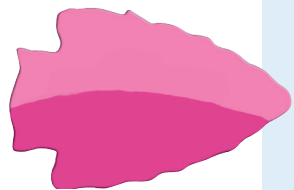


STORIES OF perseverance

pages 7-10



fishing derby



page 15

Spirited young mother succumbs to rare illness

by Jeanne Boss

Shelby Offrink died Sunday, June 28, 2015. She was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer in 2014.

She leaves behind her husband Ben and their daughters Maeve (4) and Hazel (18 mo.).

At the Ledger, we all stopped and had to catch our breath. Our hearts were instantly, collectively heavy.

She grew up in Lowell and many in the community knew her personally. The

rest of us learned of this lovely spirit through stories told by those who knew her best.

The Lowell community had embraced this young woman and will surely be there for her family.

A donation site, YouCaring.com has been set up to help with medical expenses. Ben Offrink continues to fight for his health.

Shelby Offrink's story of "perseverance" from last summer has been reprinted in part, on page 6. The piece offers a small window into her soul clearly filled with strength, love, humor and hope.



Shelby and Ben Offrink with daughters Hazel and Maeve.

Hudson Street bridge project completed earlier than expected

by Tim McAllister contributing reporter

In a lovely surprise for the citizens of Lowell, the Hudson St. bridge resurfacing project was completed two weeks early.

"Our contractor, C.A. Hull, Inc., completed the project two weeks early due to a combination of hard work, planning, proper execution and a little bit of good luck with the weather," said Mike TenBrock, project engineer for the Kent County Road Commission. "We are pleased with the results of the project and expect that our investment in this bridge project will pay dividends to the traveling public in terms of prolonged service life and future savings with maintenance costs."

"We appreciated working with the Kent County Road Commission and their efforts to minimize

the impact on traffic and pedestrians in our community," said Lowell city manager Mark Howe.

The project was originally scheduled to last from May 18 until Thursday, July 2. Traffic detours around the area caused delays and headaches for local residents. It didn't cost local taxpayers a dime, though.

"The project's total cost is \$335,000," said Tom Byle, assistant director of engineering for the Kent County Road Commission. "95 percent of the project is being funded by federal highway dollars allocated for bridges and five percent of the funding is from Kent County Road Commission."

The new surface is designed to last a couple decades.

"The bridge is being resurfaced with a silica fumed concrete overlay," Byle said. "Silica fumed concrete overlay has become an industry standard for bridge deck concrete overlays. We project the new surface

to last between 15 and 20 years. A similar repair was done on the bridge in 1989. It [was] a multi-faceted project that includes milling the top bridge deck surface and removing underlying deteriorated concrete with pressurized water, repairing

and replacing any corroded steel reinforcement and then pouring the new concrete overlay. After the concrete surface is poured it will be covered and the surface water cured for seven days. Then new bridge expansion joints will be installed."

Worker killed in accident at King Milling

by Tim McAllister contributing reporter

A man was killed while working at King Milling, 115 S. Broadway St., on Saturday, June 27. Jared Looyenga, 30, was power washing the large silos when he broke a power line and plummeted to his death around 11 am.

"Apparently while the gentleman was up there the boom came in contact with the primary wire," said Lowell Police detective Scot VanSolkema. "[This] energized the [lift]. A Timpson Transport driver, that was delivering for the mill, saw the arc and the spark and heard the pop and hollered up to him. [He] said, 'Hey, don't move, don't get out of there. Do you need help?' The guy was like, 'Yeah, call for help.' Eventually the lift caught on fire. He got out of the bucket and was on the silo and the fire department was hollering to him, 'Don't move, stay still.' They had just gotten the thing de-energized, so they had to be

safe and make sure the thing was de-energized. They had people geared up and ready to go up the back way to go up on top of the silo. And he evidently lost his grip or something and he slipped

and he fell off. He was electrocuted but he also fell off. We don't know exactly how he died, but when he

King Milling accident, continued, page 3



Smoke billowed from King Milling as rescuers arrived. Photo by Kathryn Atwood

Search is on for the state's biggest trees

ReLeaf Michigan is again challenging the public to find Michigan's largest living trees through its "Big Tree Hunt" contest.

The entry deadline is August 1.

The contest was created to help tree experts identify the biggest trees in Michigan while raising awareness of the state's larger trees among the public. The state's largest trees can be found anywhere — a backyard, a local park, hiking trails or other site.

The Big Tree Hunt is a great way for all age groups to participate in tracking these vital historical living landmarks said Melinda Jones, executive director of the nonprofit organization.

ReLeaf Michigan certificates and prizes are awarded for the largest tree submitted from each county, for different age groups and for potential state champion trees.

Big trees, continued, page 12

50 CENTS





along main street

Use caution when using fireworks over the holiday weekend

Warm weather and family gatherings can make the Fourth of July a fun time with great memories. But before you celebrate, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is asking residents and visitors to make sure they understand the importance of fireworks and campfire safety.

“You can have fun while celebrating with friends and family, even if you’re being safe and making sure your property and our natural resources are protected. The best way to avoid the risk of starting a wildfire this holiday weekend is to attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals.”

“With folks filling state parks, campgrounds and backyards to celebrate the Fourth of July, it’s vital that precautions are taken prior to lighting campfires and setting off fireworks,” said Dan Laux, DNR fire prevention specialist.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that local fire departments respond to an average of 19,700 fires caused by fireworks each year.

For those planning to use fireworks, the DNR suggests keeping these safety tips in mind:

- Sparklers can reach 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit — hot enough to melt gold. Always place sparklers in a bucket of water when they have gone out; when thrown on the ground, they can cause grass fires.
- Point fireworks away from homes and keep them away from brush, grass and leaves.
- Chinese lanterns can stay airborne for 20 minutes and reach heights up to 1 mile high before coming down in unplanned locations. The open flame has the potential to start fires.
- Soak all fireworks in water before throwing them in the trash. Laux said that in addition to fireworks safety, people should keep the following things in mind when enjoying their campfires:
- Use fire rings in nonflammable areas when possible.
- Never leave a campfire unattended.
- Keep a water source and shovel nearby.
- Place roasting sticks in a bucket of water when not in use.
- Completely extinguish fires before turning in for the night. Douse with water, stir and douse again to make sure no embers are left.

For more fire prevention information and safety tips, visit www.michigan.gov/preventwildfires

GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

Coconut Oil Sugar Scrub Workshop – Tues., July 7, 3-4 pm. Please join Alexis Cornwall, program intern, for this workshop which will consist of creating a mixture of coconut oil, sugar and member’s choice of one of two optional scents. Each participant will be able to take a jar of the scrub home. Please register in advance.

New Member Meeting – Tues., July 7, 6-7 pm. Join us at the clubhouse to learn about our programs and become a member. Please register in advance.

Breast Cancer Support Group – Tues., July 7, 6-7:30 pm. A monthly support group for those diagnosed with breast cancer to learn and share together. We will meet the first Tuesday of every month.

Family Workshop – Tues., July 7, 6-7:30 pm. Kids in the youth program, grab your adults and join your friends from Gilda’s Club Lowell for our monthly Family Night!

Have A Great Day: Live positively - Adult Workshop – Tues., July 7, 6-7:30 pm. Join Chaplain Carol Flietstra for this fun and practical presentation that explores how to maintain a positive outlook on life.

Lowell Clubhouse, 314 S. Hudson St. For more information call 897-8600 or visit www.gildasclubgr.org/pinkarrow

FREE ART CLASSES

Free Youth Art Classes for students ages 7 to 12. Exploring Africa with Art. Learn how to create colorful depictions of African scenes using cut-paper. Work with Nancy Clouse, artist and illustrator of the children’s book “Sebugugugu The Glutton.” Openings in the following sessions: June 30 from 2-3 pm, July 28 from 1-2 pm and 2-3 pm. Also, watch and participate in a drumming demonstration with a guest musician, Josh Dunigan. Exploring Africa with Art! Free Youth Art Classes for students ages 7 to 12. Openings in the following session: July 28 from 2-3 pm. Registration is required for both classes. Register on-line at www.lowellartsmi.org. Or, contact LowellArts! at 897-8545 or email info@lowellartsmi.org

SUMMER YOUTH THEATER

Shakespeare in the Park, Twelfth Night - for ages 7-18. Aug. 1, Aug. 10-13 and Aug. 17-20 from 6-7:30 pm at Fallasburg Park. To register or for more info visit www.lowellartsmi.org or call 897-8545.

