

Stories of Perseverance

A Community Fighting Cancer Begins on page 7



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Youth fair ready for next week's opening

by Will Greenberg
contributing reporter

Organizers and volunteers have been preparing for months to ensure the Kent County Youth Fair is good to go for next week.

The annual youth fair will run August 5-10 and feature animal competitions, food, carnival rides and a variety of events.

Fair director Jessica Marks said this year's fair will feature over 2,000 entries from over 800 exhibitors from Kent and other counties within the state, with competitions among ten different animal species.

The usual premier events, such as the opening ceremonies, talent show and livestock auction will be

featured but this year also brings new attractions.

New this year will be sand sculptor Lucinda Wierenga. Wierenga will be carving a sand creation throughout the week and also offering free sand sculpting lessons. Other new shows include Michigan native Mandy Alexander who will perform on Saturday and Mid-West Dueling Pianos slated to perform on Tuesday.

The Reading for Rides (RFR) program, which offers free rides to kids who read five books or more, returns this year with two additional hours of free rides for the RFR kids. As part of the RFR program, an original book called "K.C. Lost Her Bell," written and



This year the Kent County Youth Fair will start the week of August 5.

Photo courtesy of Bruce Doll

Legacy ride slated for this Saturday honors Vietnam era veterans

by Will Greenberg
contributing reporter

Can citizens ever fully pay the gratitude a soldier deserves? Maybe not, but at the very least they can offer a "thank you."

The Vietnam Legacy Ride will roll through West Michigan for the sixth time on Saturday to honor the veterans of the Vietnam War. The 62-mile motorcycle ride begins in Lansing at the Vietnam Veteran Memorial and ends in Lowell.

Doran Jaffas is the founder of the Legacy Ride. Jaffas started the ride in 2007 and has held the ride every year since, except for last year due to complications. Jaffas said the ride route changes from year to year with around 400 bikers being escorted by police vehicles. Jaffas said that he only expected the ride to run for just one year, but, the event was so popular that he has continued it.

Jaffas explained that while he was too young to be drafted for the Vietnam War, he remembered the war and remembered seeing how the veterans were treated when they returned home. Jaffas said that he never felt

the veterans received the welcoming or respect they deserved and that the ride was like throwing them a party.

"It's a way for those of us who remember and maybe even to help those of us who don't remember, to pay tribute to some veterans that had a real rough time coming home," Jaffas said.

Jaffas said that, as a biker himself, this was the best way he knew to offer gratitude to the veterans he felt were forgotten. Jaffas explained that, in his experience, "biker culture" is very patriotic and that whether the riders served in the military or not there is an appreciation for the sacrifice soldiers make.

"There's a general attitude of patriotism in bikers that you won't find anywhere else," Jaffas said.

Bill Damon has participated in the legacy ride for several years now and is also a Vietnam veteran. Damon said that he remembered the war as being very political, with people taking sides and

Legacy ride, continued, page 3

illustrated by Denise Stain is being provided by the Kent County Youth Fair and sponsors. The book is available now at the Lowell Ledger/Buyers Guide and will also be available at the fair.

Marks said that, as always, the Kent County Youth Fair is both a great opportunity for the children participating as well as the guests attending.

"Our goal is to

provide affordable family entertainment," Marks said. "We try to always keep that in mind as far as what we do so that people can come and not spend a lot of money."

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Citizens meet with union workers in public meeting

by Tony Wittkowski
contributing reporter

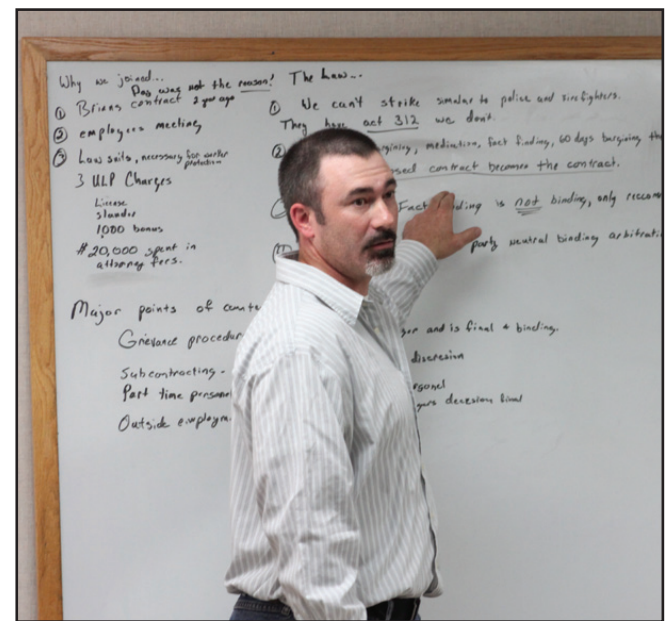
Over a dozen Lowell residents were present at Englehardt library Monday evening to ask union members about the legal action that has been occurring between the union and city for the past two years.

A handful of supporters were there to ask a few questions, with Ralph Brecken, a member of the union, answering them and explaining the mediation process to those wanting to listen.

"Our ultimate goal is to have the residents of this city know the truth," Brecken said after the meeting was adjourned. "We want them to know what this is all about, what the workers are truly asking for."

The main topic of discussion throughout the course of questioning was in relation to the three initial positions that union members wanted changed on the city's proposed contract.

Brecken, who has done 12 years of vehicle



Ralph Brecken speaks in front of a little more than a dozen spectators Monday evening on the legal issues the union has been fighting.

Photo by Tony Wittkowski

maintenance and water filtration for the city, told members of the audience that the union had an issue with the grievance procedure, subcontracting and outside employment aspects.

He went on to explain that the problem with the portion on subcontracting was how it allowed the city to contract their jobs for any

reason with current union members having no say in the matter.

"The big turn-off on unions has a lot to do with wages, but for the first year and a half we only talked about policies and procedures," Brecken said. "Our intent is not to slander anybody or manipulate the

Union meeting continued, page 2

Union meeting, continued

truth. What I tried to present here tonight was the truth.”

Now after several meetings with a state provided mediator, the legal issues between both parties will be taken to court on Aug.

7 in Lansing. The union and the city have already gone through mediation and are now set for fact-finding.

Through the past two years, Brecken said the city has spent an estimated

\$20,000 in legal fees to keep these three components.

Brecken told listeners that each city employee was given a \$1,000 bonus, excluding the workers who belonged to the union.

This drew a reaction from the crowd, including Barb Barber, a long-time attendee of city council meetings.

“The community is not hearing this side of the story, all they hear is what

the city publishes,” Barber said. “I’ve lived in this community for 50 years and it has always been like a family. Suddenly, you’ve got people taking sides and no one’s happy about it.

At one point during the meeting Barber spoke of her desire to sit in on the closed sessions of the city council when they would be brought up-to-date on the contract negotiations. After so many times of trying to sit in on the closed sessions, Barber stopped going to city council meetings.

Brecken expressed the need for more openness and transparency from the government, often making comparisons between Lowell and Rockford.

During the meeting Brecken said when union members made an attempt to reach out to city councilmembers to discuss their contract concerns, they were told it was out of the council’s hands and that

they could not get involved due to the law.

However, Brecken pointed out in the city’s charter – under Section 5.12 (b) for the restrictions on powers of the council – that this was untrue.

“Except for purposes of inquiry authorized by it, the council, its committees,” Brecken said, “and its members shall deal with the administrative officers and employees of the city solely through the city manager concerning matters relating to the performance of their several official duties.”

Prior to the meeting Brecken was told by other union members that he could receive a lot of heat for holding the public meeting. But Brecken said he wanted to explain their position in a formal manner.

“Worker morale can’t get any lower,” Brecken said. “We didn’t need a union until now.”



along main street

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

Come meet and have a cup of coffee with your city councilmembers on the first Saturday of the month from 8-10 am at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce office, 113 Riverwalk Plaza.

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Wed., Aug. 7 at 6 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Great Lakes Photo LLC will present photography enthusiasts of any experience level and nature lovers the opportunity to learn more about photography and the great value in the preservation of natural habitat. Participants will meet at the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center on Tues., Aug. 13, from 10 am to 3 pm for a brief introduction before beginning a two-hour informative instruction and discussion session. After lunch, participants will head out into the field to photograph nature while instructors offer general assistance, tips and suggestions on how to take better nature photographs. To register or for more information, visit www.greatlakesphototours.com

HIGH SCHOOL FALL SPORTS

Try-outs and practices for the fall high school sports’ teams begin on Wed., Aug. 14 (Aug. 12 for football and fall cheerleading). Athletic physicals must be turned in to the high school athletic office before the first day of practice in order to be eligible to participate. They must be dated after April 15, 2013, to be good for the 2013-14 school year. Contact the athletic office at 987-2907 with questions.

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations. The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.

college news

Central Michigan University has announced the spring semester honor list which includes students from the local area who earned a 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) and higher grade point average.

Ada: Jacob E. Aronoff, Shannon Lynn Dahlquist, Adam Deschaine, Scott Arnold Devroy, Meredith Joan Greengard, Tessa Rose Heeringa, Peter Joseph Konyndyk, Kayla Marie Lenderink, Brett Mitchell McMahon, Hannah May Messer, Morgan Michael Mikesell, Jenna Marie Pope, Molly Przybysz, Gregory Eugene Roy, Kaely S.

Schlosser, Eric Nicholas Schweitzer, Stephen James Snyder, and Kathryn Jeanne Winer; Alto: Kaycee Morgan Lee and Bridgette Lynn Smith, Lowell: Kristin Darlene Bouwhuis, Hillary R. Briggs, Dylan Jackson Dues, Chelsea Catherine Dyer, Shelby Leigh Herb, Emily Kristine Jelsma, Kelsey M. Mankel, Matthew Thayer Schloop, Taylor Leigh Schumacher, and Brienne Warren.

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

Ada: Tosha Huddleston, Master of Science in Administration; Brett McMahon, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Molly Przybysz, Bachelor of Applied Arts; Gregory Roy, Bachelor of Science; and Marissa VanderWeele, Bachelor of Science.

