

fair wrap-up



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wasting food



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football fundraiser



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Record livestock auction sales at annual Kent County Youth Fair

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Hundreds of buyers, sellers and spectators gathered inside the Reath Barn on the grounds of the Kent County Youth Fair (KCYF) last Thursday for the annual Livestock Auction.

One of the largest and most anticipated events of fair week, the auction serves as an opportunity for young fair exhibitors to earn money from the animals they have diligently raised and prepared for show.

"The livestock auction is such an important part of the KCYF because, for our livestock exhibitors, it marks the pinnacle of their hard work and dedication to raising their livestock," said KCYF president Jon Bieneman. "They learn about business ideas like expenses and the break-even point of raising livestock and other important life skills like responsibility and dedication. Our exhibitors also use the money they raise to fund next year's projects, to help pay for future education such as college and many other valuable experiences."

First year exhibitor Owen Graves of Lowell was among the many sellers who benefited from those lessons and rewards. "It went really well. It was a little bit nerve wracking but it was still fun," said Graves after stepping down from the auction block, "I will absolutely be back next year. It has been a good experience."

This year's auction started early with a brand new start time of noon. In the past the auction started



Hundreds of spectators and buyers packed into the Reath Barn for the annual KCYF livestock auction.

at 2 pm and ran into evening hours. Bieneman said the change was made in order to curb the end time.

"As the auction has grown, the completion time was getting later. It was our desire to make the auction the best possible for our exhibitors and buyers. The change seemed to work really well and I heard some very positive feedback," said Bieneman.

Fasttalking professional

auctioneers led the event which has consistently set sales records for the past several years. The auction earned more than \$460,000 in 2012, north of \$505,000 in 2013 and increased by 25 percent in 2014 with a total sales of \$630,926.65.

This year's sale added up to yet another increase according to Bieneman, "The auction was another huge success. This year's total was \$633,117.18. It was another record breaking auction beating last year's total by a little over \$2,000."

Bieneman attributes the event's great yearly turnout to the businesses

and individuals that come out to the auction to invest in the livestock as well as the youth of Kent County.

"They cannot be thanked enough for all of their support. The big winners are the kids. It is because of their support that we can continue to have tremendous young people grow, learn and develop into outstanding adults."

Pinkney Hill Meat Processing once again provided a buyer dinner following the auction, one of many contributions from the generous local company according to Bieneman.

Council declares Sept. 11, 2015 Pink Arrow Pride Day

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Lowell city council held its regular meeting at city hall on Monday, August 17. Among the topics the council discussed were Pink Arrow Pride, a deck on the Riverwalk and the future of the Showboat.

Nine members of the public attended the 44 minute meeting. One of them, Sue Hanline, spoke about the recent alphorn concert and retreat that took place in Lowell last month.

"I would like to thank mayor [Jim] Hodges and the city of Lowell for welcoming the alphorn retreat," Hanline said. "The concert that they presented at the Showboat on the Riverwalk was on July 25th and all the comments I've

received from the citizens of Lowell and other people that attended were positive."

The council discussed the construction of a deck that will be attached to the Englehardt Library. Originally the deck was to be built on a corner of the library. Because a large quantity of water runs off the building there, the new plan is to build the deck along the back of the library. The estimated cost of the project was about \$70,000. John Sterly, a contractor who is also a member of the Lowell Rotary Club, said he could get the job done for about \$10,000. Sterly also said that the Rotary would be paying for and constructing the deck next spring.

"The whole idea is to

keep it simple and plain," Sterly said. "It's pretty much maintenance free."

In other Englehardt Library news, the library's new branch manager, Heather Wood-Gramza, introduced herself to the council.

"I've been here for three weeks now and I have to say that this community has been most welcoming to me," Wood-Gramza said. "I can tell Lowell loves its library, so it's very exciting to be here."

The council approved a six month moratorium on the erection of any new communication towers in Lowell. The council

City Council,
continued, page 3

LowellArts! will present Arts in Motion performance before Sizzlin' Summer movie, "Up!"

The Disney/Pixar movie "Up" will be shown Friday, August 21 as LowellArts! and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce present Sizzlin' Summer Movie Night. The movie will start at 8:45 pm (dusk).

This is a free family film event. The screen will be located in front of the Lowell Showboat on the Riverwalk Plaza. Spectators are encouraged to bring folding chairs or blankets to enjoy the presentation. A concessions stand, provided by the Lowell Area Historical Museum, will be set up and will offer popcorn, pop and water.

An Arts in Motion performance will precede the film at 8:00 pm.

The film was chosen by popular vote and just in case the weather does not cooperate, an August 23 rain date is planned.

50 CENTS



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along main street

Comedian's rant sheds light on food waste

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Last month the comedy/news show "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" did an extensive piece on food waste in the United States. Oliver quoted the Natural Resources Defense Council as saying "40 percent of the food produced in the U.S. never gets eaten" and "Americans throw away \$165 billion worth of food every year" or enough to "fill 730 football stadiums" annually.

"Food waste is like the band Rascal Flatts," Oliver said, "It can fill a surprising number of stadiums even though many people consider it complete garbage."

Oliver's report then pointed out the disparity between all of those figures and the fact that millions of Americans are starving. He quoted a recent USDA report, which found that in 2013 "49.1 million people lived in food-insecure households." The segment then showed that, for many small businesses, it's cheaper to throw food away than it is to donate it. Oliver also pointed out that "use by" and "sell by" dates on produce are basically worthless and that the food rotting away in landfills causes a massive amount of methane gas to be released into the atmosphere.

"When we dump food into a landfill, we're essentially throwing a trash blanket over a flatulent food man and Dutch-ovening the entire planet," Oliver said.

Meijer, Lowell's biggest grocery store, donates a lot of food.

"Our northern region, which includes the Lowell store, was a leader in 2014

based on the amount of pounds donated to food banks in the area," said Christina Fecher, Meijer public relations manager. "In 2014, that region donated nearly 900,000 lbs. of food. The northern region encompasses the western portion (pretty much as far east as Lowell) of Michigan from the border of Indiana north to Petoskey."

Fecher pointed out their organization's regional numbers instead of offering specific information relevant to Lowell.

"As a privately-held company, we wouldn't release that specific of data," Fecher said. "Please use the information provided. The Lowell Meijer began donating food to Feeding America of West Michigan through the Meijer Food Rescue program in December 2011. That particular food bank is supported by 23 Meijer stores in the area."

Meijer's Food Rescue program started in 2008 and is active in Meijer stores in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Wisconsin. Through this program, Meijer donated 7.4 million pounds of food in 2014.

"Food is a very basic need, but unfortunately, it's something that more and more of our neighbors are struggling to put on their tables," Fecher said. "At Meijer, we're a family-owned company that's committed to strengthening the communities we serve. That's exactly what

Food waste, continued, page 3

ARTS IN MOTION PERFORMANCE

Over a year ago LowellArts! became a satellite location for Arts in Motion Studio's programs in the music and theatre arts for individuals who are physically, emotionally or mentally challenged. This summer's program is wrapping up with a public performance with the summer students at 8 pm at the Lowell Showboat before the outdoor film showing of "UP." This performance is open to the public and is audience participatory. Arts in Motion is a nonprofit based out of Grand Rapids with a mission to enrich the community and the lives of individuals with disabilities through expressive art. For more information contact LowellArts! at 897-8545.

ON EXHIBIT

LowellArts! announces the opening of a new exhibition, Fiberx2: Tapestry Collaborations by David Johnson and Geary Jones. The exhibition runs Aug. 21 - Sept. 26. The public is invited to a meet-the-artist reception on Fri., Aug. 21 at 7 pm. Gallery hours: Tues.-Fri. 10am-6pm and Sat. 1-4pm. LowellArts! is located at 149 S. Hudson St., www.lowellartsmi.org

BLUEGRASS MUSIC JAM SESSION

Sat., August 22, from 2:30 to 5:00 pm at the King Building at the fairgrounds. Come to jam or listen. Everyone welcome.

CALL FOR ACTORS: PLAY BYTES BY PLAYWRIGHTS

Seeking adult actors for the Fall Dinner Theater production of *Play Bytes by Playwrights*, October 16-31, directed by Sue Bradford and Ken Parrish. Auditions are Sun. and Mon., Aug. 23 and 24 from 6-8 pm at LowellArts!, 149 S. Hudson. For more information email info@lowellartsmi.org or call 897-8545.

CALL FOR ARTISTS: ART OF DARKNESS EXHIBITION

The LowellArts! Gallery committee is seeking dark/mysterious/horror themed artwork for an October 2015 exhibition with the theme "Art of Darkness." Seeking work that embraces the concept of darkness, mystery, fear and terror in a thoughtful (not too gruesome) way. The show will be juried to ensure that artwork fits the theme and is appropriate for all viewing audiences. Traditional depictions of everyday life (however scary) are encouraged, as well as conceptual works in any media – both 2d and 3d. For more information email info@lowellartsmi.org or call 897-8545.

FROM JOB FAIR

Manpower Job Fair at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) for those who are unemployed or underemployed. September 1, 1:00-4:00, at 11535 Fulton St. E.

FREE CANCER SURVIVOR EXERCISE CLASS

Starting in September, day and evening classes. Call the Lowell YMCA at 616-855-9570.

FOOD COMMODITIES

Food commodities for those in need. Sept. 3, 9-11, at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM), 11535 Fulton St. E.

CLASS OF 1955

The class of 1955 celebrates their 60th reunion during Pink Arrow Pride week, Wed., Sept. 9 at 1 pm at Keiser's. Appetizers provided. Buy lunch off menu. Pink Arrow items available for purchase.

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.