COVERED BRIDGE BIKE TOUR

The Fallasburg Historical Society presents the 21st annual Covered Bridge Bike Tour on Sunday, July 12. Pedal through the beautiful countryside at your own pace. All well-marked routes from 12 to 100 miles begin and end in the historic village of Fallasburg, north of Lowell. Register in advance online at www.fallasburg.org or on site at the Schoolhouse Museum from 7-9 am the day of the event. Registration fee is \$25 for individuals and \$35 for families registered before July 6; \$30 for individuals and \$40 for families registered after July 7. All proceeds benefit the continued preservation of Historic Fallasburg Village. For more information or to volunteer call 616-682-0785 or email: kentamke@comcast.net

Oak Meadow
TREE SERVICE INC.

Complete Tree Care
- Pruning & Tree Removal
- Storm Damage Cleanup
- Stump Grinding
- Fully Insured

Call Today!
616-890-2348

MILITARY DISCOUNT

MEMBER TCIA (TREE CARE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION)

MEMBER ISA (INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURISTS)

PROVIDING SOLUTIONS AND RESTORING HOPE

DAVIS LEGAL ADVOCATES
EFFECTIVE LEGAL SERVICES
Right Here in Lowell & Alto

• Debt Management
• Bankruptcy
• Estate Planning & Administration
• Family Law
• Criminal Defense
• Personal Injury
• Financial Coaching

BE STRONG WHEN YOU ARE WEAK. BE BRAVE WHEN YOU ARE SCARED. BE HUMBLE WHEN YOU ARE VICTORIOUS.

mydavislegal@gmail.com
616.745.0406

BIRD BERRY FARM

Strawberries

Mon.-Fri. 8 am - 7 pm
Sat. 8 am - 4 pm
Sun. 10 am - 4 pm

5256 Belding Rd. Belding, MI
616-794-5041

Reservations are made to ensure the highest quality of produce.

BETTER HEALTH STARTS HERE AT FAMILY DENTISTRY OF LOWELL

As dentists, we know that oral health is the key to better health, and it all starts here at Family Dentistry of Lowell.

We provide the traditional dental services you would expect plus the health care extras that set us apart, such as blood pressure screenings and nutritional counseling.

We even make customized sleep appliances that help reduce snoring.

Experience better health through dentistry.

Family Dentistry of Lowell
147 NORTH CENTER STREET, LOWELL
616-897-4835
WWW.FAMILYDENTISTRYOFLOWELL.COM

JENNIFER BYRD, D.D.S. | ANN WILSON, D.D.S.

WE ACCEPT

Phone Orders Welcome
Buyers Guide 887-8555

the lowell ledger

(USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$2500 a year for zip codes beginning with 495 or 496 \$3600 a year any other zip code.

Deadlines for display advertising is Friday at Noon
Deadlines for classified advertising is Monday at 5 pm

Jon Jacobs Publisher
Jeanne Boss Editor
Tim McAllister Contributing Reporter
Kathryn Atwood Contributing Reporter
Tommy Janowiak Classified/Accounting
Jon Jacobs Advertising Sales

(616) 897-9261

Email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
The Lowell Ledger
PO Box 128 - Lowell, MI 49331

King Milling accident, continued

was up on the silo he was alive. He was moving.”

The man was not a King Milling employee.

“King Milling had contracted with Bosveld Construction, a company that’s done quite a bit of work with them throughout their time here, so they asked them, ‘We have some work for you. Do you have anybody that could power wash the roofs of the silos?’ So [Bosveld Construction] sent some people out here,” VanSolkema said. “They’ve been doing it this whole week and they were just going to finish up today. They had about half a day of work left to finish up.”

The disaster caused a power outage, a fire and required some special cleanup.

“There are batteries and oil and diesel fuel and everything in that machine,”

VanSolkema said. “Because it caught on fire it leaked out a lot of stuff, so we have Young’s Environmental Cleanup picking stuff up. They’re cleaning up the scene so all the debris and that stuff doesn’t go down the storm sewer. The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration is here and then we also have to figure out how to take this [lift] down, because right now it’s still resting against the primary line. It’s de-energized and that’s why half the city is without power. It’s extremely burned up, it’s not like they can just use the levers and manual [controls]. They’ve got some people trying to figure out the schematics on how to work it, possibly manually.”

Looyenga was married and the father of three.



The fire-damaged lift and bottom left, hours after the accident the equipment was still in place with a cut power line swinging next to it. Photos by Tim McAllister



We want to be your Other Family Doctor.

- Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day
- Evenings & Saturday Hours Available
- Early Drop-offs & House Calls
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Science Diet Pet Foods
- Boarding & Grooming

Call 897-8484
11610 East Fulton Street • Lowell, Michigan

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL

FREE Outdoor Summer Concert Series
Presented By LowellArts! and Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

Thursdays at 7pm
Through August 20

Lowell Showboat
Sizzlin' Summer Concerts

Thursday July 9, 7pm
The Bronk Bros.
Country Rock

Combines impressive vocals, remarkable guitar playing, rocking harmonica, and crowd engaging stage energy

lowellartsmi.org
discoverlowell.org

By the Lowell Showboat on Riverwalk Plaza in Downtown Lowell

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. Family Event! Activities for children during concerts.

Huntington
Lowell DDA
OUR COMMUNITY

LOW COST SPAY & NEUTER

No restrictions. Available for everyone. Also vaccinations, tests and parasite control

Call 897-8865
www.spayneuterexpress.com

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The offices of Lowell City Hall, Lowell Police, Light and Power and the Department of Public Works will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2015 in observance of Independence Day.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

the lowell ledger

Subscribe TODAY!
616.897.9261

business directory

TO ADVERTISE IN THE LEDGER

BUSINESS DIRECTORY Call 897-9261

FRY DADDY'S
608 West Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331
897-FISH
Four Seasons Whole Prawn - Chicken Gumbo
DAILY SPECIALS
Open Monday - Saturday
Sunday 3-4
Best Fish In Town!!!



Rich's Service Co.
In-Home Appliance Repair
Dryer Vent Cleaning
INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS
GATEWAY DISPOSALS • STOVES • DISHWASHERS
209 E. Main St. **RICH CURTIS**
Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686



KIRK COLLINS
Owner
Showboat
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.
Auto Value
1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI
(616) 897-9231
Hours: Mon - Fri 8-7; Sat 8-5:30; Sun 9-3



THE LAURELS OF KENT
A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
• Rehab Services • Respite Stays
• Long Term Care • Palliative Care
Able to admit 24/7
350 North Center Street
Lowell, Michigan
616-897-8473 or 616.292.1031
www.laurelsokent.com

BILL WHEELER
Certified Public Accountant
W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN
103 Riverside Dr.
Lowell, Michigan 49331
616-897-7711



Arctic Inc.
Heating & Cooling
897-4123
• Heating & air conditioning • Heat pump systems & maintenance
• Gas furnace systems • Radiant floor heat • Base unit systems
• Whole house generators • Duct work • Humidifiers
Free, honest and knowledgeable estimates, financing
www.arcticheating.com



Edman Landscape Construction
Hard Scapes • Brick Patios • Boulder Walls • Retaining Walls • Decks • Fences • Tractor Services • Bark • Mulch
Jed Edman, owner
Lowell
616-892-2982
jed@edmanlandscapenow.com



LAMPLIGHT GRILL
Steak Burgers
DOWNTOWN IONIA
lamplightionia.com
523-2233



caverlyappliance.com
TO THE RESCUE!
CAVERLY REPAIR
Appliance Repair Specialist
616.916.6477
Steve Caverly
steve@caverlyappliance.com



Check us out online ...
Find us on Facebook
thelowelledger.com

Indie folk rocks the Riverwalk

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

LowellArts! and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce presented the third installment of the 2015 Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Concert series last Thursday featuring popular indie folk rock group The Crane Wives.

Veterans of the Lowell stage, The Crane Wives were part of the 2012 summer concert series and stepped in at the last minute to fill an unexpected gap in this year's lineup. According to LowellArts! executive director Lorain Smalligan, "When we needed to find a replacement for 'Steppin' In It' we decided to see if they were available and we were thrilled that they could make the date. We are also grateful that 'Steppin' In It' will be honoring their contract by playing next summer."

The Crane Wives quartet features lead vocalists and instrumentalists Kate Pillsbury and Emilee Petersmark whose artfully written original songs and heartfelt lyricism are brought to life on stage along with bassist Ben Zito and percussionist/vocalist Dan Rickabus. The band, created and based out of Grand Rapids, is currently touring the country promoting their third album due out this August.



Their engaging performance featured a combination of soft acoustic ballads and energy fueled electric beats that created an eclectic and fun mixture of musicianship and showmanship for those in attendance. "I know the crowd would have been much larger if the sun was out," said Smalligan of the evening's event. "The Crane Wives are very popular and have a great following. It is so much fun to watch the kids dancing and this group really encourages people to dance."

This Thursday's concert will feature the soulful and upbeat sounds of the Big Band era as the eight piece River City Jazz Ensemble makes their way to the Showboat stage, led by David Wells on the trombone and Kathy Wagner on vocals.