Alto: Daniel Barofsky, Bachelor of Science; Shane Montgomery, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; and Melissa Stanley, Bachelor of Science in Education.

Lowell: Dylan Dues, Bachelor of Science; Nicole Ruble, Bachelor of Science; Matthew Schloop, Bachelor of Science; Rachel Vogel, Bachelor of Science; and Joshua Wallner, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

West Michigan Warriors Baseball Tryouts

August 7

10U - 5:30 pm - 7 pm • 13U - 7:15 pm - 8:45 pm

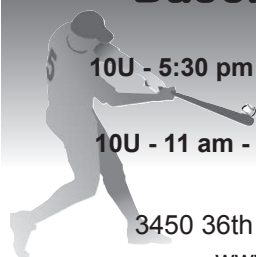
August 17

10U - 11 am - 12:30 pm • 13U - 1 pm - 2:30 pm

at CR Rec Center

3450 36th St. SE, Kentwood, MI 49512

www.westmiwarriors.com



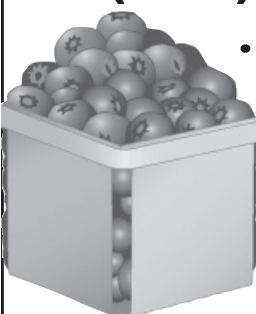
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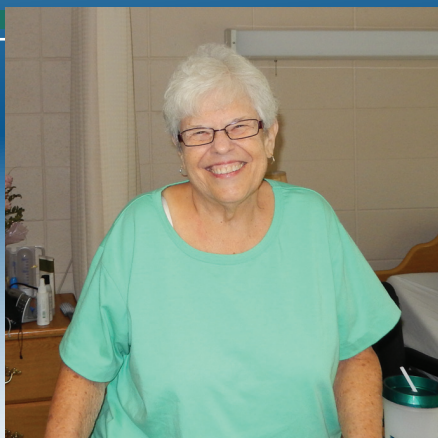
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All by design: Lowell alum welds metal sculptures

by Tony Wittkowski
contributing reporter

Among the numerous booths on hand at the Riverwalk Festival in July, was one that sold sculptures made entirely of recycled metal.

Made from automotive parts and silverware, Rob Rose takes old metal and turns it into art. The result? Metal motorcycles, birds, planes, scorpions, spiders and flowers, leaving the benefactor an opportunity every weekend at art shows.

Around friends he's known as Franky, which is short for Frankenstein.

Like the doctor who created the famous monster,

Franky also has a knack for combining bits of pieces to make art.

Born and raised in Lowell, Franky graduated from Lowell High School and proceeded to marry his high school sweetheart, while settling in Saranac.

The couple wanted to remain close to their Lowell roots without moving to a big city.

Three years ago Franky was laid off from a factory job and went back to school for welding. However, he soon realized he could not get a welding job. Instead, Franky was stuck with an abundance of metal, which

he kept in both the house and garage.

While pondering what to do next, Franky received a picture from a friend of an old recycled bike, made from small pieces of metal.

This jumpstarted the beginning stages of Franky's new hobby. In the spare time he had, Franky began to construct the very statues and sculptures that now decorate several lawns and houses to this day.

"One of my wife's friends set me up with a show to do an art gallery,"

All by design,
continued, page 10



Rob "Franky" Rose showcased his many metal sculptures at the Riverwalk Festival.

- Photo by Tony Wittkowski

The Cellular Connection to host country-wide backpack giveaway

Lowell residents are about to benefit from a national backpack giveaway campaign. The Cellular Connection (TCC), the largest Verizon Premium Wireless Retailer in the U.S., in a joint effort with its customers, announces today that it will be donating 60,000 backpacks full of school supplies to children through its School Rocks Backpack Giveaway initiative.

More than 400 participating TCC stores across the U.S. are inviting local families to bring their children to the store between noon and 2 pm on Aug. 3 to pick up a backpack filled with pencils, paper, a pencil box, folders, glue and more. Backpacks will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. The participating store in Lowell is located at

11635 E. Fulton St., Suite 100. Each participating TCC store will donate between 100 and 150 backpacks. Any leftover backpacks will be donated to local schools.

Lowell residents have also joined the cause. Since the beginning of May, TCC customers have been given the option to round their purchases up to the nearest dollar with the difference going directly toward the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway.

According to the National Retail Federation, the average person with children in grades K-12 will spend \$95.44 on school supplies such as notebooks, pencils and backpacks. On top of that, nearly 16 million children in the U.S. live in poverty. TCC is doing its

part to ensure that as many children as possible are set up for educational success.

More information about the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway initiative is

available on YouTube. Supporters of the cause are encouraged to use hashtag #TCCRocks on Instagram and Twitter to help spread the word.

Legacy ride, continued

making unfair accusations of the soldiers.

However, Damon said that he wasn't frustrated at the time he came home, saying that as a soldier who had experienced the perils of war, he didn't want to talk about the time he served or have it highlighted.

Now that his service is being recognized, Damon said that it feels good.

"I am a person. I was a soldier," Damon said.

Jaffas said that he will

continue to hold the ride every year so long as people are still enthusiastic about it and he can get the logistics organized. Jaffas made sure to acknowledge that he isn't alone in putting the legacy ride together, noting that he gets a group of volunteers who help him each year. Jaffas also said that the Lowell community has been very receptive to the ride each year, as if the town is "rolling out the red carpet" for the bikers.

A cult is a religion
with no political power.

~ Tom Wolfe (1931 -)

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health



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lyme disease

Lyme disease is an illness that is transmitted by deer ticks. If you have Lyme disease you may experience flu-like symptoms, fever, joint pain, fatigue and heart problems.

After attaching to a host, the deer tick transmits the bacterium, Borrelia Burgdorferi, to the host during a blood meal. A tick would have to be attached for at least 35 hours to transmit the organism into an individual.

Symptoms of Lyme disease generally take weeks to develop after infection. The most important symptom appearing in 80 percent of people with Lyme disease is the characteristic rash at the site of the bite. The rash appears within a month of being bitten. It is red or salmon colored and

may have a lighter center appearing like a bull's-eye. Other symptoms include fever, fatigue, muscle aches and pain, headaches, stiff neck, swelling at the joints, slow heart rate, weakness and numbness. It should be noted that most of these symptoms are nonspecific and appear in a multitude of different conditions.

Lyme disease is diagnosed by taking a careful history, performing an exam and testing the blood. The Lyme test will not become positive until several days after you have become infected. If you have the typical rash, a Lyme blood test is not needed to make the diagnosis.

Lyme disease is treated with an antibiotic. Your doctor may prescribe an antibiotic to take right away

after a tick bite in certain high-risk situations or they may wait to see if a rash or symptoms appear prior to initiating antibiotic therapy.

You can avoid tick bites by wearing long pants and long-sleeve shirts when you are outside. Use bug spray and check your body for ticks after being outdoors. Remember, removing a tick within 36 hours of attachment will prevent the transmission of Lyme disease.

To remove a tick, use a fine pair of tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible and pull backwards gently with firm steady pressure. Do not squeeze or puncture the body of the tick. After removal, wash the area with soap and water. If any mouth parts remain in the skin leave it alone to be extruded naturally. Attempting further removal may simply cause more skin damage.

Deer ticks are about the size of a poppy seed. Lyme disease has been reported in Michigan but it is more common in the northeast, mid-Atlantic region, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Tips for setting — and pursuing — financial goals

You can get lucky by finding a parking meter with time left on it. You can “luck out” by having nice weather on your vacation. You can even be lucky at love. But when it comes to financial matters, you're better off not counting on Lady Luck — and focusing instead on setting and pursuing goals.

Here are some suggestions for establishing and pursuing your financial objectives:

- Be specific. You probably have a lot of ideas about what you want to do, but if you're going to turn these wishes into reality, you need to get specific. So, for example, instead of telling yourself that you want to retire early, set a goal of retiring at, say, 62. You can then use this target number to help guide your overall investment strategy. To illustrate: You can determine that you need to

invest a certain amount of money each year, and earn a certain rate of return, to be able to retire at 62. You can also estimate about how much money you can afford to withdraw from your investment accounts each year to sustain a retirement that begins at 62.

• Prioritize your goals. Of course, you want to achieve all your financial goals —and you can have a better chance of doing so if you rank these goals in terms of both importance and timing. For example, you may want to send your kids to college, purchase a vacation home and still be able to retire at age 62. How should you allocate your resources to each of these goals? Should you

Financial Focus, continued, page 12

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viewpoint

to the editor

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in reference to the article in the July 21 Buyers Guide written by members of the Lowell Department of Public Works. I believe it's a cry for help. Members of the Department of Public Works (DPW) have been trying to negotiate a contract with the city of Lowell for approximately 20 months to no prevail. Why is it taking so long to settle a contract? Could the reason be the longer the negotiations go on, the more likely the employees will have to settle a contract fashioned solely by management? Would a proposed contract leave the employees defenseless and their jobs threatened? In the article the employees said that they would gladly agree to a contract that is similar to the police department.

So why did the city settle a contract with the Lowell Police Department and not the employees of the DPW? I believe that a contract would have been settled long ago if the constituents would have been part of the decision making. What most don't know is that under the Open Meeting Act, closed meetings aren't mandatory. So why closed meetings? Why all the secrecy? Why has the city council left the constituents clueless when it comes to the negotiations? It's time for public hearings. It's time that the constituents do what the city council has failed to do in 20 months of negotiations. It's time to bring about a just contract for all.

Jim Howard
Lowell

Dear citizens and employees of Lowell,

I read with dismay the article (paid announcement) in last Saturday's Buyers Guide relative to current city workers' contract negotiations. The contents of the informational article brought to mind similar, if not exactly the same, unfortunate situations while your city manager was the administrator of Ionia County.

I'm sorry to say that in my opinion your

current and/or former city councilmembers were unsuccessful in their attempt to hire a city manager who can, or will, fulfill the promises offered at his interview. *"This is not a stepping ladder for me. I want to be here. I am a part of the community."*

"I have a vested interest in serving the city to move forward. I am a nice guy. I value relationships. I enjoy success. Lowell is the place where I am."