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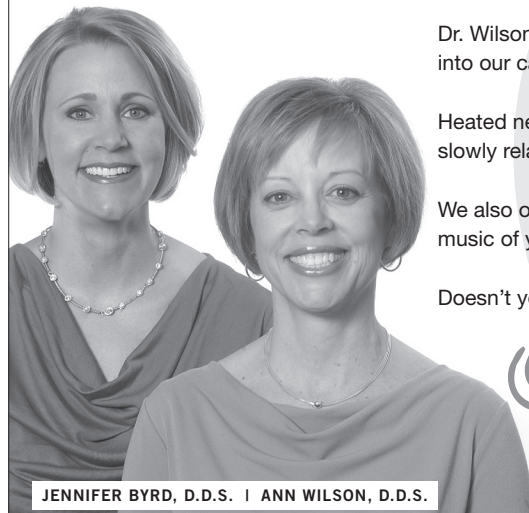
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City council, continued

wants six months because, according to the resolution, “the city council is considering amendments to the city’s zoning ordinance to implement new standards and procedures for the issuance of special use permits for commercial wireless communications towers.”

“We’ve discussed that at a staff level and I’ve had a discussion with the city attorney about, perhaps we could create a moratorium for a six month period,” city manager Mark Howe said.

The cell tower on the old cable television building is still due to be removed before the end of the month.

The council unanimously adopted a resolution declaring Sept. 11 “Pink Arrow Pride Day”

in Lowell. The resolution read, “Whereas many have been afflicted and battling cancer and breast cancer in particular; and whereas the Lowell High School football team, girls outdoor volleyball team and boys soccer team will once again compete against this disease with each player wearing pink for games on Friday, September 11th, 2015; and whereas the Lowell community is encouraged to buy and wear Pink Arrow Force VIII t-shirts to support Gilda’s Club of Lowell, Lowell Community Wellness for Pink Arrow Family Support, the Dr. Don Gerard Medical Scholarship and the Kathy Talus Scholarship. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Lowell City Council recognize



Lowell Rotarian John Sterly said his organization will pay for and build a deck on the back of the Englehardt Library.

Friday, September 11th, 2015 as ‘Pink Arrow Pride Day, Arrow Force VIII’ and further to encourage all Lowell community residents to participate in this event by purchasing pink t-shirts and attending the game.”

They also unanimously adopted a resolution declaring Sept. 18 “Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day.” That resolution read, “Whereas the United States has fought in many wars, one of the longest was the Vietnamese Conflict; and whereas Friday, September 18, 2015 is a day of remembrance for those who suffered as prisoners of war or are still missing as a result of any conflict; and whereas although cooperation has increased within the past few years, there are still nearly 1,700 American servicemen and civilians including 49 from the State of Michigan missing and unaccounted for in Indochina. The uncertainty surrounding their fates has caused their families to suffer great hardship; and whereas increasing public awareness and focusing public attention on this issue is one way to help achieve

this goal; now, therefore, be it resolved by the council of the city of Lowell that Friday, September 18, 2015 shall be designated as ‘Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day.’ We urge all of our citizens to take note of this important issue and remember those servicemen and civilians who were prisoners of war and those that are still missing and to commemorate the day with appropriate activities.”

One interesting tidbit came at the end of the meeting when mayor Jim Hodges said that the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce plans to get more involved with the Showboat.

“The Chamber of Commerce is taking the leadership on the Showboat repair and restoration work and whatever the future may be there,” Hodges said.

The council’s next meeting will be at city hall on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 7 pm. They also have a work session scheduled for 6 pm on Monday, August 24. Howe said that meeting will have a “hefty agenda” and the public is welcome to attend.

Food waste, continued

the Meijer Food Rescue program does. It helps increase the total tonnage of food delivered to local food banks while ensuring that quality food doesn’t go to waste. Not only is Meijer helping with hunger relief, this program provides healthy choices to a greater number of people who rely on food banks for their meals.”

Locally, the Flat River Outreach Ministries receives food from a couple local merchants. They also get food from Feeding America, although apparently they have to buy it.

“We do get a lot of donations of fresh produce from Heidi’s every week,” said Dawn Broene, FROM executive director. “Red Barn also has made donations to us. We can not give out in the pantry prepared food from restaurants or any containers that have been opened. Some bigger places give to Feeding America. Feeding America is then open for pantries to buy perishable food at a reduced cost. We also purchase food for delivery through Feeding America. Our monthly food mobile is also

food from Feeding America. Quantities of food can range from a banana box to multiple grocery carts. We try not to discard any food, but at times we have to. Quantities are very low.”

There are many easy ways local citizens can help cut down on food waste. People who shop for groceries more frequently tend to produce less waste because they’re only buying what they need at that time. Making a grocery list and sticking to it can help cut down on unnecessary purchases. It’s generally a bad idea to buy perishable food (such as fruit and vegetables) in bulk unless you intend to freeze or preserve a large portion of it. If your cabinets are full of non-perishable food items that nobody in your house is ever going to eat, why not donate that stuff to your local food bank?



...
“There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.”

~ Mahatma Gandhi

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Construction Documents will be available at Progressive AE on August 19, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. (contact Vicki Cerchia at cerchiav@progressiveae.com or 616-361-2664 for bid documents). There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting on August 26 2015, at 2:00 p.m. at the Alto Fire Station located at 6260 Bancroft Avenue, SE, Alto, MI 49302. Bids will be accepted at Progressive AE, 1811 4 Mile Road, NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525-2442, until September 2, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. local time, bid opening at 12:00 noon on the same day. Any bid received after this time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. Faxed bids will not be accepted. Post-bid interviews will be September 3, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the fire station and the awarded contractors will be notified on September 9, 2015. For additional information, contact David Raehl at 616-361-2664.

The Bowne Township Board reserves the right to postpone, accept, or reject any and all bid proposals, in whole or in part, on such basis as the Bowne Township Board deems to be in its best interest to do so.

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 Grattan/Vergennes Discharge Permit Compliance Permit for Monitoring Wells.
 Hired new firefighter Matthew Ferguson
 Makuski’s sewer hookup appeal
 POW/MIA Resolution for recognition Day
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The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at www.grattantownship.org

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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

A college degree is still a smart investment

Summer is almost over, which means it's "back-to-school" time. If you have young children, you may be purchasing backpacks, pencils, notebooks and similar items. But one day, you could be shopping for colleges — and when you do, you'll find the bill is a little bit higher than the one you get from your local school-supply store. That's why it's never too soon to start saving.

Just how costly is college? For the 2014–2015 school year, the average expense — tuition, fees, room and board — was \$18,943 at a public four-year school and \$42,419 at a four-year private school, according to the College Board. And if recent history is any guide, these numbers will likely keep climbing.

But there's no need to panic. For one thing, your child may be eligible for loans, grants or scholarships. Still, you will likely end up shouldering some of the financial load, and you may ask yourself if it's worth it. How much difference can a college degree make in the lives of your children?

Actually, college still

seems to be a pretty good investment: The average college graduate will receive about \$1 million more in lifetime earnings than the average high school graduate, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. So when you assist your children in getting to college, you can be reasonably sure that you're at least helping them start on the path toward a rewarding career.

How should you put away money for college? Unfortunately, more parents use a general savings account than any other method, according to Sallie Mae's *How America Saves for College 2015* study. These accounts pay little or no interest and offer no tax benefits.

As an alternative, consider investing in a 529 plan. Contribution limits are quite high, and federal taxes won't be assessed on earnings used for qualified higher education expenses. (The earnings portion of withdrawals will be taxed, though, and can incur a 10 percent penalty if the withdrawals aren't used for qualified expenses.)

Furthermore, your 529 plan contributions may be deductible from your state taxes. But 529 plans vary, so be sure to check with your tax advisor regarding deductibility.

Another college funding option is a Coverdell Education Savings Account, which, like a 529 plan, can generate tax-free earnings if the money is used for higher education expenses. You can typically only put in a maximum of \$2,000 per year to a Coverdell account, but it offers more flexibility in investment choices than a 529 plan.

You could also consider a custodial account, known as either UGMA or UTMA. You can put up to \$14,000 per year into a custodial account without incurring gift taxes, and earnings would only be subject to the "kiddie tax" — that is, the first \$1,050 is tax-exempt, the next \$1,050 will be taxed at the child's tax rate, and just the amount over \$2,100 will be taxed at your tax rate. However, once your children reach the age of majority (either 18 or 21), they take control of the money and can do whatever they want with it — and their plans may not include college.

Don't wait too long to begin funding whichever savings vehicle, or vehicles, you choose. Your children may be young today, but before you know it, they'll be college bound.

kidsView



by Sierra Hieshetter

Last Saturday my family and I made homemade salsa. We used fresh Roma tomatoes and jalapeño peppers from our garden. We have a huge six gallon pot that takes up half of our stove. We boil the tomatoes and then peel and blend them. We dump them and a

bunch of other ingredients in the pot and let them cook. I won't give away our secret recipe but all I can say is it's good. We have to cut up the peppers which is a huge task in itself. My mom is always the one who gets stuck cutting them up and I have

to get her water and tissues because they are so hot. And, the most satisfying part about canning the salsa is listening for the "pop" as the jars seal. That is the noise we patiently wait for at the end of every salsa making session. I normally don't like spicy things, but this salsa is the best I've ever had. It may be the garlic or the red pepper seasonings, but I think the ingredient that makes it taste so good is the love my family puts in each jar every year.