The weekly concert series features free entry and parking. Both lawn and bleacher seating are available. Food, family fun and adult spirits are available on site.

LPD reports arrests made in connection to vehicle larcenies

The Lowell Police Department is reporting that during the early

month of June 2015 the department responded to a series (seven) motor vehicle

larcenies within the city. Items taken from vehicles included money, tobacco, electronics, and other items left in the vehicle. During one incident, a vehicle was taken and brought back by the suspects. All larcenies involved vehicles that were parked in driveways or parking lots, left unlocked and unattended.

Several tips were received from citizens and were followed up by officers. Some of the items taken were recovered. The suspects involved are Casey HeyKoop from Lowell, Timothy Petraro from the state of Georgia and an 18-year-old male from Lowell awaiting charges. All suspects have been arrested and lodged on charges of auto theft and or felony larceny.

The suspect from Georgia was arrested at the Greyhound Bus depot in Grand Rapids as he was trying to leave the state.

Other persons of interest are still being investigated with charges pending.



Family Dentistry Since 1994

- ▶ Gentle Dentistry for Children & Adults
- ▶ Immediate Emergency Treatment
- ▶ Cosmetic Dentistry, Teeth Whitening
- ▶ Preventive Care
- ▶ Extractions/Broken Tooth Repaired
- ▶ Dentures (Same Day Repair)
- ▶ Implants
- ▶ Insurance Plans Accepted

Accepting New Patients

"Gentle & Painless Dentistry Is Our Goal"

Hours:
Monday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Judd T. Carroll D.M.D.
103 East Main • Lowell, Michigan
(616) 897-7595
www.juddcarrolldentistry.com

viewpoint

to the editor

put excuses aside

It was expressed a year ago this June that the majority of comments indicated that the community feels the showboat is an important part of our identity and needs to have a fiscal presence on the Riverwalk. I believe those comments came from a small fraction of the community and are misleading.

There are some that want to spend approximately two million dollars on a project to build a permanent

structure that resembles a showboat including bleachers and a new stage. I believe the showboat lost its usefulness many years ago when it stopped going down the river. A fake showboat would be a poor excuse for what the original once was. A fake showboat is just another cockamamie idea to bring people downtown. For 22 years an emphasis has been put on the downtown area, now it's time to put the emphasis on Lowell's

real needs. The showboat is a want, not a need and the city has too many needs to contend with. A Re-float the Lowell Showboat campaign raised enough money to build a new showboat in 1979. If there is a decision to build a fake showboat along with a new stage and bleachers it all should be financed with private donations. Not one cent should come from the DDA or the general fund.

It was noted in May that the Donna Drive resurfacing project ended up being fully funded by a Community Development Block Grant program. If that's true, then

the city still has the funding allocated for that project.

What better place to spend the road funds than on the part of North Washington St. that runs alongside Oakwood cemetery? The condition of the street was described as a disgrace to the city of Lowell. I happen to agree and I bet many more had the same impression when they attended the Memorial Day services at Oakwood Cemetery. There's plenty of time to do the road this year, all they have to do is put their excuses aside.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard
Lowell

heartless drivers

Headline, June 27th 1940, Turtles being ran over by cruel and heartless drivers.

75 years later we still have no shortage for cruel and heartless drivers. Earlier this month two large snapping turtles were ran over near

Alto along with young Canadian geese and blue heron. I cannot understand what pleasure a person can get from this cruel and senseless act.

Tom Vaughan
Alto

enjoying lowell

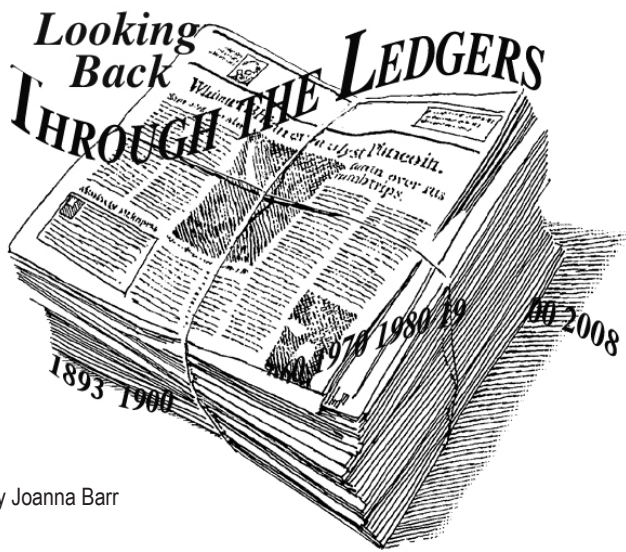
Dear Editor,
As a transplant to Lowell, I have lived here just a few years.

I have enjoyed learning about the growth and changes in the community, the Showboat's history and

the anecdotes people have shared.

It's a joy to have the support and love of friends at work, church and service organizations in Lowell.

Karen Noreen
Lowell



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal July 2, 1890

Boys, there is a \$5 fine attached to the killing of any of our songbirds, so be sure you don't make a mistake when you are after sparrows.

G. J. Johnson, our cigar manufacturer, cannot take part in our Industrial Parade the 4th, because the Collector for this District will not grant him permission to make cigars in any other place but his shop.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 1, 1915

W. V. Burras entertained eighteen boys of his Sunday school class last Friday night and Saturday with a fishing trip to Pine Island lake.

Storey received nine Ford touring cars last week and has another car load coming this week. Can fill orders now and guarantee rebate of \$50 in August. Phone 269. adv.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 4, 1940

Headline: Old school building to house factory. The village council voted Monday night to furnish the labor to wire the old West Ward school for the Newell Mfg. Company. The building is owned by the Board of Trade which is furnishing a portion of the materials used in wiring the building. The Newell Company manufacture automatic door closers. The council also voted to light

parking space behind the London block and at the west side of the Lowell Manufacturing Company.

Monday was the opening day for the collection of 1940 taxes for the village of Lowell and treasurer Elmer S. White reports that he put in a busy day writing out tax receipts. Our taxpayers seem to be in a good frame of mind this year and well they may as the saving is approximately \$6 on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation as compared with last year. The 1939 tax roll called for \$13,344 while the 1940 tax roll calls for only \$7,749.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger July 1, 1965

Headline: Gerald Ford to give Independence Day address at Fallasburg Park. Congressman Gerald R. Ford, Congressional minority leader, will deliver a major Independence Day address at Kent County's Fallasburg Park, on Monday, July 5th. Mr. Ford will be speaking on the central theme of "Our American Heritage" as he addresses constituents of Kent and Ionia counties, whom he represents in Congress. This will also be a homecoming event for Congressman Ford. As a young man, he attended ceremonies dedicating Fallasburg Park in 1929. The park is named for the pioneer Fallas family, and a portion of Mr. Ford's remarks will be concerning the current project of the West Central Michigan Historical Society in restoring the nearby pioneer village of Fallasburg.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 4, 1990

Headline: WMU's Dr. Sundick and students identify skull, bone and fragments as Native Americans. The skull, bones and fragments found by city officials while working on Riverside Drive on Monday, April 16, have been identified and are believed to be those of a minimum of six early, 19th century Native Americans, according to Dr. Robert Sundick of Western Michigan University, who is a professor there and chairman of the anthropology department. Two of the individuals were adults, two were teenagers between the ages of 14 and 18 and the other two were very young children, one under the age of two and the other between two and four. The remains were first discovered by city officials who were putting in a water main and fire hydrant.

outdoors

be prepared

Dave Stegehuis

We live in a culture where we are protected from harm and discomfort by government regulations, technology, and punitive litigation. As such, it is easy to become complacent and assume someone else is responsible for our wellbeing.

When we leave our paved over climate controlled world for the solitude of nature, the game changes. Out there Mother Nature makes the rules and administers the enforcement, so you are on your own. Learning the rules and being prepared to follow them will make your connection with nature an enjoyable and life affirming experience.

The Boy Scout motto of Be Prepared is good advice for those heading for the outback. Being prepared and a good measure of common sense will help make outdoor adventures safe as well as enjoyable.

Being prepared involves learning about environmental conditions in the area to be visited. Weather, topography, plants, and wildlife directly affect human visitors.

Weather has a significant influence on the outdoor experience. One can look to forecasts when making clothing and shelter choices. Nothing spoils an outing more than being cold, wet or both. Modern fabrics have made staying comfortable under a variety of conditions much easier. In clear weather, sun protection will prevent painful and dangerous burning.

Insects are a major threat to having a good time outdoors. Outdoor recreation in Michigan is relatively trouble free due to the scarcity of large dangerous predators, severe weather, and poisonous snakes. About the only fly in the ointment (no pun intended) are plentiful biting insects at certain times of the year. A little research will turn up effective repellents and clothing options to keep the bugs at bay.

