



*Stories of Perseverance*

**A Community Fighting Cancer Begins on page 9**



**Behind The Scenes**



page 19

## FROM birthday party celebrates fifteen years of service in the community

by Justin Tiemeyer  
contributing reporter

If you drove by Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) on Wed., July 17, you'd have noticed several large tents, a set of oversized birthday candles and a bunch of people having a whole lot of fun celebrating fifteen years of FROM.

Normally, it is FROM who serves the community of Lowell, but with many local sponsors it was Lowell who served the people who know and love FROM. The Lowell Rotary Club served hotdogs, John Sterly served up homemade ice cream and Nancy Wood had multiple cakes to choose from. Tractor Supply provided the fencing for the event, Canfield Heating & Plumbing the material for the candles and Ionia Tent & Party provided the tents, chairs and setup. It was truly a community endeavor.



Depending on what time you arrived, you might have heard a piano rendition of the Charlie Brown theme, the Beatles "Blackbird," or "Dust in the Wind" by

Kansas, or perhaps you heard the loud and loving Impact praise band.

The main event, however, was a series of FROM, continued, page 2

## Rusty Wright Band plays through the heat



by Tony Wittkowski  
contributing reporter

The Rusty Wright Band performed last Thursday during high temperatures that kept most of the audience in the shade and on the Showboat. The band has been to several different countries, many times playing for U.S. armed forces. They played several of their popular songs, while offering CDs and a DVD which depicted one of their many Blues/Jazz performances. Although it proved to be one of the hottest days of the summer, residents of Lowell still came out to enjoy the festivities and Sizzlin' Summer concert music.

## Whites Bridge in early stages of rebuilding

by Tony Wittkowski  
contributing reporter

Ever since Whites Covered Bridge burned and collapsed into Flat River, volunteers have been working toward resurrecting one of Michigan's oldest covered bridges.

Paul Phenix, a disabled veteran, has been trying to form a non-profit organization to handle the money that would be coming in as bridge funds.

"I started it the Monday after the bridge burned," Phenix said. "More than 750 people belong to the main group."

Phenix said he wanted to give an effort to rebuilding the bridge, at least while people still wanted to donate money. One of the reasons for the urgency of setting up a non-profit group is to make sure the money is going toward the bridge and nothing else.

"I want it to be 100 percent legitimate," Phenix reiterated. "I want people to feel safe knowing that if they do donate, the money is going toward the covered bridge and not a case of beer."

Managing director of Ionia County Road Commission Dorothy Pohl has been working hand-in-hand with the group's efforts in rebuilding the bridge. It was Pohl's help that got the ball rolling.

"I talked to Paul at the beginning and told him it would have to begin this way," Pohl said in regards to becoming a non-profit organization. "Projects like that can be in a planning phase for three, sometimes five years. I realize how long it takes and I'm afraid a lot of people don't."

Bridge, continued, page 2

50 CENTS



# Bridge, continued

Pohl's worries were shared by Phenix, who jumped at the chance to seek out any advice on where to start.

After growing up in Belding and spending 20 years in the military, Phenix began to put his training to use to help save the memory of a bridge he grew up with.

Phenix went on to establish a "Rebuild Whites Covered Bridge" Facebook group, where more groups were put in place for each region and city. Using the military experience he has, Phenix assigned "commanders" who are set up in every town close by, who help run these city groups and then report back to him.

And yet the group has yet to collect a dime, because Phenix won't allow it until they are properly organized and have everything set in place as a non-profit organization.

Working with a lawyer to get a corporation form, they plan on collecting money at non-profit status, so no taxes will come out of the money collected. The plan is to be an official non-profit group within the next two to three weeks.

"We would like to raise \$850,000, which is the county's estimate on what it will cost to rebuild the bridge," Phenix said. "Right now we're not sure if the state will allow us to build

a one-lane covered bridge because they have a concern with the bridge not being able to handle emergency vehicles."

This has been one of the main hurdles to restoring the bridge to its exact structure.

"Our staff has had time to look at that and there are some conditions," Pohl explained. "We would have to get almost a special dispensation from the department of transportation to do a one-lane bridge. It would have to be wider than what it was, but it is possible."

Another thing Phenix's group is working on is to make the whole site designated as a historic area. The bridge, which was the oldest covered bridge still in use in the state, was the reason the spot had a historical significance. This option would bring it partially back to life.

If the group is unable to accumulate the estimated costs, then the money will be given to the county.

"If we can't get enough money, our plan is to turn the money over to the Ionia County Parks and Recreation Department with the hopes that they would put it toward making a memorial for the bridge," Phenix said.

A price for a memorial has not been determined, but the price would be significantly lower.

Pohl was one of the first people to hear about the fire early Sunday morning and has been surprised by everyone trying to help what was lost.

"We really appreciate the community coming together; it is a treasure that the community lost," Pohl said. "We feel really bad about it as well, because we put our heart and soul into taking care of it for all those years."

# FROM, continued

of announcements and presentations. From Lansing, representative Lisa Posthumus Lyons and senator Dave Hildenbrand appeared to present a series of tributes to those responsible for creating FROM.

Focus changed from this small group of people, who did so much starting fifteen years ago to help the community, to the entire community of Lowell helping those in need through the efforts of Food Fight when the



Tamela Spicer of FROM announces the presentation of tributes by representative Lisa Posthumus Lyons and senator Dave Hildenbrand.

"We're both from Lowell," Hildenbrand said.

The tributes were framed plaques commending the founders for their labor for the community. Reverends Gordy Barry and Roger LeWarre, Kraig and Jody Haybarker, First United Methodist Church of Lowell and First Congregational Church of Lowell were honored. The tributes were signed by Posthumus Lyons, Hildenbrand and governor Rick Snyder, who could not be more happy for these peoples' service.

"That is our call, to take care of the least of these," Posthumus Lyons said.

official referee, Rick Seese, took stage to make announcements.

"Records were broken," Seese said. "It was a great competition."

The team from South Lowell beat team North for the second year in a row, together gathering a total of over 42,000 donations.

"The need was the seed and the competition would just make it majestic," Seese said. "It was a great year and we're looking forward to next year already."

Fifteen years later, FROM is stronger than ever and collecting more goods for more families in need. The birthday party left many present hopeful for the possibilities of the upcoming years.

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time with the families. **"Look Good, Feel Better,"** Tues., Aug. 13, 1-3 pm. This program, presented by the American Cancer Society, will help women in treatment for cancer with appearance-related side effects. Each woman learns to perform her own makeover using complimentary cosmetics and skin care products. Please sign up, as class size is limited. Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit [www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow](http://www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow)

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# King Milling receives first load of wheat for the year

by Will Greenberg  
contributing reporter

King Milling is getting into the heart of their summer as the first load of wheat for the year arrived last Friday.

The wheat came from farmer Joe Kwiatkowski's Ionia crop and was delivered to King Milling on July 12, a press release said. The release said the wheat was Soft White Winter Wheat with a test weight of 60.

Patrick Doyle from King Milling said this first delivery totaled at around 1,800 bushels and was roughly a week later than expected. Kwiatkowski explained that the rain we

have had lately caused the minor delay.

"We had some fields that got some rain on it [and] delayed harvest, but then we had some a couple miles down the road that didn't receive any rain," Kwiatkowski said. "We were able to harvest there while the other one was drying out for a day or two."

Despite the rain and a particularly cold spring, Kwiatkowski said he doesn't anticipate issues with the wheat crop. Kwiatkowski said he has had to spray fungicide to avoid bacteria growth, a common issue with wheat that's been hit with a lot of rain and that the crop

has remained healthy. This is in contrast to last year's especially dry summer which was ideal for the wheat crop while threatening to other plants.

King Milling gets its Winter Wheat from surrounding area Michigan farmers, while it receives other varieties from out of state farms in the west, Doyle said.

King has also recently built a new concrete flour mill that is being used this summer. Doyle said the new machinery should add about another 60 percent capacity for King's productivity.



The first load of wheat was harvested in Ionia, delivered by David Swinson (pictured left) and was unloaded by King Milling Company employees Brendon Harden and Nicholas Hauck.

## The River of Time pageant sponsored by LAHM

submitted by Luanne Kaeb, director

The audience was taken back to "the time before this city you call Lowell began. Then, it was not the affluent city you now know, but it was an Indian village of wigwams with a

total population of 400. In 1806, the people were the Odawas; their leaders were Chief Wabwindego and subchief Cobmoosa. They chose this spot where the Quab-a-kwasha, the Flat River meets me the Mighty

O-wash-ta-nong - I am the Grand River."

This wonderful pageant was presented by the Alto Active Achievers 4-H Club and friends along the banks of the Flat River where it flows into the Grand River.

The setting was picture perfect. The cast of 40 spent the first two days of practice week eradicating poison ivy, building two wigwams and two shelters, setting up the trading post and learning to canoe. Then they became their character. But, the cast would say that their favorite part was when they could "cool off" in the river.

The director Luanne Kaeb says, "It was a delight to see 44 children swimming, looking for clams, trying to catch fish with their bare hands and bobbing in the Flat River during the lunch

hours. We picked the hottest week of the year."

"This was our sixth production of the *River of Time* over a period of 21 years. The first was in 1992 when Heidi Kaeb Stoller, my daughter, was a junior at Lowell High School. She discovered that only a few of her classmates knew about the stone memorial to Madame LaFramboise and that LaFramboise was Lowell's first fur trader and Michigan's first business woman. Heidi was upset. Why wasn't it being taught? Why didn't anyone know?

So she wrote the pageant as a way to teach the people of Lowell about their heritage. It is entirely based on fact."

Michele Blough says, "The presentation of *The River of Time* gets better with every production." New this year was the scene about the circuit riding preacher, Rev. Frieze, getting lost in a swamp near Lowell and crawling into town, before being rejuvenated by a bowl of soup, borrowing a settler's suit and then standing up to preach. This really did happen here in 1838.

## Burger King building razed



Dollar Tree's plans for construction began early Tuesday morning with the demolition of the Burger King located at 1120 West Main Street. The new building to take its place in the vacant parking lot will be approximately 8,260 square feet. The building will be 30-35 feet at its highest point, with the parking lot soon to be given 62 parking spaces.

(Photo by Tony Wittkowski)

### Correction

In last week's *Ledger*, on July 17, it was reported that a Pauly's employee said that the store had received authorization for their sign from the Lowell Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce has said that this is incorrect and that it had no involvement in the sign.

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## financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

### How can younger investors cope with tough times?

As Americans, we're used to thinking that we will inevitably do better than our parents' generation. But, for now at least, this type of progress may be facing some roadblocks — and this inability to gain ground, financially, can have real implications for today's younger people and their approach to investing.

Before we get to the investment component, though, let's quickly review the nature of the problem. In a nutshell, younger Americans — those in their twenties and thirties — have accrued significantly less wealth than their parents did at the same age, according to a recent study by the Urban Institute. Here's why:

- Bursting of housing "bubble" — Many younger people who bought houses shortly before the housing "bubble" began deflating in 2006 now find themselves to be "underwater" on their mortgages — that is, they owe more than their houses are worth. Consequently, they have less opportunity to build home equity — which has been an important

means of building wealth for past generations.