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viewpoint

to the editor

volunteers needed

Dear Editor,
Do you know how many organizations volunteer and need volunteers in Lowell? There is never a shortage of volunteer opportunities. Recently I saw a father and his kids picking up litter along the side of the road. I was thinking that is a great way to teach kids about giving back by working on a project with them. There is

also an Interact Club at the Lowell High School, Lowell Middle School and a few of the elementary schools that kids are finding ways to give back and help others with many projects they work on locally and internationally. Encourage your kids to get involved this school year.

Betsy Davidson,
Lowell Rotarian

workshop questions

Dear Editor,
I recently read that the budget for the Lowell police department was going to be discussed in an upcoming workshop for the city council. Why are all these major discussions done in workshops which are not recorded? I'm not aware that there are even any published minutes available for the public to read what is discussed. When these items come to

the council meetings usually the decisions appear to have already been made and it is just the formal votes that are taken. This gives the citizens no information on any discussions or any councilmembers' actual comments. There is no accountability in this type of format.

It seems to me that years ago the VOICE group worked very hard

to encourage the formal recording and televising of the council meetings. Since then the city arranged to make sure the recordings of the council meetings are always available to us on YouTube, which is a great service. However, this doesn't help when so much discussion is only done in meetings that are

not recorded. This is not transparency or keeping the voters informed. Isn't it time that all discussions be done in the recorded council meetings or that the workshops themselves be recorded and made available for public viewing?

An interested citizen,
Diana Chaterdon
Lowell

we are what we do

To The Editor

Let's celebrate living in Lowell! It is too easy to take for granted the quality leadership we have received from our city council, our mayor and our city manager. As I have spoken with some of them and watched what is happening, I am beginning to see strategic leadership developing. What a breath of fresh air, even though getting to a position where leaders are guided by goals, rather than by whim or pet programs, is always a struggle. We have good and, for the most part, thoughtful leaders that are open to our conversations with them.

As a member of Rotary and one who has the opportunity to serve in the community as a volunteer, I appreciate the "passion for serving" that I see in our business leaders, our churches and many individual citizens who get involved in the "doing" so vital to strong communities. The "doers" of this town are what make Lowell The Place to Be! We see this in all the work of volunteers to put on the youth fair; we see it in Pink Arrow and the related programs such as the health fair or "Pinknic" and

we see it in the Neighbor to Neighbor services sponsored through Flat River Outreach Ministries – just to mention a few. All of these programs reflect a deep caring for people in our community. All are accomplished through the shared leadership of business, churches, civic organizations and caring individuals. Few small communities go to the length of caring that is customary for this town. That is not to say we are a "perfect" community. But, we are

above average as a town who cares; a community that promotes looking-out for our neighbors. We seek to embody values essential to growing vital community among the diversity of people who live in Lowell.

Let's celebrate Lowell! Let's recognize the positive of a good and caring community and not be sidetracked by the few who just have to emphasize the negative. We live in a great (and the next) place to be.

Roger La Warre
Lowell

knee-jerk reaction

Lowell City Council,

I grew up and spent most of my adult life in Lowell and am writing to you as I am concerned about what I perceive as a knee-jerk reaction to current events. The news coverage regarding changing the name of the showboat indicated that there was not any plan in place at that time to actually change the name. I'm not sure if the WOOD-TV story was run to open dialogue about a name change or to shame the city of Lowell into changing the name. I did notice that the story found that most of the individuals that they spoke with did not have an issue with the name.

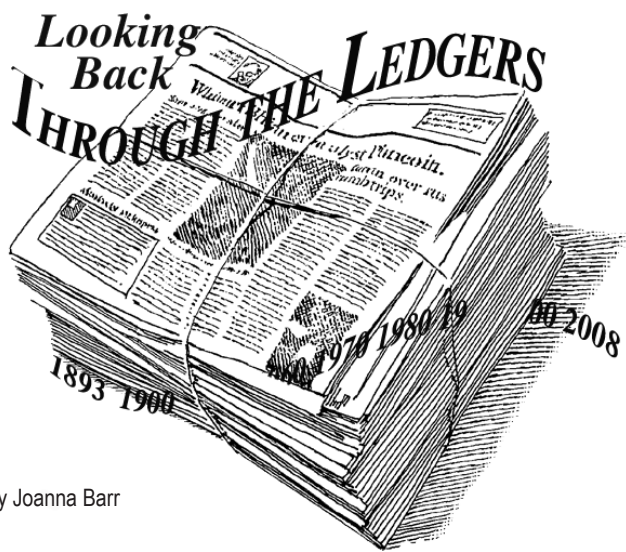
My concern is that many individuals only know that Lee was a general in the Confederate Army and are not aware of what led up to that. Lee was born in 1807 in Virginia. He entered West Point in 1825 and graduated second in his class. Lee was a member of the U.S. Army for 30 years and fought in battles with Winfield Scott and Ulysses S. Grant. He was concerned about the country and what was going to happen if states started to secede from the Union. Lee hoped for a peaceful resolution to the differences between the states as he looked upon secession as revolution. He supported the Union in everything he did until Virginia chose to secede. He often wrote about how he felt about

secession but also stated that he would not take up arms against his native state of Virginia. When Virginia seceded he resigned his commission from the U.S. Army and became a major general for Virginia troops. The decision was not an easy one as he wanted the states to stay united.

I'm also concerned that individuals are looking at the name and don't know the history of the Lowell Showboat. It was designed to represent a riverboat and the shows had a uniquely southern atmosphere to them, from the opening song, the chorus from "Are You From Dixie?" to the closing song, the first verse and chorus of "Waiting for the Robert E. Lee." My first memories of the showboat had the endmen in blackface theatrical makeup; this was stopped in 1967 but the songs continued. I have to wonder if those wanting to change the name knew the history of the showboat, would they not only recommend changing the name but to remove the entire boat.

I would strongly encourage the city council to not change the name as it is part of the history of the showboat and as George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Thank you,
Stephen E. Weeks
Freeport



By Joanna Barr

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 19, 1915

Headline: Schools open Tues., Sept. 7 – City hall used till new building is ready. High School tuition not to be raised this year. Large attendance expected. Opening on September 7, the Lowell public schools will be launched upon the greatest year in their history, while the new fifty thousand dollar high school building will not be completed until some time in November, school will be started as usual, and the City hall will be used for the Junior and Senior high schools. The fifth grade will hold alternate sessions with the fourth grade in the East ward and the sixth will have the same arrangement with the third grade in the West ward, until the new plant opens. Indications already point to the largest foreign patronage ever enjoyed by Lowell schools. The tuition, which is \$25 per year, has not been changed and will remain the same for this year.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 22, 1940

A crew of Pere Marquette workmen arrived here the first of the week and will spend a couple of weeks or more constructing concrete crossings at street intersections on Riverside, Broadway and Hudson streets. The new crossings will take the place of planks and will be of 10-inch concrete covered with tarvia on a level with the rails. Joseph Snell, P. M. section foreman, says that similar improvements may be also made at other points in this vicinity.

Tuesday's daily papers carried news of the death at Yonkers, N. Y., of Allan L. Benson, 68, author, former

125 years ago Lowell Journal August 20, 1890

Barnum at Gd. Rapids to-day, and together with the Picnic, at Morrison Lake, has almost depopulated our town.

These cool evenings call for other amusement than hammock swinging, and have aroused a terpsicorean fever in our young people, which will culminate in a party, to be given soon.

Rev. T. L. Pillsburg, of Hastings, one of the oldest Baptist preachers in this State, paid our village a visit one day last week, and left with Hare & Kisor an order for a Red Swede Granite Monument.

Howe and Sisson's Wild Oats Co. gave a very pleasing entertainment at the Opera House last Wednesday, to a fair sized audience. Manager Eddy says he will only book a high class of attractions for this winter and only have them on average of one each month. He has already several fine attractions booked.

II&p

Dear Editor,

I continue to be concerned with the running of our Lowell Light & Power and the decisions

they are making on behalf of us as ratepayers. There have been major issues over

To The Editor,
continued, page 15

LoWellness survey continues to work toward goal

Submitted by Jodie Seese

Once again Lowell is coming together to embrace an innovative project and one that benefits the whole community. It's called LoWellness and leaders believe it will become a community model for healthy living. "We are very pleased with the local participation and have now reached the halfway point to our goal of 3,000 surveys," said Jodie Seese, LoWellness program director. "It's another example how this community pulls together for an important cause."

LoWellness is a first of its kind health initiative in Michigan. This survey marks the first time a community has independently funded this type of research for the sole purpose of understanding the health needs of its residents. This unique project will use local data taken from the community survey to design health programs and identify services that are needed, but not currently available in the Lowell area. The survey asks questions about health and wellness,

but also seeks to identify barriers to good health such as access to healthcare, transportation issues and Internet availability.

"While we are excited to reach this goal, more important than the actual number is the community conversation around health," explained Seese. The survey provides a platform to share ideas and opinions on items that would enhance wellness, such as things you would like to see or see more of in the community. There have been many people who hear about the project, take the survey then ask how to get involved. One woman offered to help find ways for older residents to stay physically active. Her mother recently moved in with her and she would like to connect with others her age that want to get outdoors. A young couple who took the survey expressed an interest in a local running group and offered to help coordinate one. "These are activities and discussions we expected to have once the survey was complete

and the results were known. Instead the survey has generated these ideas and people are stepping up to help before the survey is even done. That speaks to the spirit of engagement here in Lowell."

Over the summer a LoWellness booth has been featured at various community events to get the word out and allow people who live or work in Lowell to take the survey. One venue that has been very successful is the Sizzlin Summer Concert Series where participants can enter to win a Fitbit. A Fitbit is a fitness tracking device. The model given away in the drawing is worn on your waistband and tracks steps, distance and calories burned which is a simple and convenient way to get started making healthy choices.