Water safety is a priority when on or around our lakes and streams. This includes knowledge of proper operation of watercraft. Any type of vehicle poses a hazard when traveling on or off road. Care must be taken to avoid falls which could cause breaks and sprains. Sharp tools like knives and axes must be handled with care. Mishaps are more serious when they occur far from needed assistance.

There is still enough wilderness left for one to get lost or at least turned around enough to be scary or inconvenient. A map and compass are essential in unfamiliar areas. Hand held GPS units make navigation easy, but batteries fail so a magnetic compass and knowing how to use it is cheap insurance.

Spending time in the natural world reminds us of what life is really all about. To do so, we can become part of nature as self-sufficient and confident members of the eco-system by being prepared.



At Your Local Library

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

Cupcake Wars - "Cupcake Wars!" Our panel of experts will crown the victor of KDL's Cupcake Wars, but everyone wins when there's cupcakes to eat! Wednesday, July 15, 1 pm.

happy birthday!

JULY 1
Brandon Hewitt, Dylan Borton, Amy Markel.

JULY 2
Bradley Ball, Marilyn Sauber, Brandon Lee, Logan Brenk, Landon Trierweiler, Ryan Lynne Roth, Mary Jo Buechler, Calihan Janowiak.

JULY 3
Alice Ryder, Jamie Capen, Maxin Ligman, Janet Bieri.

JULY 4
Barb Austin, Zachary Rhodes, Tara Sherman, Dan DeHaan.

JULY 5
Dave Burdette, Jacob Hiskey, Randi Ellis, Brennan Page, Devinne Ossewaarde, Bob Canfield, Dee Doyle, Junie Hoag, Kylei Mae Nearing.

JULY 6
Marty DeYoung, Jason Barber, Amy Stencil, Darrel Hesche, Chris Page, Ed Walling, Jan Bieri.

JULY 7
Phil VanLaan, Elizabeth Gerard, Tim Tulppo, Zach Meiste, Wayne Racine, Brice Wingerter.

Hikes with Tom Funke - Join uber-hiker Tom Funke, author of 50 Hikes in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, as he shares stories and hiking tips about the places he's visited. Monday, July 20, 6:30 pm.

The Porters in Concert - Come swing and dance to the toe-tappin' sounds of The Porters, a four-piece band that will captivate and entertain even the youngest audience. For families. Thursday, July 23, 10 am.

How to Draw Manga - Instructors from Kendall College of Art & Design will teach you the ins and outs of character design and illustration in the distinctive

style of Japanese animation and manga. Pre-registration is required and participant spots are limited. Tuesday, July 28, 1 pm.

Hooper Heroes - Grab your magical lasso and learn how to hoop! Audacious Hoops will teach you basic hooping techniques for both fun and fitness. For families. Thursday, July 9, 10 am.

Sweet! Cake Decorating for Teens - Learn some tips and tricks for decorating cakes, cookies and other sweet treats. Hands-on fun included. Pre-registration is required and participant spots are limited. Tuesday, July 14, 1 pm.

Shelby Offrink's story of perseverance

[reprinted in part, from July, 23 2014]

"Years ago when the Pink Arrow Pride was first started in Lowell, I remember proudly telling people what a difference my community was making. Again, when it was featured on the TODAY show (come on, Matt Lauer is a big deal), I shared with non-"Lowellians" how great we were. I never thought that I would someday be a beneficiary of the generous donations of our community. That changed on February 27th of this year. My doctor said those three words no one wants to hear: "you have cancer." Say what? Oh, and not only is it cancer, but it's stage 4, it's a glioblastoma metaforme, it's incurable, super rare, in your spinal cord, poor prognosis cancer. Awesome. Any questions? And that is how my cancer journey started. ...

...A lot goes through your head when someone tells you, you might have cancer... "What? Yeah right. Who should I call? How do they know? This can't be right. What's for dinner? (just kidding) How far along is it? Am I going to die? Why me? They could be wrong, etc." You don't get answers to a lot of the questions. ...

You're probably thinking... Okay great, where is she going with all of this? Who cares? This is just another cancer story... But the point of this is that this might seem like a sad story, but I am so lucky in so many ways... I have the best husband anyone in the world could imagine. He is an amazing man and has been through two battles with Hodgkin's lymphoma himself earlier in his life. I have seen my community, family, friends and employer support my family and I in ways I could never have thought of. I have been able to re-prioritize my life and focus on the important things. I am able to better appreciate every day and spend more time on the "little things." Strangers and people who barely know me have picked me up when things have gotten tough. And it has re-emphasized the generosity of the community of Lowell and the Pink Arrow Pride. How lucky am I to be a part of this amazing community?

We were supposed to live happily ever after and while it is not the happily ever after I had imagined, I am very thankful for the life I am living and for every moment I have with my family and friends. I wanted to use this forum to say thank you to everyone who is helping us on this unexpected path and for taking care of my family when I am not able to. I can't express how appreciative I am.

Thank you, thank you, thank you,
Shelby Offrink



FOOD FIGHT SPECIAL!
\$1.00 BAG SALE!

Shop in Treasures Thrift Shop's courtyard and fill a provided bag for only \$1.00!

Thursday, July 9, 10AM -2PM

Rain or shine!



FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES

11535 E. Fulton • Lowell

Rasch Farm Market
2730 Alden North NE

BLACK SWEET CHERRIES
RASPBERRIES

OPEN AT 9 AM - Ready-picked only

LAST WEEK FOR STRAWBERRIES

616.897.8212

college news

Haley Brennan of Ada has graduated from Boston College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the university's Robert J. Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences.

Robert Nichols, Emilyn Dec, Jonathan Fox, Meghan Williams, Zachary Crawford, Jessica Graves, Matthew Haan, Alexander Tobin, William Athmann, and Alexander Bliss.

Western Michigan University has announced the spring 2015 dean's list.

To be eligible for the dean's list, students must have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average (on a scale of 4.0 being all As) in at least 12 hours of graded class work.

Local students are, Ada: Avery Snyder, Christian Knape, Sarah Suchodolski, Lauren Donahue, Cassandra Hartline, Anna Mainero, Elizabeth VanHaren, and Bethany Bartlett; Alto: Kelsey Haverkamp, Rachel VanBeek, and Karen Sweatt; Lowell: Elena McKendrick,

Michigan Technological University has released the dean's list for the 2015 spring semester. To be included, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Asterisks indicate those earning straight-A averages of 4.0.

Among the honorees are the following from the local area, Ada: Kailey Feuerstein, *Laura Rudy, Nicholas Toomey, and Anna Waller; Alto: Randal Brinks, Daniel Ellis, and Theodor Smith; Lowell: Isobel Alberts, Derek Chopp, and *Sydney Snyder.

<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Pastor Tony Stencker</p> <p>9:45 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Fellowship 11:00 A.M. Worship</p> <p>897-9863 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided</p> <p>A friend...a family...a mission!</p>	<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Worship Service Sunday -10:30 A.M. (Nursery available)</p> <p>Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL 897-7060 Pastor Rod Galindo</p> <p>1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI</p> <p>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</p>	<p>ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmarylowell.com</p> <p>Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 10:30 AM Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PATE WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 392, ENTH FOR 24HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>
<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC 865 Lincoln Lake SE 616.897.5906 Sunday Worship 10:00 A.M. Pastor J. Richard Sherlock</p> <p><i>Responding to the Living God, with a progressive voice and working hands, we are called to feed Christ's Community in mind, body, and spirit.</i></p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Barrier Free</p> <p>Internet: http://www.fbcilowell.org</p> <p>Rev. Jon Pickers & Pastor Phil Severn</p> <p>Sun. Worship Service 9:30 A.M. Sunday School, nursery - adult 11:00 A.M. ANNA - K-5, during school year Wed. 8:15 - 8 P.M. Youth Ministry - grades 6-12 Mon. 8:30 - 2:30 P.M. (Youth Ministry moves to West. during summer)</p>	<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street 897-5936 www.lowellumc.com Barrier-free entrance</p> <p>SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 Sunday School 8:30 YOUTH GROUPS (JR. & SR. HIGH) 8:00 PM Worship on the Riverwalk Begins July 12 Pastor Brad Brillhart</p>	

perseverance



A community fighting cancer

Throughout July the Lowell Ledger and the Buyers Guide will once again highlight the stories of area cancer survivors and those who are dealing with grief. Each editor will convey, in their own words, their experiences as they walk through the many phases of their personal journey.

~ All photos taken by Modern Photographics of Lowell

REMEMBERING *Renee* GRANT

Renee Grant's story is an incredible journey, with love and strength surrounding it. Her story is a testament to the power of the human spirit and the strength of the community. Her story is a testament to the power of the human spirit and the strength of the community.

One of the last years to receive a financial gift from Pink Arrow was the last year to have Pink Arrow in her will. Renee Grant was that diagnosed with cancer in 2007. For seven years she knew the roller coaster of diagnosis... treatment... remission... and diagnosis... more treatment.

