

fair wrapup



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new director



page 3

South Carolina based Composittech planning to add 50 jobs to Lowell area

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Business is going so well at Composittech, 683 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE, these days that it can be hard to find a parking spot outside their building. Composittech is part of Industrial Services Group, Inc. (ISG), a group of companies that plans to add 50 jobs to Lowell's workforce.

"ISG is a company out of Sumter, South Carolina," said Composittech's Ken Kensington. "They focus on the power industries and the different process industries. Pulp and paper is very big. The chemical process industry, the mining industry, all corrosion control, corrosion-resistant equipment and fiberglass corrosion-resistant piping. Piping that is put in plants to either carry chemicals or process fluids, even do a lot

of sewer work. We also do very large diameter field-erected tanks. We do a lot of process type of equipment here, process vessel work and everything else."

It can be difficult to get a new business started in close-knit communities like Lowell and Vergennes Township.

"Lowell is a bedroom community to Grand Rapids, basically," Kensington said. "Most of our population gets up in the morning and they scoot to Grand Rapids; they leave."

"With the support of the local municipalities and their participation in the business community we have plans for great growth," said Joe Vandiver, owner and president of Composittech. "It does require a partnership between private industry and local government to be



All in! Composittech's Jon Kensington, David Kensington, Joe Vandiver, Al Hubbard and Ken Fusee.

successful and we count on that very much. Working with a business-friendly community climate, we expect to be successful in

developing the business and look for a head-count of 50 or possibly more over the next three to five years. Certainly the permitting

process has run behind our anticipated schedule."

Composittech jobs, continued, page 2

Successful Grattan TwiLight Cancer Walk continues to grow its participation numbers

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Residents of the neighboring community of Grattan gathered last Thursday evening for the sixth annual Grattan TwiLight Cancer Walk (GTLCW) to benefit Gilda's Club of Lowell.

Volunteer Miranda VanderVeen said the event came to pass after a group of friends started a discussion at a local social engagement.

"That evening the group decided that we wanted to have a walk to remember those who have passed, to encourage those who are fighting and to offer our support to Gilda's Club of Lowell," said VanderVeen.

She reports that Gilda's was chosen as the benefactor of their hard work because they wanted their money to stay and serve locally.

The newly-formed GTLCW committee began planning for the event right away by seeking a safe and family-friendly environment for their walkers at the Grattan Raceway.

"We reached out to the owners and they thought



Walkers make their way around the two-mile road style track at Grattan Raceway to raise funds for local charity Gilda's Club.

it was a great idea!" said VanderVeen.

Since then the event has grown tremendously. This year it boasted more than 200 walkers and 20 corporate sponsors who contributed or earned more than \$11,000 for the cause. This year's accomplishment brings the fundraisers total contributions to Gilda's to over \$65,000 since inception.

According to Gilda's program manager Lindsay Jousma, the cancer support club operates 100 percent on charitable gifts and donations like the one provided by the GTLCW.

"Through the continued support of the Grattan TwiLight Cancer Walk our members are welcome free of charge into the support groups, workshops and lectures that provide

emotional and social support on a cancer or grief journey," said Jousma.

Music was provided by "Music by Mike" and an opening speech by Gilda's Club representative Carol McGregor welcomed and thanked those in attendance. The walkers then took to the two-mile road-style course at the raceway for their one big lap against cancer. A silent auction and

raffle emceed by volunteer Chad Steendam was held immediately following the walk while participants enjoyed free hot dogs and ice cream provided by Rocky's in Rockford.

VanderVeen noted that each volunteer has been touched personally by cancer, including her own family.

TwiLight Walk, continued, page 3

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Compositech jobs, continued

"We also have been working closely with the Vergennes Township people, going through the permitting of it," Kensington said. "Like anything else, being new to the community, we've had many discussions with them. They've been very responsive to us, but we have to abide by zoning and things like that. Before we purchased this building I talked with Liz Baker over at the Chamber of Commerce for a minute. I asked her, 'Who is Lowell? Tell me a little about it.' Liz said, 'We would love to have industry here.' That's how all of this started."

"The company has been assisting the power industry with their environmental compliance efforts," Vandiver said. "To develop their infrastructure and then to maintain and operate, cost-effectively, their infrastructure. This is a continuing effort in that area. The Michigan group relocated from Walker here to Lowell to consolidate operations in this facility as we invest in our manufacturing capacity, so that's the focus today."

Some Compositech employees describe Kensington as "the resident genius" or "the godfather," but he says his role is much less mystical.

"I'm basically adviser, consultant," Kensington said. "My experience goes back many years."

Kensington's former company was purchased by ISG.

"There was a company called K-Industries," Kensington said. "We were out of Michigan, servicing the pulp and paper industries. We were very much involved in North Carolina and our two companies knew each other and a relationship started.

One thing led to another. We wanted to get into the manufacturing of pipe like those guys did. They developed very experienced people down there and also here. So that's how it came to Lowell. The facility was purchased and then we started the procedure of changing the thing from a tool and die shop over into a corrosion fabricating shop."

"With K-Industries we simply want to take what is a core, highly skilled, highly technical workforce and team and facilitate the growth to their potential," Vandiver said. "We see that potential as being, over three to five years, ten times what they were doing the last few years."

Compositech has already been around for seven years.

"We incorporated in 2007 to approach a need for the utility industry to be able to better comply with emissions requirements, particularly coal-fired power plants," Vandiver said. "We've been engaged in that heavily for some years and that has led us to this opportunity in fiberglass piping because there's much of it used in the coal-fired power industry, as well as pulp and paper and what-not."

They are one of those companies that insists on getting into the latest technology.

"We are the leading edge, not just in the building but in development of people and the development of state-of-the-art equipment," Kensington said. "We have one machine here that they had purchased just for cutting fiberglass. Usually this was all done by hand. It's automatic now and it's controlled. That goes to show what we're trying to do here."



Compositech's David Kensington, Jon Kensington, Joe Vandiver, Al Hubbard and Ken Fusee with Compositech's new automatic fiberglass cutting machine.

"We want to focus on the investment and the development of this company here by ISG and Joe," Kensington said. "Joe and his group have invested a lot of money way up front. We're looking at employing 50 people in the next few years. That's a number that we have goals for. Can we achieve it? If we couldn't, we wouldn't be doing it and Joe would not be investing the time and money into this thing."

"We're making an investment in the type of people we need," Kensington said. "Right now we're very active. We just started advertising yesterday that we're taking applications. We're ramping up our shop labor force, looking for a CAD operator, looking to start building the middle management. The top management is here already. They're very experienced people."

"I think it's important to note that we see this as an extension of what we've

already done," Vandiver said. "And what we've done is we've grown from in 2006 a launch of 12 employees to 500-plus today. And we expect that trajectory to continue for the foreseeable future, five years or so."

"The labor force is interesting here," Kensington said. "For us to draw people from Grand Rapids to come to work here in this plant is a lot harder. I think our big labor market is going to be from over in Ionia and then north, Montcalm County and then south of here. We get to work by country road around here."

Compositech doesn't take sole credit for its success. They've had a bit of help along the way.

"We've got to give some credit to the dynamics [that] have happened here to Karen Hinkle [business development manager at Michigan Economic Development Corporation]," Kensington said. "We got a grant

through her and boy, she worked her fanny off and did a great job working with the ISG people. There was a lot of information that had to be gathered, but man, they plowed through it and it's been excellent. The other one that has had dynamics and worked together was with Megan Sall [business development manager, the Right Place]. Believe me, she is a dynamo. She is a catalyst that really helped also. Then the Michigan Works people. I've been dealing with Kevin Lutz [business services representative, Michigan Works!]. They've been extremely helpful. They've been great resources. They have a lot of programs and they have satisfied a lot of need. It's been great for us."

Check out the want-ad in the Ledger, but read it carefully before you apply. Compositech only wants the best and brightest.

"Right now as we speak the human resource

director is here from Sumter," Kensington said. "When someone comes in and knocks at the door and says, 'Hey, I want to fill out an application,' you have to sit down and qualify them. 'Who are you? Have you ever worked in a factory before?' You profile. You look at what skills they have. This company's turnover is very, very low compared to others in this type of industry. I can tell you that."

"It's a good company to work for," Vandiver said. "We're a growth company and that's really what we're all about."