Seeing the weekly posting of winners on the LoWellness Facebook page inspired one Lowell resident to purchase her own device and start tracking her activity. "I was inspired by

the wonderful work this project has done by bringing fitness sensibility to our community," commented Julie Claire DeVoe of Lowell. "I bought a Fitbit Zip like the one given away during the concerts. I love it! The calorie monitor aspect is a blast. I had forgotten everything I learned in my college nutrition classes. I really appreciate the impact LoWellness has made for me as well as others in our community. What a great initiative."

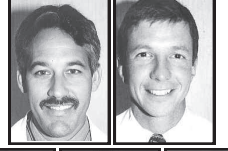
Those who have not taken the survey can find it on the Lowell Community Wellness web site or go to the LoWellness Facebook page and click on the "Sign Up" icon. A printed copy of the survey is also available at the Englehardt Public Library, 200 North Monroe in Lowell. The survey will remain available until a representative number of responses are received, which is expected to be sometime this fall.

LoWellness is an initiative of Lowell Community Wellness

(LCW) which commissioned the survey using grant funding from the Lowell Area Community Fund. That grant allowed LCW to contract with the data and research firm CRI- Community Research

Institute, of Grand Valley State University to design the survey and analyze the data. A final report of the survey results and recommendations will be available by next spring.

health



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

sunburn

Most of us have experienced a sunburn at some point in our lives. Sunburns vary from mild to very severe. Intense repeated sunburns increase your risk for skin cancer. It will also increase skin wrinkles and dark spots as you age. Cataracts are also a result of excessive sun exposure.

Sunburn will appear within several hours of exposure. Skin will appear red and will feel warm. Swelling may occur and blisters may form. Do not rupture blisters as this can increase risk of infection. Severe sunburn will cause headaches, fevers, chills, and fatigue. Sunburned eyes will be painful and feel gritty. After several days skin may peel and begin to intensely itch.

Most sunburns do not

require a doctor's visit. Treatment consists of moisturizing the skin and over-the-counter topical soothing agents. Severe burns which involve swelling, fevers and massive blistering, can require prescription steroids and more potent pain relievers. Itching can be treated with over-the-counter Benadryl.

Preventing sunburn takes thought and preparation. Avoid exposure between 10 am and 4 pm. Wear a hat and sunglasses. Apply sunscreen at least 20 minutes prior to exposure and reapply every two hours. Use SPF of 30 or higher. If using insect repellent, apply sunscreen first. Research does not support the concept of "base tanning," which involves indoor tanning to prevent sunburns.

The Grand Strategy: protect, rethink and include

Kent County, Grand Rapids and a number of other communities are in the running for millions in federal dollars to aid in protecting life and property, while promoting economic vitality through job creation, job protection, while boosting and protecting property values for low- to moderate-income families. This comprehensive, region-wide proposal came through our joint Kent County/Grand Rapids emergency manager; the

idea is to place regions and communities in a position that they eliminate the need to call FEMA again. The proposal, called "The Grand Strategy," could do just that.

After Superstorm Sandy, Congress appropriated \$1 billion as part of a national program to create resilient communities - to help them bounce-back quicker from unpredictable, natural events like tornadoes, floods or drought. Municipalities along the Grand River qualified to participate in

the competition through a submission by the Michigan Economic Development Commission, as a result of the 2013 flood that caused significant damage in Kent County, Lowell, Ada, Cascade, Plainfield Township, the cities of Grand Rapids, Walker and Grandville.

"This is yet another collaborative effort of Kent County and the region - an inclusive effort," said Wayman Britt, Kent County Assistance county

administrator. 'The Grand Strategy' emphasizes restoring and working with nature to more effectively manage future flood events throughout the county and to protect vulnerable populations in both urban and suburban communities. This is not about sustaining the old; it is about improving the present and setting the stage for an exceptional future."

Grand Strategy, continued, page 15

area churches

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Sunday School.....11:20 A.M.
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.
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Saturday confessions: 3-4:30 PM
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10:30 A.M.Fellowship
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Sunday School, nursery - adult.....11:00 A.M.
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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621 E. Main Street
897-5936
www.lowellumc.com
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SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30
Sunday School.....9:30
YOUTH GROUPS (JR. & SR. HIGH).....6:00 PM
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Pastor Brad Brillhart

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

AUGUST 20
Mattie Dalziel, B.J. Rittersdorf, Alexis Holloway, Andrea Bryant, Katelyn Kaczanowski, Edwin Roth.

AUGUST 21
Madelyn Pfaller, Charlene DeShane-Dalga, Joshua Hobria, Tom Barnes, Ethan Shindorf, Katelyn Videto, Emma Yeiter.

AUGUST 22
Mike Blough, Shane Teelander.

AUGUST 23
Kacy Anderson, Rhea Bundy Anes, Stephen Rhodes, Brandon Taylor, Ron Kennedy, Jesse Carr, Katie Peterson, Chad Peterson.

AUGUST 24
Tim Raymor, Angela Rasch, April Barnes, Kelly Johnson, David Vankeulen, Nicholas Myers.

AUGUST 25
Patty Elzinga, Lindsey Trierweiler, Misty McClure-Anderson.

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Football season kicks off with a fundraiser

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Red Arrow football hosted an inter-squad scrimmage at Lowell Memorial Stadium last Saturday.

Serving as a fundraiser for the program, the morning's events also featured an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast, punt, pass and kick contests for students eighth grade and under and a special appearance from local car dealership Harold Ziegler Ford.

For \$5 hundreds of fans were treated to a limitless plate of pancakes complemented by sausage and bottled water before kick off. The fundraiser was so well received organizers were forced to make a second run to the store to accommodate the breakfast eaters. In total the meal raised nearly \$2,500 that will support the future of the

Lowell football program. "It was fantastic to have all of our family and friends turn out in such numbers," said varsity head coach and event organizer Noel Dean. "Our Lowell kids are very blessed to have such family support."

Harold Ziegler Ford offered their support through their Drive 4 UR School program which gave a \$20 payout to the program for every test drive completed on-site. Nearly 300 test drives were completed as football fans checked out the luxury and safety features of Ford F150s, Explorers, Fusions, Escapes, Focuses and Edges. Their effort garnered the program nearly \$6,000.

"We are blessed to have a great base here in Lowell. It's our customers that fuel our passion and we try to show our appreciation by investing in our community

and future leaders," said Harold Ziegler representative Tim Geney, of their involvement in the fundraiser. "The children are our future and in today's world a positive education and influence is needed more than ever. It's our honor and pleasure to invest time, finances, materials, services and facilities to this great community."

The red/white scrimmage, featuring members of both the varsity and junior varsity Arrow teams, kicked off at ten. The red squad started off strong and finished the same way setting their pace by scoring twice in the first quarter. Sophomore Darby Dean assisted both touchdowns with successful extra point kicks, making the score 14-0 moving into the second.

Derek Massey added a third touchdown in the second for the red team



Senior Derek Massey earns a touchdown for the red squad during the second quarter.

pushing their lead to 21-0 at the half.

The white team narrowly avoided a shutout when David Kruse offered up a 35-yard touchdown run early in the fourth to make

the score 21-7 with another extra point from Dean. The score remained intact until the final buzzer giving the red squad the official victory.

The varsity team's first

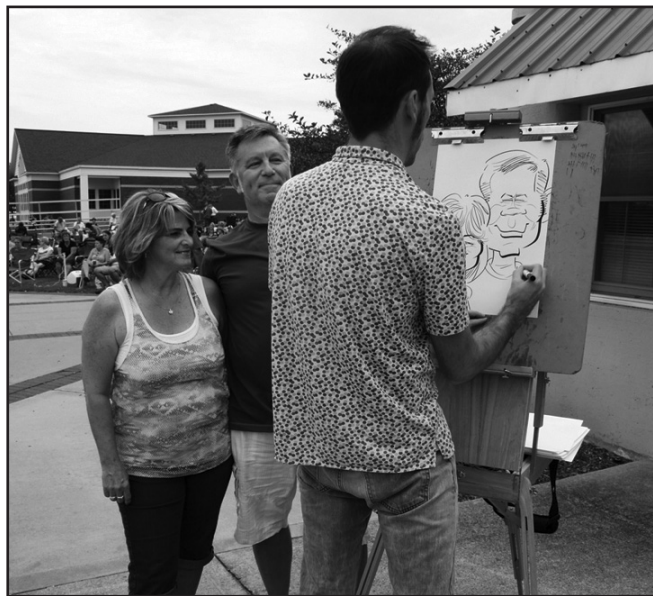
regular season home game will be held next Thursday evening at 7 pm when the Red Arrows face non-conference foe Walled Lake Western.

Thursday night concert continues under cloudy skies

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

A lighter than usual crowd risked coming out on a cloudy night to hear pop/rock band Brena at last Thursday's Sizzlin' Summer concert.

As usual, the free concert took place on the Showboat. There were cheeseburgers and hot dogs, free caricatures from an artist and LoWellness was on hand getting people to fill out health surveys.



A caricature artist was on hand drawing pictures of people for free.

Brena, a band from Grand Rapids, stuck to covers during their lengthy set. They opened with "I Saw Her Standing There" by the Beatles, then moved on to songs by Stevie Wonder, the Temptations and many others. This caused quite a bit of dancing in front of the Showboat.

"I like a variety of music, said Pam Williams from Grand Rapids. "I think

everybody should have a variety. I like Lowell, I always have. The music, the river... it's a quaint, old town. We need more towns like this."