Today, Renee Grant has her battle with cancer but December, but her memory lives in the hearts and minds of the community. "Remembering Renee Grant" will be printed on this

year's Pink Arrow. Renee Grant's story is a testament to the power of the human spirit and the strength of the community. Her story is a testament to the power of the human spirit and the strength of the community.

Renee told the story of her cancer journey in her 2012 issue of advice. At that time she wrote, "It started in 2007. I was an independent person and somewhat introverted. Living a 'normal' life with no history of health issues. It all changed one day when I found a lump under my arm... I was eventually diagnosed with

breast cancer. I was told to go through 45 rounds of chemotherapy and 45 rounds of radiation. I was told to go through 45 rounds of chemotherapy and 45 rounds of radiation. I was told to go through 45 rounds of chemotherapy and 45 rounds of radiation.

Renee's cancer journey was not easy. Not only did she have to deal with the physical side of cancer, but she also had to deal with the emotional side. In the 2012 issue, she wrote about the emotional side of cancer. "It's not just the physical side of cancer, it's the emotional side. It's not just the physical side of cancer, it's the emotional side. It's not just the physical side of cancer, it's the emotional side."

Renee Grant's life was about the love that she shared with her family. Her family was her strength and her love. Her family was her strength and her love. Her family was her strength and her love.



was always independent with a streak of stubbornness and had a tough time being helped. She was a powerful woman and deeply loved by her family and friends. Her family

Buyers Guide



The Lowell Ledger, Buyers Guide and Lowell Litho have been involved with Pink Arrow Pride since the beginning in 2008. We continue to support this unique effort of all those who work to make this charitable event take place. We applaud the volunteers, sponsors and coordinators. Most of all we salute the brave individuals willing to tell their stories and, in doing so, inspire many and reach out and support those who are on similar journeys.

perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Renee's story, continued

members and community, shared a supportive family.

Renee was joined in life by her partner Sharon Brinkley and together they served their community in many ways. For several years they delivered Christmas trees on behalf of the Little Chain Clinic. They were active in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, a cause that was close to Renee's heart because she had lost a brother-in-law to cancer. Renee and her many friends continue to do significant fund raising for Relay for Life and that was even before she knew that she would travel the cancer journey. Renee was introduced to Little Chain's Club meeting in Lowell. She and Sharon invited a kitchen-staffer at their home and Renee let her think how that she supported them to give generously. Thanks to her efforts, the kitchen at Little's Club was completely stocked in December for great meals.

The beautiful women of the way that Pink Arrow gave the awarded what others would have hoped for. A "family support" fund was quickly established, allowing Pink Arrow to provide a financial gift to patients who are experiencing the cancer journey. The feeling of Renee's illness was such that she became one of the first patients to receive that gift. Her illness eventually left her very "down" when she received that diagnosis. It became for her a symbol of the wonderful support that comes from the Lowell community. She was one of Pink Arrow's most vocal supporters and quickly became a powerful spokesperson on behalf of Pink Arrow. An important part of Pink Arrow's fundraising activities about cancer that happens within the Lowell community. Renee was invited to speak at an awareness event that students would learn about the reality of cancer. Renee told her story in a way that all of the students could relate to. One day she was invited to the elementary school speaking to a group of young girls and the next day she was speaking to hundreds of high school students, always adapting her message to the group listening.

Though dealing with the realities of cancer, Renee remained positive and continued the activities that were important to her. She always had a busy schedule and pursued her own skills and passions. She moved within and between providing her friends with their care. She had children she made their garden, working on her house. The support of her family and friends was one of her many inspirations and her



Part of Renee's gift to Pink Arrow Pride was her dream motorcycle. This 2008 Yamaha V-Star 650 bike is on display at Wittenbach Grand Chrysler, 749 W. Main Street in Lowell. There you can place your bid to not only own this beautiful motorcycle but continue to help Renee fulfill her wish to help Pink Arrow Pride.

friends allowed to plant them for her. True to her nature, Renee insisted that she would do it when she was able and those ladies are providing tractor tires.

In the last months of their lives, Sharon and Renee each shared several health issues. Sharon had breast cancer and it was diagnosed that her only hope for survival was to receive a breast transplant. In the fall of 2009 Renee visited that community event right with her health and after many doctor visits and tests it was finally diagnosed that the cancer was back with a vengeance. Sharon and Renee were each being treated by doctors in both Massachusetts and New Jersey. There were times when one would be in the hospital here and the other in the University of Michigan Hospital—and sometimes they were hospitalized in New Jersey at the same time.

In the final weeks of her life, Renee was working treatment at the U. of M. Hospital and Sharon, while waiting for a heart to become available, was being cared for in the home of her friend, Lou Shattuck and Joan Walker. Many trips were made back and forth to New Jersey to be with Renee and she was supported by the love of family and friends who accompanied her to the end of her

life in early December 2014. That was on a Monday and just five days later Sharon received the call that a suitable heart had been available. She needed to report immediately to the University Hospital for the transplant. She was in charge of all of the planning with family and friends and they were ready. The transplant was not a success and Sharon passed away the next morning. Sharon and Renee had just started the 20th anniversary of their relationship and now they were both gone within six days of each other.

Throughout the years of her illness, Renee was determined that the cancer would not define who she was and how she lived her life. In her 2012 article she wrote this about her cancer journey: "I will live it all with the same determination I have over the past five years. I feel fortunate that my family and my community are there for me when I need them. I don't quit they don't quit cancer. I wouldn't have done it without them. We don't give up on Pink Arrow. Thank you...for your support of the Pink Arrow Project, helping people understand what is your involvement in this journey every time you buy a Pink Arrow Pride t-shirt or contribute to the event."

As she faced the end of her life, Renee didn't want her remains to be a burden to the earth. She had always loved the water and was a diver, so she pre-arranged her wishes and was placed in a casket that would be lowered into the water. The casket was white with a plaque in her memory to be placed on that side and water under and through it. During a ceremonial burial, the casket was lowered into the water off the coast of Florida and her remains spent the rest of the event's holiday.

And as Renee faced the end of her life, she knew that she wanted to leave her name merged with the community—a message that would live beyond her death. Through making Pink Arrow in her will, she provided the kind of generous spirit that defined her life. Her gift will enable Pink Arrow to reach out to many additional families who have the cancer journey. In her gift, other families will find the kind of community support that meant so much to Renee.



perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Nehra Mehta

We are so human to the human condition. We all have ups, downs, joys, sorrows, laughter, tears.....all of us have a story. My story is too long to tell here, all of the chapters that make me who I am and add up to the sum of my life. But I will share just one with you, one of the best and worst. It is the story of my journey through cancer: local, metastatic, inoperable, resistant to treatment, inoperable.

It started in January of 2014 when I started a cough. An ultrasound revealed it to be a spot and when it was not coming any further did not require treatment. When I went in for my usual fall wellness exam in May, it was still there. I was sent for a further assessment in June and received a call the next day regarding I was back on the watch and was elevated. On July 7, I went to the Common Market Cancer Pavilion (CMCP) for chemotherapy. That was quickly followed by an ultrasound and a biopsy. The spot was still there but this time it had a component. The spot was defined and the suspicion there was to be investigated. I had questions. How many of these do you do a day? How many more visits in a diagnosis? How many more doctors do you have to see to determine this? What would you recommend? You would be wrong, going beyond that day and of course, she was going to get your results.

I hope that you will take a moment to be grateful for the good things in your life and the bad things, too, if they taught you something. Take a moment to let someone know you care about them.

Development of the tumor. I started cough. I was directed to have three months of surveillance.

I was working from home due to the following circumstances. I got the call. All I found was you have cancer. I don't know. Cancer. I thought the phone dropped to my hand and what? What? What? I called my husband, Bill and told him the news. He came home and we both cried. We didn't want long to tell the kids. We have several children. We were all in a bit of shock. After another third diagnosis of cancer we finally in less than a year, I had just recently lost my dad to an aggressive thyroid cancer. We were devastated and my father-in-law was in disbelief of treatment for lung cancer.

I wasn't sure where to start with getting help so I went rather unprepared for information about the Common Market Cancer Pavilion. I called



the next day and made an appointment. I also made an appointment with the surgeon I chose I wanted. Less than two weeks later the biopsy and I was back at CMCP. Bill and I spent most of the day there and saw a surgeon, oncologist, radiation oncologist, genetic counselor, health navigator and social worker. It was overwhelming to have all the hours in one day, but it was what I needed.

The pathology results from the biopsy showed an aggressive cancer and it was stage 3. Based on size, a lobectomy plus two nodes and three was done for genetic testing. I saw my surgeon of choice several days after approval of the plan.