In 1998, while

interviewing for the position of Ionia County administrator, a nearly exact sentiment was portrayed – yes, I was present at his interview. He indicated, as he did at his interview with your city councilmembers, that he had a "passion" for Ionia County and never intended to leave, obviously a passion that went sour. Unfortunately for the citizens of Lowell, again in my opinion, Ionia County's gain is your loss!

Hopefully it won't take

13 years before he, once again, finds the need to move on; otherwise I believe his "passion" could be the city government's undoing. Your citizens and their dedicated city employees deserve so much better.

Sincerely,
Barbara A. Trierweiler
Saranac

A 40+ year veteran of Ionia County, including 16 years as the elected county clerk, as well as one of several 'victims' of your 'nice guy' city manager.

outdoors



another world

Dave Stegehuis

Watching network news or browsing social media would lead one to believe that the world is caving in under the weight of serious economic, social, political, and environmental concerns. Also, the majority of people now live in an urban setting of concrete,

glass, and steel. Background noise and city lights create an environmental bubble to which people acclimate and accept as normal living conditions. This is the context in which we rush around between events, work, and social obligations. We field text messages

and phone calls non-stop; the majority of which are essentially inconsequential.

Humans are adaptable creatures, and most people deal successfully with a sometimes stressful lifestyle while some say they thrive under the circumstances. Escaping all of this would be difficult, but everyone has opportunities to find some balance.

To find opportunities for a more balanced life, check out a map of the state of Michigan, and you will find the vast majority of our state is made up of fields, woods, swamps, rivers, and lakes. The Great Lakes can be included.

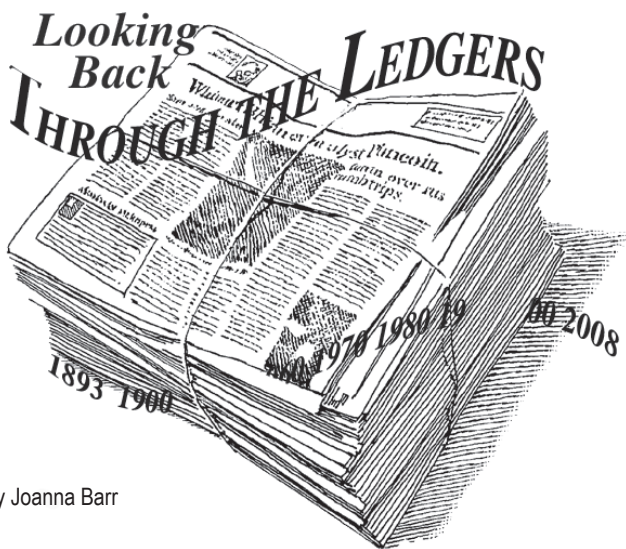
Some of this land is private but is accessible if you buy it or are able to get permission to use it. Millions of acres of public land throughout the state are managed for the use and enjoyment of citizens and visitors.

The abundant land and water resources provide a place where one can find relative solitude and an opportunity to get acquainted with the real

world as an alternative to living only in surroundings contrived entirely by man.

Find a special reason to spend time in the outdoors. Just sit or get more actively involved by getting out to photograph, hunt, fish, hike, paddle, camp, or explore. Thoughtfully observing your surrounding out there will reveal the large and small wonders of nature. Check out the big picture like a family of young squirrels chasing each other in the treetops, or look closer to watch a butterfly emerge from a milkweed plant and fly away to Mexico for the winter only to return in the spring. Nature is teeming with amazing examples of tenacity and survival as well as tragedy and comedy. We can take notice and gain a new perspective on our own lives.

An honest assessment of our current lifestyle might suggest that we reevaluate our priorities. We all make choices which impact our lives. There is another world out there and we can be part of it if we choose.



By Joanna Barr

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 31, 1913

Some united action should be taken by our business men regarding the constant stream of solicitors and beggars parading up and down Main and Bridge streets. It is a growing menace to business prosperity that should no longer be ignored. The claimants come from all over the country and range from most worthy to frauds of the worst sort. The aggregate amount taken from town annually would startle one if known and there is no good reason why being in business should make one a perpetual victim of grafters of all sorts. Let's stop it.

By December 1 it is expected that the State Bank of Freeport will be located in a handsome new two-story building which will be erected on the corner of one of the principal business blocks in the village. It will be built of brick with terracotta trimmings. The first floor will be used for the bank. The second floor will be used for apartments. There will be a barber shop in the basement.

Ionia grandstand is demolished. Ionia, July 27. - A windstorm that bordered close to a cyclone at 2 o'clock this afternoon prevented the Ionia-Portland game here today. The storm broke over the city from the northwest. The grand stand at the Ionia ball park was demolished, being blown 20 feet and turned upside down. But a few people were in it and they left just before it crashed. An hour later would have been disaster. Wind damage was done about town to shade trees. Trees were uprooted, telephones put out of service and electric light wires blown down. The electric company was able to restore service tonight. There was wind damage to crops in the country.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 4, 1938

Headline: 1938 Lowell Showboat sails proudly into home port. Four thousand spectators held their

Looking Back, continued, page 11

140 years ago Lowell Journal Aug 6, 1873

Burglary - On the night of the 29th, a young man whose name is Miles Berry, entered Enos & Bradfield's hardware store and stole five pocket knives; went into Howk & White's and boot and shoe store and took a pair of slippers and a money draw containing \$3.50 in change; found two screw drivers at Hunter's blacksmith shop that just suited him and went up to the Clifton House to enter in, the same as a thief and a robber, but was interrupted by Hogan the vigilant. Miles was examined, relieved of his accumulation and given a room on the first floor of the cottage by the engine house. The following day he was taken to Grand Rapids to await coming events. His home being in Constantine, a telegram was sent there to his father, announcing the unpleasant predicament that his son was in. The boy's father arrived here on Saturday and went to Grand Rapids on the afternoon train to try and get his son released. Up to going to press, no further particulars have been received.

Another discovery has been made in the banks of Flat River at this place. More Indian skeletons with war implements, including an old gun, fancy metal ornaments, beads, Indian hair etc., all of which has been under ground over thirty-five years.

Student loan bill a difficult but necessary step



Sen. Carl Levin

The Senate recently faced a very difficult choice. When a July 1 deadline passed, the interest rate on federal student loans was set to double. American students and parents who worry every single day about whether they can afford college cannot be burdened with such an enormous rate hike. The Senate approved legislation to temporarily resolve this crisis, but left the door open to future rate

increases. I voted in favor of this legislation, but I also favor action to avert future rate increases.

The cost of tuition at public four-year colleges is up more than 15 percent since 2009. Student loan debt has reached historic proportions. And yet we allowed the rate on new federally subsidized student loans to double,

Levin, continued, page 12

weddings

Rose/Pauls



Gayle and Matthew Rose

At 6:07 pm on June 7, 2013, Gayle Lynn Pauls and Matthew David Rose were married on the beach at Holland State Park in Holland. The bride, of Holland, is the daughter of Tom and Angie Duncan of Hamilton and the groom, formerly of Lowell, is the son of Bob and Toni Rose of Richmond Hill, GA.

Maid of honor was the bride's daughter, Alexis Pauls of Holland. Flower girls were the bride's nieces, Kyndal and Alyssa Bennett

and Linzy Rodriguez of Holland.

Best man was Steven Voller of Saxapahaw, NC.

Giving the bride away was her son, Adam Pauls of Holland.

Officiant was Priest Dean Heidema of New Apostolic Church Holland.

Reception was held at Macatawa Legends and the couple honeymooned in Princeville, Kauai.

The couple plans to reside in the Holland area.

Olin/Ford

Suzanne and Dean Olin are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Morgan Marea Olin, to Douglas Merle Ford, son of Karen and Doug Ford, all of Lowell.

Morgan graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and is employed by Mercy Health St. Mary's Hospital. Doug attended Grand Rapids Community College, is licensed in HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Cooling) and is working for Hurst Mechanical.

They will be united in marriage at Vergennes United Methodist Church on September 21, 2013.



Douglas Ford and Morgan Olin

★ In The Service

Army Pvt. Cole T. Swafford has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and

ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Swafford is the son of Cole and Tami Swafford of Grand Rapids.

He is a 2012 graduate of Forest Hills Central High School, Grand Rapids.



At Your Local Library

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

Under the Radar: Dystopian Survival

Can you handle the dystopian worlds of popular teen novels? Try your hand at bow and arrow target practice, see if you can blend in with a pack of zombies, hoard items you need to survive and more! For teens grades 6-12. Tues., Aug. 13, 1 pm.

area churches

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 201 N. Washington
 Lowell, MI • 897-8800
 Pastor Wes Hershberger
 Sundays - Christian Education.....9:15 a.m.
 Celebration.....10:40 a.m.
 Wednesdays - Kid's Service, Teen's Service,
 Adult Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.
Lowell Naz - Where People Matter



CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)
 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery
Robert Holmes, Pastor
SUNDAYS:
 Worship: 10 a.m.
WEDNESDAYS:
 Family Night (for all ages): 7:00 p.m.
 "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m.
Loving God ... Loving People!