This was the second-to-last Sizzlin' Summer concert for 2015. Next week's finale will bring Lowell's very own Time Hungry to the Showboat stage for a rare live show. They used to be called the Great Lakes Band and they play music from a genre they made up, Country Midwestern Rock. The band consists of Ryder Jones, Mitch McMahon, Dave Jones and Rick Seese. Some of those guys have been playing in bands in Lowell since the days of the Plague and the Headhunters back in the 60s. The show will start at 7 pm on Thursday night.



Craig Avery, Brena's lead singer, cracked jokes throughout the band's set.

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100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

2014 fair was bigger and better than ever

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The 2015 Kent County Youth Fair was bigger and better than ever this year. The crowd of thousands spent Monday, August 10 through Saturday, August 15 enjoying fun, food, animals and tons of entertainment.

Monday's events included the Youth Talent Contest, a blood drive and a tractor pull. Tuesday was the culmination of KCYF's Reading for Rides program.

"Kids read five or more books during the summer, their parents fill out a form that they get on the website and they come in and ride free on Tuesday from noon until four pm," said KCYF vice president Bruce Doll.

On Tuesday afternoon the crowd was both entertained and preached to by Christian magician Tom Coverly.

"It went really well, it was a great crowd," Coverly said. "It was full. It was packed in there. People were laughing, having a good time. [I got] a lot of good compliments afterwards, just signing

autographs, taking pictures and it sounded like people absolutely enjoyed it. Hopefully we'll come back another year. I loved it here in Lowell."

Wizz and Rusty, the Midwest Dueling Pianos, played an all-requests show on Tuesday evening.

"We play everything," Wizz said. "If you've heard it on the radio, at some point we play it. We do everything from 50s rock and roll to 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and current stuff. We take requests. We have request slips that we pass out to people, let them fill out what they want to hear, bring them up and we pick one randomly, so it's a different show every time."

Wizz said he'd been all over the world playing with the Midwest Dueling Pianos.

"I've been doing dueling pianos for 20 years," Wizz said. "I've played all around the country, Mexico, Canada, England, other places in Europe. I haven't been to Asia yet, but a lot of places, a lot of shows. We go everywhere."

Wednesday was "Community Day" at the fair. There was another blood drive, a horse pull, music from the Kari Lynch Band and a dodge ball tournament with about 50 participants of all ages. Thursday was the livestock auction. Friday had karaoke and line dancing classes. One interesting thing was the amount of Confederate flag merchandise that was on sale at the fair. You could purchase belt buckles,

t-shirts, license plates and other items with the Confederate flag, as well as full-sized Confederate flags.

"Sales have gone up all over the Midwest," said Jean, a vendor from Florida. Jean did not want her last name printed in this article. "There is a demand for the flags, I guess. We've always sold a lot of them. Supply and demand right now is crazy because nobody can find them anywhere."

Saturday was the last day of the fair. There was a scavenger hunt, an ice cream social, a princess tea party and music from the Truckstop Cobras. The big event was the rodeo on Saturday evening.

"The big new thing this year is the rodeo," Doll said. "It's a full rodeo using the same rodeo stock that is used in rodeos all over the state, however the

contestants are all roughly 19 and under. It is just an amazing, fun time to see a 16-year-old climb onto a bull and go bull riding. The rodeo is sponsored by B-93; they were very generous helping us out with that."

Other fair sponsors included King Milling, Meijer, WGVU, United Sign Company and the Pinkney Hill Meat Company.



Out-of-state vendors sold Confederate flag merchandise all week.



Saturday's Little Britches Rodeo was the highlight of this year's Kent County Youth Fair.



Kids got up close and personal with farm animals at the petting zoo.



Bigger and better fair, continued



The Truckstop Cobras covered oldies by Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash and more on Saturday evening.



Friday was Reading for Rides day at the fair.



A girl leads her pet through a dog agility course.



Wizz and Rusty, the Midwest Dueling Pianos, played songs from the last few decades.



The Kari Lynch Band played raucous country rock on Wednesday.



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FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

BOYS VARSITY TENNIS

* Denotes a game at the high school tennis courts

8/24 at 9 a.m. Dobber Wenger Invite at Caledonia
 8/26 at 8:30 a.m. Jenison Cats Dogs Invite at Jenison
 9/1 at 4:15 p.m. Lakewood*
 9/2 at 4:15 p.m. West Catholic*
 9/3 at 4 p.m. Wayland*
 9/9 at 4:15 p.m. Jenison*
 9/12 at 8:30 a.m. Holland Quad at Holland
 9/14 at 4:15 p.m. Caledonia*
 9/15 at 4:15 p.m. Forest Hills Central
 9/19 at 8:30 a.m. Sailor Invite at South Christian

BOYS VARSITY SOCCER

* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

8/21 at 6:45 p.m. Forest Hills Eastern*
 8/24 at 6:45 p.m. at Cedar Springs
 8/26 at 6:45 p.m. West Catholic*
 8/29 at 11 a.m. Alpena Tournament at Alpena HS
 9/2 at 6:45 Greenville*
 9/3 at 6:45 p.m. at Forest Hills Northern
 9/8 at 6:45 p.m. Northview*
 9/11 at 3:45 p.m. Jenison*
 9/15 at 6:45 p.m. Caledonia*

BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

* Denotes a home meet at the High School Campus

Girls begin at 4:45 p.m. & Boys begin at 5:30 p.m. unless noted.

8/26 at 4 p.m. Hesperia Invitational
 8/29 at 9 a.m. Bredeweg Invite - West Ottawa
 9/9 Jamboree #1 *
 9/19 at 8 a.m. Sparta Invitational
 9/23 Jamboree #2 at Gainey Athletic Complex
 9/26 at 9 a.m. Bob Perry Invitational*
 10/3 at 8 a.m. Allendale Invite
 10/7 Jamboree #3 at Caledonia

BOYS VARSITY FOOTBALL

* Denotes a game at Red Arrow Memorial Stadium

8/27 at 7 p.m. Walled Lake Western*
 9/3 at 7 p.m. Chicago Hubbard*
 9/11 at 7 p.m. Jenison*
 9/18 at 7 p.m. Reeths Puffer*
 9/25 at 7 p.m. at Grand Haven
 10/2 at 7:30 p.m. Caledonia*
 10/9 at 7 p.m. Forest Hills Central

GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

* Denotes a home game at LHS main gym

8/25 at 9 a.m. NPC Mustang Invitational at Northpointe Christian H.S.
 8/29 at 9 a.m. WMVOA Invitational at E. Kentwood
 9/1 at 5 p.m. Quad at Coopersville
 9/11 at 3 p.m. Jenison*
 9/17 at 7 p.m. Caledonia*
 9/19 at 8 p.m. Caledonia Elite Classic
 9/22 at 7 p.m. Forest Hills Central
 9/24 at 7 p.m. East Grand Rapids*
 9/26 at 8:30 a.m. West Ottawa Invitational
 10/1 at 7 p.m. Grand Rapids Christian
 10/6 at 5 p.m. Tri at GR Catholic Central
 10/8 at 7 p.m. Jenison
 10/15 at 7 p.m. Caledonia

GIRLS VARSITY GOLF

* Denotes a home meet at Arrowhead Golf Course

8/25 at 10 a.m. Lakewood*
 8/26 at 10 a.m. Ionia*
 9/1 at 3:30 p.m. Jamboree #1 at FHC
 9/2 at 3:30 p.m. Coopersville*
 9/9 at 3:30 p.m. Jamboree #2 at Jenison
 9/14 at 3:30 p.m. Jamboree #3 at EGR
 9/16 at 3:30 p.m. Jamboree #4 *

For More Information please visit
www.lowellschools.com

Be sure to read the Lowell Ledger for
 coverage of the LAS Varsity Fall Sports.

Brought To You By

the lowell
 ledger

“School of Rock” features local talented youth

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Luc James and ninety students he refers to as his “best friends” are bringing their “School of Rock” to the Lowell area with performances featuring up-and-coming youth musicians.

Having performed live at the Alto 5K, Riverwalk Celebration and most recently the Kent County Youth Fair the Luc James Music Studio and its young bands are making a name for themselves on the local and West Michigan music scenes.

James, owner and operator of the local studio, began his musical aspirations as a teen after developing a love for the guitar. “I wanted to learn guitar because it was cool. I took one lesson but ended up teaching myself and I was terrible,” admitted James.

James did not let that deter him though and soon after formed a rock band with friends and family as a senior in high school. Calling the band “awful” with a laugh, James said he believes it is that fact that makes him an effective teacher. “I feel like that

makes me a good teacher now because I struggled for years. Having those struggles makes it very easy for me to say well this is why you have to practice.”

After a brief stint in college studying to become a music teacher James realized that his dream job did not line up with his study notes. “I didn’t want to be a band teacher, I wanted to teach rock n’ roll, so I started teaching private lessons and have been doing it ever since,” said James.

James, a native of Iowa, set up shop in Ada where he has been teaching mainly rock based guitar, vocals, drums, piano and bass. The idea to take those students and form bands came several years later from a student. According to James, “A student approached me with the idea of bands and I thought ‘What a cool idea! Why aren’t we?’ We had our first concert a short time later and I think half of the bands couldn’t make it through a whole song. It was a train wreck but they felt like rock stars and that’s all that mattered. It has totally changed how we teach and what we do. The kids weren’t engaged.



Band members Madison Pankratz, Anthony Hanna, RJ Hoin, Anthony Zarou and Aidan Zarou on stage during the Riverwalk Festival.

They weren’t invested in it and as soon as we got bands everybody wanted to do it, everybody wanted to practice and they all really showed up.”

Word of the cool twist on music education soon spread, booking James to

the point he had to turn down new business. “We expanded about two and a half years ago adding additional teachers. I was teaching 50 students and directing seven bands a week alone.”

