

teachers recognized



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what are you doing on father's day?

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football for gilda



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baseball tourney



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lhs sports

swim and dive team

page 11

21st annual JuneGrass festival brings a weekend of music to the fairgrounds June 24

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association will hold their 21st JuneGrass festival at the Kent County Fairgrounds on Friday, June 24 and Saturday, June 25. The fun in the campground will start well before Friday, as many bluegrass fans will spend nearly the entire week in Lowell. The festival is not only music, they will also have events such as a bake sale, instrument workshops, an open mic, a potluck supper and a 50/50 drawing, plus this year they've added activities just for children.

"We have a girl by the name of Fiddlin' Dixie Jo," said Lee Strassberger, president of the WMBMA. "She is from the Upper

Peninsula and she does kids programs. She does a whole list of different things to get the kids interested in music. On Friday night and then all Saturday afternoon we're going to have a kids' program. They'll learn how to build instruments out of cardboard and stuff like that."

The talent lineup for JuneGrass includes plenty of national and local bluegrass bands, including a reunited NewTown, Easy Idle, Deadwood, Calabogie Road, the Williams Family Band, New County Grass, and Out of the Blue. This year's headliner is Flatt Lonesome, who are one of the top national bluegrass bands and who recently made national headlines for

their bluegrass cover of the "Game of Thrones" theme song.

"We got one of the biggest bluegrass bands in the country right now," Strassberger said. "They were named the International Bluegrass Music Association's 2014 'Emerging Artist of the Year' and they're called Flatt Lonesome. They've really made a pretty big impact on the bluegrass scene."

The WMBMA has spent the past year selling raffle tickets to win a full-sized acoustic guitar, case and stand. They will sell tickets throughout JuneGrass and then the drawing will be on Saturday night.

JuneGrass, continued, page 14



A scene from last year's JuneGrass event.

Fishing derby reels in kids for a day of fun

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell families started their summer last Saturday at Pebble Beach/Stoney Lakeside Park by taking part in the first Lowell Moose Fishing Derby of the season.

Nearly 40 kids turned out for the free community event hosted for decades by Lodge #809. The three-hour derby offered youngsters and their families the opportunity to spend quality time and compete for fun.

Bait was provided for all the novice fishers who competed in three age groups: 3-6, 7-10 and 11-15. Prizes were awarded to each participant and

included fishing tackle, cash prizes, a fishing rod and gift certificates from event sponsors: Larkin's

Restaurant, La Te Da's, Backwater Cafe and Main Street BBQ.

Besides the fishing fun,

attendees were also treated to a complimentary hot dog lunch prepared on site by Moose members. Volunteer Jodi Reynolds said that the affair is consistently one of the best received community service projects of the organization and for good reason. "It is a great opportunity for parents and grandparents to get out with the kids and enjoy a morning outside together."

Reynolds, whose husband Al organizes and hosts the event alongside fellow Moose members Cliff Walker and Drew Weiss, said that the trio of

planners take great joy in their roles.

"They love hosting this annual event because it is an opportunity for the Moose Lodge to give back to the great community of Lowell! They also love the excitement of each kid that walks up with a smile and a fish," said Reynolds.

Two more fishing derbies have been scheduled for this summer with the first taking place Saturday, July 23 and the next on Saturday, August 13. Both events take place at Pebble Beach/Stoney Lakeside Park from 9-12.



Little anglers and their families enjoying kids' fishing derby.



New parking lot is almost ready

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

The parking lot behind the Moose building is nearing completion. The new lot adds some desperately needed parking spaces to Lowell's thriving downtown business district.

"It's getting close," said interim public works director Ron Woods. "They put the top coat of asphalt on Thursday [June 9]. I think there's a little bit more concrete work that needs to get done and just some final touch up stuff, but we are real close to getting that done. I think it will be totally finished by Wednesday [June 15], weather dependent. We have some restoration to do and some cleaning up, but it should be 100 percent finished by Wednesday [June 15]."

50 CENTS





along main street

SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERTS

The Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts are presented by LowellArts! and Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. This free, outdoor summer concert series runs June 16 – August 25. Thursday evening concerts begin at 7 pm in front of the Lowell Showboat on Riverwalk Plaza. Food and spirits are available, admission to the concerts and parking is free. The concert venue is wheelchair accessible. Bleacher seating is available or attendees can also bring their own folding chairs.

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.

OPEN TABLE

Lowell's Open Table is now serving free weekly meals to residents of the greater Lowell community. Join them on Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for a hearty, homemade meal. Located in the First Congregational Church of Lowell, UCC, 865 Lincoln Lake SE.

TUESDAY TEEN DRAWING CLASSES

A drawing class for teens ages 13-18. Students may choose graphite or colored pencil. Weather permitting, classes held outdoors to draw the scenes in downtown Lowell. Classes will begin at the LowellArts! facility at 149 S. Hudson Street in Lowell. On June 21 and 28, July 19 and 26 and Aug. 2 from 10 am to noon. Sign up for just the classes you are able to attend or all of them at www.lowellartsmi.org Questions? Contact LowellArts! at 897-8545 or email info@lowellartsmi.org

Curtis of Farm Bureau helps support Murray Lake Field Day



Mike Curtis presented a check on behalf of Farm Bureau Insurance to help support Murray Lake's Field Day and other healthy purchases at the school.