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 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168
 Internet: <http://www.fbclowell.org>
 Rev. Jon Pickens
 Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Pastor Phil Severn
 Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
 Sunday School Hour/ABF's.....11:00 A.M.
 AWANA 6-8/Youth Ministry.....Wed. 6:15 P.M.
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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
 621 E. Main Street
 897-5936
www.lowellumc.com
 Barrier-free entrance
SUMMER WORSHIP.....9:30 a.m.
JULY 14 - AUGUST 25
A.M. WORSHIP ON THE RIVERWALK
Rev. Rick Blunt

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
 402 Amity St. • 897-9820
www.stmary-lowell.com
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 Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM
 Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM
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GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
www.goodshepherdlowell.org
 Worship Service.....Sunday -10:00 A.M.
 (Nursery available)
 Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**
 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
 897-7060
 Pastor Rod Galindo
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
 Morning Worship.....10:00 A. M.
 Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
 Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
 Nursery available at both services
 Barrier-Free

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell
Pastor Tony Shumaker
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 10:30 A.M.Fellowship
 11:00 A.M.Worship
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|--|---|
| JULY 31
Nancy Raymor, Sandy Roth, Rochelle Bieri, Morris Robert Young. | AUGUST 4
Irene Willmarth, Scott VanDyke, Cody Bieri, Nick Tykocki, Thomas H. Mahalic, Joann Childs, Kayleigh VanKeulen. |
| AUGUST 1
Barbara Callihan, Bailee Emelander. | AUGUST 5
Robin Abel, Stephen Martin Jr. |
| AUGUST 2
Carolynn Kline, Hayley Woolfenden. | AUGUST 6
Jessie King, Kim Foster, Steven Vickers. |
| AUGUST 3
Rebecca Heinicke, Kelsey Brenk, Hillary Smith, Becky Lamberson. | |

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perseverance *A community fighting cancer*

Custom Components a corporation that cares

by Will Greenberg
contributing reporter

No one knows more about how tragedy can bring unity than someone who's dealt with cancer in their lives.

In the final installment of the Pink Arrow profiles, Custom Components Corporation who have sponsored the Pink Arrow Pride encourage their employees to share their cancer stories.

Company CEO Ryan Pawloski bought Custom Components in 2002. The company manufactures and sells laminate tabletops for office furniture, starting its own manufacturing in 2005. Custom Components sells to 35 clients nationwide and even out of the country. Their 42 person staff is half comprised of Lowell residents and half Ionia and surrounding area residents, Pawloski said.

Pawloski runs the company with Dave Leonard and works with his brother Collin Pawloski, who is the director of engineering.

"I just remember that (while my father was sick) you feel like your family is all of a sudden on an island"
~ Ryan Pawloski

All three are very devoted to the company and all three have had cancer touch their lives at some point.

The Pawloskis lost their father to pancreatic cancer in 2007 after battling for two years. Collin said that before his father became sick, he had never noticed or fully understood cancer.

"Cancer seemed so distant," Collin said. "It was just like this weird thing, but then it affects you and then you see how it's everywhere."

Dave Leonard has also had experience with cancer; as his wife was just recently diagnosed. Ryan said that many of the employees at Custom Components have been affected by the disease in some way and he has encouraged them to be open and share their stories. Ryan said the important thing that he wants his employees to know is the same thing that Pink Arrow wants those suffering to know, they are not alone.

"I just remember that (while my father was sick) you feel like your family is all of a sudden on an island," Ryan said. "People like that need to know they're not alone. There are people who are supporting them, people that have been through it that understand the fear and the disappointment and the anger, the whole shot."

Collin said that Pink Arrow helps to raise awareness and draw attention to cancer to let people know that

it's still a major issue. Pawloski's father was alive to see and receive the benefits of the first Pink Arrow and it was a huge help to their family.

"For it to be local like that [it] helped him a lot," Collin said. Ryan has requested that a list be included to honor those who have passed and those who are still battling cancer which can be found on this page.



In memory of:

Ronald E Pawloski Sr. – Father - pancreatic cancer (Pawloski Family); **John (Jack) J Lomen** – founder and former chairman of Custom Components (Ryan Pawloski); **Bobbie Sutton** – breast cancer (Pawloski Family); **Barb Broschu** – pancreatic cancer (Pawloski Family); **Mark Hicks Sr.** – Father - lung cancer (Mark Hicks Jr.); **JoAnne Reafsneider** – Mother - lung cancer (Mark Hicks Jr.); **Ted Fairbanks** – prostate cancer and leukemia (Marty Fairbanks); **Norman Fairbanks** – leukemia (Marty Fairbanks); **Irene Fairbanks** (Marty Fairbanks); **Mark Baker** – Uncle (Jenna Hurless); **Jack Pifer** (Sandy Sturgeon); **Will Walters** (Shaun Burke); **Trish Lee** (Shaun Burke); **Angie Orosz** (Collin Pawloski); **Stan Gross** – leukemia - lymphoma (Stacy Brown); **Clifford Doll** (Tom Doll); **Theresa Doll** – Mother (Tom Doll); **George Knapp** – Dad (Jerry Knapp); **Marge Knapp** – Mom (Jerry Knapp); **Tommy Spencer** – Uncle (Tyler Schnepf); **Heather Wohjan**; **Cliff Hummel**; **Jeanette Hummel**; **Jeanette Vandermolen** - Mother (Laura Cramer); and **Dee Brody** (Laura Cramer); **Harold William Hattis** – (Russell Gardner)

In honor of:

Richard Pawloski, prostate cancer (Pawloski Family); **Bill Bryans** (Jenna Hurless); **Mike Pifer** (Sandy Sturgeon); **Elsje' Trantum** - Wife - cervical cancer (Dean Trantum); **Shiela Cook**; **Jane Gross** (Stacy Brown); **Maureen Pawloski** – caregiver (Pawloski Family); **Mike Cahill** (David Leonard); **John Lazurus** – leukemia; **Bob Jourdan** – Father (Josh Jourdan); **Connie Biggs** – Grandmother; **Bruce Schnepf** (Tyler Schnepf); **Jen** – (Doug and Tami VanProoyen); **Nancy Robinson** (Doug and Tami VanProoyen); **Dean Trantum** – caregiver; **David Leonard** – caregiver; and **Mary Pawloski** – caregiver.

Employees:

Adam Ross, Brennan Hinton, Christopher Griffin, Collin Pawloski, Dan Grummet, Dan Marsh, Dean Trantum, Douglas VanProoyen, James Tubergen, Jenna Hurless, Jerry Knapp, Jill Mathis, Jon Gervais, Josh Jourdan, Justin Eavey, Lance Dockter, Kipp Heydenburg, Mark Hicks, Marty Fairbanks, Michael Hufford, Russell Gardner, Sandy Sturgeon, Scott White, Shanon Kemp, Shaun Burke, Stacey Brown, Tami VanProoyen, Tom Doll, Tom Smarch, Tim Callihan, Tyler Schnepf, Laura Cramer, David Leonard, and Tammy Pawloski.

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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

Ashley Stebbin-Anderson



I wondered why Pink Arrow Pride would want me to write my story. This horrible disease took control of my whole life. This wrecked my body, strapped me financially and changed my future.

So now here is my story of the awful disease called cancer.

I moved to Lowell with my family in 2002, graduated from Lowell High School in 2006 and married my high school sweetheart, Kory Anderson, in 2010. Seven months later in 2011, I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer stage three. Yup, my world came crashing down all around me.

I needed to focus on my health, so I had to cut down on working. The financial responsibility fell on Kory's shoulders and our income became very tight. We moved in with my mother to help cut costs. At this point my mother-in-law mentioned Pink Arrow

Pride. Pink Arrow stepped up and I received gift cards that helped diminish the cost of my medical expenses.

After six chemo treatments, loss of hair, loss of energy, extreme nausea, and weight loss, I was declared out of the woods.

Kory and I were making

I had a whole different experience, a more complex surgery, plus the chemo which took my energy and caused me to have extreme nausea. The one thing I was grateful for this time was the chemo did not take my hair. Again Pink Arrow helped by giving me gift cards

"This horrible disease took control of my whole life. This wrecked my body, strapped me financially and changed my future."

- Ashley Stebbin-Anderson

plans for our future; my twin sister, Alyssa, moved to Bellingham, Washington (she had delayed her plans to stay with me) and my mom was looking forward to peace and quiet. Then in the summer of 2012 I was told that the cancer was rearing its ugly head again.

Now I was due for another surgery and six more chemo treatments. This time around

that relieved some of the financial stress at home.

Kory turned out to be my rock in the storm. My sister, nephew, parents, in-laws, friends, prayer warriors, co-workers and Pink Arrow turned out to be the pillar that held me high. Without all of you I would have been totally lost; thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Khalie Scott

On September 4, 2011, my father passed away from a heart attack. After that happened I didn't see how life could ever be the same.

My dad was such a big part of my life I didn't know what I would do without him. I had a hard time concentrating in school while also dealing with my mixed emotions.

Sometimes making it through the day seemed impossible.

My school counselor came to me and told me about

Gilda's Club and about grief group meetings held during school. I started to go to the meetings; at first I wasn't sure how it could help me.

The more times I went, the more helpful it became to be around students my age who

"Now, I see that Gilda's Club helps people who are struggling with grief and cancer."

- Khalie Scott

are going through the same thing while also showing me that I'm not alone. We all help each other by sharing

our grief, talking about our feelings and we get through the tough times together.

Before my dad died, I didn't know much about Gilda's Club or what they were really about.

Now, I see that Gilda's Club helps people who are struggling with grief and cancer.

I am so grateful for everything

they do and they reminded me about how important family is and how we need to live each day to the fullest.



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A community fighting cancer

Maryalene LaPonsie

I can tell you exactly the day I knew my husband was going to die.

It was October 14, 2010. It was then that he had an endoscopy that revealed the tumor in his throat. Earlier that spring, Tom had a couple of episodes of food getting stuck while swallowing. He mentioned it to the doctor during an August physical and the doctor referred him for the October endoscopy.

Since Tom has a relative who occasionally needs her esophagus stretched because of a medical condition, I wasn't too concerned about the endoscopy. I assumed there was maybe something genetic that would require him to have occasional procedures to stretch his esophagus too.

The wave of realization that this might be something more serious hit me when two nurses, as well as the doctor, walked in to deliver the screening results. We were shown a picture of the tumor – this white mass that would eventually kill my husband – while they talked of biopsies and oncologists.

I remember asking the doctor what they would do if the tumor was benign. To which, he replied, "It's not."

Deep in the recesses of my brain, I remembered reading somewhere that cancer of the esophagus was not the type of cancer you wanted to get. It was then that I knew, deep down, the clock had started ticking for Tom.

And I think he knew too. As we drove home, tears streaming down my face, he turned to me and said, "I am so sorry." I said don't be sorry and he told me, "It seems like everyone you love is dying," noting my dad had died the previous year and a close aunt had died the previous week. He knew this wouldn't end well for him either.