- Student-loan debt — The median balance among all households with student loan debt is now more than \$13,000, according to the Pew Research Center — and debt levels are much higher for recent graduates. It can take years to pay off these debts — and the money being used for debt payments is money that can't go toward building wealth for long-term goals.

- Wage stagnation — For several years, the job market has been pretty bad for younger workers. And even those with jobs aren't making much headway, because wages, adjusted for inflation, have largely stagnated for over a decade. Less income clearly equates to less opportunities for investing and creating wealth.

Still, even given these somewhat grim realities, younger people can help themselves build resources for the future and make progress toward their long-

term goals. If you're in this group, what can you do?

For starters, pay yourself first. Set up an automatic payment each month from your checking or savings account into an investment vehicle, such as an IRA. At first, you may only be able to afford small sums — but, over time, you may be pleasantly surprised at the amount you've saved.

Next, every time your salary goes up, try to increase the amount you put into your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. Because you typically contribute pretax dollars to your 401(k) or other plan, the more you put in, the lower your taxable income. Plus, your money can grow on a tax-deferred basis.

Here's another suggestion: Don't be "over-cautious" with your investments. Many younger investors, apparently nervous due to market volatility of recent years, have become quite conservative, putting relatively large amounts of their portfolio into vehicles that offer significant protection of principal but little in the way of growth potential. Of course, the financial markets will always fluctuate, and downturns will occur — but when you're young, and you have many decades in which to invest, you have time to overcome short-term declines. To achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you will unquestionably need some growth elements in your portfolio, with the exact amount based on your risk tolerance and specific objectives.




These aren't the easiest times for young people. Nonetheless, with diligence, perseverance and a measure of sacrifice, you can gain some control over your financial fortunes — so look for your opportunities.

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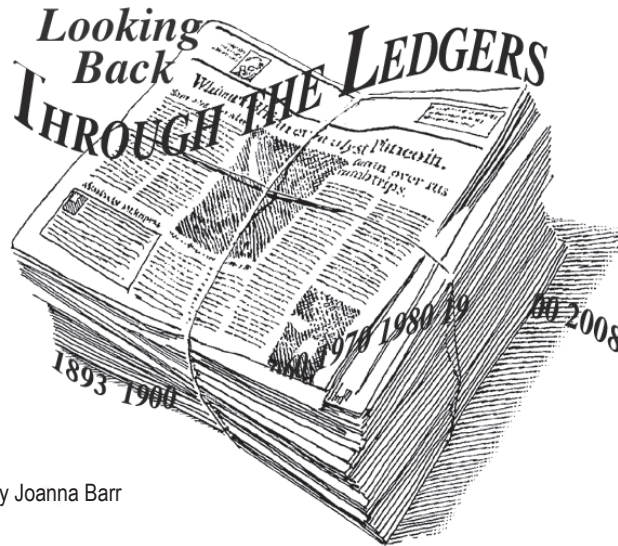
to the editor,

## Letter clarification from last week

Dear Editor,  
 Oops – Last week in Letters to Editor I suggested that the Elzinga family pay for [the] Lowell pool.

I meant to say Englehardt money, now called Lowell Community Fund.

*My apologies,  
 Peggy Reagan  
 LaPenna*



By Joanna Barr

program attracted 3,000 people to the new Showboat stadium. This year's boat is an exact design of the original Robert E. Lee. George Pappin, director of manual training in Lowell high school, secured a sketch and dimensions of the original Robert E. Lee through Popular Mechanics magazine and has made a scale drawing for the Lowell Showboat. One of the big changes in design is that the twin smoke stacks are carried in front of the pilot house. Also, a 14 foot power wheel replaces the eight foot wheel of former years.

How far back does your memory of Main Street take you? One old-timer told a Ledger scribe the other day that he could remember when Main Street had kerosene lamp posts at street intersections for lighting up the thoroughfare. The old-timer said that when he was a small boy the lamps were cared for by a one-armed man by the name of Arthur Morgan, village nightwatch at that time. The kerosene lamp rested in a glass compartment on the top of the lamp post and Mr. Morgan carried a torch for use in lighting the lamps.

Paul Kellogg is making extensive preparations for a complete over-hauling of his vinegar factory and will expend about \$10,000 for new machinery and equipment. About six weeks' time will be required for the new installation, which will more than double the vinegar out-put.

## ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouter Ph.D.

"How Can Parents Help Their Bipolar Children Find Their Way?" is the title of this article. Intense parenting is often needed for bipolar children; so hopefully, the "take away" from this article is some tips about how to parent.

In "Childhood Bipolar Disorder Answerbook," Tracy Anglada and Dr. Sheryl Hakala present some parenting tips that would be excellent for all children but especially effective for children with bipolar disorder. What follows are those tips:

1. How can I help my child self-calm? Sometimes parents demand that the bipolar child confront a problem. Forcing the child to stay and work out a conflict might be counterproductive since the child is able to control their emotions better by removing him/herself from the situation. Hopefully, once the child has learned self-calming strategies he/she can stay and work out the conflict. Music, relaxation, art and poetry are good tools for self-calming.

2. How can I teach my child to identify his moods? Labeling how we feel is the first step in managing how we feel. We are permitted to feel any way we feel, but what we do with these feelings is what is right or wrong. Keeping records or a feeling log is an effective strategy for self-awareness for a child with bipolar disorder.

3. How do I help my child see the positives and to nurture his/her gifts? Parents can be helpful by watching for their child's interests. Exposing them to various creative outlets such as music, art etc. will help them find their niche. Emotions such as anger can be turned into passion against injustice; excessive energy can help the child complete college and other goals. Depression can give a child the ability to be reflective and philosophical. Some anxiety is good because it sharpens the awareness of surroundings and other people.

4. How can I help my child become resilient? Resiliency is created by learning from mistakes and building on successes. Over protection robs the child of learning this very important skill.

5. How do I encourage his/her dreams? Dreams are important, but realistic small steps toward that dream are just as important. Encouraging dreams calls for an action plan. An action plan should be easy to follow such as: Where are you now and where are you going? What do you need to do to get there? How do you overcome obstacles on the way and how do you take care of yourself?

6. How do I regain my parental warmth? Because parenting a bipolar child is so intense, parents often burn out. As a parent you need to find a support group, learn to pace yourself, get the proper nutrition and learn to stay focused. When friends or coworkers zap your energy, it is important to say "no" to them, and find people and hobbies that recharge your energy, and finally, practice spirituality because this gives you strength and an inner calm.

If you have questions about this article or have any general questions, please email me at [kathryndenhouter@gmail.com](mailto:kathryndenhouter@gmail.com). Next month the article will be on "What is the Path to Adulthood for the Child with Bipolar?"

### 140 years ago Lowell Journal July 30, 1873

Last Sunday night, some vile sinner who ought to have gone to church, went behind McGee's saloon, broke through the window, and lifted about \$4.00 in currency and a box of cigars, which he found behind the counter. Strong suspicions are entertained that the thief was a temperance man as it seems the liquor was undisturbed.

Ira Button can snatch a clothes line naked without the least embarrassment. On Monday night of last week he gathered up sundry articles of wearing apparel belonging to Mr. J. Ware's household and cantered home. This little joke was found out and last Friday Ira walked arm and arm with a constable to Esq. Hunter's and said he was the purloiner of those arguments which hung out on that calm still night and clothes line. The Justice then said he might "Button up" in the county jail for sixty days.

Constable Booth informs us that he has in his possession a quantity of clothing, mostly white goods, supposed to have been gathered from various clothes lines from time to time. Parties having lost any furniture of this kind are permitted to examine Booth's well selected stock at the office of R. Hunter Jr.

### 100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 24, 1913

Headline: Home coming doin's. Committees getting preparations rounded up... the Ledger office will be open. Home comers are invited to register there and to use the office for rest purposes, reading, writing, telephoning and information purposes. Office is handy to Island park. Leave your baskets here and welcome.

The case of Clarence Schwarder vs. Addison Schantz was tried before Judge Andrews and jury last Thursday. The suit was brought to recover damages alleging breach of warranty of a horse sold by the defendant to the plaintiff. Some time after the jury retired they made a request to be permitted to see the horse. They went out and viewed the animal and after returning brought in a verdict of no cause for action. This was the second trial, the first jury having disagreed.

### 75 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 28, 1938

Headline: Robert E. Lee VII christened with imposing ceremony. "I christen thee Robert E. Lee, VII." With these words Josephine LaFranier of Traverse City, queen of the National Cherry Festival crashed a bottle of cherry wine against timbered sides of Lowell's new Showboat. Miss LaFranier, was assisted in the ceremony by Miss Inez Cole, who was chosen as state peony queen in a recent contest in Lansing... The christening which was held in conjunction with Lowell's regular Wednesday evening concert and

### 50 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 25, 1963

Headline: Successful Showboat season predicted for 1963. It was "typical Showboat weather" in Lowell Monday evening as the Robert E. Lee XXXII made the first of its six nightly runs down the Flat River and around Cat-Tail Bend to the Showboat dock. Monday afternoon, apprehensive Lowell residents were casting wary weather eyes toward the western horizons, searching for signs of rain that might mar the opening night sailing of "the world's greatest minstrel show under the stars." No threatening clouds appeared in the west, however, but the rains came anyway, moving in uncharacteristically from the east at 6:15 pm and dousing the town and Showboat grandstands until 7:25—five minutes before Wendell Christoff and his local water-ski troupe were scheduled to begin the pre-show entertainment. Skies were completely clear once again, however, by the time the Showboat made its 146th trip down the river since 1932 and sidled up to its berth at 8:50 pm — 20 minutes behind schedule—before an estimated audience of 5,000 people.

### 25 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 27, 1988

A former Lowell teacher and writer for the Lowell Ledger, has received national recognition for an article about the education of children of migrant workers. Steve Harrington, of Ada Township, received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Educational Press Association of America. The article was entitled, "Children of the Road" and was published in the November/December of '87 issue of Instructor Magazine and reprinted in Education Digest. Harrington, worked side-by-side with migrant workers to research the article. "I drove an old beat up truck to the farm," he said. "It doesn't happen very often that an Anglo shows up and picks pickles in Stockbridge," he adds. While there, Harrington found that parents of migrant children generally place a high value on education. "It's an ironic situation," Harrington said. Migrant workers need their children to help out in the fields as soon as they're old enough, but the parents know that the number of jobs is declining. They need extra income, but they don't want to deprive their children of an educational opportunity either." Harrington suggests that children fit into the migrant lifestyle. "The more kids, the more workers, thus more money," he said.

# area births

## Sowle



**Benjamin Pike Sowle**

Zak and Elizabeth Sowle, of Centerville, OH, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Benjamin Pike. He was born June 18, 2013 weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz.

Welcoming him home was big brother James Sowle.

Grandparents are Jim and Ann Sowle of Lowell and Steve and Ann Borders of Ann Arbor.

## Klahn



**Finley June Klahn**

Eric and Cori Klahn of Lowell are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Finley June Klahn. She was born June 6 weighing 6 lbs. 6 oz. and measuring 19 1/2 inches.