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volunteering opportunities

FROM VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
Volunteer orientation at Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) will be Thurs., June 16 at 1 pm. Please call 897-8260 for additional information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
The LoWellness Health Initiative is looking for about ten volunteers to participate in a pilot program to help those interested in learning more about healthy eating. This program begins Tuesday, June 21 at Lowell Family Medical Center, 2550 West Main Street in Lowell. Sessions meet for four weeks from 6-8:00 pm. Topics include setting realistic health goals, learning the benefits of fiber, understanding

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NOTICE TO THE QUALIFIED RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF LOWELL COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

THE LAST DAY FOR RECEIVING REGISTRATIONS FOR THE AUGUST PRIMARY WILL BE TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2016

TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of the City of Lowell, County of Kent, Michigan, who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the City of Lowell (301 E. Main Street), the office of the County Clerk, office of the Secretary of State or at the office of a designated State Agency during their regular business hours. To register by mail, call your County Clerk or Local Clerk.

Qualifications to register to vote:
Citizen of the United States
At least 18 years of age on or before August 2, 2016
Resident of the City of Lowell, Kent County

Only registrations received on or before July 5, 2016 will qualify persons to vote in the August Primary Election.

Susan Ulery
City Clerk

BOWNE TOWNSHIP TABULATOR TESTING

The public accuracy test of the tabulator will be held on Monday, June 20, 2016
At 4:00 p.m. Accuracy Test
At 5:00 p.m. Public Test
In the Historic Township Hall,
8240 Alden Nash SE
Alto, MI 48302
In preparation for the August Primary.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk-Clerk

the impact of fat, salt and sugar, as well as the truth about processed foods. This class is designed to answer your questions and help you set meaningful, attainable goals. Due to the personalized nature of this program, class size is limited to ten people. To register or get more information call 616-446-7058.

HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT
Bring the world together by hosting a foreign exchange student. World Heritage Student Exchange Program, a public benefit organization, is seeking local host families for high school students from over 30 countries: Spain, Germany, Thailand, Denmark, Portugal, South Korea, Italy, France, The former Soviet Union countries, and more. Couples and families with and without children in the home are all encouraged to host. You can choose to host a student for a semester or for the school year. Each World Heritage student is fully insured, brings his/her own personal spending money and expects to contribute to his/her share of household responsibilities, as well as being included in normal family activities and lifestyles. Today's teens are tomorrow's parents, international business people and possibly even future political leaders. Share your corner of America by helping a foreign exchange student experience life in your area. For more information call 1 (920) 658-3189 or email sue@world-heritage.org

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Stars and Stripes All Star Game raises \$20,000 for Gilda's Club

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

While the Stripes team beat the Stars 17-7 at the first-ever Football Addix All Star Game, it was Gilda's

Club of Grand Rapids that was victorious leaving with nearly \$20,000 in support of their grief support services.

Davenport University's new stadium facility was the setting for the event conceived by Noel Dean as

an extension of the support for Gilda's of Lowell through the Pink Arrow Pride. The Grand Rapids

location, at 1806 Bridge Street, reaped the rewards of the All Star game which Dean intends to make an annual event.

"It was fantastic," Dean said following the inaugural game. "Are you kidding me? I don't think it could have gone any better for a first time event. We had great players, great coaches, awesome support from Gilda's Club, Fifth Third Bank and Davenport University."

Several Red Arrows were on the field representing Lowell, including quarterback Ryan Stevens, tight end Alex Anschutz, offensive lineman Mitchell Davis, Kenny Vanderwarf and Karson Murley; linebacker Max Dean and defensive back Zeth Dean. They were joined on field by some of the top players in West Michigan representing their schools by wearing their own helmets and playing their hearts out.

More than 2,000 spectators turned out for the game that started with the Stripes on top, who remained that way as they built a 17 point lead over the first three quarters, locking the Stars out of the endzone. Scoring started off in the first when Jenison kicker Jackson Dieterle put one between the poles for a 3-0 lead. Before the first buzzer

they added a touchdown pass from NorthPointe Christian quarterback Spencer Peterson to wide receiver Khylin Barton of Zeeland East High School to make it 10-0. Christian Bos added another seven when he pushed over the line with a two-yard run late in the second quarter to put the Stripes up 17-0.

The Stars were looking for a comeback in the fourth quarter and came up with a 58-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Pat Naughton of Comstock Park to Bret Patton of East Kentwood to pull within 10, but their effort fell short giving the Stripes the first All Star game bragging rights.

Matt Dood, who coaches at Lowell and also works at event sponsor Sports Addix, served as the Stars team liaison organizing practices and helping to coordinate the day of the event. He said that the game took on a whole new meaning just like the Pink Arrow game. "The connection with coach Dean and Gilda's is an exceptional one. It feels so good to help and be part of something greater than just the game of football. It was very neat to see kids get the opportunity to play for someone who may not have the chance to, like the Lowell athletes through Pink Arrow."