Death doesn't come easy.

But it would be another two-and-a-half years before Tom would take his last breath. At 6:45 am on May 31, 2013, with me and our 5-month-old baby girl sleeping by his side, cancer would win.

During our journey, I think we saw both the best and worst modern medicine has to offer. We met amazing medical professionals, but also sat in waiting rooms for hours on end and dealt with scheduling snafus and avoidable ER visits. Tom endured chemo, radiation and a marathon surgery to remove his esophagus. Then, in the year when the cancer was apparently beaten into

submission, shingles and pneumonia paid him a visit.

In July 2012, the cancer was back and it was terminal. Surgery and radiation were out of the question, so all we had was the option of some chemo to buy time. That seemed relatively successful for a few months and we tried to pack as much living as possible into that time.

Eventually, the chemo stopped working, just as the doctor had predicted. We tried a different regimen, but Tom's throat continued to close up. He sat with us for a family dinner the last time on Christmas day. He managed a couple bites of ham and some mashed potatoes, but that was it.

After that, he could get down a little chocolate and some hard candies, but a few weeks went by and even that was getting stuck in his throat. Attached to a feeding tube, Tom not only lost his ability to eat, but also his voice as the tumor pressed up against his vocal chords.

It was a slow and agonizing way to die and I still have trouble wrapping my mind around the fact that doctors could remove Tom's esophagus and replace it with his stomach, but could do nothing to remove the localized tumor that was slowly suffocating him to death. While I mourn Tom's loss, I recognize that death was a blessing for him – an end to his suffering – and that is my only comfort.

A community that cares.

Throughout our journey on this difficult road, we have been surrounded by so many good people.

Our children attend St. Patrick's School and going

all the way back to my dad's death in 2009 – when, over a four day period, he was unexpectedly diagnosed with cancer and died – this community has traveled alongside us. Through my dad's death, subsequent pregnancy complications I experienced and then Tom's long illness, they have carried us in our darkest days. When life seemed like an overwhelming burden, they picked us up, brushed us off and sent food, love and prayers.

But they were not the only ones. We have been surprised



again and again by how deeply people care and want to help. When DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen learned our bathroom was falling apart and Tom was unable to fix it himself because of his illness, they did the work and never sent a bill. Two days before Tom died, friends descended upon our house to level and sod our backyard, something that had long been on Tom's to-do list and that he desperately wanted to see done before he died.

On the day Tom lay dying, the pastor from First Baptist Church, where my son takes Tae Kwon Do lessons,

"However, with such an amazing community here, I know that no matter how lonely my heart feels, I will never really be alone so long as I am living in Lowell."

- Maryalene LaPonsie

arrived bearing a meal and prayers for comfort. When other friends heard that Tom was near the end of this life, they swooped in to collect our children so I could have time alone with him. The following morning, as the funeral home arrived to take Tom's body, the neighbor entertained the kids and then cleared her schedule without being asked so she could be available for whatever I might need.

We received flowers from the Flat River Girl Scouts, Boy Scout Troop

102 and even the workers at the gas station Tom frequented while he was working. At his visitation, we were overwhelmed with the number of people who showed up, including our son's coaches from Lowell youth football. It brought tears to my eyes when the boys of Troop 102 came out in full uniform to show support for our son and pay their respects to Tom.

In a gesture that has been particularly touching to me, Vergennes United Methodist Church - a church with which we have no personal connection - has sent flowers every week since Tom died.

The list goes on and on...presents appeared on our doorstep at Christmas, friends of friends brought over food and cards flooded in from all over. And, of course, we have received support from Pink Arrow Pride right from the start.

Remembering the man, not the cancer.

Our cancer journey is unlike the stories previously shared by those who are fighting or have defeated their disease. While we celebrate with those who have survived, it is bittersweet. Tom had friends who were also battling cancer but who are winning their fight. It was difficult for him to watch as others seemed to be moving forward with their lives while he felt he was being left behind to die.

On the day this story is

published, it will be exactly two months from the day Tom died. It still seems like a dream and our hearts still ache. While cancer will always be intertwined with Tom's legacy, he was so much more than his disease.

If you did not know Tom, I'd like you to know he was an extraordinarily intelligent man and yet extremely personable and approachable. He was just as likely to be watching a Nova special as he was to be playing video games online with friends. After his family, motorcycles, music and movies were his passions. We fell in love in high school and married while I was in college. We celebrated our 15th wedding anniversary last December. He wasn't perfect, but he was perfect for me.

And above all, he was such a hard worker and a good provider. One of the most difficult days for him was the day he realized he would never be able to return to his job.

He leaves behind five beautiful children that he loved more than life, Madeline Rose (14), Donald James (12), Max Allen (10), Neil Galileo (3) – whose name is a nod to Tom's love of astronomy – and Grace Noelle, who at age seven months was Tom's 'baby pretty eyes.' Of all the things cancer took from Tom, he was most heartbroken that he would not be here to

watch and guide the kids as they grew up and that Grace would have no memory of him.

I will leave you with one final thought. Tom always got perfect reports on his annual physicals. His only complaint ever was chronic heartburn. Eventually, he changed his diet, lost some weight and the heartburn disappeared. That was years ago.

However, an oncologist told Tom the cancer probably originated with his heartburn and was growing for years before it was detected. In hindsight, I wish someone, anyone, had told us that chronic heartburn was a risk factor for cancer.

So if you or a loved one has chronic heartburn or a history of chronic heartburn, please talk to your doctor about whether you should be screened for cancer or for Barrett's esophagus, a pre-cancerous condition. The screening procedure isn't necessarily cheap or fun, but it sure beats dying of cancer.

I'm not sure how this story ends. We are supposed to go forth and live our lives I suppose, but it is hard to fathom how you do that when it feels like a piece of you has been torn away.

However, with such an amazing community here, I know that no matter how lonely my heart feels, I will never really be alone so long as I am living in Lowell.

The Ragbirds draw sizable crowd on the Riverwalk

By Tony Wittkowski
contributing reporter

A band based out of Ann Arbor called The Ragbirds performed in Lowell Thursday evening with another large crowd in attendance.

With its lead singer over eight months pregnant, the band still came out and played a handful of their songs. At one point during

the performance, a few couples stepped out in front of the stage and danced to the music.

With her husband on drums, the mother-to-be told the audience they were planning on having a nanny to take with them on the road for when they go on their Brave New Baby Tour.





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All by design, continued

Franky said. “Now I’ve got people contacting me to do art shows all the way through wintertime, mainly recycled art markets which turn out to be pretty big in Grand Rapids.”

Franky still remembers that first gallery he went to. To him it seemed weird. And based on what he wore, the welder from Lowell stuck out like a sore thumb.

“My first show I remember doing was at a ballroom in Grand Rapids; they had a doorman at the door and everything,” Franky said with a chuckle.

Now try to picture this, a man who dislikes the city walking up to a hotel with a straw hat, long hair, beard and tattered jeans. Other artists that night wore black tie suits and the usual full dress one would see on the red carpet.

“The doorman stopped me at the door and asked,

‘Are you supposed to be here?’ I grabbed my artist card and showed it to him,” Franky said. “He looked down at me from head to toe and said, ‘good luck.’”

Inside the ballroom was another story.

“I didn’t know what it was going to be like. I was expecting it to be some kind of a flea market. But no, it was a big art gallery,” Franky admitted.

Luckily, the lady who was running the gallery spotted Franky right away and showed him where to set up. By the end of the night he was a hit and had sold the most out of everybody.

Later that night he ran out of business cards to hand out and has since been contacted by art galleries for his coveted recycled art.

However, when asking Franky about his art, he’s quick to remain humble.

“I don’t consider myself

to be an artist,” Franky said, pushing the question aside. “I’d call myself ‘a guy who welds junk together and tries to make a profit.’”

A lot of his friends are mechanics, leaving him with spare car parts that would otherwise be thrown away. Franky also visits bike shops in Ada and Ionia that have spare chains and other parts that are normally hard to get rid of.

The sprockets and chains prove to be useful. Most of the material Franky comes up with is for free, with a few items being bought in salvage yards and at garage sales.

“Sometimes I have to spend a little on the material,” he said. “But the turnout ratio after a show is very profitable.”

The price Franky chooses stems from how much time he puts into the piece, ranging from several



Some of the sculptures Franky has created over the years have included scorpions, a motorcycle, an assortment of bugs and flowers.

hours to several days. His friends tell him his prices are too low compared to what has been seen on eBay. They also tell him he should branch out.

His response: “Not

looking for the fame, just looking for the fortune.”

Now with the future in mind, there are only two things Franky continues to think about. More metal.

More work.

For anyone interested in Franky’s custom-made, hand-welded art, call 616-642-6384.

Red Tomato hopes business will bloom in Lowell

by Will Greenberg
contributing reporter

Business owners and managers in Lowell are excited to have a new restaurant as the Red Tomato continues to grow in West Michigan.

The large Admiral gas station on Main Street will now share space with the Red Tomato, a pizza, grinders and Mexican food restaurant. This will be the third Red Tomato opened with the first two in Portland and Ionia.

Michael Endres, owner of the new Red Tomato, has been working through the summer equipping the space with pizza ovens and the rest of the kitchen and said he plans to have the restaurant open for business in September.

Endres said the first

Red Tomato opened nine years ago at the Portland location. Endres said the company has grown as the food has become more popular, with Red Tomato’s sub sandwiches being voted Best Sub by the Portland Review and Observer over five years in a row.

Endres said that he is excited for the Red Tomato to be in Lowell, saying Lowell is a great location for expanding businesses.