I started my treatment with non-toxic chemotherapy. I had a port placed in my chest and was in the hospital about within eight days of my arrival with the CMCP. The genetic test came back negative which was a major relief. The thought of passing this on to my kids was terrifying. It also meant that having breast cancer was a good option. I had the opportunity in December and had my port removed at the same time. My surgery lasted much longer than expected. They found a positive lymph node and performed an axillary dissection. I woke up to find two more lymph nodes. One for the breast

and one for the chest of both. I was told my case that was being elevated to determine if the cancer had spread to other lymph nodes. It had, but not by much. There was just one more and it was microscopic. I had a month to live before starting radiation at the end of January. During that time I developed walking with a cane. A genetic counselor that would be working in my case and the nurse and I shared my cancer narrative. I started cough immediately and was lucky to have someone getting it checked. Coughs started and had to be treated with anti-inflammatories. I was finally done. Except I wasn't.

A PET scan in April showed that the cancer had spread. I was now at stage 4. My husband and I had just turned 44 a few days before. Finding out I had cancer was like winning a state lottery. Everything happened so fast but I couldn't get it over with that quickly. Then I found out I had spread and I was overjoyed to get it over with. My oncologist had already told me that if I had a recurrence or if the cancer spread there was no cure. I was back to treatment with chemotherapy with the goal of stabilizing the disease. I will be in treatment for the rest of my life. How long will that last? He can't say for sure. Statistically, the average is about a year. I am hopeful that I am an exception.

There is more to this story than just a shoulder with a spot along the way for tests and treatments. The biggest story is what I have learned during my trip through this treacherous land of cancer. The most surprising thing to me is how

reluctant as my circumstances are, I am so grateful for what I have. My life is filled with wonderful people that have provided tremendous support. Family, friends, coworkers, healthcare providers and even complete strangers. People who send me cards, make me dinner, spend their evenings, give me hugs, and tell me they love me. I have this will enough to continue to work full time and am so fortunate to be part of a great team of people who let me know I am valued. My husband is incredible. He loves and supports me in everything I do. I am grateful with words. The love, the support, the network of support that I am so thankful for. My kids have been great at sharing their feelings along with their hugs. I have learned that I am truly loved. I don't take it for granted. I have also learned that I am stronger than I thought. I keep getting up every day and taking care of my business.

What is the point of me telling you this part of my story? What will you do with it? I hope that you will take a moment to be grateful for the good things in your life and the bad things, too. If they taught you something. Take a moment to let someone know you care about them. This moment is precious. This moment is opportunity. A community that supports individuals and families in a way that has touched a million. There is so much to support a cure that makes a difference.



Everyone had a good time at annual St. Patrick Festival

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Sun and blue skies appropriately greeted the annual celebration of the St. Patrick Parnell Festival last weekend.

Festival activities kicked off Friday evening with a Euchre tournament and a popular family fun 5K run through the Parnell countryside. Concessions run by eighth grade St. Patrick students and a beer tent wrapped up the night

accompanied by the sounds of Irish folk group the Conklin Ceili Band.

After a four o'clock mass at the church on Saturday, the festival offered up one of its most unique activities, the helicopter ball drop. The high-flying fundraiser featured Father Mark Peacock taking to the sky by way of helicopter for a raffle to benefit the St. Patrick

School's tuition assistance program. Participants were asked to purchase golf balls which were dropped by the priest onto a target from the helicopter to determine the winner of \$5,000.

Saturday festivities also included both a silent and live auction hosted by Jason Lamoreaux, a former Michigan Auctioneer of the Year and a St. Patrick parishioner. The auction

featured 66 items up for bid, varying from dinners out to vacations in Mexico to front row seats at Christmas mass. All items were donated by local businesses and community members to benefit the programs and parishioners of the 171-year-old church.

Afterward guests were invited to a live performance by contemporary rockers

Signal Trip, who played classic rock covers and hits of today during their upbeat set. A well-attended casino night featuring classic games like blackjack and roulette wrapped up the Saturday itinerary.

Sunday, the festival celebrated families with a petting zoo, carnival style games and the extremely popular Parnell chicken

dinner featuring BBQ chicken with all the fixings.

A classic car show and a separate tractor show also took place on the final day of the festival which wrapped up with the beer tent, the Ray Watkoski Family Polka Band and a drawing for winners of the 50/50 raffle which shelled out \$19,000 in prize money.



Dancers of all ages enjoyed a variety of three live musical performances.



Classic cars and trucks lined the parking lot at St. Patrick for the annual festival car show.

New energy czar to visit Lowell

Valerie Brader, executive director of the new Michigan Agency for Energy, will be addressing a joint meeting of the Rotary Club of Lowell and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce on July 15. A Rhodes scholar and graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center, Brader served as an environmental consultant to the EPA and Department of Defense before serving

as deputy legal counsel and senior policy advisor to Gov. Snyder.

In her new role with the Michigan Agency for Energy (MAE), Brader will help coordinate efforts to replace 10 coal power plants across the state with cleaner energy sources. Governor Rick Snyder created the MAE in March as he outlined plans to meet the state's energy needs with sources other than coal.

During her visit to Lowell, Brader will tour the Lowell energy center on Chatham Street, home to the biodigester. A joint project between Lowell Energy

Anaerobic Digester (LEAD) and Lowell Light & Power, the digester is the nation's first Upflow/Downflow/Reflow anaerobic digester. Once fully online later this year, the biodigester will provide enough electricity to power nearly 800 homes.

Brader will speak to Rotary and chamber members about the changing face of energy in the state and its impact on businesses. The event will begin at noon at Grand Volute and is open to the public. Tickets are \$15 and includes lunch. You can reserve your spot online at www.lowellchamber.org

I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than to those attending too small a degree of it.

~Thomas Jefferson
(1743 - 1826)

**WINDOWS/SIDING
DOORS/INSULATION/GUTTERS
SAVE 50% OFF
HEATING/COOLING BILLS
GUARANTEED!!!**

SAVE 10% OFF WITH THIS COUPON

897-7380 www.all-weather.com

319 E. Main Lowell

All-Weather Seal



Eighth grade St. Patrick students and their parents were among the many volunteers that made the event possible.

JOB FAIR

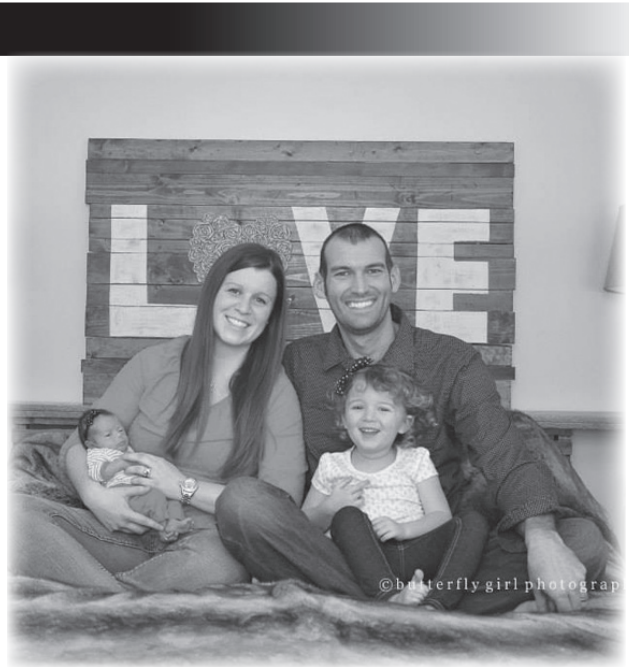
July 7 • 12:30 - 4:30
at Flat River Outreach Ministries
616.897.8260

MANPOWER RECRUITERS READY TO HIRE
\$8.25 - \$14 per hour - full time

 **FLAT RIVER
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**

 **Manpower***

obituaries



OFFRINK

Shelby (Tomczak) Offrink. It is with completely broken hearts that we need to let you all know that Shelby passed away yesterday. She was at peace, surrounded by her closest family. Both Maeve and Hazel gave their mom a kiss and hug as Shelby took her last breath. We are grateful that she is now pain free, running around and making tons of friends in Heaven already, but we will forever miss her quick wit, humor and love for others. There is a party in Heaven, but a hole in our hearts. Funeral information will be sent out at a later time. We miss you, Shelby. You were the best friend we could ever have. You left this world just as you lived - with heart, love, determination, fearlessness and no regrets.