Grandparents are Steve and Sue Hess of Lowell and Kathy and David Hoseth of Lowell. Great-grandparents are Dorothy Catalano of Grand Rapids and John and Gail Doran of Belding.

# college news

Northern Michigan University announces the dean's list for the winter 2013 semester.

The following local students qualified with a grade point average of 4.00:

Ada: Thomas Beddows and Amelia Richards.

The following local students qualified with a grade point average of 3.25-3.99:

Ada: Elizabeth Finkelstein, Peter Gibson, Kati Niekerk and Gerald Pierce.

Lowell: Audrey Blodger and Mia Carvajal.

Western Michigan University has announced the graduation list for the 2013 spring semester. The following are local graduates, their degrees, majors and honors:

Ada: Matthew J. Bir, Bachelor of Arts, economics, Cum Laude; Dennis Robert Gagliardo, Master of Arts, sociology; Stephen James Makuch, Bachelor of Business Administration, finance; Stephen James Petros, Master of Business Administration, business administration.

Alto: Amanda J. Johnson, Bachelor of Science, dietetics, Cum Laude; Maria Renee Phillips, Bachelor of Science, interdisciplinary health services, Magna Cum Laude.

Lowell: Timothy S. Kalman, Bachelor of Business Administration, integrated supply matrix

management; Bradley J. Kiczenski, Bachelor of Arts, public history; Lindsey Elizabeth Rosa, Master of Arts, counselor education; community counseling; Shelley Ann Tower, Master of Arts, science education; Lauren Rochelle Wolfe, Bachelor of Business Administration, marketing.

On May 3, Culver Redd was awarded a Master of Arts degree in Telecommunication, Information Studies, and Media from Michigan State University with a specific course of study in the Serious Games Design program. A 2007 graduate of Lowell High School, Culver is now living in Lansing and working as a Software Engineer with TechSmith Corporation.

Hannah Flagel of Lowell was named to the Spring 2013 dean's list at Taylor University.

Full-time students are named to the dean's list when they have earned a GPA of 3.60 or higher for the term and at least 12 hours carry credit point values.

Michigan Technological University honored the achievements of nearly 1,000 graduates Saturday, May 4 at spring commencement, including the following local students:

Noah Buikema with a Bachelor of Science in environmental engineering and Thomas Reid with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering; both of Alto.

Nathan Morris with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering and Matthew Smith with a Bachelor of Science in material science and engineering; both of Lowell.

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- JULY 28**  
Tom Speerstra, Rachel Shanne Smith, Bobby Wright, Tiffany Hunt, Alexander Barr.
- JULY 29**  
Rachael Vegter, Mary Fox, Matt Lee.
- JULY 30**  
Patricia Smith, Scott Kooistra, Jodi Mohr, Kimberly DeBold, Bill Potter, Paige Rash.

# area churches

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# city update



Mark Howe, Lowell City Manager

The unfortunate reality about July is that it's the month that city property tax bills are mailed to property owners. The good news is that this year's property tax bills reflect a modest reduction in the millage rate.

The city council adopted a lower millage rate this year working toward a long-term goal to help spur economic growth. This strategic approach will take cooperation among everyone throughout the greater Lowell community to achieve our vision to be the vibrant core of a thriving community.

In the simplest terms, your property tax bill is calculated by multiplying the (taxable) value of your property by the total millage rate. The final result is the total that you pay in property taxes.

The property value is determined each year by the city assessor. It's a complicated process that involves many factors, but the end result is a taxable value that is used for the property tax calculation.

At the same time, any entity that relies on property taxes for funding sets a millage rate that is multiplied by the taxable value to determine the amount of taxes you pay to that entity. The typical entities that set millage rates are counties, school districts, intermediate school districts, cities and townships. There are also special millage rates, for libraries and community colleges for example, that are established through special elections allowing voters to determine whether or not they will accept an additional level of taxes.

The rate for the City of Lowell is capped by the city charter at 20 mills and has been reduced over the years by a mechanism in the state constitution commonly referred to as the Headlee Amendment. The current cap on the millage rate for the City of Lowell is 17.4597 mills.

The Lowell City Council may authorize any millage rate that does not exceed this cap. For many years, the council has authorized a rate of 15.83 mills, well below the cap. This year, the council reduced the rate even more, to 15.70 mills, in a good faith effort to encourage investment in property to increase property values.

This will mark the beginning of a long-term effort to increase property values. It could take as long as 10, 15 or even 25 years before we can look back and see how this strategy has made an impact.

You see, perhaps the greatest barrier to economic investment in the City of Lowell is the millage rate. Often I hear from people who say they were looking at purchasing a home or business in the City of Lowell and that their real estate agent points out that "taxes are high" in the city. While that statement itself is not entirely true, it's a myth that is likely perpetuated because of the high millage rate.

The average residential property value in the City of Lowell is the third lowest in Kent County while the municipal millage rate (the rate for cities and townships) is the second highest. When the two are combined for a final property tax bill, the average residential tax bill in the City of Lowell is less than the average for Kent County, so the check you write each year is less than what most people pay in other cities and many townships.

In order to stay on course and continue reducing the millage rate, we will need to encourage investment in real estate that will increase property values. We will need to encourage property owners to improve their homes and businesses and we will need to be selective in creating public spaces that eliminate property from the tax rolls.

It will take a great deal of collaboration and cooperation, to be sure, but I have no doubt that this community is willing to help the City of Lowell achieve this most important goal for its taxpayers, and for the greater Lowell community.

## Citizens still trying to overcome flood

by Tony Wittkowski  
contributing reporter

After two months of recovery, the residents of Lowell are still feeling the effects from the spring flood.

For those like David Crandall, it has been an arduous process of getting everything back to normal, not even spending one night in a home that at one point housed gallons of water.

Although the water was out of his house when he was able to get back to his home, Crandall was forced to hire a restoration company to get the water out of the boards and walls. It took close to four days to extract the water.

"We had about a foot of water in the main floor of the house; it ruined all the appliances and we had to pull up all of the floorboards," Crandall said. "We have been doing all the work here to replace everything, which has included a lot of work under the house, just replacing all of the boards and maintaining its structure."

Since then Crandall, with the help of his father, has been working on the house. This has involved taking out all the walls three feet off the ground where water had risen, along with the insulation.

Crandall said they had flood insurance and had submitted bids



on everything, but the insurance company was only going to pay for about half of what the bids were.

"So we are going to try to make what they are giving us work, just by doing a lot of the work ourselves," Crandall said over a phone interview. "We've got a contractor coming in for the stuff we can't handle."

Ann Dimmick witnessed the destruction the flood brought to town, including Crandall's residence, located on 325 Division St.

Dimmick was one of many volunteers who ended up accessing Jefferson, Division, Jackson and Kent Street for the city. As

a result of that assessment the city encouraged them to get pictures of some of the flood damage.

"(Crandall's) house is basically gutted inside, they had to just rip the whole thing out and start over," Dimmick said. "He and

his dad have been working there every night since the flood came."

All the areas in the flood zone needed an assessment done so that the city could turn it into the county. The county would then turn it into the state, allowing the state to determine whether or not it was considered a disaster area.

"All that happens because of the assessments that are done in the neighborhood of the flood area," Dimmick explained. "And we were given certain

streets. We would check into city hall and they would give us a packet for the day and we would go and talk with these people and fill out the form in terms of how high the water was in the basement, did the water go up to the second floor and did you lose your hot water heater or furnace."

Some of the pictures Dimmick took revealed how high the water was

Flood, continued, page 8

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# Grattan Twilight Cancer Walk enters its fifth year

The fifth annual Grattan Twilight Cancer (TLC) Walk will take place on Thursday, August 1, 2013 at Grattan Raceway. Registration

than \$40,000 to Gilda's Club of Lowell.

This walk originated when a group of friends got together and started talking

that has beautiful scenery around every corner. There will be assistance and transportation available for those unable to "walk" the two-mile track. You



will begin at 5:30 pm with the walk beginning at 7 pm. The registration fee is \$10 per walker. An event t-shirt and bottled water will be provided and an opportunity to enjoy refreshments and D.J. entertainment. All proceeds benefit Gilda's Club of Lowell. Thanks to the generous support they have received in the past, the Grattan TLC Walk has been able to donate more

about all the people affected by cancer and the numbers were amazingly large. How could they help? This is how the Grattan Twilight Cancer Walk was born. This will be their fifth event and it continues to grow by leaps and bounds. The first year they had 100 walkers; this year they hope for 500 walkers.

Grattan Raceway is a two-mile track

can learn more about this event at [grattantlcwalk.com](http://grattantlcwalk.com)



# Flood, continued

outside the homes. One of the pictures showed Crandall standing in his yard with water just below his waist.

So far Crandall has been out of his house for two months and has currently taken refuge with his parents. He does not plan on getting back into the house for another six weeks.

"I had to move out, and work from home," said Crandall, who runs a web design company called DC Designs. "It's been a little bit difficult working from my parents house. It's been a huge inconvenience."

Everything hit by water Crandall and his family were unable to salvage, but luckily the community stepped up.

"Everybody has been so helpful, the entire community, everybody on the street as well," Crandall said. "The Methodist church up the road from my house has been extremely helpful."

That first week of the flood, Crandall said church members were out serving dinner and spraying for mosquitos.

Through her assessment, Dimmick found that several homes in the area lost their

furnaces, hot water heaters and electrical panels. Still, she too was amazed by the outpouring support between strangers.

"This neighborhood that I had the privilege to work in was quite an experience

because they basically worked morning, noon and night," Dimmick said. "They helped each other. They sort of know each other's names, but now they truly know one another."



David Crandall's home, 325 Division St., had seen better days than the ones after the flood swept through Lowell. The water level reached its pinnacle, surpassing the height of his porch deck.

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## health



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



### Poison ivy dermatitis

Summer time in our office is often heralded by the onslaught of poison ivy cases. So far, this summer, we have seen more cases than usual.

Poison ivy dermatitis is caused by exposure to the oil in the poison ivy plant called uroshoil. Once

exposed, the individual has an allergic reaction, leading by the development of the rash and intense itching. Symptoms usually develop within four hours to four days after exposure. Blisters will generally form a couple of days after the rash starts. Left untreated, poison ivy dermatitis will resolve in two to three weeks.

Poison ivy is not contagious and is not spread by touching the rash or fluid that may ooze from ruptured blisters. The only way to get poison ivy is to touch the oil on the plant or that may be on clothing, garden tools or pets.

If you have a mild case of poison ivy you can treat it at home by applying calamine lotion, applying cool wet compresses and adding oatmeal to baths. Once blisters begin weeping, apply compresses containing

aluminum acetate (Burrows solution, Domeboro). Contrary to popular belief, over-the-counter (OTC) antihistamines do little to relieve the itching of poison ivy dermatitis. OTC steroid creams may be helpful in mild cases.

If symptoms are severe, widespread or involve the face you should probably see your doctor for steroid treatment. Steroids are given as a shot or a prescription order medication. Steroids will shorten the duration and intensity of the dermatitis. Steroids can cause significant side effects and should be used with caution.