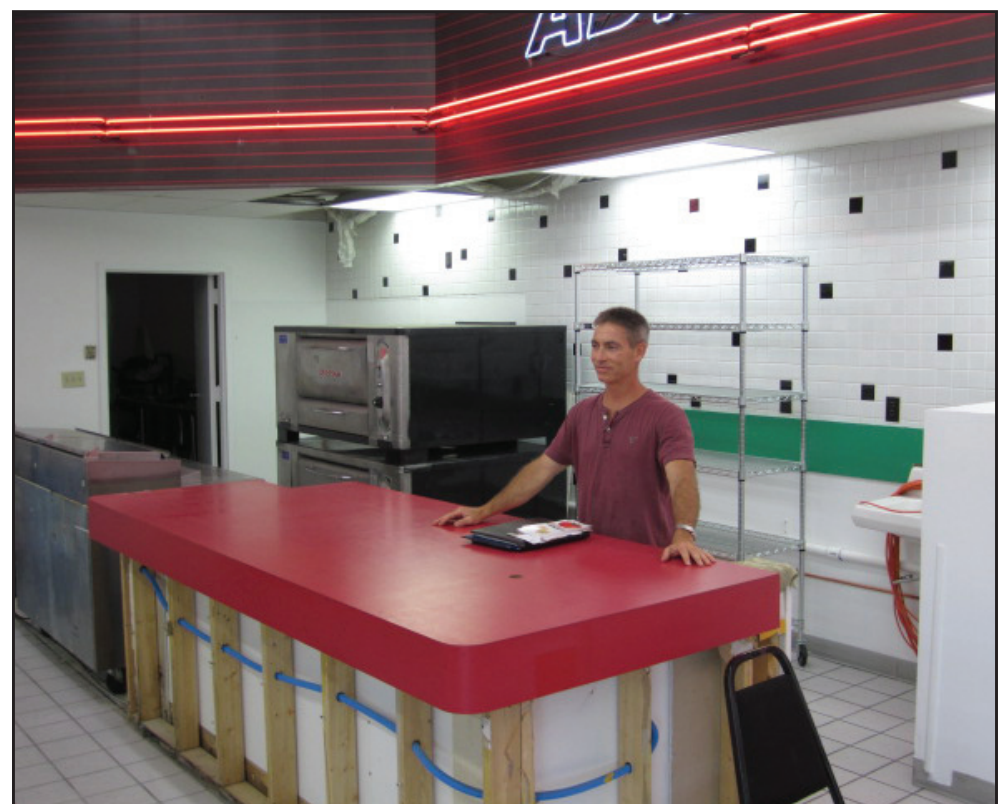
“I think it’s going to be wonderful for the city of Lowell to have a restaurant like this here,” Endres said. “It’s going to be beneficial to the Admiral gas station and it’s going to be very beneficial to me.”

The Ionia location is also located in an Admiral

station and Endres explained that Red Tomato prefers to share a location to help cost efficiency.

The manager of the Admiral station, Kimberly Cook, said that she expects the new restaurant to help draw business and a wider customer base. While both Admiral and Red Tomato sell soda, Cook said that she doubts this will cause much competition or issues and that she is overall happy to have the restaurant there.

“All business is good for Lowell. It keeps the people in town; gives them something to look forward to doing [and] gives them lots of options. I think it’s just a wonderful opportunity,” Cook said.



Michael Endres behind the counter at the new Red Tomato restaurant.

In the aftermath of disaster, Social Security can help

For some, recent years have been made difficult by natural disasters. Fatal tornadoes in Oklahoma. Massive wildfires and strong earthquakes in Colorado and California. Landslides in Washington. Flooding in Texas, North Carolina and Florida. Hail storms in Tennessee. Hurricane Sandy along the

Eastern seaboard. And now, we brace ourselves for yet another hurricane season. When disasters strike, despite the immediate response by so many well-intentioned people and organizations, it's often hard to know where to turn. But when it comes to the need for disability and survivors benefits, Social Security is

always here to serve those who require our services. Dependent survivors of wage earners, such as spouses, minor children, and in some cases parents or grandchildren, may be eligible for survivor benefits when the family's provider dies. The sad fact is that about one in eight of today's 20 year-old workers will

die before reaching age 67. The good news is about 96 percent of people age 20 to 49 who work have survivors insurance protection if they die and leave behind young children and surviving spouses. Social Security is here to help people inflicted with disabling conditions as well. In fact, disabled workers

account for about 19 percent of all Social Security benefits paid. One in four of today's 20 year-old workers will become disabled before reaching age 67. While we all hope and pray to avoid disasters, unfortunately, they are bound to occur. The best we can do is to be as prepared as possible to deal with them if

they happen. And know that Social Security will be here for you when you need it. Be prepared. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/emergency. *Vonda VanTil is the public affairs specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 or via email at vontil@ssa.gov*



fire safety 411

by Captain Roger Reed

Open burning and cooking fires

Growing up in a rural communities leaves fond memories of bonfires, cookouts and such. Back then, residents didn't need to obtain a permit and could burn brush, lumber,

trash or pretty much anything they wanted. With increased populations and environmental awareness, those times are gone. Open burning is now regulated by the Natural Resources and

Environmental Protection Act of 1994. The city of Lowell also regulates open burning and recreational fires through local ordinance. Open burning is the burning of unwanted materials, such as paper, trees, brush, leaves, grass, and other debris, where smoke and other emissions are released directly into the air. Burning of any processed materials, such as construction materials, is illegal. Open burning requires a burning permit prior to burning. The city of Lowell, by ordinance, prohibits open burning.

Additionally, residents can be held responsible for a fire that gets out of control causing additional fires. Written into the city of Lowell's ordinance is an exception for cooking fires; The ordinance allows a cooking fire. The fire needs to be contained, in an approved container, dug into the ground or in a fire ring made of stones or other non-combustibles. Cooking fires are not to be used for disposal purposes, as described for open burning. Burning materials, for food preparation, can be wood, charcoal or other accepted

fuel. Wood used in cooking fires should be dry. Moisture in wood creates sparks that could kindle unwanted fires. If you live in Lowell or Vergennes Twp., permits are issued, by the Lowell Area Fire Dept., to residents of Lowell Twp. (north of Cascade Rd.) or Vergennes Twp. For residents of Lowell Twp. (south of Cascade Rd.) and Bowne Twp., contact the Bowne Twp. Fire Dept. to obtain a burning permit. Residents of the Eastgate housing development, even though located in Lowell Twp.,

are prohibited from open burning due to congested housing, therefore burning permits are not issued in Eastgate. Cooking fires are allowed. This article is a very brief explanation of open burning and cooking fires. If you have additional questions or need to obtain a burning permit, you can call or email the Lowell Area Fire Dept. at 897-7354 / lafdburnpermit@gmail.com; or Bowne Twp. Fire Dept., 262-8041 / firechief@bownetwp.org

Looking Back, continued

breath last night as Robert E. Lee VII, with her broad beam and 90-foot overall length seemed to falter and hesitate in the narrow passage off Cat Tail Point. The hesitation was only momentary until she gradually made the sharp turn and a wild cheer went up from the audience, the band started playing "Here Comes the Showboat," her 150 passengers gaily costumed, singing and dancing until the now famous river craft shivered from stem to stern. Admiral C. H. Runciman, accompanied by mayor George W. Welsh of Grand Rapids as honorary captain and Frank Stephens at the controls, brought the boat safely and gracefully up to the new concrete pier.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 1, 1963


C. H. Runciman reminisced about the early Showboats the other day and told how Norm Borgerson called him down to a meeting at Look's Drugstore (now the "House of Townsend") one cold February night in 1932. Also present was Steve Rue, a printer for the old Lowell Journal. From this meeting came the Showboat idea, Runci says and the first minstrel

show came down the river that year with 100 percent local talent aboard. The show was so successful it was staged a second night and a net profit of \$800 was tallied.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 8, 1988

Shortly after being named chairman of the Vergennes Cemetery Commission, Judy Baird looked around, checking out what needed to be done. What she found was an unsettling and unkempt Fox's Corner Cemetery. Many of the stones had fallen off their base or had been covered over by dirt. "It's amazing that the upkeep on the cemetery has been left undone for so long," Baird said. "I guess everyone assumed that


someone else was doing the work." Over the past four weekends Baird, members of the historical society and volunteers have spent time uncovering and placing stones in an upright position on their bases. "There's been approximately 12 of us," Baird said. The group started out working from 7-9 am; recently the hours have increased from 7-11 am. "We'll probably uncover and stand back up roughly 30 stones before we're done," she adds. Fox's Corner Cemetery serves as a lasting memory to the founder and to the settlers of an Indian village called "The Mouth," today more commonly known as Lowell.



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obituaries

STEWARD

Robert (Bob) Louis Steward, age 89 of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, July 24, 2013 at Metron of Belding after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Bob was born on June 1, 1924 to Arthur and Cora Steward. He served in World War II from 1943-1946 as a Sergeant



in the US Army's 904th Ordinance Heavy Automotive Maintenance Co. Upon his return home, he worked for the Lowell Light and Power Co. and the City of Lowell Water Department for 44 1/2 years. Bob loved the Chicago White Sox, Lowell Red Arrow Football, and spent over 50 seasons traveling to Lansing, MI faithfully cheering on his MSU Spartans. He loved to garden, landscape, and kept a well-manicured lawn. Bob is survived by his wife Marie (Eickhoff) of 64

years; daughters Amy (Geoff) Schram of Montrose, CO and Sue (Mike) Murley of Lowell; grandchildren Ashley (Trevor) Cook, Madisen and Gabrielle Schram, Karson and Jada Murley. A very special 'son' Lloyd Wepman. Bob was preceded in death by his parents Arthur and Cora;

mother and father-in-law Martin and Lena Eickhoff; baby daughter; five sisters-in-law and their spouses; three brothers-in-law and their spouses; and several nieces, nephews and special friends. A 1:00 p.m. graveside service will be held Friday, September 20th at Oakwood Cemetery, 325 Fremont St., Lowell, Michigan. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lowell Pink Arrow Project, c/o Lowell Community Wellness, P.O. Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331 or The Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675.

Levin, continued

to 6.8 percent, as of July 1. If we had allowed this rate increase to continue, we would have subtracted thousands of dollars from the wallets of American students and their families or, worse, pushed college beyond the financial means of some families who already wonder whether they can afford to give their kids the education they need and deserve.

The bipartisan legislation we passed in late July will provide relief. But it is far from perfect. It switches these interest rates for these critical student loans from fixed rates to floating rates with caps that are far too high. This opens the door to rising interest in the future that students and their families simply cannot afford.