"Let's do this," Kensington said. "Let's start hiring people, getting things done. That's where we're at."

"It provides employment opportunities for the local citizenry as well as additional support for the tax base," Vandiver said.

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along main street

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Thurs., Aug. 21 at 1 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

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.

LIVESTRONG AT THE YMCA

Cancer Survivor Exercise Program classes start the week of Sept. 8. For more information call 855-9570.

“Cheers” to the new Wittenbach/Wege Center director

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Master naturalist Courtney Cheers was recently named the new director of the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center (WWC).

Cheers, a native of Iowa, moved to the Lowell area with her husband in 1996 after a brief stint in Montana and said she quickly fell in love with the flora and fauna of the Great Lakes State.

Having earned a degree in public administration in agriculture with an emphasis in ag-economics from Iowa State University, Cheers was well-qualified to accept the position of interpretive naturalist at the WWC in 2000 just as the center was opening.

She has been with the

center ever since serving both as an employee and a volunteer assisting with a variety of the fun and educational events, classes and field trips hosted by the nature learning center.

"I began studying outdoor education while living in Montana, but really got my hands-on training right here at the WWC under then director Tammy Coleman. I have served under all three past directors. They each brought so much insight and passion to the center. I feel very grateful and fortunate for that opportunity," said Cheers.

She went on to say, "I wanted the director position here because I have always believed, whole heartedly, in the mission of the WWC and I wanted a chance to

help shape the next chapter."

Hard at work already, Cheers said that she is full of ideas for the center's future saying, "I would really like to start restoring and building native teaching gardens in the island and in front of the building. I am also going to be doing some brainstorming with my team around how to implement more programming opportunities at the middle and high school levels."

Calling herself "fortunate" for the opportunity to work alongside the center's employees in the past, Cheers said she now looks forward to leading the group which she called awesome, unique and creative.

She loves teaching others about the outdoors and looks forward to

sharing her knowledge with the students who attend the center.

"Lowell students are incredibly lucky that they have an outdoor classroom at their disposal. Meggan Johnson (the outgoing director) really said it best... 'Most environmental centers get one chance, one visit, to make an impact and hope that the kids think differently about the earth when they leave. But here, each year they put another piece of the puzzle together and build their nature knowledge' How cool is that?"

Cheers, her husband and her two children reside just east of Lowell with their dog, a small pride of cats, one extremely large garden, a pool and a pond.



Recently appointed Wittenbach/Wege Center director Courtney Cheers.

Twilight Walk, continued



"Each volunteer who has endured the heartache of losing a loved one to cancer, is a survivor or is fighting the fight. I became a dedicated volunteer because I lost my grandma to cancer, have watched my grandpa fight cancer twice and have many friends near and dear to my heart that have been affected by the disease."

VanderVeen reports that the GTLCW committee looks forward to continued

support and growth for their homespun fundraiser in the future and is thankful for all those who make the event possible.

Those interested in participating, volunteering, donating or sponsoring, next year, are invited to reach out to the event's planners on their website www.grattantlewalk.com



Jake and Brittany Gundrum finish the two-mile fundraising walk with their daughters Isabella and Olivia in tow.

The event featured both a silent auction and a raffle. Pictured here are Emcee Chad Steendam, volunteers Pam Schmitt, April Kole and Miranda VanderVeen and winners Katrina and Audrianna Osborn.

...
The most important thing is to enjoy your life - to be happy - it's all that matters.

~ Audrey Hepburn

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Weekly classes are for 3 years old through 8th grade. For your convenience, we now take all registrations online! Find the link at www.redarrowgymnastics.org or email: rayg.gymnastics@att.net for more information

Free Concerts!
Thursdays at 7pm
June 12 — August 21
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Summer-Long Concert Series in Front of the Historic Lowell Showboat on the Flat River, with Musicians from Michigan

Thurs, August 21 featuring Nicholas James and the Bandwagon
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The Bandwagon is the supporting cast behind Nicholas James Thomasma - a Grand Rapids native influenced by Neil Young, Bob Dylan, The Grateful Dead, The Band, The Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, Jim Croce, Harry Chapin.

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Presented by LowellArts! and Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. Family Event! Venue is wheelchair accessible and handicap/senior parking is available. Bleacher seating or bring your own folding chair. Concessions, beer, wine, and margaritas are offered on the Riverwalk Plaza.

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MERCY HEALTH LACKS CANCER CENTER

Coping with the emotional side of cancer



Alina Chourrot

When a woman is told she has breast cancer, it can be an emotional, scary experience. Alina Chourrot, oncology clinical social worker, has a passion for helping women in the midst of these types of life-changing circumstances.

Chourrot is one of four social workers employed at Mercy Health Lacks Cancer Center in Grand Rapids, Mich. Oncology social workers at Mercy Health Lacks Cancer Center are master's-level social workers certified in cancer care. They are an important part of the multidisciplinary cancer team, assisting patients and their families with the emotional and nonmedical aspects of cancer care throughout their cancer journey.

"Cancer has a way of changing people's lives," explains Chourrot. "We are here to validate their concerns and help

normalize this process for them."

Women with a recent diagnosis of breast cancer have many questions and decisions to consider. Chourrot shares coping strategies and helps manage the many components of care by linking them to a variety of local resources, including transportation, support groups and housing. Sometimes she will step in as an advocate, when asked, to help the patient and medical professional better communicate.

She also helps patients answer tough questions, such as "How do I tell my children I have cancer?"

"We address developmental-appropriate ways to help families explain cancer to their children and their families, as well as how to support them," explains Chourrot.

She can also connect

patients with the resources available right inside Mercy Health Lacks Cancer Center, West Michigan's only dedicated cancer hospital.

"We have financial navigators who can assist patients through the financial and insurance concerns they have," says Chourrot. "We also house the Warren Reynolds Library, the largest public cancer resource library in Michigan, which is open to the public. And when we talk about body image and hair loss during cancer treatment, I can direct them right down the hall to our Personal Care area, where women can receive wig fittings, bra fittings, breast forms, complimentary cosmetology services, and skin care products designed for cancer patients." A video about Mercy Health Lacks Cancer Center highlights these and other resources for new patients.

Chourrot stresses that it's okay to seek support from an oncology social worker.

"We help normal people experiencing abnormal circumstances," she explains. "And what a cancer patient is experiencing is a normal response to an abnormal situation. The support we offer is encouraging, hopeful and truthful."

For more information about Mercy Health Comprehensive Breast Centers, visit www.MercyHealthBreastCare.com

Animals fall ill at the fair

by J. Boss

On Monday evening several area news outlets were reporting that rabbits and horses were poisoned at the Kent County fairgrounds in Lowell. According to Lowell Chief of Police Steve Bukala the bulk of those reports were "media generated."

In fact, stated Bukala, a total of nine rabbits were sick and only one was euthanized by a veterinarian. Bukala said

horses were found to have Potomac fever. He said this was totally unrelated to the problems with the rabbits.

"A postmortem exam was done on the rabbit that the vet put down and it was discovered that its organs showed signs of crystallization similar to antifreeze poisoning," said Bukala. He added that the remaining rabbits are now fine as far as he knew.

According to the

Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine website, Potomac Horse Fever is caused by a parasite living in freshwater snails and aquatic insects, such as, mayflies and dragonflies. It is thought that the horses ingest a snail or insect while grazing or consume an insect that has landed in drinking water.

"The horses were treated by the vet and sent home," said Bukala.

viewpoint

to the editor

parking lot woes

To The Editor,

This is a good news bad news letter. On the plus side, how about a pat on the back to the Pink Arrow Nation and to All-Weather Seal for the great Pink Arrow kick off. Scott from All-Weather Seal [AWS] is generous enough to donate an extra dollar for every t-shirt sold during the kick off. Well, this year it is going to cost him just shy of 1200 smackers. (I have heard rumors that Scott gives over and above the number of shirts sold which does NOT surprise me.) Otter and I ran over to Gilda's after work just so our three shirts would get another \$3 for Pink Arrow from AWS.

Scott was there and we let him know how much extra we were going to cost and it just made him smile. How about those blood donors? 146 people were willing to give blood during the kick-off, so Michigan Blood will be putting \$1,460 in the Pink Arrow fund. Bravo.