With the added staff

the studio now teaches 90 students per week, including a handful of Lowell musicians and directs 15 bands. “Most kids come to us because they want to rock and we like that,” said James.

Students interested in private lessons and/or band membership are encouraged to visit the studio’s website at www.lucjamesmusicstudio.com for further details and to schedule a free musical assessment.

EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk:

There’s a lot of talk about the potential for renewable energy sources like solar and wind. But cheap, abundant coal is still going to power the world for a long time. How can we harness the energy from coal without emitting our way into a much warmer future? -- *Sally Ristau, Erie, PA*

Today coal still accounts for some 40 percent of worldwide electricity generation. The International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts that global demand will continue rising to record levels, topping nine billion metric tons annually by 2019. And despite efforts by China to moderate coal consumption, China still accounts for three-fifths of this short-term “demand growth.” Meanwhile, India and other countries in Asia are also ramping up their coal use, offsetting declines in Europe and the U.S.

“The world is not going to stop using coal ... so we have to change how the world does use it,” says Eric Redman, an outspoken advocate for realistic clean energy solutions and co-chair of the Seattle-based Summit Power Group. He says that the key is in teaching the world how to utilize carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technologies, which take carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions out of smokestacks and reuses them or stores them in forms so they won’t enter the atmosphere and exacerbate climate change.

In October 2014, Canadian utility SaskPower launched the world’s first full-scale “clean coal” plant in Saskatchewan. Named one of *National Geographic’s* “10 Energy Breakthroughs of 2014 that Could Change Your

Life” and winner of the 2015 “POWER Plant of the Year” award, the Boundary Dam Power Station Unit 3 CCS project has now exceeded expectations, capturing 135,000 metric tons of CO₂ in less than a year. The plant is on target to absorb as much as a million metric tons of CO₂ annually.

And in June 2015, SaskPower opened its Capture Test Facility, a lab that lets researchers test equipment, chemical innovation and engineering designs in a highly controlled environment. Other companies are also using the facility to develop and test CCS technologies for potential use in their own power plants.

Other promising CCS technologies in the works include coal gasification, whereby energy from coal is converted into a gas that can be burned as CO₂ is removed, and the Polaris Membrane System, which uses a specially-designed membrane to capture 90 percent of the CO₂ emitted from a coal-burning power plant.

These technologies are indeed promising, but cost still remains the main obstacle to making CCS mainstream. “It is obviously cheaper to dump something in the atmosphere (for free) than to pay the capital and operating costs of capturing and sequestering it,” says Summit Power’s Redman. “There are very few mechanisms currently available to help pay those costs,” he says, adding: “Globally we’ve so far spent on carbon capture and sequestration less than one percent of what we’ve already spent on renewable energy, so naturally we are not yet very far down the CCS cost curve.”

And while many environmentalists shudder to think that we will continue to burn coal at all, we may not have a choice. “I think most climate

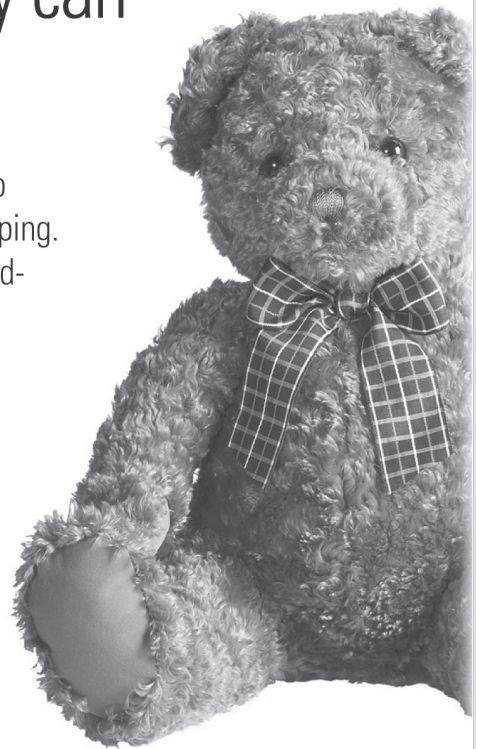
experts would agree that the maximum realistic deployment of renewables, efficiency and nuclear power will not, by themselves, allow us to limit atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ to 450 parts per million by mid-century,” says Redman, adding that CCS is both necessary and ultimately inevitable. “But we need to move more rapidly.”

CONTACTS: IEA, www.iea.org; Summit Power, www.summitpower.com; SaskPower, www.saskpower.com. EarthTalk® is produced by Doug Moss & Roddy Scheer and is a registered trademark of Earth Action Network Inc. View past columns at: www.earthtalk.org. Or e-mail us your question: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

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obituaries

ARMSTRONG

Cheryl J Armstrong, aged 65, of Grand Rapids, died peacefully after a courageous battle with cancer on Sunday, August 9, 2015. She was born in Portland on May 9, 1950, the daughter of Jay and Lee (Burger) Miller. Cheryl worked at and retired from the Michigan Education Association after 42 years of employment. She is preceded in death by her father, Jay Miller and survived by her loving husband of 20 years, Jack Armstrong; mother, Lee Miller; sisters, Jill (Tom) Hoppes, Pam Avery; brother, Keith (Cindy) Miller; her children, Neille (Matt) Buckland, Jessie Stephens, Janell (Jason) Krul, Lacey (Bryan) May; five adoring grandchildren, Lily and Sawyer Buckland, Maya and Audrey Krul, Aidan May; and many nieces and nephews. Although Cheryl lived in Grand Rapids for the last several years, she was a resident of the Murray Lake area for several years as well so made many lasting friendships. Cheryl loved music, dancing and singing, as well as spending lots of good times with family and friends. She was best known for her thoughtfulness and kindness and because of this she was much loved by those around her. Although she will be missed, we send her off dancing and singing with much love and bushels of hugs and kisses. A celebration of life will be held at the Vestal Inn located at 6255 West River Dr. NE in Belmont on Saturday, August 29 from 2-4 pm.



FLANAGAN

Mr. Lloyd Gene Flanagan, Sr. of Lowell, age 74, passed away on Thursday, June 25, 2015. He was born to Percy and Lena (Root) Flanagan on Monday, October 7, 1940, in Belmont and had been a lifelong resident



of the Lowell area. Lloyd enjoyed many things in life, but his true passion and lifeblood was farming and he would be at his most content and in utter glory riding his tractor, a 656 International Harvester. Lloyd was a loving and devoted husband, wonderful father, proud grandfather and dear friend. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by family, friends and all who knew him. Lloyd is survived by his beloved wife, Kathleen (Goldner); loving children, Lloyd (Andrea) Flanagan, Jr. and Marilyn (Wayne) VanOss; grandchildren, Michelle VanOss, Nathan (Nicole) VanOss, Jason (Dawn) VanOss, and Amanda (Troy) Linebaugh; four great-grandchildren; and "special friends" Jake Seaman, Ryan Fisk and Shannon Fisk. He was preceded in death by his parents; and son, David Lloyd Flanagan on January 9, 2015. There will be a gathering of family and friends to celebrate Lloyd's life, beginning at 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 22, 2015, at the family farm, located at 10975 4 Mile Road NE, Lowell, MI 49331. Those wishing to offer expressions of sympathy are encouraged to make a memorial contribution in Lloyd's name to the American Diabetes Association, 1550 E. Beltline Avenue SE, Suite 250, Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Pederson Funeral Home www.pedersonfuneralhome.com

SHADE

Just shy of 89 years old, Dale K. Shade, of Chandler, Arizona; formerly of Lowell and Alto, was welcomed into the arms of his Lord on August 10, 2015 in Chandler, AZ. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 59 years, Gladys; his beloved son, James; his parents, Marion and Opal; and his sister, Wanda Shade. He is survived by three daughters, Jackie (LC) Scramlin of Holly, Joni Fairbrother of Chandler, AZ; Bonnie (Glenn) Anderson of Alto; daughter-in-law, Peggy Shade of Fenwick; 12 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; six great great-grandchildren; two sisters, RuthAnne (Harold) Metternick of Alto and Yvonne Gould of Comstock Park; sister-in-law, Marilyn Johnson of the Upper Peninsula; and many nieces and nephews. Dale was a dedicated farmer both in Michigan and Arizona where he retired from the Arizona Dairy. In Michigan, he served on the Lowell Board of Education, as a 4-H leader for over 25 years and was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. After moving to Arizona, he became active at Epiphany Lutheran Church and served in many areas of the church from elder to men's group to vacation Bible School volunteer. Service will be held at Lowell First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main St., Lowell, MI on Sunday, August 23, 2015 at 2:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Epiphany Lutheran Church Outreach Program, 800 W. Ray Rd., Chandler, AZ 85225.



SMITH



Edwin Francis Smith, age 89 of Saranac, went to be with his Lord Friday, August 14, 2015. He was preceded in death by his children, Rosemary and Darwin; brother-in-law, Pete Baker; sister-in-law, Barbara Boes. He

is survived by his wife of 63 years, Elaine; children, Terry E. (Susan) Smith, Susan (George) Raimer; brothers, Emerson (Betty) Smith, Bernard Smith; grandchildren, Benjamin (Heather) Smith, Jonathan (Kelly) Smith, Sherri (Jerin) Barton, Tricia (Stephen) Yonker, Mandi Raimer, Becky (Andrew) Hauck, Tom Raimer; 11 great grandchildren; one great great grandson; brothers-in-law, Bert Boes, Jerry (Marge) Baker; sisters-in-law, Marie Eldridge, Marge Baker. Funeral service was held Tuesday at First Baptist Church of Lowell. Pastor W. Lee Taylor officiating. Interment Bowne Mennonite Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 2265 Livernois Rd., Ste. 410, Troy, MI 48083.