The student debt

problem – which for many families is a student debt crisis – requires a carefully considered long-term solution. I am hopeful that such a solution will eventually emerge. But this legislation is not it.

That is why I supported an amendment offered by my colleagues, Sen. Jack Reed and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, and another amendment offered by Sen. Bernie Sanders, that would have mitigated some of the long-term damage of this legislation. Even though we did not adopt those amendments, I supported this bill for the simple reason that it removes the immediate burden facing America's students and their families.

The chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor

and Pensions, Sen. Tom Harkin, has pledged to try to fix the likely spiking interest rates facing students when a higher education bill comes up next year. I will strongly support that effort.

We in the Senate had a choice. But America's college students do not – they have no choice but to pay the ever-rising cost of

a college education, not if they want the skills and knowledge that hold the promise of a better life. They have no choice but to live with the decisions we make in the Senate, and that's why I supported this legislation to avoid a doubling of student loan interest rates that our families simply can't afford.

Financial Focus, cont'd.

invest more at any given time for a specific goal? What types of investments are best for each of these goals? Prioritizing your goals can help you answer these and other questions — and help direct your overall investment strategy.

- Be prepared to change your goals. Over time, your family and financial circumstances can change considerably — which means you shouldn't be surprised, or alarmed, if you have to change your goals accordingly. And you'll find it easier to maintain this flexibility if you've worked diligently to create an investment portfolio with sufficient resources to allow you to change direction, as needed.

- Review your progress regularly. If you're going to eventually achieve your goals, you absolutely need to measure your progress along the way. Are your investments performing the way you had anticipated? Are your goals becoming more expensive

than you had initially envisioned? To achieve these goals, are you taking on too much — or too little — risk? To answer these types of questions, it's a good idea to review your overall progress at least once a year and then make whatever adjustments may be necessary.

As you can see, it will take considerable effort to set, review and (hopefully) achieve your goals. And it can be somewhat complex, too, so you may want to work with a financial professional — someone who takes time to talk with you about your goals, understands your risk tolerance and family situation, and has the training and experience necessary to help you work toward your objectives.

But in any case, think hard about your goals and how you might accomplish them. And don't delay in taking action — because goals are generally easier to attain if you have time on your side.

—LEGAL NOTICES—

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 13-194146-DE

Estate of **MARCIA L. MATTSON**, deceased.
Date of birth:
05/09/1940.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Marcia L. Mattson, who lived at 4308 Ludlow Drive SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan died 07/04/2013.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Terry R. Simon, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

July 24, 2013

R. John Stephan (P71686)
3875 W. River Dr.
P.O. Box 327
Comstock Park, MI 49321
616-784-5080

Terry R. Simon
2972 Wausaukee NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616-364-9646

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 13-194034-DE

Estate of **ARLENE JUNE WESTCOTT**, aka **ARLENE WESTCOTT**, deceased.
Date of birth:
06/20/1925.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Arlene June Westcott, aka Arlene Westcott, died 06/15/2013.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Nancee Miller, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

July 24, 2013

Craig A. Bruggink (P29358)
429 Turner Ave., N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-456-5048

Nancee Miller
6825 S. Field St., #201
Littleton, CO 80128
616-304-8153



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classifieds

for sale

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TOTAL WOOD HEAT - Safe, clean, efficient & comfortable. Classic Outdoor Wood Furnace from Central Boiler. Call SOS your "Stocking Dealer" Dutton, MI 616-554-8669 or 616-915-5061.

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U - PICK BLUEBERRIES - Pete Marhofer, 3100 Hawley Hwy., Belding. 7 miles north of Saranac off M-21 or 4 miles south of Belding off M-44. Daily 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., closed Sunday. Bring transfer containers. 616-794-0358.

CRAFTSMAN - table saw, band saw, miter saw, drill press & other outdoor items. Call 897-5838.

FOR SALE BY OWNER - Country home with 32 by 40 pole barn, 5 miles North of Saranac. Call 616-642-9972.

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

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HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. FREE All Vets Coffee Hour at the center the 3rd Thursday of each month. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.^{TFN}

misc.

HUNTERS SAFETY COURSE - Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club will offer a free Hunters Safety Course beginning August 19, continuing on August 21 & 22. The class will run from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There is no age requirement and you must attend all three sessions to earn a certificate. The class size is limited to 50 and will be first come first served. No pre-registration. The class will be held at 8731 West Riverside Dr., Saranac. Our website is www.Qua-Ke-Zik.org if you need any additional information.

help wanted

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF NURSING NEEDED - The Laurels of Kent is a 153 bed skilled nursing, short-term rehab facility in Lowell. We are currently looking for a RN to act as ADON at our facility. It is preferred that candidates have experience in teaching. Long Term Care and MDS. Previous management experience is required. We are offering a generous wage package with full benefits, in a professional working environment. Please call or visit: The Laurels of Kent at 350 N. Center St., Lowell, MI 49331. Attention: Terrie Kerschen, RNDON email: tkerschen@laurelhealth.com

IONIA AREA - general labor including heavy lifting, fast paced, must be available for 6 days per week, \$10 per hour. Also looking for CNC operators. Call Workbox Staffing, at 897-7881 or apply at 615 Chatham St., Lowell.

AGRICULTURAL/GRAIN BIN CONSTRUCTION - Metal fabrication and welding experience helpful. Apply in person at Zook Farm Equipment, 7980 Pratt Lake Ave., Alto, MI. Must be able to pass drug test.

CENAS NEEDED - Laurel Health Care Company is a national provider of skilled nursing & rehabilitation services, dedicated to achieving the highest standards of care. The Laurels of Kent has an excellent opportunity for CENAs w/ experience. We offer a competitive salary, great working environment w/supportive staff & an excellent benefit package including 1 wk vacation after 6 months. If you have a caring & professional attitude & enjoy working in a fast-paced environment, apply at: The Laurels of Kent, 350 N. Center St., Lowell, MI 49331. Applications may be filled out online at www.laurelsofKent.com & emailed to Terrie Kerschen, RNDON: tkerschen@laurelhealth.com or faxed to 897-0081.

help wanted

GLOBAL SUPPLIER - to the automotive industry located in Alto, MI is currently hiring employees who will take pride in contributing key products & systems to their customer's cars & trucks for all shifts. Available positions in mold machine operation, warehouse & assembly, \$8.50 - 10.50/hr. Apply in person at Gill Staffing, 2843 East Paris, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. or online at www.gillstaffing.com

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GARAGE SALE - very nice household items, clothes, holiday items, mens things, good variety. Fri. & Sat., Aug. 9 & 10. 1264 Lincoln Lake Rd., N.

MOVING SALE - Cascade, 6840 Woodbrook SE. Aug. 1, 2 & 3, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sofas, dressers, tables, bookcases, file cabinet, dishes, yard ornaments & much, much more.

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wanted

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Coming Events

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

THE LOWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 300 High St., Lowell.

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

WEE WEDNESDAYS - Every Wednesday, 11-11:20. Rhymes, stories, songs & fun for adult & baby. Babies birth to 17 mo. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding. 616-794-1450.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Randy Jesberg at 897-4569 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

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

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

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

LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - meets the 2nd Saturday at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 E. Fulton, 9 a.m. social gathering; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT STORE - is open Wed. & Fri. 10 - 8 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6; Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Food Pantry, 897-8260; Emergency Services, 897-8260.

ALPHA WOMEN'S CENTER - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. 11-5 p.m.; Tues. 6-9 p.m.; Thurs. 10-6 p.m. 987-9533. Diapers, formula, clothing & free pregnancy testing available.

GRIEF - KIDS GROUP - Second & fourth Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m.

MR & MRS BUBBLES - Aug. 24, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Get in line for face painting & balloon twisting during Bridgefest inside the library. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS - (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues. & Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 p.m. & 8-9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m. The first step is always the hardest. If your life has become unmanageable due to alcohol, please join us at 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

JURASSIC CRAFT - Aug. 7, 2-4 p.m. at the Clarksville Village Hall. Clarksville Area Library, 130 S. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

NEEDLERS - Second & fourth Monday evenings, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Schneider Manor Community Room.

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Tues. & Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Thurs., 1-5 p.m. Info., call 784-2007.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 784-2007.

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**THEME:
SUMMER FUN**

ACROSS

1. Website visitors
6. Had a meal
9. You, archaic
13. 1995 thriller starring Brad Pitt
14. Used in some salons
15. Some can be slippery
16. Naked protozoa
17. *Picnic crasher
18. Cliffside dwelling
19. *It lights the air
21. *Where many long to be in summer
23. Prompter's line
24. "The Sun ____ Rises"
25. U.K. broadcaster
28. Delhi wrap
30. Large sea ducks
35. Place of origin
37. *It's up?
39. Red Cross supply
40. Beige
41. High fidelity sound systems
43. As opposed to stereo
44. Tart
46. Poet Ogden ____
47. Skunk's defense
48. Edible corn part
50. Actress ____ Perlman
52. Compass reading
53. Sherlock Holmes' assignment
55. Big time
57. *Summer nap spot
61. *Auto entertainment
65. Self-evident truth
66. *In high demand

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				



JULY 24 - JULY 30

- A 58-year-old, homeless woman has been arrested for vandalizing some Washington DC monuments, including the Lincoln Memorial. Green paint was also spilled on several other national monuments.
- Anthony Weiner refuses to bow out as a candidate for New York mayor in spite of the fact that he is dropping in the polls.
- President Obama is trying to break Washington's fiscal stalemate by proposing cutting corporate tax rates in exchange for more spending on jobs' programs. His offer was immediately panned by congressional Republicans.
- U.S. Army Pfc. Bradley Manning was arrested over three years ago for giving classified secrets to WikiLeaks. On Tuesday, a military judge acquitted the former intelligence analyst of aiding the enemy but convicted him of espionage, theft and computer fraud charges.