On the down side, I was very surprised to see that the effort to put a public parking lot in behind our store and the Moose Lodge was shot down by the city council. I was under the impression from meetings in the past that the parking lot was a done deal. I was stunned to read in the Ledger that it was defeated.

That parking lot would have been a big improvement for our block in particular and the downtown in general. I know that the future plans for the Moose Lodge were to include a possible restaurant on the ground floor, a banquet room on the second floor and some more rooms to handle the overflow from Main Street Inn on the third floor. For any or all of those proposed endeavors to succeed, parking is vital. It does not take a lot of thought to draw a line between the parking

lot being shot down and the recent appearance of a "For Sale Or Lease" sign on the Moose building.

The Lowell Community sure marches together most times - especially when it comes to helping people with awesome things like Food Fight and Pink Arrow. But that help needs to extend to the business community as well. I would urge the city council to reconsider the parking lot question and to take action that will help move Lowell to the next level.

Cliff Yankovich

Formerly the entries reflected the hopes, dreams and humor of the time; the wonder of new inventions; the prevailing view that "Prohibition" would solve the world's problems. I even enjoyed the quality of the writing with its precise

selection of vocabulary and sentence structure; but that may be only me!

I hope in the future that we could get back to the entries "from the good old days!"

Holden Lowing

outdoors



outdoor challenge

Dave Stegehuis

Every generation must deal with challenges unique to the particular era of human history in which they find themselves. Humans are adaptable creatures, so we are thriving as a species after all these years.

Lifestyle in this country has changed dramatically in a relatively short period of time. We went from subsistence living, to an agrarian society, to the industrial age, to the information age in less than two hundred years. How we spend our time, what we eat, where we live, how we travel, and family relationships, including how we raise our children have been affected.

A major shift in our lives over this time is the increasing separation between the individual and the land. This may be good news for someone who is not enthused about working all day in the hot sun or killing something for dinner.

In the information age, this disconnect is particularly prevalent with children. Electronic distractions and overbooked schedules leave little opportunity to explore the outdoors. A number of scientific studies have revealed potential advantages for kids who spend a reasonable amount of time outdoors. Such things as reduced stress, attention

span, socialization, and weight control are related to outdoor experiences and unstructured play. Adults can derive the same benefits as children from a close association with nature and healthy outdoor activities.

Also, concern for the preservation of wildlife and protecting our natural resources such as lakes, forests, and wildlife habitat may not be a priority for one who has never had firsthand experience in a natural environment. The conservation of natural areas and wilderness, which add richness to our lives, is in the hands of future generations.

Living in the information age has many benefits. Technological prowess is as important for survival today as was a sharp spear in earlier times. The trick is to find a balance.

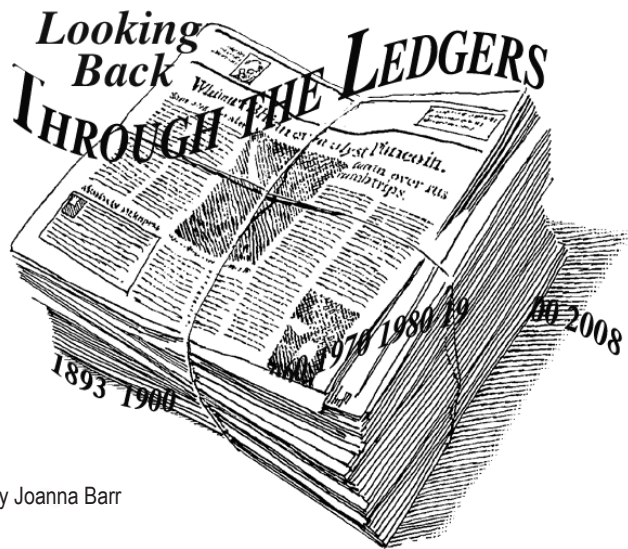
We can use current technology to study the effects of the natural world on us and our children, as well as learn ways to connect with nature in what has become an increasingly artificial and crowded environment. Like our ancestors before us, we will adjust to the current state of affairs and hopefully pass along a world in which the next generation can find peace and fulfillment in their own lives.

looking back differently

Dear Editor,

I have a comment about my favorite section of the Ledger: "Looking Back Through The Ledgers."

The flavor of the entries has seemed to change of late. It's now like teaching history through facts and dates.



By Joanna Barr

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 13, 1914

The character of the crowd attending the Home Coming is worthy of notice. The writer did not see a drunken man during the celebration. Considering the size of the crowd, the entire freedom from rowdiness was remarkable.

Mr. and Mrs. White entertained the following Home Coming guests: Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Swayze and Miss Mable Shepard of Grand Rapids and Mrs. Chas. Blakeslee of Parkersburg, W. Va.

Mrs. J. B. Bush of Grand Rapids visited her mother and sister Mesdames MacFarlane and Speaker during Home Coming.

We tallied 77 autos and the same of private rigs passing here on their return from Home Coming Thursday.

Good progress is being made on D. G. Look's new residence. It will have six rooms, one being a large one across the entire front, a bath, roomy porch and all modern improvements. It is of the bungalow type and will be a fine improvement in that part of town.

Misses Freda Parker and Florence Scott, assisted by Miss Helen Carson, Mrs. A. E. Blow and Misses Anna and Kathryn Lally, entertained with a delightful picnic lunch at noon on Tuesday, and a corn and weenie roast at four o'clock, in a beautiful grove on the bank of Grand River.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 17, 1939

Headline: Kent 4-H Club Fair comes next week. Three days and two nights of great attractions. Final plans are all made for the fifth annual 4-H Club Fair at Lowell next week Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The local extension office has been receiving many entries giving assurance all buildings will be full of exhibits... Each day there will be games, races and contests for everyone.

The now completed west gateway is a beautiful piece of architecture, designed by Andrew Morrison, former president of the American Architects Association and

125 years ago Lowell Journal August 14, 1889

A Stockbridge baby, 20 months old, who was lost the other day, was found in a cherry tree twenty feet from the ground.

If the number of baskets being shipped into Lowell is an indication of the peach crop of this vicinity the yield will be a large one.

The county treasurer paid for nearly 800 sparrow heads Saturday. He has paid for 10,000 sparrows which have been killed since the increase of bounty.

The colored man who tried to kill his wife a frying pan at Adrian is very penitent. He writes his wife from the jail asking for forgiveness, a rhubarb pie, a pan of doughnuts and some money.

B. McGee, of Vergennes, is a well known wheat raiser. Last Thursday he drew in 900 bushels from his farm near Fox's Corners, keeping Lowell Mill men busy until 10 o'clock at night receiving.

A sidewalk has been laid from the lower Grand River bridge to the D. & M. R. R. track, proving a great convenience to pedestrians who have hitherto had to wade in the mud or dust at that point.

M. W. Calkins was stricken with paralysis, Saturday night, and lies at the point of death. He is 83 years old and has been a resident of Lowell for a great many years.

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anniversaries

Johnson



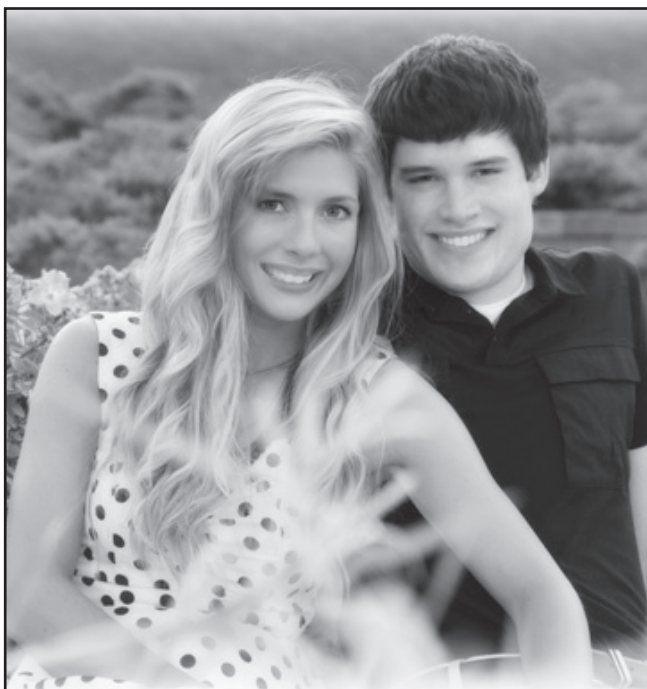
Dale L. and Charlotte M. Johnson.