STAHL

Sharma Loann (Wolfe) Stahl, left us on Saturday, June 20, 2015. Born August 1, 1931 in Muncie IN, the second child of Clarence and Ernestine Wolfe. She married Joe Stahl of Alto and in 1961 they had a son, Mitchell. During her career, Sharma held positions as a buyer at F.W. Woolworth's in Grand Rapids and later as a manager for Woolco. For twenty years she managed Kountry Korner Convenience Store in Alto. After Kountry Korner was sold, Sharma volunteered through Eight-CAP for seven years in the elementary school in Saranac as a "Foster Grandparent" to children with reading/learning difficulties and special needs. She reluctantly quit when her health declined. She loved the kids and they loved her. She felt their pain and soothed their hurts. Sharma was a dedicated, loving mother to Mitchell and gave lifelong support to all members of her family. She was feisty, fiercely independent and proud. Those who greeted her when she left us were her mother and father, Clarence and Ernestine; brothers, Bob and Bunk Wolfe; niece, Stacie Wolfe Ruge; nephews, Scott Wolfe and Chris Wolfe; and other extended family members. Left behind to complete the broken circle later on; her son, Mitchell Stahl; brother, John and Peg Wolfe; sister, Jayma and Tom Kurnat; sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. Sharma will be resting near her family in Oakwood Cemetery, Lowell. A memorial service will be held later this summer. Those wishing to leave a remembrance in Sharma's name may wish to consider Eight-CAP Foster Grandparent Program, 904 Oak Dr., Greenville, MI 48838.



Arrangements by:
STROO FUNERAL HOME

WITHERELL

Ruth Jean Witherell, age 82 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, June 28, 2015. She was preceded in death by her son Mark (Julee) Witherell; her parents Eugene and Lydia Kirby and her brothers and sisters. She is survived by her husband of 62 years Arlyn Witherell; sons Craig Witherell and Erick (Denise) Witherell; 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. A funeral service will be Wednesday 11:00 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI 49331. Chaplin Shannon Witherell officiating. Interment Balcom Cemetery. Visitation Tuesday 2-4:00 p.m. and 6-8:00 p.m. and one hour prior to the service at the Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI.



WRIGHT

Garnet E. Wright, age 88 of Lowell, went to join her husband Bill and granddaughter Mandy, on Sunday, June 28, 2015. She is survived by her daughters, Pam (Gary) Pinckney, Robin (Terry) DeWitt, Jan (Phil) Tichelaar and Lynn Engle. Also surviving are 12 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. Per family request, a private graveside service was held. Garnet's family suggests that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to Emmanuel Hospice, 2161 Leonard St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.



Big trees, continued

"Even if your tree is not as large as the current state champion of that species, it is important to submit it since trees die or are removed," said Jones, adding that a new state champion needs to have already been identified and waiting in the wings.

The contest also allows a submitted tree to make its way into the National Register of Big Trees, which is updated every

spring and fall by American Forests. Winners of ReLeaf Michigan's Big Tree Hunt are forwarded to the state coordinator of the Michigan Big Tree program for further review and possible inclusion in the State Champion tree list.

If the tree makes it to state champion status and meets more detailed criteria, Jones said it is submitted for inclusion in

the National Register of Big Trees. Michigan currently has 19 registered national champions.

Since there are 200 tree species that don't have registered champions, the Big Tree Hunt is a great opportunity to get Michigan trees noticed nationwide, said Jones.

"ReLeaf Michigan's contest is a fun activity for families, friends or solo adventurers to participate in while flexing their Michigan pride," she added.

A ceremony to honor the winners and award prizes and certificates will be conducted in the fall.

Contest forms can be downloaded from www.ReLeafMichigan.org.

For questions about the contest, email info@ReLeafMichigan.org or call 800-642-7353.

ReLeaf Michigan's Big Tree Hunt contest is sponsored by Arboriculture Society of Michigan, Constellation Brand Marketing, Consumers Energy Foundation, Michigan Botanical Club, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Urban and Community Forestry.



Large trees, such as this European copper beech, are sought for a contest to identify Michigan's largest trees.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO. 15-197631-
CA, 15-197632-GA

In the matter of
ARDIE SHAW.
TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS including:
to the missing and
unknown heirs of
Ardie Shaw whose
address(es) is/
are unknown and
whose interest in the
matter may be barred
or affected by the
following:

TAKE NOTICE: A
hearing will be held on
07/28/2015 at 9:00 am at
180 Ottawa Avenue NW,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
before Judge David M.
Murkowski (P35026) for
the following purpose:
on the petitions
of Toya Zylstra for
the appointment
of a guardian and
conservator for Ardie
Shaw.

06/29/2015
John D. Flynn (P27413)
1275 Hawthorne Hills SE
Ada, MI 49301
616-897-6632

Toya Zylstra
121 Franklin SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

L	A	P	P	S	S	E	W	L	E	T	S							
S	H	O	R	T	A	G	E	M	I	X	U	P						
D	O	L	O	R	G	O	D	E	M	P	T	Y						
Y	O	U	A	R	E	G	O	T	Y	O	U							
		D	N	A		F	E	A	R									
I	S	M		D	I	A	L	T	I	C	T	A	C					
A	H	E	M		S	L	A	P	C	H	E	E	R					
M	O	D	E		E	S	T	O	P	O	R	S	O					
B	A	I	L	S		O	B	O	E	C	R	O	C					
S	T	A	T	U	S		E	L	S	E		A	P	E				
						B	E	A	D		T	E	A					
						F	L	O	W	E	R		F	O	R	G	E	T
K	O	A	L	A		E	R	A		I	O	T	A	S				
I	C	I	L	Y		N	O	R		E	N	A	T	E				
N	I	N	A			A	D	O		R	E	S	E	T				

**THEME:
LOVE SONGS**

ACROSS

1. Northern Scandinavians
6. To use a Singer
9. *Al Green: " _____ Stay Together"
13. Like unlucky straw
14. Paleontologist's estimate
15. Confusion
16. Emotion at a funeral
17. *Beach Boys: " _____ Only Knows"
18. Like worthless promise
19. *Billy Joel: "... just the way _____"
21. *Sonny & Cher: "I _____ Babe"
23. Type of evidence
24. "The Blair Witch Project" emotion
25. School of thought suffix
28. Obsolete phone feature
30. The 1 1/2 calorie breath mint
35. Throat-clearing sound
37. Lovers' quarrel blow
39. *Deniece Williams: "I just wanna _____, let's hear it for the boy"
40. *Depeche _____: "Just Can't Get Enough"
41. Impede or bar
43. Guesstimate phrase
44. Scoops water out of a boat
46. Symphony member
47. Nile dweller
48. Condition
50. Someone _____
52. Tarzan's adoptive mom
53. Found on a rosary
55. *" _____ for Two"

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
	19				20			21	22					
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
	57	58	59					60				61	62	
63						64	65			66				67
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

dish

Make the Switch to Dish Today and Save Up To 50%

Call Now and Ask How!

1-800-318-5121

Call 7 days a week 8am - 11pm EST Promo Code: M80113 *Offer subject to change based on premium channel availability

Promotional Packages starting at only ...

\$19.99 mo.

for 12 months

FREE PREMIUM MOVIE CHANNELS* For 3 months.

HBO **SHOWTIME** **COMEDY** **STARZ**

dish

© StatePoint Media

57. *Bette Midler: "Some say love is like a _____"
60. *Simple Minds: "Don't you _____ about me"
63. Bear Down Under
64. Pitcher's stat

66. Tiny amounts
68. In an unfriendly manner
69. And not
70. Related on mother's side
71. In 1492, it sailed the ocean blue
72. "Much _____ About Nothing"
73. Button on many mechanical units

DOWN

1. Lysergic acid diethylamide
2. Call to a mate
3. Ralph Lauren's inspiration
4. Like honors student's parent
5. _____ of hair
6. Like Solomon
7. Bigheadedness
8. Type of salad
9. Containing limestone
10. Former Montreal player
11. "Swan Lake" outfit
12. "I _____" guessing game
15. System used in most of world, except U.S.
20. Employer's good news
22. Quaker Man's cereal

24. Roofless, sideless truck
25. Metrical units in poetry
26. Sheep + goat
27. The press
29. Additionally
31. Colloquial British abbreviation for particular sweet
32. "Earth" to Virgil
33. Famous fabulist
34. *If he "could save time in a bottle"
36. *Modern English sang about doing this with you
38. It can be indoors or outdoors
42. Basil-based sauce
45. Rapid transit
49. *"I'm Beginning to _____ the Light"
51. Scarier
54. Rome's Colosseum
56. In the past
57. Many focuses
58. Been in bed
59. Paella pot
60. Wild West card game
61. Estimated arrivals
62. London art museum
63. Kith partner
65. * _____ Stewart: "Have I told you lately"
67. Part of tennis match



JUNE 24 - JUNE 30

- On Friday, June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court held that same-sex couples can no longer be denied the freedom to marry guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, assuring that soon all loving and committed couples will be able to marry throughout the United States.
- The U.S. Geological Survey today confirmed that a 3.3 magnitude earthquake affected the state of Michigan seven miles northeast of Union City at 11:42 a.m. Assessments are still ongoing, but there are no reported injuries or damages at this time. Anyone with earthquake-related damage is encouraged to report it to local emergency management officials. "Even though they don't happen often in Michigan, earthquakes are a threat our emergency management officials are prepared and trained to handle," said Gov. Rick Snyder. "Today's event should serve as another reminder for Michiganders of the importance of personal preparedness for all kinds of emergencies and disasters."