The best way to prevent poison ivy dermatitis is to recognize the plant and stay away from it – "Leaves of three let them be." Wear protective clothing including long sleeves and pants when in suspect areas. Wear thick vinyl gloves when working in the garden or woods. If you think you have been exposed, wash your skin gently with a mild soap and water. Washing the oil off within 10 minutes of exposure has been shown to reduce the risk of developing dermatitis.



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# perseverance *A community fighting cancer*

## Enwork and the Powells love Lowell and Pink Arrow Pride

by Will Greenberg  
contributing reporter

While many in Lowell might not know much about the local business Enwork, this growing company has deep roots in this town.

The company designs a variety of different furniture and also does interior design, dealing mostly in conference rooms, training rooms and work stations according to owner David Powell. Powell started the business with his wife Kelli ten years ago and Enwork has grown ever since. The Powells and their staff design furniture which is then constructed at various locations within Western Michigan and then sold by Enwork, Powell said.

Enwork sells through over 600 dealers and their customers are primarily corporations and universities. Major clients include Facebook, Sony, Reebok and Toyota.

The Powells, both of whom have their own family connections to Lowell, wanted to have their business located in the town they know so well. Powell said Enwork has been in the Lowell area for several years but has spent the last two years in their current location, a very modern building on Christopher Street.

"We really wanted our business, as a group, to be part of

the Lowell community; there's a lot of tremendous things happening here," Powell said. "We wanted it to be a two-way street where we supported the community and the community supports us."

Powell said Enwork has grown every year it's been operating, now with 40 employees, about half of which are Lowell residents estimates Powell.

With so many connections to the community, the Pink Arrow program is well-known to most employees and Enwork first became an official sponsor last year. However, Powell, along with many of his employees, have been involved with the program for longer outside of the business sponsorship and Powell said he has attended every Pink Arrow game.

"There's a lot of really great people doing some great things with this project and so we're grateful to be able to help," Powell said.

Sherri Huver, who works in human resources and accounting for Enwork, has lived in Lowell her whole life and said she has been very involved since her son played on the football team the past four years. Huver said she saw Pink Arrow as a growth experience for the players.



**Enwork designs furniture, which is then constructed in various locations around Western Michigan and then sold through dealers. Along with furniture, Enwork also does interior design for conference rooms, training rooms and work stations.**

"It teaches the kids a lot of respect, a lot of unity within the community to gain that support, to see what it's all about," Huver said.

Both the Powells and Huver have had experiences with cancer. Kelli Powell lost her father to colon cancer and David's mother was diagnosed with and overcame ovarian cancer, while Huver had three family members with various versions of the disease.

Powell said that having had cancer impact his life made him want to get involved in Pink Arrow all the more.

Powell said the Lowell community is a real help to families who are struggling and lets them know they aren't alone.

***"We really wanted our business, as a group, to be part of the Lowell community; there's a lot of tremendous things happening here. We wanted it to be a two-way street where we supported the community and the community supports us."***

**~ David Powell**

"You're supporting these people emotionally and we're supporting them financially," Powell said. "To have the community show up and support someone financially who's got

to go to chemo, [and] can't work, and can't pay their car payment and [they have] the community of Lowell

can't work, and can't pay their car payment and [they have] the community of Lowell

step in and help is just a tremendous thing. We're really lucky."

Huver said the Pink Arrow program provides help to people by spreading awareness and allowing the normally taboo topic of

cancer to become more open. Huver said it can be hard to approach people who are sick but that talking helps people to cope and provides more support.

Both Huver and Powell said they were impressed by Pink Arrow and how it has grown and remained strong. Powell noted that even though the program has been around for several years, the event is still a major event in the town and has influenced surrounding communities to mimic the program.

These special Pink Arrow Pride pages are brought to you this week by...



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# perseverance

*A community fighting cancer*

Throughout July the Lowell Ledger and the Buyers Guide will highlight the stories of area cancer survivors. Each writer will convey, in their own words, their experiences as they walk through the many phases of their personal journey.

Photos by Modern Photographics

## Kelly Stanger



First, let me say I am honored to share my story with you. Secondly, since I'm not a writer, forgive the errors and know this story comes from my heart.

So...where to begin. Cancer first entered my life in 1987. My mom was diagnosed with breast cancer. She was 42 and I was 20. I was just beginning my adult life and she was in the prime of hers. She battled it bravely with a mastectomy and radiation. We hoped it would be the end of it. Over

10 years passed, [so] we had pushed the "C" word to the back of our minds. Life was good. Sadly, in 1997 my mom was diagnosed with lung cancer [and] it quickly spread to her brain. We watched a healthy dynamic woman wither and die in a little over a year. We lost Mom in November 1998.

It's amazing how life continues to move along in spite of devastating news. I was pregnant for my son Blaze when her cancer returned. I thank God that

she was able to see Blaze be born. I wish he could have had her longer. She was an incredible grandma. Blaze was such a blessing to our family when she passed, a new life arriving just before a great loss.

This was an eye-opener for my sister Becky and myself. We started getting yearly mammograms; we were diligent. Fast forward to 2009, financial issues ensued and I decided to skip that year's mammogram. My wonderful friend

Linda Lukas, breast cancer survivor (2007), kept on me about getting my mammogram. Worried about the cost, I came across an article about getting help to pay for mammograms. I contacted them and was approved for a free mammogram. This was in January 2010.

When I got the dreaded call to come back for a second test I was devastated. As always, since losing my mom, I called Becky (she had moved to North Dakota). She said, "Remember, I had to go back for a second one once and it came out okay. Try not to worry." Okay...second one done, only this time they read it while I waited. Enter Dean, my rock, my best friend. He had come with me to this appointment. He held my hand and cried by my side when they told me they wanted to do a biopsy. I had the biopsy and this time we had to wait for the results. Talk about stress. Dean was at work and Blaze was at school when I got the call. You have cancer. I was stunned. How could this be?

Once again, my first call was to Becky. She said hello and I started to cry. Honestly, I was sobbing so hard I'm surprised she could understand me. Her first words were, "I'm coming home. I'll leave tomorrow." I love her. With those words I knew I could do this. I

caught my breath and told her to wait until I knew more. When I told Dean, we cried and decided it would be best to wait to tell the rest of the family until we knew exactly what was going on.

After meeting with my multi-specialty team at Lemmon Holten Cancer Center, I found out I had a tumor approximately half a centimeter big in my left breast. I would have a lumpectomy, chemo and radiation. Finally, I had a plan.

It was time to tell the family. That was harder than I thought. How do I tell my dad? This news would bring

truly one of the best people I know.

My friends, scratch that, my chosen family from the Backwater Cafe, literally got me through chemo and radiation. How blessed was I to have all these amazing people in my life. I don't know how I would have made it without their love and especially their humor. I wish I could mention them each by name and tell you of the many acts of kindness and generosity they showed me. Needless to say, they all know how much I love them.

Obviously having cancer changes your life. It made

***"My friends, scratch that, my chosen family from the Backwater Cafe, literally got me through chemo and radiation. How blessed was I to have all these amazing people in my life."***

- Kelly Stanger

back sad memories. How do you tell a twelve-year-old his mother is sick without freaking him out? I told him honestly that I was in for a big battle, but we would get through it together. It wasn't surprising my family and Dean's responded with lots of love and support. Becky came home for the surgery and took care of Blaze and me while I recovered. Have I said I love her? She is

me realize what is important to me. Family comes first, but I wanted to personally help people in my situation. This realization prompted me to enroll in nursing school.

As we all know, the Lowell community and the Pink Arrow Pride are on a

Kelly's story, continued, page 9

## Shannon Hayden

My grief journey started when I lost my father, Mike Hayden, on July 24, 2009. But his death was unknown to all of us until July 27, 2009, when my ex-husband found him gone. I remember where I was at and what I was doing when I got that phone call from Steve. I expected him to say, "Shannon, he's fine." But the words I heard were, "Shannon, he's dead." I screamed no and kept screaming no.

We were just with him at the Ionia Free Fair on July 23, 2009. How could this be true? My sons, Steven and Austin, and myself were with him. He always got his "Italian Gut Bombs" (as he called them) and said, "This is going to kill me tomorrow - Wow!"

The night of the fair, Steven and I were on a ride and I watched through our every turn, my dad holding Austin's hand. His last words to me as we dropped him off were, "I love you." He played, laughed and tickled the boys all the way home.

The reason none of us

went to check on my dad sooner was because this was his normal behavior, if he didn't answer his phone we were told to let him be. This meant he wanted to be alone. It was very hard to tell

***"I was having such a difficult time and still do. I picked up the phone in November 2010 and called Gilda's of Lowell and the following week we started group."***

- Shannon Hayden

my boys that their grandpa and best friend was gone. The next few days were a blur, picking out my dad's clothes, making funeral arrangements. My father's casket was closed, so I never got to say a "real goodbye." We placed a Waylon Jennings decal on top of his casket, something he would have wanted.

The day of the funeral - we had Waylon Jennings music playing and right before the service is when Steven lost it, which blew me away because he was handling

it so well. My brother-in-law drove my dad to the cemetery. Dad wanted one last ride in his truck, while listening to David Allen Coe all the way there. Driving

to Bylthfield with a casket in the back of an F-150 truck was an odd sight; you should have seen the stares. My brother-in-law wanted to stop at McDonald's, but I said no way.

One of my dad's dreams was to race at Daytona. His dream came true in February of 2009. He would go to Daytona every year with his best friend, Rich Zych.

I was having such a difficult time and still do. I picked up the phone in November 2010 and called Gilda's of Lowell and the

following week we started group. We have met a lot of great people along the way. I was able to meet Marne, who got me in contact with Mary in Holland, who makes memory quilts.

My boys received their memory quilts in the Christmas of 2011. They were so happy. These quilts are made of my dad's clothes and photos of him and the boys. Steven's backing has wolves because my dad and him had a special bond raising Siberian huskies. Austin's quilt has eagles because grandpa said when you see an eagle after I've gone, it is me watching over you.

The boys love going to the Gilda's Club because they get to do a different project every Tuesday and work through their grief. They are now involved in "Camp Sparkle" every Tuesday, where they



get to learn about a new country each week.

When I was asked to write about my grief journey, I was honored. I received the call on July 10 from Teresa

Beauchum and she said she wanted the story to be published in the Ledger on

Shannon's story, continued, page 9

# perseverance

*A community fighting cancer*

## Mary Roth

Our story does not have a fairy-tale ending. Our journey began on February 19, 2011, when our grandson Owen was born with a cleft lip and palate. It was a week earlier when we were having a birthday dinner for our son Matthew when Larry did a strange cough and clearing of his throat. Lisa said, "Dad, I don't like the sound of that. Your cough sounds like grandpa Joe who has esophageal cancer." All I could think was "thanks Lisa, what a comment to make."

Little did I know she was right. Two weeks after Owen was born a neighbor brought over a roast beef dinner - one for Lisa and one for us. Next thing I knew Larry said, "I have an onion peel stuck in my throat and I can't swallow." Of course, he wanted to wait until the next day to get it checked out.

Driving him to the hospital that Saturday, I knew in my heart that Larry was going to die. I knew it was cancer, but not what type. At the hospital an ultrasound was done, but they wanted to schedule him for a scope, which was done two days later. The scope revealed a tumor at the base of the esophagus and that Larry had Barrettes esophagus, which often leads to cancer. On March 3, 2011, Larry was diagnosed with esophageal cancer.