August 14th marks the 60th wedding anniversary of Dale L. and Charlotte M. Johnson. They were married August 14, 1954, at the Bowne Center United Methodist Church. They have three children, Larry and Susan Johnson, Mark and Peggy Johnson

and Wendie and Michael McLouth. They have been blessed with eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Dale retired from Farm Bureau Insurance after 40 years of service. They have resided in Alto all of their married life.

engagements

Jelsma/Schultz

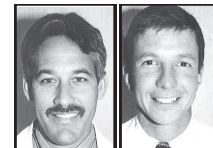


Emily Jelsma and Caleb Schultz

Emily K. Jelsma and Caleb J. Schultz, both of Lowell, will be wed on May 30, 2015. Their parents are Dave and Karin Jelsma and Bob and Deb Schultz, all of Lowell. The bride-to-be will

be graduating from Central Michigan University in the spring of 2015. Her fiancé is studying pharmacy at Ferris State. They are both 2011 Lowell High School graduates.

health



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

post partum depression

Post partum depression is a form of depression that occurs after giving birth. As many as four out of five women have mood changes in the first 10 days after giving birth. If the symptoms are severe and lasts longer than 10 days, it is called post partum depression. Some women feel better within a few weeks, while others may feel depressed for months.

The causes of this form of depression are not clear. Some women are very sensitive to the hormone changes in their body after childbirth, which may cause depression.

Any woman can get

this depression, but certain factors make it more likely.

These include:

- previous history of depression
- difficult or stressful personal relationships
- stressful life events during pregnancy or after childbirth.

Treatment is effective and involves taking antidepressant medication. Counseling or group therapy may be utilized also. The medicines used to treat can be taken when breast-feeding. The amount of medicine that enters the breast milk is very small and not likely to harm the baby.

business matters



Greenridge Realty announced that Don Reedy received Sales Associate of the Month in July.

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happy birthday!

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AUGUST 17
Brittany Essich, Jordan Harding.

AUGUST 14
Adam Billingsley, Aaron Christenson, Betsey Brenk, Bob Wilzcewski.

AUGUST 18
Matthew D'Agostino, Sandy Dykhuizen, Sean Pawloski, Paul Reggie Owen, Paul R. Owen II, Matthew Milstead.

AUGUST 15
Ben Raymor, Dick VanOverbeek, Bill Barber, Dena Baylis, Vivian Johnson, Donnie Shaffer, Barb Callihan, Kim Tubergen, Deb Wright, Pam Kline.

AUGUST 19
Peggy Idema, Joseph Thaler, Lois Boonstra, Braydon Brown, Brian DeBold, Daryl Chamberlain, Charley Vankeulen, Betty Wierenga.

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AWANA - K-5, during school year.....Wed. 6:15 - 8 P.M.
Youth Ministry - grades 6-12.....Mon. 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
(Youth Ministry moves to Wed. during summer)

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2014 Kent County Youth Fair comes to successful finish

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Thousands of people made their way to Lowell this past week to "Go Hog Wild!" at the 80th annual Kent County Youth Fair held between August 4-9.

The fair focuses entirely on the efforts, talents and achievements of the youth in Kent County. This year nearly 1,000 young exhibitors participated in the live and still exhibit competitions and participated in the various knowledge and talent showcases. Event organizer and fair vice president Bruce Doll said that the fair went great this year boasting a record-breaking auction total and "lots of smiles."

Pre-event activities kicked off the Saturday before fair when judges evaluated and awarded ribbons on more than 1600 still exhibits entered into competition. Exhibits included such items as photographs, handmade clothing and various works of art. Sunday a pork dinner sponsored by Pinckney Hill Meat Company was enjoyed before the official opening ceremonies and Kent County Youth Fair royal court coronation took place.

The fair kicked off on Monday with Heroes Day offering free parking to any active military, veteran, fire, police or emergency medical technician (EMT). This day was also sponsored by Pinckney Hill Meat Company. Despite a down pouring of rain, the only one of this year's fair week, the day got off to a good start and ended on a musical note in the Entertainment Tent where the St. Cecilia Music Center Youth Talent Show took place.

Competitors in three age divisions showed off their dance, vocal and instrumental talents on stage in hopes of securing a ribbon and a cash prize. The top three placers in the ten and under group were vocalist Maryanna O'Connor, dancer Lauren Asbury and violinist Sophia Yang. Winning the 11-13 age group were musical performer Judi Reagan, dancer Emma Pachulski and cellist Natalie Ricord. Rounding out the show winners in the 14-

19 category vocal were duo Meg and Ben; musical performer Sophie Bolen who earned honorable mentions; ribbon winning vocalists Ben Harmon and Lindsey Garcia; and harpist Sarah Evon who played a song that she also composed.

Tuesday brought the return of the free ride program "Reading for Rides" (RFR) which rewards young learners for their dedication to reading during the summer months. Hundreds of families turned out for the crowded event which took place from 12-4. This year's RFR day also featured a well-attended book exchange where kids were able to trade in their used books for "new" ones.

Other highlights of the day included two Grandparent's Coffee and Donut breaks in the Community Tent sponsored by The Laurels of Kent, a draft horse demonstration and boating safety class presented by the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

King Milling sponsored Wednesday's Community Day where local non-profit groups joined fairgoers on the grounds from 3-7. Highlights of this day included the goat milking contest, a rabbit and cavy quiz bowl and countless other animal competitions and judgings. Country Rock musicians, the Brian Randall Band, capped off the night in the Entertainment Tent.

The highly-attended livestock auction took place on Thursday afternoon inside the Reath Barn. Hundreds of spectators and buyers gathered inside the barn for the hours long auction that was hosted by a series of volunteer auctioneers. After a record-breaking sale last year that totaled over \$505,000, both spirits and anticipation were high as bids began flying.

By auction's end, the youth of Kent County had set a record once again according to fair president Jon Bieneman, "It was almost a 25 percent increase from last year. We are up about \$125,000." This year's total was an astounding \$630,926.65. Bieneman says the increase

is a fair representation of current market values and a great representation of the community's immense support, "We had buyers really come out and support the kids."

Friday was Handi-Capable Day sponsored by Clock Mobility and the Hesche Family. Handi-Capable Day is a unique opportunity for those living with disabilities to enjoy a free lunch and exclusive carnival ride time with their families and caregivers at the fair. Parents Steven and Janie Kolenda and their daughters Gracie and Lorraine were among the event's attendees. The Grand Rapids natives say that this opportunity, which they described as "beautiful," has become a fun family tradition for their clan, "This is our third year. We love it."

Also taking place on Friday was the first ever Dodgeball Tournament held on Burch Field. Dodgeball expert Ryan King led and refereed the inaugural event that invited teams from pee wee to adult to participate in the action. Games took place in tournament style inside an arena built with hay bales, or a "hayrena." Twelve teams in total took part in the competition which rewarded winners with ice cream.

Also on Friday, under the Rabbit and Cavy tent, two exhibitors shared a generous and memorable moment that truly embodied the caring spirit of the fair community.

Fair continued,
pages 8



Blue ribbon winner in the Youth Talent Show Judi Reagan performs "Think of Me" from The Phantom of the Opera.



Little puller Liam Courtney from Rockford won a blue ribbon in the Puff the Dragon Pedal Pull competition held along the fair Midway.

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Fair, continued

Sixteen-year-old Rachel Yonker, who was born with Down Syndrome and tragically lost her father just this past year, showed for the first time this year as part of the Happy Hoppers Club. After earning her own second-place red ribbon the enthusiastic teen also celebrated a special gift given to her by fellow exhibitor Cody Holbrook.

Holbrook, also a first-time fair exhibitor, said that he gave Yonker his own first-place prize because it

simply felt like the right thing to do.

Rabbit and Cavy's superintendant Lori Quiggle said that this type of selfless gesture and dedication is a common occurrence for Holbrook as well as for the majority of the fair's exhibitors, "That is exactly what 4-H is all about. Giving more than you get."

Another special moment took place the same day inside The Reath Barn where the Oesch family presented the 2014 Freddie

Oesch Memorial trophy. The family gives the award annually in the novice class of dairy showmanship in honor of their son Freddie who tragically passed away at just ten years old in an accident near their successful family farm. The award and a memorial barn, were established with finances raised primarily by the sale of the steer the young boy had been set to show just one month after his death.