SUDOKU

you could save 28%*

Call 1-800-970-4376 to see how much you could save on car insurance.

esurance
on Allstate company

*National average annual savings based on data from customers who reported savings by switching to Esurance between 12/1/11 and 4/30/12. © 2012 Esurance Insurance Services, Inc. All rights reserved. CALL 800-970-4376

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

© StatePoint Media

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.

**LAST WEEK'S
ONLINE
POLL
RESULTS**

Should the Confederate flag be displayed on government or public property?

- Yes 18%
- No. 55%
- Don't care 27%

**WWW.
thelowelledger.com**

Puzzle solutions on page 12

Perfect weather for annual fishing derby

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell Moose Lodge #809 baited the hooks of nearly three dozen young fishers at Pebble Beach/Stoney Lakeside Park last weekend where they hosted the annual Kid's Fishing Derby.

The event welcomed 35 enthusiastic anglers for the light-hearted contest which ran from 9-12 Saturday morning in arguably perfect fishing conditions. Participants were offered free bait and divided into three age groups, 3-6, 7-10 and 11-15.

Each was then asked to catch as many fish as possible during the event's three hours tallying the lengths of each fish as they went along. Those with the greatest number of accumulated inches were awarded grand prizes, including fishing poles and fully loaded tackle boxes.

All attendees were offered a prize for their participation and invited to enjoy complimentary soda and hot dogs cooked on site by Moose members.

Event organizer Al

Reynolds is the junior governor of Lodge #809 and an avid fisherman with a long history of participation in the derby. His father previously organized the event and Reynolds himself has participated since he was three.

"I am 47 and I was in it. It has been around, I would say, at least fifty years. Back when I did it as a kid they had sleepovers so the dads would all set tents up and everyone would bring their boats," reminisced Reynolds.

Moose members donate the food, beverages, prizes and on-site assistance as an act of goodwill toward the community.

According to Reynolds, "It is a great community service project for the members and a fun outdoor experience for the kids and families in Lowell."

First-time participant Megan Vandervest said that she, her husband and two children enjoyed the derby and will likely continue to take part in the future. "We

just moved here a month ago so this is our first real adventure out in Lowell and it has been great," said Vandervest.

This was the second scheduled derby of the

year, with the first having taken place in April. The next event is scheduled for Saturday, August 22 at the same location.



Mother and daughter, Megan and Abby Vandervest, spend some quality time at the fishing derby.



This young fisherman claimed victory and a filled-to-the-brim tackle box in the 3-6 year old category.

Annual Junegrass festival enjoys good turnout

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

This year's JuneGrass bluegrass festival was a big success despite some rain and a power outage caused by a tragedy at nearby King Milling.

"The show is great this year as always," said Steve Albert of Zellies Opry House Band. "Everybody is having a great time. A nice vibe. This is a nice festival. It's very straight-ahead bluegrass. A lot of festivals have a wider array of musical styles, but this one is hardcore bluegrass. I like that. Acoustic music doesn't need electricity."

LouAnn Montney, the bass fiddle player for True Blue, said the Lowell crowd was "pretty good, pretty tolerant, pretty patient."

"This is my second time playing here," Montney said. "It's a very nice setting with very good, very proud people."

Lee Strassburger, president of the West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association, said attendance was up this year, compared to previous years.

"It's doing very well. Right now we're up," Strassburger said. "We're

very excited about the crowd, the number of trailers that came in early and we're looking pretty good."

Just like every year, there was a lot of action in the campground.

"We had a lot of early campers come in," Strassburger said. "We had a number of campers in here on Tuesday night and the jamming started early, so it's been pretty busy since then. There are people that don't come to the [show]. They just stay out there and jam the whole time."

"I'm out camping, I come every year," said bluegrass fan Bill Barkun. "It's going real good. I have a generator so I'm not out of power. I've got solar panels so I'm good to go."

Barkun said he always attends Lowell's bluegrass festival.

"This is where I grew up," Barkun said. "I know a lot of people that used to play here and a lot of them that are starting to play. I'm just a fan."

The next WMBMA event in Lowell will be the "Fallfest Camp and Jam" in September.





FROM Food Fight 2015 Boxscore

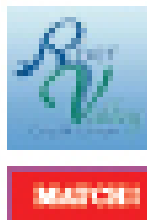
End of Third Quarter
Games End Saturday, July 11 at Riverwalk Parade
Lowell Food Fight Facebook Page
For more info and up to date Food Fight Specials!

	1	2	3	4	T
North	8,900*	5,753	8,728		23,382
South	9,000*	5,207	5,524		19,751

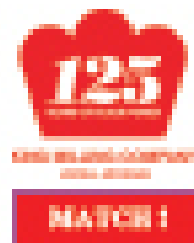
JOIN US!
It's Our Birthday Party!
Wednesday, August 12
5:00 - 8:00 PM
Flat River Outreach Ministries
11215 East Felton, Lowell
603-897-8288

* Includes Lowell Schools 7,122 food items (2,941 each team) collected in May! Each dollar and food item donated counts as one point for the team of your choice!

Event Underwriters:



Total Matching Funds
\$8,000
Remaining Matching Funds
\$2,113



Donate at www.fromlowell.org - Choose North Lowell or South Lowell

Sponsors in *italics* used matched dollars.

If you are a new donor to Food Fight within the past two years, your 2015 donation will be **MATCHED**, subject to the remaining availability of matching funds.

Coach Sponsors

**Brian & Cheryl Doyle - Red Creek Waste Services - Impact Church
Calvary Christian Reformed Church - Lowell Light & Power
Lowell Ledger/Buyers Guide - Lowell Moose Men/Women - B.C. Pizza
Timpson Transport - Lorraine Floyd - Greenridge Realty, Inc. - Ken Ballemma**

Manager Sponsors

**Portland Federal Credit Union - Kenneth & Deborah Kooy - Addorio Technologies
Metric Manufacturing - Rick & Jodie Seese - Steve Fleming Family
McPherson Lean Partners - Modern Photographics - Reagan Family Dentistry
Common Sense Rare Coins - Robert & Marie Kutzi - William & Diane Wieland
Yonker Fischer Ventures - Susan Bieri**

Trainer Sponsors

**Snow United Methodist Women - Lowell Waterworks - Jantina Wascink - Chimera Design
Lowell Granite - In Honor of Diane Blodgett - Thomas Pickel - Karen Whalen
Builder's Fireplace - Dr. Todd Gillan - Fuller Septic Co. Velda Rosenberger - Linda Barnes
Edward Jones/Chris Godbold - Janet Decker - David & Rebecca Flagel - Elite Auto Body
Heidi's Farmstand - Optec, Inc. - Lowell Women's Club - Hooper Printing - Anonymous**

Captain Sponsors

**Patrick & Kati Doyle - Birchwood Gardens - Mercantile Bank - Wittenbach Sales & Service - Grand Chrysler Dodge Jeep
Bill Roth - Susan Brink - Bieri Auto Body - Deer Run Golf Club - Roger & Sandra Fetterhoff - Dependable LP Gas
Advanced Eyecare - Dan & Linda DeJarden - Mynt Fusion Bistro - James & Margaret VanDine - William Wheeler CPA
Gloria Jackson - Quality Express LLC - Arctic Heating & Cooling - Fry Daddy's - Farm Bureau Inc./Mike Curtis - Sherry Olson
Janet Johnson - Reelies Sportscards Plus - Benjamin & Sandra Chapman - Great Clips - Sneakers - Judy Timpson
Grand River Veterinary Hospital - Grand Volunte Ballrooms - Linda Lauge - Curtis Laundry & Dry Cleaners - Alice Manka
Gordon Wilcox - Phase 2 Financial Group - Dick & Nola Bryan - Joyce Blincher - Sylvia Taylor - Anonymous**

Fan Sponsors

**Thomas O'Haley - Cheryl & Jason McE - William & Anita Barber - Fred Day - Dan & Jen Thompson - Beth Palmer-Birkbeck Cook
Marva & Elizabeth Johnson - Emily O'Neil - Cliff Yarbrough - Robert & Barbara Smith - John Phelan - Jan Pihl
Linda Edge Package - Dan Lamoine - Debra Brubaker - Bob Piro - Ray Jay Wright - Anonymous**

Schekler Masser - Senior Neighbors/Gilda's Club

More Food Collection Sites

Engelhardt Library - Lowell YMCA - Ailsa Library



**"FROM The Heart" Riverwalk Parade - Saturday, July 11 - Noon
-Downtown Lowell-**

Your Last Chance to Score for Your Team!