In June, my 90-year-old mother fell and broke her hip requiring a hip replacement, and when she went into rehab we determined we needed to find a retirement home with assisted living services for her. After many doctor appointments for Owen, I traveled to Motts Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor with Lisa and Adam for Owen's

first reconstructive surgery on June 14. In the meantime, Larry was in the hospital with complications from radiation, chemo-therapy and his esophageal stint.

With three of my family members each facing difficult physical challenges, I am surprised that I was always able to be at the right hospital at the right time. I can remember thinking "Okay, God, what more are you going to throw my way?" I never lost my faith. I figured He must think I have pretty big shoulders to handle all of this.

Larry had been employed as the executive driver for Amway for 36 years, during which time it was his privilege to drive Amway's executives and their guests, including Gerald R. Ford. After his retirement from Amway he drove for Delta Imports.

***"What a journey this has been. Through it all our family has really pulled together."***

- Mary Roth

Larry had always been very healthy up to that point weighing about 195 pounds, but by the end he weighed about 100. Larry was only 60 and I wanted to deny the severity of his illness. Larry fought as hard as he could. He said 60 was too young to die and he wanted to see his grand kids grow up. Even after a round of chemo and radiation the cancer continued to spread.

Lacks suggested we try Karmanos Cancer Center in Detroit. At Karmanos it was suggested that a feeding tube be put in to prepare Larry for another round of chemo

and radiation. They wanted to do it on the following day. I responded by saying, "I really need to get back to Lowell because tomorrow is the Pink Arrow game!" They looked at me rather strangely, until I explained a little more. It was scheduled for the following Monday.

Larry had a heart attack at home in the middle of September, which was a reality check for me. I knew there was not much time left. I think the hardest thing for me to do was to sign the DNR (do not resuscitate) order. I think I had been in denial before. After another several weeks in the hospital, Larry came home for about a week with Hospice care and on October 14 we moved him to Trillium Woods/Faith Hospice Hospital.

Upon arriving, Lisa and I were greeted by the Hospice pastor who told

us we were no longer the caregivers, but the wife and the daughter. I think Lisa and I both had tears in our eyes. During those last three days family and friends came by to say their goodbyes to Larry. Lisa and I were by his side when he passed away at 11:30 pm on Sunday, October 16, 2011.

I am thankful for so many things. Chris was able to take his dad to a few tractor shows, which Larry dearly loved and Matthew put his education on hold to help me care for his dad. I am also grateful for the wonderful support of family,



friends and my employer. Friends and people in the community stepped up with meals, yard work, driving Larry to appointments and traveling with us to Detroit so I was never alone. We are especially appreciative for the Mills' family for taking over the care of our horse and providing many hours of babysitting for Owen so Lisa could be with her dad and me.

I started attending Gilda's Club just two weeks after Larry's death and it has become a lifeline for me. Everyone at Gilda's Club knows the experience of grief; each person's grief is unique but we are all on the same journey. We support each other in a non-judgmental atmosphere that makes it easy to share our feelings. It is the sharing that creates a wonderful closeness among the participants.

The grieving process is hard to explain because one minute you are up and the next you are down. You never know what will trigger a surge of grief. Sometimes you feel guilty for being

happy, even though you realize that all of this is part of life.

What a journey this has been. Through it all our family has really pulled together. I am happy to say that little Owen is a happy and busy two-year-old and he, along with his parents, Lisa and Adam, have recently welcomed home a baby girl, Olivia. It was a very emotional and proud moment to watch Matt graduate from college this spring. Christopher and Megan and their son, Tyler, are doing well. Larry would be so proud of all of them.

Pink Arrow is the best thing that has happened to the Lowell Community. For years I had been in the stands supporting the athletic events of this community and I proudly wore a pink shirt for each of the Pink Arrow games. I never thought my family would be a recipient. Though I was initially reluctant to accept the gift from Pink Arrow family support, I am so glad I finally did. It is a real sign of the support this community

provides for families who are dealing with cancer. I will be at the Pink Arrow game every year I can.

The 2012 Pink Arrow game was September 7, which would have been mine and Larry's 38th wedding anniversary. Tyler Roth, a member of our extended family, wore the football jersey with Larry's name. Watching everyone come down that hill and then stepping out on the field with Tyler in memory of Larry was a powerful experience.

Another powerful moment is at the end of the game when families go onto the field and the football player takes off that special jersey and hands it to you. Lowell is such a wonderful, caring community and Pink Arrow Pride is a beautiful example of the support this community has to offer.

If I have learned anything about esophageal cancer it is, "Don't ignore prolonged acid reflux or heartburn; if the symptoms persist, get it checked out ASAP."

## Kelly's story, continued

similar mission. Before and during my cancer journey I had helped with things for Relay for Life and the Pink Arrow Pride through my job. I was fortunate, with the help of friends, to be able to sponsor a pink jersey during Pink Arrow III. This

was an event that Blaze and I had attended since the beginning. Life had changed a lot at home and this was the perfect way for Blaze to be able to put a positive spin on the situation. Being on the field and meeting Peter Copeyon, our player, was

great fun. After the game was even better. We got to listen to coach Dean give one of the most inspirational speeches I have ever heard to his players. He truly is teaching these young men much more than football. Peter and his family were

so gracious. They took the time to talk with me and took some wonderful photos that they later hand delivered to me. This was an experience that Blaze and I will always remember and I will be forever grateful for that. The Pink Arrow

Pride's generosity again helped me pay for gas to get back and forth to radiation. I can't thank everyone in this community enough for what these things have done, not only for me but for all the lives that have been touched through this project.

I am happy to say that so far I am still healthy and cancer free and hope the same for my fellow survivors.

## Shannon's story, continued

July 24. As I stated earlier, that was the day my father passed away.

My boys ask me every Tuesday, "Are we going to Gilda's?" They love it so much. And Steven volunteers and helps out

at Camp Sparkle. I also started volunteering there in September 2012.

I've learned a lot about Gilda's and why the rooms are named what they are.

It's a great place to go to. We all have dinner at 5:30

until 6 pm and group from 6 to 7:30 pm.

I went through a lot in such a short time, my dad's death, a divorce and a move within eight months. I wondered how I could do this on my own, but I have

managed and my boys are what get me through. If they see me crying, I get the biggest hugs and "I love you's" from them. They know I am crying because of grandpa.

The cause of my dad's death is unknown, which makes it hard to move on. But every time I smell anything coconut or see strawberry candies, I know my dad is right there. He was a wonderful father and grandfather. I miss

him dearly, it's hard not being able to hear his voice everyday or be able to go to the Ionia Free Fair with him. I have many memories of my dad and I am glad. I was chosen to be his daughter. We all miss you Old Man, Cowboy, Ba-pa!

# ZEIGLER

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# Presents

## LOWELL COMMUNITY WELLNESS



# PINK ARROW HEALTH FAIR

TUESDAY, JULY 30 • 10:00 - 7:00 PM



AT GILDA'S CLUB  
OF  
LOWELL



Lowell Program

In This Together...  
Learn. Share. Laugh.

**\$15**

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**FREE** Health Activities!

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**Photo Booth**

See the **CABUS!!!**

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while quantities last!

**Miranda from TV8 from 11-12**

**MERCY**  (St. Mary's) will be **HEALTH PARTNERS** providing lung cancer education.

**PROFESSIONALS will be on hand for Lowell Community Wellness Expo**



Lowell Pink Arrow Pride Community Day

**BLOOD DRIVE**


Tuesday, July 30, 2013

*Note: You can only donate blood every 56 days.*

**PLAN TO DONATE BLOOD!**

Michigan Blood pledges to donate \$10 to Gilda's Club of Lowell for every person who signs in to donate at the drive.

For Appointment:  
miblood.org or  
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# Gilda's Club Lowell, Pink Arrow in this together

In this together. Learn, share, laugh! It is through the continuous support of Pink Arrow and the greater Lowell community that we are able to live out the heart of that very mission with our members here at Gilda's Club Lowell. As a part of this community, we are in this together whether it be a cancer or grief journey. This has been made possible through Pink Arrow and the generosity and caring hearts in this community.

For almost four years, members in the Lowell area have been meeting together for free emotional and social support for children, adults and families, right here in the community's own 'backyard.' Lives have been changed at the farmhouse shared with Lowell Senior Neighbors at 314 S. Hudson Street.

As we reflect upon the past four years, the words that come to mind are gratitude and growth. The Lowell program has grown over the past four years to offer weekly support groups, workshops and social events for anyone impacted by any type of cancer or who have experienced the death of someone due to any cause.

Each Tuesday, licensed master level professionals facilitate youth and adult groups relating to cancer and grief support, all free of charge. In addition we offer ongoing workshops to provide fellowship with one another on this journey, such as knitting, woodcarving and weekly Supper Together, just to name a few.

Not all that happens at Gilda's Club Lowell program takes place at the Hudson Street clubhouse. In addition, Gilda's Club partners with Lowell schools to provide support and education on taking care of emotional health when grief or loss of any kind occurs. This has included all elementary schools as well as the middle and high school students.

Our school collaborations are focused on helping children deal with their emotions in a healthy way when big things in life happen, such as cancer or death and loss. We know life can be full of challenging dynamics and with the support of Pink Arrow and the Lowell community we are able to offer free emotional health groups right here in our

local schools. What a gift it is to educate our future leaders on healthy ways to cope with life's challenges.

- identify and name feelings,
- identify and name people in their lives that

Lowell has communicated the importance of good emotional healthcare. The in-school grief support

health series, "Kids are provided a chance to share feelings in a safe environment and given strategies to help them cope with tough things in their lives." The students agree and one shared, "Gilda's club is really cool and you get to do cool projects. And if you have tough stuff going on you can work it out."

By supporting Pink Arrow each year, you are in turn supporting Gilda's Club Lowell and embracing all of the children, families and adults impacted by cancer or grief in this community. Our gratitude for your continued support is immeasurable and we are thankful to every person that has contributed with their time, talent and resources helping to touch the lives of so many.

We invite you to check out our weekly program if you or someone you know may benefit from cancer and grief support. You may call us at 897-8600, visit our website at [gildasclubgr.org](http://gildasclubgr.org) or stop on in on a Tuesday to learn more.

Join Gilda's Club Lowell for "An Evening of Gratitude," Tues., August 20, 6-7:15 pm to take time to give thanks to our volunteers, an update on the program and an ice cream sundae bar. Members are welcome to attend.



Through the in-classroom session and the discussion/support groups we hold outside of class, we work with the kids to:

- recognize losses in regard to divorce, bullying, cancer diagnosis, death and others; and
- identify ways to care for themselves.

Through both the school assemblies and the in-classroom school programs, Gilda's Club

program for teens impacted by any type of loss has developed into a special time and space where these kids learn they are not alone on their journey.

Following the free four-week series at Cherry Creek Elementary, a teacher shared that during the Gilda's Club emotional



## Lowell Pink Arrow Pride Community Day & Blood Drive

Tuesday, July 30  
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Gilda's Club  
314 South Hudson Street, Lowell

- Bring your family & friends!
- Free meal & kids activities.
- **Plan to donate blood.** Michigan Blood pledges to donate \$10 to Gilda's Club for every person who signs in to donate at this blood drive.