Since that time, a

variety of blue ribbon steer winner's names have been added to the plaque including Freddie's own sister Annie Link and several of his cousins. This year, after a dry spell of more than a decade, the sentimental trophy made its way back to the family when Links youngest son James won this year's honors.

"It's always an emotional day for my parents but even more when their youngest grandchild wins," said Link of the



Dodgeball team The Purple Pigs won the kid's age group.

momentous family and club occasion.

Meijer Kid's Day rounded out the fair on Saturday with a huge line up of activities and entertainment. The kid focused fun kicked off early when the fair welcomed extraordinarily talented sidewalk chalk artist Richard Francisco to the grounds. Fairgoers had the opportunity to watch Francisco create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece and then to participate in creating their own near the Foreman building.

An Ice Cream Social hosted by the Milky Way 4-H Club, a team challenge field day mixer that included a three-legged and a wheelbarrow race, Disc Golf fun sponsored by Anne Hyzer's and free balloons from The Balloon Guy were among the activities of the day.

The brand new Princess Tea Party was also held Saturday inside the King building. The tea was hosted by members of the newly crowned Kent County Youth Fair royal court as well as alumni winners dressed in "royal" attire.

Excited participants also had the opportunity to have their picture taken with the princesses as a souvenir of the event. Newly-crowned queen of the royal court, Alexis Hickman, was in attendance as one of her first duties in her newly acquired role. She said the

event was fun and that the little ladies in attendance were incredibly excited.

A resident of Kent City, Hickman has been participating in the fair for thirteen years showing just about every type of animal over the years. She spent the first days of her reign volunteering in different areas of the fair and handing out ribbons and said she looks forward to getting out and promoting the fair this year at local parades and events. Hickman is currently a freshman at Grand Valley Honors College where she is studying Pre-Med with hopes of becoming a pediatric surgeon.

Kids were also the center of attention in the entertainment tent on Saturday when young vocalist Maya Eaton took to the stage performing both original and cover tunes. The evenings headliners "Off the Radar," a talented band consisting entirely of young musicians, followed with a performance that packed the tent and induced both a standing ovation and a call from the audience for an encore performance rounding out the youth celebrating week with style.

Doll said that plans are already underway for the 2015 fair that will include, "A bigger and better kid's day on Saturday, a new layout in the exhibit building, bigger dodgeball tournament, more giveaways and more fun!"



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More images from the 2014 youth fair



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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

Are you a baby boomer? Don't let retirement plans go bust.

If you're a baby boomer, you're at the point in life where, if you haven't actually entered retirement, you're at least approaching the outskirts. But if you're like many of your fellow boomers, you may be experiencing more than a little trepidation over your financial prospects as a retiree. That's why

it's so important for you to determine what steps to take to help improve your chances of enjoying a comfortable retirement.

Just how worried are baby boomers about their future? Consider these numbers: Seventy-two percent of non-retired boomers think they will probably be forced to delay retirement, and 50% have little confidence that they will ever be able to retire, according to a recent AARP

survey. Other surveys show a similarly bleak outlook among the baby boom generation.

Fortunately, when it comes to building resources for retirement, you have options. Of course, if you're in one of the younger age cohorts of the baby boom generation, your possibilities are greater — you may still have time to take measures such as boosting your 401(k) and IRA contributions, reducing your debts and positioning your portfolio to provide you with a reasonable amount of growth potential.

But even if you are pretty close to retirement, or at least close to the point where you initially expected to retire, you can act to better your outcome. For one thing, you could re-evaluate your planned date of retirement. If you really don't mind your job and could extend your working life for even a couple of years, you could help yourself enormously in at least three ways:

- *You'll add on to your retirement accounts.* The longer you work, the more you can contribute to your IRA and your 401(k) or

other employers-sponsored account.

- *You may be able to delay taking Social Security.* You can start taking Social Security as early as age 62, but your benefits will be permanently reduced unless you wait until your Full Retirement Age (FRA), which will likely be 66 or 67. Your payments can increase if you delay taking your benefits beyond your Full Retirement Age, up to age 70.

- *You may be able to delay tapping into your retirement vehicles.* The longer you wait until you begin withdrawals from your IRA and 401(k), the more time you are giving these accounts to potentially grow. (Once you turn 70 1/2, you will need to generally start taking withdrawals from a traditional IRA and a 401(k) or similar plan, but you don't face this requirement with a Roth 401(k) account.)

As an alternative to delaying your retirement — or possibly as an additional step you can take along with a delay — you may be able to adjust your investment mix to provide you with the combination of growth and income that can help carry you through your retirement years. You can also be strategic about which investments you start taking withdrawals from, possibly allowing your portfolio to grow more than you had envisioned.

Start thinking now about ways you can help yourself achieve the retirement lifestyle you've pictured. You may want to consult with a professional financial advisor who can suggest the strategies and techniques most appropriate for your situation. In any case, with some careful planning, you can be a boomer whose retirement plans don't go bust.

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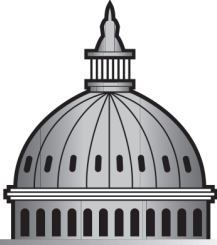
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Better Off Working is Michigan's new mantra for those with disabilities

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley presented the inaugural Better Off Working awards to Meijer and Peckham Industries for their leadership in training, employing and retaining workers with disabilities. The award presentation was part of the release of the innovative Better Off Working report, which details programs that help more people with disabilities tap their potential and

connect to work and provides needed changes in the disability system to encourage employment.

Calley was joined at the event by Michigan Department of Human Services Director Maura Corrigan and members of the Better Off Working workgroup at the Meijer Distribution Center on South Creyts Road in Lansing. The workgroup was created last

year by Director Corrigan after discussions with fellow secretaries, members of the disability community and employers on workplace challenges faced by those with disabilities.

"I commend the work of DHS Director Corrigan and the Better Off Working workgroup. This is a critical issue and we need to continue aggressively looking for employment opportunities for those with disabilities," Calley said. "It is important that we encourage self-determined pathways where all people have the chance to chase their dreams rather than being steered into predetermined outcomes based on labels and diagnosis. I'm proud of our partners, Meijer and Peckham, and their

commitment to helping those with disabilities become valuable members of their workforces."

Meijer Vice President of Distribution Rick Keyes and Peckham Industries President Mitch Tomlinson, along with Peckham-trained Meijer employees, accepted the awards on behalf of their companies.

"We are proud of receiving the inaugural Better Off Working Award," Keyes said. "By focusing on what persons with disabilities can do, rather than what they cannot, we are seeing incredible results at matching team members with the right jobs. We're finding that refining our job matching techniques for persons with disabilities improves morale and can

have tremendous impact on the overall effectiveness of our supply chain operations."

The Better Off Working report was developed by workgroup members representing the Michigan Department of Human Services, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, the Disability Determination Service, The Disability Network and Michigan employers. It focuses on steps to improve the likelihood of success for individuals with disabilities in the workplace. Director Corrigan chaired the effort. After finishing the report, the workgroup believes more strongly than ever that all people, including those with disabilities, are better off working.

"Too few Michiganders with disabilities are working because too often the system gets in the way. This report outlines specific ways we can change that, including removing barriers and deterrents," said Corrigan. "The goal of disability benefits should be to advance employment and entrepreneurial opportunities and help those with disabilities to enter or return to the workforce."

The Better Off Working plan identifies a number of administrative and legislative changes that can be made at the local, state and federal levels to remove barriers, change incentives, improve services and connect more individuals with disabilities to work.

Great Lakes restoration bill gets Senate hearing



Sen. Carl Levin

In July, the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing on the Great Lakes Ecological and Economic Protection Act, which I introduced along with a bipartisan group of eight Senate cosponsors, including Illinois Sen. Mark Kirk, my co-chair on the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, and Michigan's Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

This legislation would help restore and protect the Great Lakes, the largest source of surface freshwater on the planet. It would target the most significant problems facing the Great Lakes and ensure that we implement these projects cost-effectively.

The Great Lakes are one of the world's great treasures, providing drinking water to more than 40 million people; supporting 1.5 million U.S.

jobs and \$62 billion in wages; transporting critical supplies for manufacturing, electricity generation and food for the world; and supporting the region's \$4.6 trillion economy.