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- when heat hits
68. C ele de la Cit  locale
 69. Twisted cotton thread
 70. *Heat reliever
 71. Unwelcome computer message
 72. 90 degrees from norte

73. *Eggs do it on sidewalks in summer?
74. Dictation taker

DOWN

1. Colorado Springs military school
2. Rig or truck
3. "____ and anon"
4. Renaissance instrument resembling a violin
5. Blunders or bloopers
6. Like a game not at home
7. *Many covet this look
8. Glorify
9. ____ off or started playing, as in golf
10. *Most blockbusters feature at least one
11. Assortment
12. Singular of #1
15. Regional dialect of a language
20. Keep on a short _____
22. Don't waste
24. Price of flight
25. *Most students

- are on this in summer
26. Italian bowling
27. Core remover
29. The Colosseum, e.g.
31. Audition tape
32. Eat away
33. Kind of sentence
34. *Roasting treat
36. Change direction
38. *Drop a line
42. See-through curtain
45. Enter or assume a certain state
49. Lake to Louis XIV
51. Rebels
54. Small boat
56. Deflect
57. Fit
58. Around which something rotates
59. Atomizer output
60. Marlyn Monroe distinction
61. Say you didn't do it
62. Dublin's home
63. One who's ____ a secret
64. Adopted son of Claudius
67. *You put its top down in summer

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

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

Puzzle Solutions for this week are on page 12

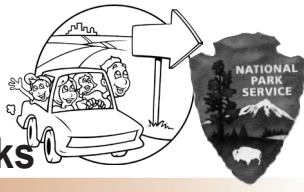
ONLINE POLL RESULTS

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

- Live music67%
- Food0%
- Duck Race33%
- Photobooth0%

FOR THIS WEEK'S POLL VISIT
WWW.thelowelledger.com

exploring our national parks



Kurt Hieshetter

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The drive along Utah Highway 12 was very enjoyable knowing I would not have to put a tent up when we arrived at Capitol Reef National Park.

The 70 miles between Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef National Parks travels in and around the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. It leaves Bryce Canyon at nearly 8,000 feet in elevation, drops to 5,800 near Escalante, UT then climbs to nearly 10,000 feet as you approach Torrey, UT.

Along the way we were able to see the Escalante Canyons, Escalante Petrified Forest State Park and the Anasazi Indian Village State Park. These stops offered some great hikes which I was unable to participate in due to the continued throbbing of my knee. Stephanie was quick to talk me out of driving the 100-mile dirt two track, Hole in the Rock Road,

which would take you from State Route 12 through some of the most remote areas in the lower 48 to the Colorado River at Hole in the Rock. This was the only point on the Colorado River that the Mormons were able to cross between Salt Lake City and settlements in Northern Arizona.

From Torrey it was about 10 miles to the visitors center at the national park. Since it was still early we drove into the park before looking for lodging. There was still a very slim chance of camping at the park campground, but without showers, this was a very slim chance.

The small historic town of Fruita, UT is the park headquarters. The national park service has done a great job restoring this town and its orchards. During season, visitors can pick fruit from the heirloom fruit trees that are cared for by the park service. Unfortunately for

us, the cherry season had just ended.

The historic district of Fruita includes the restored one room school house. The Gifford farmhouse has homemade fruit pies and ice cream for sale. Dillon and Sierra also were able to participate in one of the most hands on junior ranger programs they have ever had the chance to be a part of.

The majority of the buildings and history of Capitol Reef National Park are centered in and around Fruita and the Fremont River valley. The back country of this unique national park stretches over 100 miles to the south where it borders Lake Powell and the Glen Canyon Recreation Area. This narrow, long national park protects an uplifting in the Earth's crust known as the Waterpocket Fold. For the more adventurous visitor, you are able to drive the entire length of Capitol Reef along this fold in the earth's crust on the Notom-Bullfrog road, 50 some miles of rutted dirt. Once again my wife was the wiser, talking me out of taking this route to Lake Powell.

With my knee unable to do any hiking and the kids with their junior ranger badges, it was time to find



Capitol Reef Chimney Rock

somewhere to stay for the night. We did drive through the campground, even though it was very apparent I was not in for setting up the tent with the thermometer reading over 90, before we drove back to Torrey.

With limited lodging to choose from, we settled on the Best Western Capitol Reef Resort. Clean ground floor rooms. Nice outdoor pool with hot tub for my knee and a great pizza joint across the road with ice cold draft beer. If you ever visit Capitol Reef and spend the night in Torrey, make sure you stop at the Rim Rock Patio for pizza. The view

from the patio while eating your pizza is worth the trip.

We returned to the park the following morning to spend a little more time at the school house and the petroglyphs before starting the trip to Lake Powell. The petroglyph carvings and paintings are an ancient reminder of the first Native American settlers in this remote part of Utah. A nice boardwalk allowed us to get very close to this historic artwork.

This was one of the few national parks that we did not spend the night in. We would have liked to hike some of the trails and

spend some time in the back country, but the heat and my knee made it impossible.

It was 110 miles to our last stop on this trip, Bull Frog, UT and Lake Powell. We were to meet up with our friends Jeff and Kathleen. Spend three or four days on their boat exploring the vast canyons of the Colorado River, celebrating Father's Day and my birthday. It was here that everything started to go downhill.

Don't miss the last part of this two week trip to Utah when I try to fill you in how it all ended. Until next time!



Sierra and Dillon Hieshetter on the park sign.

Fair, continued

Bruce Doll, vice president of the youth fair, reminds those looking to attend that, while the fair is held in Lowell, it is not the "Lowell Fair." Doll said the fair draws guests from all over Kent County and the greater West Michigan area.

This year, fair organizers were faced with the obstacle of repairing the damage from the spring flooding. Doll said the flood "couldn't have come at a worse time," with damage done to the main fairgrounds' office and horse arena. Marks said the other buildings that weren't damaged required cleaning.

Other damages included the lunch tables and picnic fence. Marks said the fair staff have been trying to improvise solutions to salvage as much as they can. The grounds themselves suffered some erosion but nothing too serious, Marks said.

Doll said he and the staff really didn't want to pull money from their budget, which goes towards the free events and that fortunately, the repairs were almost entirely covered by donations of money and supplies from surrounding businesses.

Marks said that the

repairs were made to keep the grounds and its buildings flood-proof for the future. Doll and Marks both stated that while dealing with the flood damage may have delayed the preparations, the fair will be fully functional and on time as planned. They added that often extra volunteers will come to the staff's aid as the fair approaches.

"Once Monday comes before fair, you have so many people down here and they all just show up and they all just know what to do," Marks said. "That's been really cool."

college news

Twenty-five Ferris State University students were awarded Alumni Association Legacy Scholarships totaling \$30,000 for the 2013-14 academic year.

The Legacy Scholarship recognizes the academic achievements and leadership potential in students whose parent, sibling or grandparent is a Ferris graduate. The one-time award can total up to \$2,000 and is presented in two equal increments for two consecutive semesters.

The University of Detroit Mercy Community would like to congratulate Cassandra Nanninga of Lowell on her graduation

on May 11, 2013. Nanninga received a Bachelor of Science in nursing in BSN-Nursing.

Caleb Schultx of Lowell, pharmacy, was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship.

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Bruce Doll

Position: Vice President of the Kent County Youth Fair
Residence: Lowell
Education: Bachelor's in Business from Oral Roberts University
Experience: Volunteered with the Youth Fair since 2000
Family: Two sons, Justin and Tom
Interests: Photography, Wood Working and Traveling



Jack-of-all trades helps to keep the fair rolling in Lowell

By Tony Wittkowski
contributing reporter

The man who can be seen walking the fairgrounds has been involved with the Kent County Youth Fair for over a decade in nearly every form imaginable.

Bruce Doll first joined the youth fair in 2000, shortly after he and his family moved from Kentwood. Doll became involved in Cub Scouts, but felt a draw to the fair.

"I'm a photographer so I had taken a lot of pictures of the fair," Doll explained, when asked how he was initially roped into volunteering. "When I

gave the photos to them they said, 'you need to be on the board.'"

Now Doll is the vice president of the fair where he books the entertainment, special programs, sponsorships and helps deal with the technological aspect of the fair.

"That doesn't mean those are the responsibilities for every vice president," Doll says. "That's just what I've done, I've got my niche."

Since Doll has been involved, the fair has received four times the amount of sponsorship

money in the past four years. But to this day the most difficult part of his job is that he can't be there all the time.

"I have a real job outside of this," Doll says. "I would love to be able to do this a lot more because there are so many things we could do."

Doll works in Hudsonville and can usually be spotted at the fairgrounds in his spare time and after work when he stops in to see if anything needs to be done.

In the past decade, the man has held about every

position except treasurer because "that would be a mistake." Those positions have included vice president (which he has served as for two years now), president, secretary and as a board member.

Over the years the one thing that struck a chord with Doll was the tractor structure dedicated to Ron Wenger, the fair manager who passed away two years ago. Doll can never run out of good things to talk about when it comes to Wenger.

To pile on to his job and responsibilities at the fair, Doll's wife passed away six weeks ago. Now he is dealing with the loss of his wife of 34 years, with the help of his sons Justin and Tom.

"That's been difficult at times to handle, with everything else going on," Doll admits. "Two days after she passed, I realized there were things that just had to be done."

A year ago while the fair was in full swing, she was in the hospital. As a result Doll was here and then there, with not much sleep in between.

The disease that took his wife has no known cause or cure, prompting doctors to treat it with steroids. She fought it for a year.

And yet the most difficult thing Doll has had to deal with in regard to the fair, was freeing up more of his time to volunteer when the flood hit Lowell. The town had it pretty bad, but

the fairgrounds was another story.

Doll and a handful of volunteers scrambled to get all the boats out of the barns and were forced to watch the water level constantly rise.

Yet despite all the obstacles he has seen this past year, Doll remains adamant on increasing the success of the fair, while keeping an eye on the future.

"I think Lowell is a great place to live and it's got great people. That's why the events in Lowell are so great," Doll says. "You've got Riverwalk, the fair, all the church events and Pink Arrow. All those things are so great because of the people that are here."



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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Bruce Doll has had a difficult year in part because of the flood.

Photo by Tony Wittkowski

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