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**THEME:  
MANIAS AND PHOBIAS**

- ACROSS**
- L on clothes
  - Chicken \_\_\_ king
  - Russia's 1917 abdicator
  - Bake an egg
  - Used for styling
  - Actress \_\_\_ Hunter
  - Interior decoration
  - Where bug is snug?
  - Fill with optimism
  - \* \_\_\_ phobia, fear of large things
  - \* \_\_\_ mania, obsession for washing oneself
  - Chester White's home
  - Get what you sow
  - One who plays for pay
  - Crowning point
  - Dog stand staple
  - Hit the road
  - Salespeople
  - Half of diameters
  - To, archaic
  - Muslim Supreme Being
  - Wettish
  - Not quite adults
  - Like acne-prone skin
  - \*One with oniomania, does it often at stores
  - Comes clean
  - Edible mushrooms
  - Lenon's wife
  - King of India
  - Caribou kin
  - \* \_\_\_ phobia, fear of the moon
  - \* \_\_\_ phobia, fear of thunder
  - Annoy
  - Adams \_\_\_ Beckham
  - Popular garden flower
  - Small cap
  - Length of existence
  - Spooky
  - Foul substance
  - Goes with skip and a jump
  - Buttonholes, e.g.

**CROSSWORD**

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JULY 17 - JULY 23

- A woman riding a roller coaster at Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington, plummeted to her death Friday evening around 6:45 pm CBS 11 previously identified the woman as Rosy Esparza. It was her first time visiting the popular theme park.
- Well-known film and TV actor, Dennis Farina, was pronounced dead on July 22 by his former publicist.
- A 13-year-old boy was recently diagnosed with Kleine-Levin syndrome, also known as Sleeping Beauty syndrome, causing him to sleep everyday for 16 to 20 hours a day. It takes an average of eight years to get over it, allowing the child little time to eat and use the bathroom.
- Accused Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's face was put on the cover of the latest Rolling Stone magazine sparking a backlash in social media and in boardrooms around the country.

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- DOWN**
- It was dropped in the 60's
  - Attention-getter
  - George W.'s Secretary of State
  - Rum cut with water, pl.
  - Misprints
  - \* \_\_\_ mania, intense desire to be alone
  - Romanian money
  - Pond buildup
  - Cough syrup balsam

- Fence part
- Type of sax
- It's sometimes marbled
- Assistant
- Exercise wear material
- Keep out
- Not an original
- It's a planet no more
- Extend subscription
- Many times
- \* \_\_\_ phobia, hatred or fear of music
- Boys
- Sun Valley location
- Neil or Paul, e.g.
- \* \_\_\_ mania, obsession with horses
- A bunch
- Welcomed by shoppers
- \* \_\_\_ mania, severe form of mania
- Borrower's warranty
- Go for the gold
- North and South faces
- Biblical story of \_\_\_ and the whale
- Show of respect
- Tiresias in "Oedipus Rex," e.g.
- Biblical twin
- Extend credit
- City sound
- Reality TV's Spelling
- "I'm \_\_\_!"
- British broadcaster
- \* \_\_\_ mania, self-worship
- Da or oui

*Puzzle Solutions for this week are on page 16*

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*Where is your favorite place to watch a Fourth of July fireworks display?*

My Hometown .....	54%
My own backyard .....	38%
Chicago .....	8%
New York .....	0%

**THIS WEEK'S POLL**

What was the best part of this year's Riverwalk Festival?

- Live Music
- The Food
- Duck Race
- Photobooth

**VOTE**

**WWW.  
thelowelledger.com**



## World War Z will make you go zzz...

by Tony Wittkowski  
contributing reporter

A good zombie movie establishes the threat, maintains an air of dread and erodes the line between our savagery and that of the zombies. This film gained traction and lost it at the same time.

The zombies in World War Z sprint the way girls do when their pheromones detect Justin Bieber. I've never seen anything prey upon people the way the zombies do here; in great, rushing rapids. The aerial

shot of a tsunami of bodies urgently piling up high against a concrete barrier until it's breached is self-explanatory.

But like everything else in this illogical movie, that moment conveys none of the visceral thrill you need from a zombie movie. It doesn't even look real. Most of the film, which is available in 3-D, looks computerized like you're watching through a glass ashtray.

Even when the sun's out, it's often that murky,

The shots whiz by even faster than the zombies do. But all the shaking and jostling and veering and all the split-second editing, produces a movie that never slows down enough to earn your fear.

This is a tale of monumental disaster, adapted from Max Brooks's novel and starring Brad Pitt as a retired, high-level U.N. investigator named Gerry Lane. When hell breaks loose, he and his family are flown out to an aircraft carrier where Thierry (Fana Mokoena), the U.N. deputy secretary general, convinces Gerry into venturing off

into chaos to find some kind of cure. Only by accepting the mission are his wife and two daughters guaranteed safety on the carrier. So off he goes, trotting the globe, happening upon the barrier the Israelis have erected in Jerusalem to keep out the zombies.

The production of World War Z was reportedly a troubled one. This might explain why so much of it feels so rushed and the rest is so confusing and dull. It also stars Mireille Enos, as Pitt's wife, who has nothing more to do than hand Gerry's phone calls to Thierry.

Of course, some of that might also be a matter of the film having been made by Marc Forster, a flashy director whose past works include Monster's Ball, Finding Neverland and Stranger Than Fiction.

When Gerry and a wounded Israeli soldier (Daniella Kertesz) make their way to a World Health Organization laboratory in Wales, World War Z gives us its one good sequence. It's just three characters traveling from one wing of the complex to the zombie-infested other side. But everything's at stake in the trip. For the first time in

about 80 minutes, you're getting what you need in a zombie movie.

That climactic sequence is so well done that you resent the rest of the movie for its incompetence and incoherence. Despite its hype the movie failed to distinguish itself as a top tier zombie movie. Therefore, I give the film 2 stars, with that one scene giving it a bump up from the dreaded 1 star.

**Running Time:**  
116 minutes  
**Movie Rated:** R  
**Critic's Grade:** 2 stars

### Current City Worker Contract Negotiations

Hello citizens of Lowell. We, the workers of the Lowell Department of Public Works (DPW) are writing this article today to answer some of your questions, explain the current progress of contract negotiations between the city workers and provide you with facts. It is not our intention to manipulate this information, nor is it our intention to slander the City of Lowell or any of its employees. We feel it is your right as citizens to have this or any other information pertaining to your city.

#### The workers

All 7 DPW workers joined the union. Here's our names, job positions and how many years we have served the City of Lowell residents:	
Bob Robinson	Water Distribution 27 years of service
Joe Baker	Streets, Parks, Sewer 25 years of service
Scott Fosburg	Streets, Parks, Sewer 21 years of service
Don Dejong	Cemetery, City Landscaping 18 years of service
Todd Phillips	Water Distribution, Water Filtration 16 years of service
Ralph Brecken	Vehicle Maintenance, Water Filtration 12 years of service
Brian VanVeelen	Water Filtration 5 years of service

Other than the Director of Public Works, these 7 workers constitute your city Department of Public Works workforce. We have many different task we perform in the city such as... snow plowing, picking up damaged trees and debris, fixing broken stop signs, clearing and plowing walking trails, repairing fire hydrants, fixing broken water mains, filling pot holes, cleaning a clogged sewer, maintaining parks, providing clean drinking water, maintaining exceptional cemetery grounds and we played a big part in securing the city from the floods of this past spring. We are proud of the city we work for and we believe it shows.

Currently the city manager told us workers, "due to the City of Lowell charter law, you (the workers) cannot talk to any council member nor can any council member talk to you about any city matter at any time. All of the information must come through the city manager." And to our knowledge, the city of Lowell council members were told the same. But here's the problem, when we formally requested to see this charter policy it was indicated to us that **there are no rules prohibiting workers and council members from talking to each other!** Now I ask you, what kind of government restricts the flow of information to the elected representatives through one person? The council members are elected to represent the citizens of Lowell, but according to the current city manager the council cannot talk to their own workers to find out what is going on in the city. At the same time the council must ultimately decide the fate of the city?? We adamantly disagree that is the style of government set up by the Lowell city charter.

#### What's taking so long?

Unfortunately, we have been in negotiations with the city for the past two years and have been unable to settle on a contract. There have been several meetings held with our union and the city manager along with lawyers with no success. There have also been several council meetings where the citizens of Lowell have expressed their concerns; however the council members have chosen to not address any of these issues. To be clear we never joined the union to obtain big pay increases or big bonuses.

Recently, we received a proposed contract from the city which had significant issues that needed to be addressed and we, as a group, have decided to not agree to the city's proposed contract. Below are paragraphs that have been taken from the most recent city proposed contract, and are an example of what the city wants us to agree to. The bolded sentences are what is concerning to us.

#### Grievance procedure:

**"Step 2:** If not satisfied with the Director's answer, or if no answer is received within the time limit, it shall be the responsibility of the aggrieved employee to deliver the written grievance to the City Manager or his/her designee within five (5) working days from the date a Step 1 answer is received or the Step 1 answer was due. The city manager shall return his/her written answer within twenty (20) work days. If Step 1 is omitted, the employee shall present the written grievance within five (5) working days of the occurrence giving rise to the grievance as noted above. **The Decision of the City Manager shall be final and binding on the parties."**

To explain, this last sentence in the above paragraph allows the city manager to decide any problem we bring to his attention and his decision is final without further recourse. So what he decides to do to us is it, period. Not even the council can be involved. What's wrong with this picture?

#### Subcontracting:

"...the employer reserves the right to subcontract at any time bargaining unit work; to purchase any or all work processes or services when, in the sole determination of the employer, it is in the best interests of the City because it does not have the facilities or equipment, or the available or appropriate personnel, or when it is deemed economical to have the work performed by other **or for any other lawful purpose.** Prior to subcontracting bargaining unit work, the Employer shall provide thirty (30) calendar days notice to the Union, if an employee is to be laid off. Upon request, the Employer or its designated representative shall meet with Union officials to discuss the proposed subcontracting within the above thirty (30) day period. **However, the decision to subcontract is not grievable and shall be within the Employer's sole discretion"**

Our problem with this wording is simple; this allows the city to just simply contract our jobs for **ANY REASON** and there is nothing we can say or do about it.

#### Outside employment:

"Any employee desiring to participate in outside or supplemental employment must obtain permission of the City Manager in writing prior to engaging in outside or supplemental employment."... **"The decision of the City Manager to grant or deny the employee's request should be final and not subject to the grievance procedure"**

These are just some of the policies that us workers are being asked to agree to. The question is, "are these fair?" We don't think so. Why would it be okay to tell a worker that if he works on the family farm at home after work he could get fired from the city? Or how about umpiring a children's youth softball game on the weekend? Sounds kind of amazing, doesn't it? And no, we are not kidding. Under the City's proposed contract the City Manager could do just that and there is nothing we as workers could do about it. This does inherently lead into the next comment we hear from citizens...