The Great Lakes brought industrial and natural resource development to the region, which resulted in tremendous economic development and population growth. This development, however, also resulted in toxic substances polluting the waters and sediments, untreated wastewater threatening public health, and polluted runoff choking habitats and killing aquatic life. The recent toxic algae bloom on Lake Erie that cut off drinking water to a half a million residents is just one example of how much we depend on our lakes.

The Great Lakes Ecological and Economic Protection Act, also known as GLEPPA, would tackle

problems from past pollution and protect the lakes from current and future threats.

GLEPPA would formally authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, an inter-agency program launched by President Obama in 2009 to implement a regional collaboration strategy developed in 2005 through a process established in an executive order by President George W. Bush.

The history of the restoration strategy clearly shows the work of restoring and protecting the Great Lakes is founded on a plan that reflects a broad range of viewpoints and has strong bipartisan support.

GLEPPA would focus federal resources on the areas of highest priority identified in the collaborative plan, which would be further refined as new science and information become available. While the GLRI is broadly authorized in the Clean Water Act, passing this legislation would help ensure the program has clear congressional direction and goals, is results-driven and transparent, and implements the most cost-effective

solutions.

The bill would also formally establish the Great Lakes Advisory Board to provide advice and recommendations concerning restoration and protection. The board would reflect many different viewpoints, including local, state and tribal governments; environmental, agricultural and business organizations; hunters and anglers; and academia.

Finally, the bill would formally establish a 10-member interagency task force to coordinate restoration efforts, ensure projects are not duplicated and that they use existing successful programs. GLEPPA also would accelerate progress toward the goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, a formal agreement between the U.S. and Canadian governments establishing shared goals for protecting and improving water quality of the Great Lakes.

The GLRI has achieved real progress: cleanup of more than 1.3 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment; control of the

destructive sea lamprey and restoration of sturgeon, trout and other important fish species; construction and improvement of barriers to prevent an invasion by destructive Asian carp, and planning for additional measures to keep these fish out of the lakes; protection of tens of thousands of vital habitat acreage; and restoration of thousands of miles of rivers for fish passage. GLEPPA would help ensure that progress continues to be made using a solid framework for achieving measurable and

outcome-based results.

The Great Lakes are precious and irreplaceable. As temporary stewards of this invaluable resource, we must do all we can to restore and protect the Great Lakes for the millions of people who depend on them today and the millions more who will in the future.

I'm glad the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee held an important hearing on this vital legislation, and I'm hopeful it can receive approval from the full committee and move on to a vote in the Senate.

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE

Lowell Township is currently in the process of updating their Master Plan. We would like your input. Please take a moment to visit our website, www.twp.lowell.mi.us, to complete the survey and let us know what you think. The survey will be available on-line until August 30, 2014.

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obituaries

AYRES

Elva Blanche Ayres, age 86, of Lowell, passed away Monday, August 4, 2014, at her home. She was preceded in death by her husband of 40 years, Kenneth L. Ayres. Together they owned and operated the original Lowell Buyers Guide. Elva was predeceased by her parents Clyde and Lillian Ward, three brothers and two sisters. She is survived by her three children; Carol (Robert) Pawlak of Sierra Vista, AZ; Gail (Rick/Paul) Roderick and Gary Ayres of Lowell. Grandchildren: special and devoted granddaughter Emma Roderick of Lowell; Ronald T (Miriam) Raymor and Michael Raymor of Tucson, AZ; Ryan Ayres and Sean Ayres of Forest Hills; and three great-grandchildren all of Tucson, AZ. Elva's family would like to express their deep appreciation to: Terry Abel for his unwavering friendship and support over many years. Ashley Hendrick, Deborah Mason, Lori Bowers and Mari Onan for your love, understanding and tender care of our mother. You made it possible for Mom to finish her life journey in her home. A private memorial service was held by the family. Memorial donations may be made to: Spectrum Health Hospice, 4500 Breton Road S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49508.



CONANT

Carol Conant, age 68, died unexpectedly on July 19, 2014. She led a remarkable life which included being a master gardener, social worker, healer, general "handy man" who worked on many building and renovation projects, a mother, wife, sister, daughter, and grandmother. She had a generous heart and made friends all over. She was preceded in death by her mother, Eva McComb; father, Ronald McComb; and stepmother, Wanda McComb. She is survived by her husband, Donald Conant; son, Jason (Clare); and grandchildren, Carl and Opal. She is also survived by her brothers, Ronald McComb Jr. (Fusako) and Denny McComb (Gini); nieces, Wendi (Don), Lisa (Todd) and Jane; and her nephews, Charles, Chad, and Ryan (Anne). The family invites those who knew Carol to join them for a Hawaiian themed potluck and bonfire from 4-10 pm on Saturday, August 16 at the family farm, 4187 Hilton Ave, Lowell. Memorial donations can be made in her name to: <http://littlefreelibrary.org/give/> or <http://www.pathwaysminneapolis.org/donate/>



ERICKSON

Patsey Lucille Erickson, age 75 of Alto, met her Lord on Saturday, August 9, 2014 at her home surrounded by her family after a courageous battle with cancer. She was preceded in death by her parents, Stanley and Wilma Ford; and brother, Stanley Ford. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Harry Erickson; daughters, Pam (Rick) Price, Barb Erickson, Brenda Erickson; three grandchildren; three great granddaughters; two sisters; two brothers; three brothers-in-law; two sisters-in-law; also many nieces and nephews. She enjoyed being a homemaker, picnics with family and friends, her flower



gardens and hummingbirds. Her grandchildren and great granddaughters were the light of her life. Funeral service was held Wednesday, Aug. 13, 10:30 a.m. at Apostolic Christian Church, 7157 Wingeier Ave., Alto. Visitation Tuesday 5-7:00 p.m. at the Apostolic Hall, 7700 Wingeier Ave., Alto. Memorial contributions may be made to Gilda's Club, 1806 Bridge St., NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504.



JERRILS

Jerrils, Rosemary (DeLoof, Beimers), age 64 of Alto, passed away Monday, August 11, 2014. Wife of Larry, Mother of Bert (Susan) and Joe (Jodi) Beimers. She also leaves her father Adrian (Junior) DeLoof of White Cloud, MI; sister Jane Smith of Wyoming, MI; grandchildren Shad, Hunter and Ivy Beimers and Evan Hutchison; many nieces and nephews and adopted family Randy, Margie, Ocean, Mariah, Noah Moore. She was a hairdresser for 40 years, worked at Lowell Engineering for 5 years, and retired from the USPS after 24 years. The service will be held Thursday 12:00 p.m., with visitation one hour prior, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI 49331. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Ionia, Barry or Kent County Animal Shelter, Mackenzie's Animal Sanctuary or the charity of one's choice.



PALINKAS

Marjorie Ann Palinkas, age 73 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, August 10, 2014, surrounded by her family. She was preceded in death by her husband Joseph and sisters Ladena and Helen. She is survived by her children Sheila Palinkas, Joan Palinkas, Beth (Samuel) Haner, Helen (Kevin) Smith and Joseph (Angela) Palinkas; brothers John (Betsy) Rinard, Roy (Vicki), George, Joe (Diane); grandchildren Amanda, Nicole, Dustin, Peter, Hailie, Melinda, Joey, Jeremy, Hannah, Wyatt, Caroline and Ladena; great granddaughters Hope, Isabella, Lilly; many nieces and nephews; and brother-in-law Del Wade. Marjorie's family would like to thank good friend Colbey Morris and the staff at Metron of Greenville for the loving and wonderful care given to their Mom and Grandma. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered Saturday 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell MI 49331. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation Friday 6-8 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N Hudson, Lowell and one hour prior to the service Saturday at the church. Memorial donations may be made to the Marjorie Palinkas Fund.