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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 15-197881-DE

Estate of **TIMOTHY ROBERT VAN GESSEL II**. Date of birth: 2/22/1978.

TO ALL CREDITORS: August 13, 2015

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: **John D. Mitus (P31244)** The decedent, **Timothy Robert Van Gessel II**, died 7/12/2015. **410 Bridge Street, NW Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-774-4001**

Creditors of the decedent are notified **Timothy R. Van Gessel 913 Bryant S.W. Wyoming, MI 49509**

•••

Throw your heart over the fence and the rest will follow.

~ Norman Vincent Peale (1898 - 1993)

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

classifieds

for sale

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

40x40 BUILDING ON 3 ACRES - 16' ceiling, 14x14 overhead door, 5-camera security system, 220 wiring, 5 hp 80-gal. aircomp, Boston Township, no zoning. 4 miles from Lowell and expressway, excellent location for business. Selling below cost. Phone Bob: 616-446-9502.

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

2007 CHEVROLET COBALT - like new condition, must see, \$5,750. Call 616-581-1661 or 989-287-0110.

HEAT YOUR ENTIRE HOME - Domestic water & more with the Classic or E-Class Outdoor Wood Furnace from Central Boiler. Call today! SOS in Dutton, 616-554-8669.

BED & MATTRESS SET - queen, Sealy, \$95 includes frame. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.

SALE - 50% OFF - Tropical aquatic plants, 25% off granite Japanese lanterns, plus Koi and all pond supplies. APOLS WATER GARDENS, 9340 Kalamazoo, Caledonia, MI. 616-698-1030. Wed. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sat., 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., September to March by appointment.

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

2000 CHEVY PICKUP - 4x4 ex-cab with topper, \$4,000. Call Dennis, 616-901-8519.

CELL PHONE - you may qualify for a free phone or one month free service. Please call 897-8888 for details.

BIRD BERRY FARM IN BELDING - still open for pick-your-own blueberries. Call 616-794-5041 for picking information.

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

200 APPLIANCES - Washers, dryers, refrigerators & stoves. Guaranteed. From \$69. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook. Delivery available.

for rent

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of housing or residential lots; in the advertising the sale or rental of housing, in the financing of housing. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

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

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of 196. Call for specials 558-2900.

TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT - gas & water included. \$600 deposit. \$600 a month. No pets & no smoking inside. 616-443-6082.

sales

AUCTION - every Saturday starting May 16 at 6 p.m. Antiques, collectibles & housewares. Always accepting consignments & estates. View partial list at auctionzip.com id#31095. Peddlers Market, 420 N. Lafayette, Greenville, 616-302-8963.

ESTATE FURNITURE SALE - Aug. 22, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 2022 Conservation Trail, Lowell, behind Tractor Supply. 2 sofas, 1 love seat, mattress & box spring, hutch, entertainment center, extension ladder. Antiques - pool table, sofa, 2 chairs & ottoman.

HUGE 2 FAMILY POLE BARN SALE - Fri., Aug. 21 & Sat., Aug. 22, 9 to 5. Furniture, fishing & sporting goods, wood router access., various building materials. New 24" vanity & 30" top, new 21x27 gas filled skylight, Bazooka fishing rod case. Hobby compressor. Two new fishing tube floats & new garden pond kit. LP's. Ladies: quilting books & magazines. Cross stitch & embroidery patterns, fabric, & magazines. Rubber stamps, scrapbooking, leaf & flower design material. 100s of all kinds of year/round flower pics 50¢. Many hard cover & soft cover, fiction & nonfiction books. 11865 Drew Rd., Alto (across from Elmdale Nazarene Church).

sales

MULTI FAMILY GARAGE SALE - 5333 Gavin Lake, Rockford. Fri. & Sat., Aug. 21 & 22, 9-5. No prior sales. Little Tikes toys, beautiful bottle crafts, collectibles, clothing & a variety of items. Something for everyone.

SINGLE MOM'S MINISTRY OF IMPACT YARD SALE - donation only. Thurs. - Sat., Aug 27-29, 10-4 p.m. Ice Cream Caboose, 6300 Alden Nash, Alto.

ESTATE / GARAGE SALE - antiques, furniture, glassware & tools; children items; household items; lots of misc. 11556 Barnsley, Lowell. Fri., Aug. 21, 9-5 & Sat., Aug. 22, 9-3.

help wanted

DIESEL MECHANIC/TECHNICIAN WANTED - Immediate position available for Certified Technician. Must have all state Diesel Certifications. Extensive experience and management skills to handle 30+ semis, front-end loaders and other large equipment. Also, transmission and drive train maintenance. Must be organized, capable of complete overhauls and CSA requirements. Full benefits to include health insurance, HSA, and 401K. Please apply in person at Timpson Transport, 3175 Segwun Ave., Lowell, MI 49331, Monday - Friday from 8 am - 5 pm. Or email resume to info@TimpsonTransport.com or fax to 897-5905.

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

NOW HIRING - General laborers, CNC operators, press operators, cage cleaners, maintenance, maintenance with PLC experience, tool & die repair, machine builders, electrical technician, warehouse workers. Apply today: Workbox Staffing, 318 Main Street, Lowell, 897-7881, www.workbox-staffing.com

ANIMAL CARE GIVER - Looking for that special person who wants permanent work. Must be conscientious, ambitious and physically fit to care for many small dogs in a large, impeccably clean facility. Part- and full-time. Alto area. E-mail resumes/inquiries to: animalcaregivers@outlook.com or 616-868-7382.

DRIVERS - Do you have a CDL? Now hiring. No experience necessary. Paid training. Earn \$55,000+ annually! Call: 888-497-1268.

SELL AVON - Only \$15 to get started. Call 616-897-5086 or sign up now at www.startAvon.com and use ref code SGRIMM

help wanted

TRUCK DRIVERS NEEDED - for rapidly growing Petroleum Distribution Company. Class A CDL with "X" endorsement required and tanker experience is a plus. Competitive pay & benefits including health & dental. Shift premium for 2nd shift drivers. Send resume to: Attn: Truck Driver, PO Box 788, Greenville, MI 48838 or email to Transport@petersenoil.com

O/O'S NEEDED! - Dedicated routes from Ionia, MI to Claycomo, MO. CDL-A, 12 mo. exp. B&W Interstate. Tabitha: 800-325-7884 x 4.

BARN HELP - Looking for full and part-time individuals who have horse experience. Work includes stall cleaning, feeding & turn-out. Professional environment at busy training facility. Must have own transportation. Located in Clarksville. Please respond to Lisa at 616-443-7399.

wanted

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

WANTED - lot or land on lake for mobile/manufactured home. Call 269-209-7535.

found

FOUND - cream colored male young adult cat on Bennett near Parnell. Call 204-8848.

services

HAVING DIFFICULTIES? LIVE THE LIFE YOU WANT - Mental health for individuals, couples & groups. Life Transitions Therapy, 616-238-2116.

GARAGE DOOR & OPENER REPAIR SPECIAL - \$30 off broken spring or opener repair. Free estimates. Call Global Discount Garage Doors, 616-334-3574.

GEE'S ROLLING DUMPSTERS - 15 yard. \$180 for household trash or \$250 for shingles/drywall, 616-205-6871.

J&M CONCRETE - Concrete work wanted. All flat work, garages, basements, patios, sidewalks & driveways, etc. Free bids. Call Marcus at 616-216-7912 or email markymarc1982@gmail.com

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

LAMINATING SERVICE AVAILABLE - Next day service. Drop off & pieces will be available by 9 a.m. the next day. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

services

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

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card of thanks

IN MEMORY OF TED KAZEMIER

We wish to thank all who shared in the joy of his life, who provided warm hugs, encouraging words, and strong shoulders during his last months, and who now share in the sorrow of his death. It is within our memories and our love that Ted will live forever.

Sincerely,
 the Kazemier family

COMING EVENTS

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

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

FLAT RIVER WATERSHED GROUP - Meets 3rd Monday of each month at the Main Street Inn in Lowell at 6:30 p.m. Our purpose is to protect, enhance & maintain land & water quality & other natural resources surrounding the Flat River Watershed. For more information, call Lloyd at 676-1812. Also, "Like" us on Facebook at the Flat River Watershed Council.

LADIES SEWING CLOTHES TO DONATE - First Friday of the month, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Items

are made from donated material & fabrics, clothes from newborn to 12 years old. Items are donated to Blodgett Children's Home & St. John's Home. Join us to cut out patterns, Christian Life Center, Lowell.

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

BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY - meets the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Historical Museum at 84th/Alden Nash.

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

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE - third Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

ALTO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Alto American Legion Post.

V.F.W. POST #8303 - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116 Alden Nash S.E.