#### Would the city do that to its workers?

This is the next comment we hear: "I don't think the city would do that to the workers." Well, I ask you this; if it was your city would you spend \$20,000 of your tax dollars in attorney fees to adamantly fight for no reason? But this is what the city has done, up to date it has spent almost \$20,000 of your tax dollars in attorney fees to fight for the right to do just that. And in case you are still convinced they wouldn't do such things to your workers, here is another fact. Currently, there are 3 unfair labor practice lawsuits filed against the current city manager for alleged labor violations. One of these unfair labor practice claims was even published as front page news in the Lowell Ledger a short time ago. It is alleged that the current City Manager denied a pay increase to a city worker after he, the worker, fulfilled all of his obligations required to receive this pay increase. Under current city policy, if that worker is hired for a water position and achieves a State of Michigan water license by passing the state exam, he or she will receive increase for that license. It has been city policy for many years, but was denied **AFTER** the employee fulfilled all of his requirements and achieved his State certification.

#### Isn't it similar to the police contract?

The simple answer is no. Many of these policies and procedures are not in the current police contract. We would gladly agree to a contract that is similar to the police contract. Here is an example of the difference between the two. The police contract does not state this, but the city's proposed contract to the DPW workers clearly states we **"are at will" and can be fired at any time for any reason. Would you agree to this???**

#### How do I find out more?

We know some, if not all citizens would like to learn more about these issues so on **Monday, July 29 at 6:30 p.m.** we will have a public meeting at the Englehardt library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, MI 49331. This meeting is for you to meet some of your city workers and get your questions answered!

Also, we are happy to announce that we have all of the current and proposed contracts online for you to read and compare. If you go to the website [voiceoflowell.org](http://voiceoflowell.org) you will find a complete copy of the City's proposed contract to the workers, the worker's proposed contract to the City, and the City of Lowell's police contract. We encourage everybody to take a look for your self. This is all public information and as **your** workers we want you to know what is going on in your city. This forum on [voiceoflowell.org](http://voiceoflowell.org) website will provide a platform for communication between you and your workers.

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for more information

# obituaries

## MILLER

Ferris Grayling Miller, 96, of Grand Rapids, went to be with the Lord on Friday, July 19, 2013. He was preceded in death by Lucy, his wife of 71 years, and his brother, Bernard Miller. He is survived by his children, Jerry Miller, Bonnie Miller, Karen Silverstein (Michael), and Judy Moon; grandson, Corey Moon; sisters, Elaine Duggan and Beulaine (Betty) Hilaski; brothers, Ward (Joan) Miller and Dale Miller; several nieces and nephews; and many friends. Ferris was an electrician for the CSX Railroad for 40 years and the general chairman for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). He retired in 1977 and continued volunteering in his community including membership in National Association of Retired and Veteran Railway Employees (N.A.R.V.R.E.) Unit 152, and a charter member and a former president of the Fallasburg Historical Society. His family, neighbors, and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church were blessed by his loving tireless gifts of wisdom and time. Ferris was cremated according to his wishes. A memorial service will be held at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in September, details to be announced. The family thanks the staff of Beacon Hill at Eastgate Assisted Living and Health Care Center for caring for their father, and Gentiva Odyssey Hospice during his final weeks. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests any memorial contributions be sent to the Mary & Martha Fund of Beacon Hill at Eastgate, St. Andrew's Memorial Fund at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, or Gentiva Odyssey Hospice. Arrangements by: Memorial Alternatives, A Burial & Cremation Service, 2432 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505; 616-363-3700; www.memorialalternatives.com



# Local business participates with Give an Hour program

by Will Greenberg contributing reporter  
 Many people witness the tolls of war on television or read about casualties and damages in the press, but the quiet suffering of a veteran is rarely seen.

As soldiers continue to return home from various conflicts, the physical wounds are found and cured but the mental wounds often go untreated. Still others have gone unnoticed for decades, many still carrying the effects from wars of the 20th century. National Public Radio reported in January that as of 2012 more veterans committed suicide than died in combat.

For Melissa Spino, treating these veterans is imperative.

Spino runs the local Lowell business Life Transitions Therapy LLC, a clinic she runs entirely

on her own to treat mental health and behavioral health issues. Spino started Life Transitions in 2011, but had done work for various companies helping deal with catastrophic injury cases. However, Spino began to notice a large number of her overseas' patients were coming home with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

That's when Spino learned about Give an Hour.

Give an Hour (GAH) is a national program that seeks donations of time from mental health professionals to devote an hour a week to treating veterans and their families free of charge, specifically those who have served in post September 11 conflicts, according to the GAH website.

While GAH was unavailable for comment, Spino explained that the

program helps to satisfy the growing demand for mental health professionals among veterans.

"They go through and see things the average American could never even imagine," Spino said. "I thought I really owed our veterans more than a debt of gratitude."

Spino said that while GAH specifically targets veterans of 21st century conflicts, she wanted to expand her services to all veterans. A study by the Veteran's Affairs office in 2012 showed "more than 69 percent of Veteran suicides are among those age 50 years and older." Spino said that recent efforts to raise awareness of PTSD among veterans have revealed the true numbers who are suffering and that more veterans are being urged to seek treatment.

Spino said that she would urge suffering soldiers to seek professional help and not try to ignore issues they may have. Spino said soldiers who return home often have trouble re-acclimating to civilian life and are more likely to engage in confrontation or become hostile because they can often perceive everyday interactions as a threat.

"The brain is very powerful and the brain can make you feel and perceive things that aren't accurate," Spino said.

Spino plans to expand her services to veterans as necessary, saying that if she were to receive a high volume of patients, then she would donate more than just an hour if it was needed.

# SBA's disaster loan deadline is Aug. 12

The U.S. Small Business Administration reminds homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations of the deadline to submit disaster loan applications for damages due to severe storms and flooding on April 7 to 20. The deadline to apply for physical damage is August 12.

Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters

are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Businesses and nonprofit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquacultural and

most private non-profit organizations of all sizes, the SBA offers economic injury disaster loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Interest rates are as low as 1.688 percent for homeowners and renters, 2.875 percent for nonprofit organizations and four percent for businesses with terms up to 30 years. The SBA sets the loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online using the electronic loan application via SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Disaster loan

information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center, 800-659-2955, or by sending an email to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Loan applications can be downloaded from [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov). Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is August 12. The deadline to return economic injury applications is March 12, 2014.

For more information about the SBA's Disaster Loan Program, visit the website at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

### PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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TO OUR LOYAL VOLUNTEERS and those who volunteered for the first time and friends members for their hours of service in sorting, pricing, setting-up and all the other chores as well as selling at our Book Sale under the tent.

You all made our recent Book Sale under the striped tent a big success!

You enable the Friends of the Library to support the ongoing programs for adults and youth, as well as, purchases of needed items for the library to make your visit a more pleasant one.

Thank you all!  
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 You had a kindly word for each  
 And died beloved by all.

*Loved and missed by Wife: Velma Perry  
 Children: Bert & Ruby Baker and Ron & Ann Wittenbach  
 Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren*





# Lowell shooting team attends nationals

by Kelvin Anderson  
contributing reporter

Tuesday, July 16, was a big day for the Lowell High School Scholastic Shooting team. Three of their shooters: Noah Roth, Kelvin Anderson and Zac Graves were chosen by their coach to go to nationals for skeet at the world shooting and recreation complex in Sparta, Illinois. The team left early Tuesday morning and arrived at the range early afternoon. The complex is massive, featuring 25 combination trap and skeet fields along with 96 trap fields. This year the complex held nearly 1,800 shooters. Nearly every major gun manufacturer had a store on-site to cater to the large amount of shooters. The big moment for the team came the next day at 10 o'clock when they shot their

first four rounds of skeet. Despite the sweltering heat, the team performed admirably and came away feeling confident. The rest of the day was spent soaking in air conditioning and exploring the many gun and gun accessory stores. Later that afternoon the team had the honor of meeting the founders and owners of Midway USA, Larry and Brenda Potterfield. The Potterfield's donate half the company's profits to set up endowment accounts through which teams get money to purchase everything from team uniforms to ammo for kids to use. Thursday at noon the team shot their final four rounds of skeet. A highlight of this shoot was a first 25 in competition shot by Noah Roth. The team increased their average



The team plays a game called Crazy Quail.

scores from the day before, setting themselves in a good rating position. That night the team was able to watch a show put on by Beretta exhibition shooter Scott Robertson. Robertson performed many amazing trick shots, including hitting moving targets from the hip, on a bicycle, on a skateboard, and while doing pushups. He also got

kids involved throwing everything from eggs to aspirin for him to shoot. To wrap up his performance, helpers released balloons into the air and let them rise nearly out of sight before letting him take a shot. Not a single balloon escaped unscathed. The team returned to Lowell late Friday afternoon, tired but already excited

about next year. Besides competing, the team also had a lot of fun. "We got to see an exhibition shooter do a lot of trick shots," said shooter Roth. "We shot well as a team and as individuals. I plan on coming back next year." The large complex also left many memories. "The facility in Sparta was huge and I was blown away by how many shooters there were at the event," said shooter Graves. This trip would not have been possible without widespread support they received from the community. The team would like to deeply thank their sponsors who provided money for the teams to purchase ammo, uniforms and gas for the event. The sponsors were Bruce Doll, Buist Electric, Qua-Ke-Zic Sportsman Club, Nextphase, and Pep Talk for providing

these supplies, as well as the Gathering Place Restaurant for providing sandwiches and drinks for the shooters all season long. The team would like to also send a shout out to assistant coach Paul Graves for acting as driver for the entire trip and for providing support throughout the entire event. In the end, the team made their community and their coach proud. "We did very well considering it was our first year," said head coach Aaron Roth. "The kids shot extremely well. The team had a blast at this event and will definitely be back next year. The competitive season will begin again this fall as practices resume in anticipation of another successful season."

# Local brother and sister participate on championship baseball and softball teams

by Karen Jack

Morgan and Parker Groom kept their parents busy this summer, both participating on elite travel teams - Morgan, on the 2013 Michigan Big League state championship softball team and Parker, on the 2013 Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) baseball state championship team.

Morgan, a 2012 Lowell High School graduate, who now plays softball for Harvard University, came home to play on the District

9 Big League softball team this summer. The team is made up of several elite softball players from the Grand Rapids area, including Morgan. They ran through the district tournament on their quest to make it to the World Series, beating their long-time rival, District 15-Mattawan, in the final game, 5-0. Their next step on the road to the World Series is beating Indiana's District 13 team from Elgin, Illinois, on July 27. Morgan was the

game winning pitcher in the championship game, pitching a three-hit shutout, with ten strike outs.

Morgan was the Lowell High School Female Athlete of the Year last year, earning all-state, all-region, all-district, and all-conference honors. At Harvard, she also lived up to the hype, throwing 125 innings and ranking fourth in the league with a 2.58 earned-run average.