PIPES-KOLEDO

Donna K. Pipes-Koledo, age 83 of Gowen, passed away unexpectedly from accidental injuries on Saturday, August 9, 2014. She was preceded in death by husbands Barney Pipes and James Koledo; her parents Fred & Addie Dalstra and brother Edward. She is survived by sisters Jean (Joe) Jordan, Rosie (Paul) Burch; many nieces and nephews and her faithful companion, her dog, Willow. Donna graduated from Lowell High School in 1949. She was very involved with the Kent and Greenville Garden Clubs; regularly visited Judge's

Symposiums; an accredited master judge for both horticulture and design; a life member of the Michigan and National Garden Clubs; past president of the West Michigan Flower Arrangers Guild; a director of the Michigan District IV Flower Show; and Chairman for the Kent Garden Club's 100th Anniversary display at the Grand Rapids Public Museum in 2013. A memorial service will be held at Frederik Meijer Gardens in the Garden room, Friday, August 15th at 2:00 p.m. Donna's family will receive friends at 1:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Frederik Meijer Gardens, 1000 East Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 or the Garden Club of your choice.



STEAKLEY

Ethel May (Hinkle) Steakley, 91, of Morley, passed away on Sunday, August 10, 2014, at her home next to the room where she was born. Her family was at her side. She was born on February 11, 1923 in Morley, Michigan, the daughter of Clarence and Emma (Petersen) Hinkle. As a five-year-old, Ethel quit Kindergarten in Edmore, walked back to her parents' farm and announced, "Can't read, can't write, might as well get married." She learned to read and graduated from Lowell High School and earned her RN from Emmanuel Missionary College at the Hinsdale Sanitarium campus. Following graduation, she moved to California to work at Loma Linda Seventh-day Adventist Hospital. While there she met a sailor, and after a three-month whirlwind romance, married Louis Monroe Steakley on April 13, 1946. Ethel loved nursing. She worked at Blodgett Memorial Hospital on the medical floor for 10 years. Ethel took a break from nursing while her children began their schooling. Eager to get back to her career, she joined the operating room nursing staff at Metropolitan Osteopathic Hospital, where she thrived. Ethel happily worked there until her retirement. Ethel belonged to the Family Community and Education organization since she was in her 20's. She was a member of the Morley Extension, of Red Hatters and of the Attic Diggers. Ethel was a life-long member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She attended the Grand Rapids Central SDA Church. Ethel and Louis recently enjoyed spending time at the Mecosta Senior Center where Ethel was a connoisseur of the handmade cards. She is survived by, Louis, her husband of 68 years; two daughters, Susan Serine Steakley (Nancy Brockway) of Boston, Mass., and Sally (Drew Condon) Steakley-Condon of Lowell; one son, Stephen (Barbara) Steakley of Grand Rapids; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents. Funeral services will be held at 2 pm, Wednesday, August 13, 2014, at Daggett-Gilbert Funeral Home in Big Rapids with Pastor Bob Stewart officiating. Interment will be at Aetna Township Cemetery in Morley. The family will greet friends at the Funeral Home from 5 to 7 pm on Tuesday, August 12th and one hour prior to the service on Wednesday from 1 pm until 2 pm. The family requests memorial contributions be given to the Central Seventh-day Adventist Church School. Share a memory or leave a condolence for the family at www.daggettgilbertfuneralhome.com



ask kathryn



Kathryn Denhouter Ph.D.

OCD, these initials refer to "obsessive compulsive disorder." OCD affects about one to three percent of school-age children and is identified when repeated thoughts and behavioral patterns are distressing and interfere with daily functioning. Individuals that struggle with these unwanted and upsetting thoughts are tortured by them. They have persistent worries and feelings that something is not quite right. These thoughts and behavioral patterns repeat themselves in a fixed and rigid manner.

The symptoms of OCD are: 1.) obsessions which are relentless

and uncontrollable, 2.) compulsions which are repeated and excessive actions that are used to relieve anxiety, 3.) these obsessions and/or compulsions consume an hour or more a day, 4.) they interfere with normal daily life, and 5.) they are very distressing to the sufferer.

What can be done to help the individual with OCD? Here are some suggestions: 1.) Rename the thought, "It's simply OCD, not me." 2.) Insist that you are in charge, not OCD, "I'm in charge, not OCD." 3.) Defy OCD, do the opposite of what it wants, "I will live with the worry and stick it

out." 4.) Enjoy your victory, "I did it once, I can do it again." These four steps spell out "RIDE." These thoughts and behavior patterns can be managed when the sufferer takes charge and learns to control them. This information is taken from the book "Worried No More" by Aureen Pinto Wagner, Ph.D. This is just one of the practical strategies presented in this book.

Please remember that CBT (cognitive behavioral therapy) is also helpful with OCD as well. For sure, OCD is treatable and sufferers can get relief.

Next month, PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) will be discussed. If you have any questions about the article on OCD or any general questions, please email me at kathryndenhouster@gmail.com

Looking Back, continued

and designer of Detroit's 1939 Ideal Home. The masonry of field stone, each piece carefully chosen for its beauty and shape by E. C. Foreman, chairman of the Board of Trade Improvement committee, is superb, truly a memorial for generations to come of the civic mindedness of the people of the community.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 13, 1964

Lowell lights went off Sunday evening when a crop dusting plane near Maple Rapids hit power lines. The plane was not damaged, but lights were out here for 8 minutes. Lowell Light & Power was operating on Wolverine Cooperative power when the wires were hit and no engines were running. Quick action at the power plant had the lights on in only a few minutes.

Several complaints were handled by Lowell Chief of Police Avery Block, over gambling at concessions at the 4-H Fair. One youth complained of losing \$13 while a man reported he dropped \$31 in a ring throwing concession. The police closed one concession before the fair closed on Friday. Other complaints were on drunken help on the rides and dangerous conditions of one ride that fell apart while in motion.

Peggy Covert with her Labrador retriever, Bullets, won the championship ribbon in the children's pet parade at the 4-H fair last week. Peggy is the 11-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Covert [of] Lowell. She has spent a good part of the summer vacation teaching Bullets to pull children in a cart as well as do other tricks. Little Edward Stormzand, jr., shared the limelight by riding in Bullets' cart in the parade.

Lone Oak Langmeadow Beverly, a junior two-year-old registered Guernsey cow, owned by Allen Roth of Lowell, has completed an official [Dairy Herd Improvement for the Registry] DHIR actual production record of 9,530 lbs. of milk and 515 lbs. of butterfat, in 296 days two times a day milking, according to The American Guernsey Cattle Club of Peterborough, New Hampshire. Guernsey milk is world famous for its high protein, delicious flavor and golden yellow color.

Bruce Walter made a fine improvement of Bernie's Barber shop and Betty Ruth's Beauty Shop this week, with the continuation of the colonial-type canopy over the front of the buildings. This addition makes the south side of Main Street much more attractive.

Citizens of Lowell are welcome to make use of the city dump located a short distance southeast of the city off Ware Road. You are urged, however, to respect our neighbors by loading securely so that none of your load can blow off or be lost along the roadway to the dump. The littered condition of this roadway in past years bears testimony that complaints from people living along or using this roadway are well founded. Your cooperation in correcting this situation will be much appreciated by all concerned. It should also be pointed out that littering of roadways is punishable by law.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 16, 1989

Kent County Youth Fair carnival has banner year. Plans for a new fire station pushed Midway to different quarters of the Kent County Youth Fair grounds in 1989. Many thought the upheaval might cause the rides to TILT. Instead, the carnival, run by Leisure Time Amusement Corporation, was taken on a record setting excursion, as numbers were up roughly a third for the entire week. Tuesday was the best single day Leisure Time Corporation has ever had at the Kent County Youth Fair. Why the ride surge in '89? Doug and Bev Clark, owners of Leisure Time Amusement say the nearly perfect weather has a lot to do with it. "Obviously, the weather is a whole lot better. The hot and humid weather of 1988 stayed away," Bev Clark said. "I also think the increased dollars we put into advertising was advantageous."

Kandu, The Magician, from Mukwonago, Wisconsin, spent a week at the Kent County Youth Fair (three shows a day) baffling the minds of young boys and girls with tricks of illusion and sleight-of-hand. While the youngsters had a tough time separating what they thought they saw from what was really happening, they were all smiling and laughing throughout the 20-30 minute magic show. This may sound "whacko" to most magicians, but Kandu focuses more on showing fair crowds a good time than he does on fooling them. "I want them to feel as if they've been entertained first. My main objective is not to fool them," Milwaukee native, Jef (Kandu) Eaton says.

Davis, Lowell artist, has first hometown show. Lowell Area Arts Council played host to 12 vibrant paintings completed by local artist Dave Davis for the Sunday, Aug.