LOWELL SHOWBOAT GARDEN CLUB - meets the 3rd Monday in the Church of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall, 211 N. Washington St. at 6:30 p.m.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Don Aversano at 847-571-8373 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

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

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

QUAKE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.quake-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

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

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

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES TREASURE'S THRIFT SHOP HOURS - Wed. 10-8 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri. 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 - 4 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Resource Center, 897-8260.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: TECH GADGETS

ACROSS

- 1. Had, with thou
- 6. Exclamation of disgust
- 9. Fit of shivering
- 13. American writer Jong
- 14. Beauty treatment site
- 15. "No guts, no ____"
- 16. ____ in, for a doctor
- 17. "C' ____ la vie!"
- 18. *A portable one is great for camping
- 19. eBay participant
- 21. *Power provider
- 23. *A smart one syncs everything you write
- 24. *Pretty hot and tempting, in a text
- 25. Public health org.
- 28. Bluish green
- 30. ____ talk
- 35. ZZ Top hit
- 37. Lady Gaga's 2010 dress material
- 39. Lowest Hindu caste
- 40. Tons
- 41. "Walk the Dog" device, pl.
- 43. Civil wrong
- 44. Done to some documents
- 46. "Cheers" regular
- 47. "The Iliad," e.g.
- 48. Interruption in continuity
- 50. Medieval domain
- 52. Emerald ____ borer
- 53. Naive, alt. spelling
- 55. Hat
- 57. *Bose, e.g.
- 61. Iron Man's robotic nemesis
- 64. Like a ballerina
- 65. Unit of electric current

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63	
64						65	66			67				68
69						70				71				
72						73				74				



AUGUST 12 - AUGUST 18

- Police in Thailand's capital, Bangkok, are searching for the bomber "the guy in the yellow shirt" who is seen on grainy surveillance footage.
- Walter and Leslie Kimmel were married on Aug. 18, 1940. They are both 100 years old. The two centenarians are celebrating their 75th wedding anniversary at a Maryland retirement community in Catonsville, where they both live.
- Environmental inspectors investigating a massive die-off of fish on Mexico's southern Pacific coast, near the Guatemalan border, say they have found problems with waste discharges from local food processing plants. The attorney general's office for environmental protection said Tuesday the problems involved waste waters from a coffee processing plant and two fish packing plants in Puerto Chiapas.
- The Obama administration unveiled a new strategy to combat heroin abuse on Monday, pledging \$2.5 million in additional funds to target five "high intensity drug trafficking areas." The plan, which aims to pair law enforcement officials with health experts, is notable for its emphasis on connecting heroin users with treatment rather than focusing on putting them behind bars.

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- DOWN**
- 67. Scape goat's due
 - 69. ____ circle
 - 70. Likewise
 - 71. More ill
 - 72. No I in this
 - 73. Long, long time
 - 74. Working shoelaces

- 1. "For ____ a jolly ..."
- 2. Circle parts
- 3. Awful
- 4. Create a sculpture
- 5. *Mobile computer
- 6. * ____-friendly
- 7. *Directional helper
- 8. Appear like a chick
- 9. Winglike
- 10. "It's time!" signal
- 11. Impulse
- 12. One who eyes another
- 15. Costing nothing
- 20. Public ____, rappers
- 22. As opposed to mishap
- 24. It's often sudden death
- 25. * ____ drive
- 26. Indian metropolis
- 27. Greek bazaar
- 29. Long, long time, alt. spelling
- 31. Mandolin's cousin
- 32. Parkinson's drug
- 33. Root of iris
- 34. *Apple or Pebble, e.g.
- 36. Proofreader's mark
- 38. Amos or Spelling
- 42. Perceive by olfactory sense
- 45. a.k.a. Norwegian Hound
- 49. Sigma Alpha Epsilon
- 51. *Activity tracker
- 54. All worked up
- 56. ____ bar, DQ treat
- 57. Skirt opening
- 58. A conifer
- 59. Largest volcano in Europe
- 60. Throat-clearing sound
- 61. On top of
- 62. French Sudan, today
- 63. Black cat, e.g.
- 66. Jersey call
- 68. Energy unit

Puzzle solutions on page 12

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1		6		3				

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

THIS WEEK'S ONLINE

POLL RESULTS

Are you for kids going to school all year long?

- Absolutely50%
- Absolutely not.....33%
- Good for them8%
- Bad for them.....9%
- No opinion0%

TO VOTE GO TO: WWW.thelowellledger.com

Looking Back, continued

of the United States in 1916. The Ledger is informed that Mr. Benson was born in Vergennes Twp. and that as a boy he attended school at Foxes Corners.

I. O. Altenburger, who has served as manager of the Lowell Manufacturing Company for the past two years has resigned from that position and is now associated with the Newell Manufacturing Company which was organized here recently by Frank Newell. The company is engaged in the manufacture of automatic door checks and is meeting with good success. E. P. Quick of Chicago has been serving as manager of the Lowell Manufacturing Company since Mr. Altenburger's resignation.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger August 19, 1965

Lowell firemen were called out for two grass fires over the week end. Thursday evening the fire department was called to a grass fire on Kissing Rock Road and on Saturday afternoon to the Nick Wingeier farm on Whites Bridge Road where a grass fire endangered the buildings. The barn on the James Harden farm on Potters Road burned to the ground on Friday evening. The owner estimated damage of \$40,000 to the building, silos, hay, grain and straw. They had just finished milking so the cows were all out of the building. Fire Chief Frank Baker said the fire appeared to have started in the hay mow. It was out of control when the fire department arrived.

There were 56 union members present for a sympathy demonstration march for the Newell employees who went on strike last January. The marchers carrying signs marched from the 4-H grounds down Main St. and back to the Newell factory. The demonstration was very quiet and peaceful. In town in case of any disturbance were members of the State Police, Sheriff's Department and Lowell Police Dept.

A tornado alert on Monday afternoon at 3:30 sent citizens of the area home to cover when the siren was sounded. Tornado funnels were sighted in the

The Grand Strategy, continued

Sixty-seven communities entered the competition; the Kent County region was one of 40 selected to advance to round two of the competition. Awards range from \$1 million to \$500 million. "The city of Grand Rapids is very enthused by the quality of the partnership we've had in preparation of this Grand Strategy," said Eric Delong, Grand Rapids assistant city manager. "Our ability to work this rapidly on such a major regional endeavor is because we all planned ahead together. The application so much reflects all of the work we've done, along with community planning efforts such as Green Grand Rapids and GRForward, to get ahead on resiliency, sustainability and flood control mitigation. It's amazing how all of that work accelerated this application. The quality of our planning is excellent and we are in a great position to create a resilient river city."

The team leading "The Grand Strategy" grant proposal have identified about \$444 million in strong projects – existing projects that had been previously discussed and evaluated but were outside the current financial ability of the various jurisdictions to complete alone. With

community partners identifying close to \$200 million in support, these projects to protect the communities may now be fiscally viable in today's environment of tight budgets. Our proposal asks HUD for close to \$244 million.

"Implementing the Grand Strategy to restore the Grand River and build up our region's resilience to extreme flooding will not only help stave off expensive and debilitating disaster," said Andy Guy, chief outcomes officer at Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. "The initiative will significantly improve West Michigan's quality of life, leverage substantial private investment in community building and catalyze the region's next generation of growth and success. For these reasons the National Disaster Resilience Competition presents a timely and potentially game-changing opportunity for our region."

Together, the numerous participating municipalities have developed a threefold strategy that includes:

- Establishing an equitable and inclusive river corridor that attracts, welcomes and serves a diversity of people;
- Restoring and

area, but none touched down. No serious windstorm damage was reported from the high winds, that swept through the community.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 22, 1990

Headline: City council gets an earful on Main Street parking – Merchants angry with new Main St. parking system. Council says alternative is no Main St. parking at all! The state doesn't want any parking on Main Street. The city compromised, so it could satisfy the state, keep some of the downtown parking, and so it could get a light put in at the west end of town.

To The Editor, continued

the past few years which to my knowledge remain unresolved. A buried cable has been identified which is not at an appropriate depth for public safety. Their solution: change policy so that it is not their responsibility. A major transformer which is responsible for all power to the east side of town was shown to be vulnerable to shutdown due to flooding. Their solution: wait for grant money and/or the sale of the old school building on Monroe, again make someone else responsible. The illegal use of a company owned vehicle was pointed out to them. Their solution: bring in the city (taxpayer paid) attorney to try to find a

loop hole to vindicate them. I won't even get into the amount of money wasted on the purchase of outdated generators which had to be decommissioned and scrapped and a biodigester which still is not running properly and will probably only provide a fraction of the power which would actually be needed and only for a few months out of the year. Recently they announced that they want to switch all customers over to smart meters. There is much evidence that these may produce serious health risks. Even though the jury is still out on this, only one member of the board was even willing to do additional research into the matter before proceeding. One solution given was "maybe we could charge people extra who don't want

The downtown merchants are not happy with either formula and fear going out of business may become a reality.

Everyday around lunchtime multitudes of residents from Schneider Manor use the newly built bridge which connects them to the Senior Neighbors Center and is a lifeline for an afternoon of companionship with their community peers. "The bridge is wonderful," says Angie Mulder, a resident at Schneider Manor for the past six years. She is also one of just five surviving Rebekah Lodge members. The other members are Mildred Stauffer, Violet Miller, Ona Fletcher and Olivia Ayers. The Rebekah Lodge Organization was instrumental in the building of the bridge. Mulder says the organization donated \$1,000 toward the completion of the bridge.

them." If you have children, if anyone in your family already has health issues or if you're concerned about your health I'd suggest that you do your own research into this.

Now I understand they are considering purchasing a new building. Are you kidding me?

If LL&P has the money for this type of property purchase they certainly should be required to replace the road past the Oakwood Cemetery as suggested by John Erickson in a recent letter to the editor. This street was destroyed by years of use by LL&P truck traffic that was way beyond the usage a residential street like this was designed for. It is a disgrace to the people of Lowell yet it is one of the main roads used by visitors to the community. It is often

traveled by those coming for funerals and burials at Oakwood Cemetery, not to mention the wonderful Memorial Day dedications. It is also used by the many people frequenting the North Country Trail, which is a national trail system that proudly has its headquarters here in Lowell with people from all over the nation using it. In addition are the many people and groups who use the wonderful and historic Boy Scout Cabin located at the end of North Washington Street. This street certainly should be a priority for repair but with the city's budget it seems to be a more appropriate project for Lowell Light & Power's funds before they make any additional major unnecessary purchases.

Sincerely,
Peggy Covert

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