Her brother, Parker, is also an outstanding baseball

player as both a pitcher and shortstop and participated on the highly touted Grand Rapids Elite 17U team this summer. Like the name implies, the team is made up of area elite baseball players, aged 17 and under. The team won the AAU state tournament this past weekend in Muskegon, advancing them to the AAU national tournament in Florida to be held early this week. True to Groom form, he pitched a three-hit shutout on Saturday to keep

the team advancing, then hit a two-RBI game-winning double in the championship game on Sunday. With only being able to pitch one or two games per week in baseball, Parker hasn't gotten all the fanfare his sister has received, but he's still elite nonetheless. He was named academic all-state this past year. Parker will be a senior this fall at Lowell High School and would like to play in college. He's had some interest, but according to his mom, Sue,

they're taking their time to see who is interested and then will go from there.

"I'm really proud of both of these kids and how hard they have worked to get where they are," said Sue Groom. "It's been years and years of hard work and it really is true that hard work pays off."

Morgan and Parker are the children of Terrand and Sue Groom.

# LHS grad promotes agriculture

Sarah Crosby has always been involved with agriculture. Her family has been active in the Kent County Youth Fair for generations and she has attended the fair her entire life. As soon as she was old enough she began showing her own animals and has earned many awards, specializing in the sheep and poultry areas.

She was recently recognized with a State 4-H award in the poultry area. This past year, she has taken that involvement in the fair and agriculture to a new level. After being a junior fair board member for the past several years, she was elected to serve as the fair board secretary. She is the first director to serve on the fair board's executive committee.

In addition to her involvement in 4-H, Crosby is also active in FFA. She became involved in FFA as a 7th grade student and continues to be active today, serving as the Michigan FFA state vice president. Along the way, she has won many awards, including being named the state winner in Jr. High Public Speaking in 2009. She has served as the Lowell Chapter president, the regional vice president and this spring was elected to represent Michigan as the state vice president. As a state officer, Crosby will

travel the state promoting FFA and agriculture while speaking and presenting at schools and events. She is currently in Washington D.C. attending the National FFA State President's Conference where she is learning about issues affecting youth in agriculture.

In recognition of all that she has done throughout her high school career, Crosby was presented with a special tribute from the State of Michigan, signed by governor Rick Snyder, lieutenant governor Brian Calley, representative Lisa



as 2013-2014 Michigan FFA State Vice President. Also for her outstanding Leadership, agricultural practices and unselfish public service in promoting Michigan Agriculture."

As Crosby begins her life as a college student, she hopes to continue to promote agriculture as she studies to

become a high school agriculture teacher. Through 4-H and FFA, she has had the opportunity to present to a wide range of students, from elementary to high school and even adults on different agricultural topics.

She believes agriculture will play an important role in our future and wants to make sure everyone is aware of how the industry impacts them, not just the students that are fortunate enough to grow up on a farm.

Lyons and senator Dave Hildenbrand. The tribute states, "It is a significant symbol of Michigan's ties to the land and our rich agricultural heritage that we recognize Sarah Crosby winning State Vice President position. Michigan FFA members have elected an individual who has shown impeccable leadership, hard work and a passion for agriculture." And continues, "In Special Tribute to honor and congratulate Sarah Crosby upon her election

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# Todd Anderson

## Behind The Scenes



**Position:** Sales professional at Wittenbach GMC

**Residence:** Grand Rapids

**Education:** Bachelor's in Business from Oral Roberts University

**Experience:** Almost 20 years in the car business

**Family:** Married to Susan for 34 years, three children, Andy (29), Dustin (26) and Joy (23)

**Interests:** Boating, camping, running and doing things with his children.



by Tony Wittkowski  
contributing reporter

There are several layers to Todd Anderson that many people are unaware of.

One of the main things he does is sell cars, but that's not always so cut and dry.

Anderson compares his daily routine to that of a worker in retail business in maintaining a shelf.

"They've got to look good, they've got to be ready, they've got to be

consumer ready," Anderson explains from behind his desk. "That's part of what I do."

Something you may not have noticed from the man who tries to get you a deal on a used car is his faith.

"My faith is very important to me. I do a lot of counseling and that is something you wouldn't think is part of a used car salesman," Anderson chuckles, because people have been coming to him with problems for awhile now.

This was plausible based on his background training he received in Tulsa, where he went to school and eventually found his soon-to-be-wife of 34 years. She came from West

Virginia, he hailed from Chicago. Things would only get better from there.

When asked what he did after college, Anderson casually talks of how he became a youth pastor at the age of 24.

This jack-of-all-trades was a pastor for 10 years until the church went through a split, leaving Anderson another hidden opportunity: one with cars.



"I got into cars early. My first one was a 1958 MGA Roadster," Anderson says, thinking back to his school days. "It broke down everyday so that got me into cars."

In fact, when Anderson first went to college he was the campus mechanic and had hung a sign, which read 'I'll fix your car.' The man found a way to support himself, while inching closer to a degree.

It's not that surprising Anderson wound up working with cars, although he is the first to admit it was not the thing he envisioned doing as a teenager.

One of the main facets that has made people gravitate toward him is his kindness and compassion.

This winter Anderson will be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro for children who lack clean water and

the simplest of medicines.

"I'm going to Africa in February to help raise money and awareness for a hospital in the Kenya area that works with very needy Africans that don't have healthcare," Anderson says. "It's an area I want to participate in and see if there is a way I can assist."

Anderson first heard about it from a friend who went to school with him in Tulsa. They will be over there for 10 days, climbing

Kilimanjaro as a sponsored run, asking others to fund him.

Kilimanjaro's elevation is more than 19,000 feet from the base to the summit. That's around 5,800 meters of walking through ice and snow. Anderson will have a guide come February and is hoping to raise at least \$5,000 on his end for the hospital.

For the son of a business executive, Anderson has been to many places, having moved from Minneapolis to Chicago to Dallas, then back to Chicago and eventually Toledo.

Prior to this, Anderson went to southern China with his son, a filmmaker, to help those who were shunned after contracting leprosy.

"They were shunned to a separate village to

look after themselves, which becomes a very hard task when extremities are lost, such as fingers, toes and nose to name a few," Anderson says, looking down at his own hands.

The two filmed a couple's work that were trying to help these people. The film would go on to be used to help convince people to support them, without forcing the couple to travel and raise the awareness themselves.

"These are helpful reminders that we are here for others and not just ourselves," Anderson says. "The daily reminders are the harder ones."

While many often read of people doing great things, very few have the ability to go out and duplicate those unselfish deeds.

Anderson is a car salesman, who in his spare time flies to different places to help complete strangers. While in his own community, he's willing to lend an ear for anyone in need of advice.

To this day Anderson still finds time to spend with his family, getting together every Monday night to share a meal with his grown kids to catch up on things.

There are several layers to Todd Anderson that many people are unaware of. But that doesn't matter to him, nor should it. Because he is one of those who are lucky enough to find that calling in life, which Anderson surely has.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY To Us!

Emerald Meadows is celebrating our 14th year of serving the community. Join us for a 50's theme party with antique cars and entertainment by Elvis. For children there will be cart rides by Auster the miniature horse, hula hoops, bubbles, a bounce house, and jump ropes. Hamburgers, hot dogs, corn on the cob, watermelon, ice cream, and popcorn will all be part of the fun!





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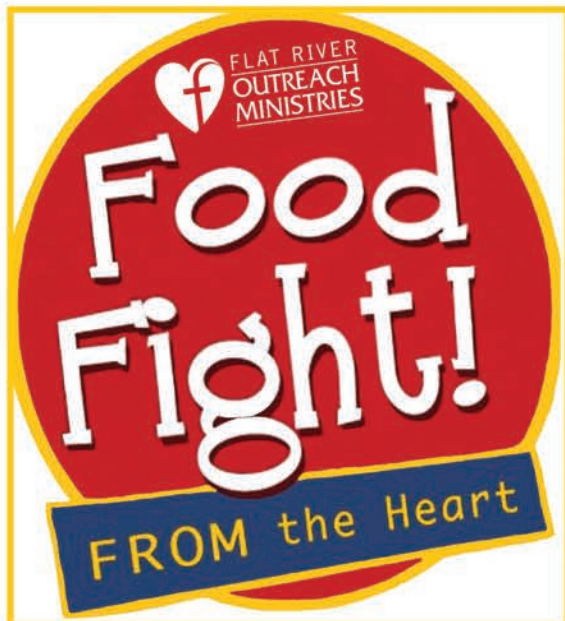
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North	5,871	5,044	4,266	4,637	19,818
South	5,671	3,845	3,848	9,098	22,462



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 Dr. James E. Reagan Dr. John Mogor—Honoring All Veterans—In Memory of Ivan Blough  
 Family Dentistry of Lowell—Koffee Klatsch—Barry & Darlene Latham—Lowell Postal Employees  
 Lowell Water Works—Main Street Inn—McPherson Lean Partners, Inc.—Alice Monks  
 Noreen K. Myers, Attorney at Law—Optec, Inc.—Pauly's—Lois Pearce—Shirley Peckham  
 Rick & Carol Mandle Family—Roger & Diane LaWarre—Springrove Variety—Stoneybrook Sanitation  
 Ella Thompson—Whites Bridge Tooling, Inc.—Stan & Elaine Wingeier**

ADA/LOWELL 5  
 ADVANCED EYECARE  
 ALTO BAR  
 ALTO BEAUTY SHOP  
 ARROWHEAD GOLF  
 BACKWATER CAFÉ  
 BC PIZZA  
 BIRCHWOOD GARDENS  
 CANFIELD PLUMBING & HEATING  
 CHIMERA DESIGN  
 COUSIN'S HALLMARK  
 CURTIS CLEANERS  
 DEER RUN GOLF  
 DERY PHYSICAL THERAPY  
 ELLA'S COFFEE & COUSINE  
 FLAT RIVER GRILL  
 FROM THRIFT SHOP  
 FRY DADDY'S  
 GILDA'S CLUB

GLASS HOUSE DESIGNS  
 GRAND CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP  
 GREAT CLIPS  
 GREEN ACRES  
 GREENRIDGE REALTY  
 HAIRSTUDIO  
 HAROLD ZEIGLER FORD  
 HEIDI'S FARM STAND  
 ICE CREAM CABOOSE  
 JUST SMART GUYS  
 KEISER'S KITCHEN  
 LARKIN'S RESTAURANT  
 LOWELL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
 LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
 LOWELL BUYERS GUIDE/LEDGER  
 LOWELL CITY HALL  
 LOWELL FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC  
 LOWELL LIGHT & POWER  
 LOWELL MOBIL  
 LOWELL SHOWBOAT  
 SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERTS

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS  
 LOWELL YMCA  
 MAIN STREET INN  
 MESSENGER MINISTRIES  
 MODERN PHOTOGRAPHICS  
 MYNT FUSION BISTRO  
 PAULY'S  
 PORTLAND FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
 QUALITY EXPRESS  
 ROOKIES SPORTSCARDS  
 SCHNEIDER MANOR  
 SHOWBOAT AUTOMOTIVE  
 SNEAKER'S BAR & GRILL  
 SNAP FITNESS  
 SPRINGROVE VARIETY  
 STONERIDGE APARTMENTS  
 TRACTOR SUPPLY  
 WALGREEN'S  
 WITTENBACH GMC

and YOU our **AWESOME COMMUNITY**  
**FROM the HEART**

*Jan Zeigler*