS; and Katherine N. Wehby, BA.

Alto: Gregory M. Andrews, BSW; Molly M. Carl, MED; Holly N. Denton, BS; Leslee J. Haisma, BS; Jason M. Harp, BS; Alyssa D. Hoff, BA; Jane M. McCarthy, BSN; Bret S. Neitzel, BBA; Kristin M. Page, BA; Bridget-Marie Ray, BS; Nicholas M. Rempe, BBA; Debra L. Schultz, MED; Caitlin R. Sirowatka, BA; and Lindsey J. Trierweiler, BS.

Lowell: Philip M. Burton, BS; Elizabeth S. Camp, BBA; Kathryn Ann Collins, BS; Alyssa A. Crawford, BBA; Steven M. DeYoung, BBA; Kristen E. Dyksterhouse, BS; Kacey A. Fitzpatrick, BS C; Victoria J. Fleenor, MS; Ryan J. Geers, BBA; Cory H. Hagerman, BS; Kristin B. Hufstader, BS; Sabra N. Kinsley, BS; Kimberley R. Kline, BS C; Michael F. Long, BA;

Roy H. Lowing, BS; Nathan G. Marculis, BS; Kathryn E. Rottier, BS; Barbara J. Shaffer, BBA; Ashley N. Stauffer, BS; Kristin N. Trainer, BS; Amanda Renee Vezino, BS; and Kelly L. Walker, BS.

Western Michigan University has announced the spring and summer 2012 dean's list for the 2011-12 academic year. To be eligible for the dean's list, students must have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average (on a scale of 4.0 being all A's) in at least 12 hours of graded class work. The following are local students:

Ada: Steve Betten and Carly McHale.

Lowell: Jessica Stephens.

Northern Michigan University has announced its graduates for May 2012. The following local students have satisfied their degree requirements:

Ada: Kelly B. Shaheen, BS, cum laude; and Nicholas C. Leach, BS, cum laude.

Lowell: Patricia R. Lawrence, BA, magna cum laude.

The following Lowell High School graduates will receive the Donald Gerard, M.D. Honorary Medical Scholarships for the coming school year of 2012-2013, Natalie Kent, fourth year student at Michigan State College of Osteopathic Medicine in East Lansing; Kelsey Crowley, second year student at The New York Medical College in Westchester County, NY; Lindsey Hoogenboom, second year student at Case Western Medical School in Cleveland, OH; Erin Beddows, first year student at Michigan State College of Human Medicine in East Lansing and Grand Rapids; Alexander Harrington, first year student at Drexel University Medical School in Philadelphia, PA; and Kenneth Hayes, first year student at the University of Michigan College of Medicine in Ann Arbor.

These recipients will be recognized at the Pink Arrow football game on September 9, 2012.

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**THEME:
BALL GAMES**

ACROSS

1. Alligator's milieu
6. Semicircular mountain basin
9. *Many baseball teams wear it on their chests
13. Ringworm
14. Big Island flower necklace
15. Long backless sofa
16. Antonym of afar
17. Estimated arrival
18. What racers do on CBS
19. *The goal is strikes
21. *a.k.a. Ringer
23. ___ Paolo, Brazil
24. Select
25. Shel Silverstein's poem "___ Constrictor"
28. Elevated state
30. More agitated
35. "___ the Lonely," song
37. Daytime TV program
39. Jawaharlal ___
40. Make a reference
41. ___ Island, NY
43. Cause of Titanic's demise
44. Paint layers
46. *___-Pitch Softball
47. Slovenly person
48. Make wealthy
50. They oppose the yeahs
52. Fast-food staple
53. Pull one's leg
55. Writer Harper ___
57. *Played on grass
61. *Infield
65. Romulus' twin
66. *Free throw value
68. "Me and Bobby ___"
69. Part of eye containing iris, pl.

CROSSWORD

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AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 7

- Michael Phelps finishes his Olympic career (so he says) with a record 22 career medals (18 gold medals, two silver and two bronze).
- Yet another senseless shooting. This time in Wisconsin. The man suspected of opening fire in a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wis., was identified by police as Wade Michael Page, a 40-year-old former member of the U.S. Army. Seven people were killed, including the gunman, in the shooting.
- Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice denies that she may be Mitt Romney's running mate.
- After the safe landing of the Mars rover Curiosity on Aug. 5, 2012, mission managers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. joined hands and raised their arms in triumph.

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- DOWN**
1. Back wound
 2. A drunk
 3. Afresh
 4. Fast interruptions
 5. One rejected
 6. Horsefly
 7. ___ bar
 8. *Dolphin home
 9. Trunk extension
 10. *Shape of an American football
 11. Fixed look
 12. Singles
 15. Make dark
 20. Neil Diamond's "Beautiful ___"
 22. Part of a play
 24. Military group
 25. *Another form of bowling
 26. It can be a tear-jerker
 27. Sacrificial spot
 29. *Subject of "A Good Walk Spoiled"
 31. Beaks
 32. Often found under books
 33. *E in baseball box

34. *Named after school of same name
36. Giant Himalayan?
38. Site of Leaning Tower
42. PDA pens
45. Ski downhill
49. Gardener's tool
51. *a.k.a. Seam bowler in cricket
54. Do penitence
56. Master of ceremonies
57. Foul substance
58. French dream
59. Black cat, e.g.
60. Wharf built parallel to shoreline
61. Fender-bender damage
62. Fiona or Shrek, e.g.
63. He took a giant leap
64. Sandra and Ruby, actresses
67. National University of Singapore

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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NO	0%

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Kent County Youth Fair 2012 opens strong

by Emma Palova

The 78th Kent County Youth Fair opened strong Monday with a crowded Midway, packed rides and happy people eating food in the parks.

“This is big,” said fair secretary Bruce Doll. “This is the best Monday we’ve ever had.”

Doll credited the recent heat wave and drought to the boost in fair attendance.

“People have just been cooped up for so long, that finally now they could come out,” he said.

The drop in temperatures to a reasonable 80 degrees brought out hundreds to the fair and the fair goes stayed late into the night.

“It’s beautiful,” said fair manager Jessica Marks.

Marks is hoping for

more beautiful weather as the fair continues with more exhibits and judging, mainly horse judging on Thursday. The draft horse pull will be at 7 pm on Wednesday.

Thursday is the biggest day of the fair with the livestock auction at 2 pm and large animals at 3:30 pm.

Friday’s main event is the family dance with Lia’s Line Dancing at the Reath Barn starting at 8 pm.

Saturday is Kid’s Day with Xtreme Cowboy race at 11 am and 5 pm at the horse arena.

The popular free ice cream social is at 2 pm on the midway, hosted by Milky Way 4-H Club.

The Scott Thompson Band will play at 7 pm at the free entertainment tent.



At left, Cameron Finkhouse with his Jersey calf Peanut Butter Fudge.



The Sea Ray swings into the night sky at the fair.



The Huizenga kids enjoy the fair every year. Pictured are Mazie, Munelle, Cole and Brahm.