13 showing. The show, entitled "Skyscapes and Roadside Attractions," will be on exhibit at the local gallery at 149 S. Hudson St. through Sept. 10... Davis has been painting for roughly 25 years and during that time has displayed his work in many shows and his paintings in private collections, in West Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Colorado.

kidsView



by Sierra Hieshetter

The Kent County Youth Fair was a big hit this year. Even a downpour on the first fair day did not dampen the mood. This year the animals ranged from poultry to horses and every one of them are judged and/or sold.

The 4-H clubs are a great opportunity for young teens and kids to learn responsibility and respect. But, if raising animals is not your thing, you can also create a piece of artwork or

project with your 4-H group and show it in the exhibit barn.

The fair is not complete, in my opinion, without fair food. Elephant Ears are always a big hit, but what fried food wouldn't be? Kate's pizza was there, as well as St. Patrick's Church concessions. There is nothing like a fair dinner of pizza, french fries and fried dough for dessert.

Finally, what is the fair without the rides? This

year things were moved around to make room for the carnival swings and new fun house, as well as old classics like the Zipper, Tilt-A-Whirl and Ferris Wheel.

Of course we all love the fair, but what about those who aren't Michigan residents? To answer this I asked Jeff Dupey of Breckenridge, CO and he said, "The fair is a fun and interesting slice of Americana."

Yes, the fair was amazing this year and I would like to say I experienced it all...but you can not get me near the Zipper!

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 14-195854-DE

Estate of EUGENE C.
PEARSALL, deceased.
Date of birth:
05/26/1944.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS:
The decedent, Eugene C. Pearsall, deceased, who lived at 1068 Coral St. SW, Jenison, MI 49428, Grand Rapids, Michigan, died 02/15/2014.

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

presented to Kim Roon, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Ste. 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

August 5, 2014

Justin Michael (P34349)
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**THEME:
WORLD CAPITALS**

ACROSS

- 1. TV's Donald Draper, e.g.
- 6. ___ of Good Feelings
- 9. Type of ski lift
- 13. *Yellow cheese eaten in Amsterdam?
- 14. No amount
- 15. *Rome's Colosseum
- 16. *You use it to find your way to world capitals
- 17. Maltese or Havanese, e.g.
- 18. European finch
- 19. Blood infection
- 21. *Plato's home
- 23. "The Joy Luck Club" author
- 24. Sound of bells
- 25. Maple syrup precursor
- 28. Computer application command
- 30. Old material, presented anew
- 35. Blue pencil mark
- 37. "___ of Eden"
- 39. WWII conference site
- 40. ___-a-daisy
- 41. Maneuvers
- 43. Bank claim
- 44. ___ Heap of "David Copperfield"
- 46. Church sanctuary
- 47. *Nobel Peace Prize capital
- 48. Talk rapidly and angrily
- 50. Mr. Potato Head?
- 52. Mai ___
- 53. Duds
- 55. Bad-mouth
- 57. *U2's Bono owns a hotel here
- 60. *Home to many great composers

CROSSWORD														
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AUGUST 31 - AUGUST 12

- Comedian Robin Williams has died of an apparent suicide at the age of 63. Williams suffered from alcoholism and depression for decades. Worldwide condolences have been pouring in to social media sites and makeshift memorials have been popping up at movie sights and his star on Hollywood Boulevard.
- Shammah Hammideh is getting married near Chicago, by her side will be a police officer who saved her life 21 years ago. When she was two months old she stopped breathing and the first emergency worker was Joe Barca, at the time a sergeant in the Yonkers Police Department. So the family invited the officer to be part of her wedding years later.
- A 29-year-old gym teacher was swimming in Izmir on Turkey's west coast when she discovered the body of a two-headed dolphin. It was estimated to be about a year old. The animal was brought to a university to be studied.



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- 63. Conical tent
- 64. Gone by
- 66. Chinese weight units
- 68. Keyboard key
- 69. Make a seam
- 70. Clear the blackboard
- 71. Above

- 72. "For ___ a jolly..."
- 73. Move a plant

DOWN

- 1. ___ Khan
- 2. Chewy treats
- 3. Drug smuggler
- 4. Make fit for
- 5. *Capital of Bahamas
- 6. "___ of the earth"
- 7. Spanish river
- 8. Pond buildup
- 9. Genealogist's creation
- 10. *De facto capital of Switzerland
- 11. Anisette, for short
- 12. Campaigned
- 15. Olsen or Judd, e.g.
- 20. ___ circle
- 22. Feather glue
- 24. Has
- 25. **"Gangnam Style" capital
- 26. Love intensely
- 27. Ubiquitous ground songbird
- 29. Slap on
- 31. Sainly glow
- 32. CrÈme de la crÈme
- 33. Inscribed pillar
- 34. *Capital of Vietnam
- 36. Russian autocrat
- 38. Not permanent
- 42. *Riyadh is the capital of ___ Arabia
- 45. *His bunker was in Berlin
- 49. Hawaiian dish
- 51. Dr. Atkins' follower, e.g.
- 54. Grind teeth
- 56. Animal catcher
- 57. Fender blemish
- 58. As far as
- 59. Car onomatopoeia
- 60. Wedding day promises
- 61. ___ tide
- 62. Additionally
- 63. *They drink a lot of it in London
- 65. Wow!
- 67. Exercise group

Puzzle solutions, page 10

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Stabenow and Levin announce funding for university program to study Great Lakes ecosystem

Sens. Debbie Stabenow, vice chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, and Carl Levin, chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, announced today a \$101,000 grant for the Lake Michigan & Lake Huron Long-term Ecological Research Program through the University of Michigan's Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystems Research. The University of Michigan received this award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory and will use it to study how our Great Lakes ecosystem can be preserved.

"The Great Lakes are critical to Michigan's economy and our way of life," said Stabenow. "This grant will help University of Michigan researchers better understand how the Great Lakes respond to changing environmental conditions

and help preserve our Lakes for future generations."

"Stewardship of our precious Great Lakes begins with understanding how best to protect them," said Levin. "This important federal support will help us understand what's happening in the Lakes and how we can ensure that they remain an important part of our economy and our quality of life for generations to come."

The 2014 Monitoring Activities for the Lake Michigan & Lake Huron Long-term Ecological Research Program collects data and conducts research to analyze how the Great Lakes ecosystem manages

water quality, fisheries, and other services in the Lakes.

University of Michigan's Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystems Research and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory aim

to preserve and enhance the quality of the Great Lakes ecosystem and make sure the Lakes remain healthy for years to come.

college news

Ferris State University and Kendall College of Art and Design have announced the graduation list for the semester ending May 2014. The following are local graduates, their degrees, majors and honors:

Ada: Emily Ciosek, Bachelor of Fine Arts, medical illustration; Stephanie Facer, Bachelor of Fine Arts, photography; Alec Bobko, Associate in Applied Science, architectural technology; and Justin Holmes, Bachelor of Science, HVACR engineer tech. and energy, cum laude; Alto: Bradly Freiberg, Associate in Applied Science, welding technology; Ryan Donohue, Associate in Arts, pre-criminal justice

and Bachelor of Science, criminal justice – generalist; Kristin Nagy, Bachelor of Science, nuclear medicine technology, cum laude; and Andrew Silverman, Bachelor of Science, welding engineering; Lowell: Courtney Phenix, Bachelor of Science, nuclear medicine technology, cum laude; Matthew Haan, Associate in Applied Science, CAD drafting/tool design tech., summa cum laude; Maxwell Stormzand, Bachelor of Science, construction management; Philip Gerhardt, Bachelor of Science, criminal justice – law, magna cum laude; Anthony Everitt, Bachelor of Applied Science, digital media software engineer;

Devin DeCator, Doctor of Pharmacy, pharmacy; Blythe Carvajal, certificate, culinary management; Mitchell Mcrae, Bachelor of Science, criminal justice – law, cum laude; Devon Chopp, Bachelor of Science, computer info. technology; Delos Rockwell, Associate in Applied Science, plastics/polymer eng. tech.; Courtney Wierzbicki, Bachelor of Fine Arts, interior design; Kathleen Billock, Bachelor of Science, energy systems engineering; Chelsey Treglia, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, nursing – B.S.N.; Jacob McVey, Bachelor of Fine Arts, digital media; and Kara Rasch, Bachelor of Science, nuclear medicine technology.

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