Athletes from around West Michigan represented their home schools at the first annual Football Addix All Star Game last Friday at Davenport University.

LMS students of the third trimester

Lowell Middle School has announced the students of the third trimester.

Teachers chose the following students who have been outstanding in the categories of academics, citizenship and attitude: Bradley Baas, Jacqueline Bileth, Ryleigh Blough, Zach Cardis, Nathan Cleaver, AJ Dawson, William deVoest, Hallie Greenop, Lancon Hamilton, Sierra

Hieshetter, Memphis Huey, Jaymie Johnson, Bella Kincaid, Natasha Marsh, Joel Misak, Brennan Pawloski, Alana Peters, Smantha Peterson, Lexy Royer, Chloe Sandborn, Emma Seddon, Ethan Shindorf, Jordan Smith, Dylan Smit, Nolan Smith, Terrick Steward, Lauren Swain, Kaitlyn Thompson, Justin Troost, Elizabeth Vredevelt, Torin Webster, ReaAnne Woody, Ford Yates, Skylar Young, and Carolina Zook. Submitted by Sharon Ellison



...
"If you're not making mistakes, then you're not doing anything. I'm positive that a doer makes mistakes."
~ John Wooden

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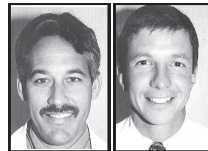
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health



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

frozen shoulder

Frozen shoulder is also known as adhesive capsulitis. It is a condition in which the shoulder joint becomes increasingly painful with any motion. The joint then becomes stiff and range of motion becomes limited.

The shoulder joint is

encased in a capsule of connective tissue. This capsule thickens and tightens around the joint, thus restricting motion.

It is more common in those over 40 years old and females. Any prolonged immobility or reduced mobility increases the risk of

acquiring a frozen shoulder. It is also more common in those with diabetes, Parkinson's disease and thyroid disease.

The diagnosis is often made by just a physical exam. X-rays are also typically ordered to rule out other possible problems.

Treatment typically consists of anti-inflammatories and physical therapy. Sometimes cortisone injections are also used. In severe cases, patients are put under anesthesia and the doctor manipulates the joint to break up the tissue to achieve full range of motion.

college news

Robert Schneider of Lowell, graduated from Eastern New Mexico University on May 14 with a BAAS in Aviation Science.

The 130th Commencement Convocation honored over 500 graduating students.

Albion College has announced that several local students have been named to the dean's list.

Students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or above, taking at least three graded courses within a full load of four courses. The honor of Albion College Fellow goes to students who maintain a 3.7 GPA for three consecutive semesters.

The Albion College faculty present department awards to the students who demonstrate exceptional skill, dedication and achievement in their academic work. These are among the highest honors given to Albion College students.

The following students have been recognized for academic excellence at Albion College: Makenzie Frederickson, who is majoring in accounting (C.P.A. emphasis) and Spanish and is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program. She is the daughter of Lyle and Fionna Frederickson of Alto and a graduate of Lowell High School; Paige McKenna, who is majoring in biology and minoring in Spanish lng & cult. for prof. and is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program. McKenna is the daughter of Christopher and Monica McKenna of Belding and a graduate of Lowell High School; Ethan Sutton, who is majoring in economics and management and mathematics (actuarial emphasis). He is the son of James Sutton of Lowell and Darla Sutton of Hastings and a graduate of Lowell High School.

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Zachary Crawford has been chosen the outstanding senior in industrial and entrepreneurial engineering in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Western Michigan University.

Students are chosen for this honor on the basis of their grade point average.

Crawford is the son of Tom and Lisa Crawford of Lowell and a Lowell High School graduate.

viewpoint

to the editor

relax and read

To the Editor:

I read Sierra Hieshetter's [kidsview] column from your May 25th issue, with some interest. She made the statement "... you may think that means we students get to relax. However it means the exact opposite." She was, of course, referring to taking the standardized tests. I would like to build on that theme of relaxing and the end of the school year.

For the past few weeks, staff from the Kent District Library have been visiting schools throughout the area

promoting our Summer Reading Program. We are encouraging reading, not just for the fun it provides, but also for the sake of keeping the brain active. There is a well-documented phenomena known as the "summer slide" or "summer slump." Kids who read during the summer return to school in the fall, ready to continue learning. Kids who don't have (a) lost some of what they learned the previous year and (b) will be struggling to catch up to where they should be.

Just 15-20 minutes a day of reading will stop this backward slide. So, please, Sierra and other students, read throughout the summer, and please, please parents, encourage your children to do so. If you need help finding something fun and interesting to read- there are many librarians who would love to help you!

Lest people think encouraging reading in children isn't important, let me point out that the best indicator that is used for planning prison space needed 20 years in the future, is the current reading scores of third graders in our State.

Sincerely,
Sandy Graham
Alto

outdoors

get outdoors

Dave Stegehuis

There are significant mental and physical advantages to spending time in a natural setting. Connecting with nature has a calming effect which can reduce the stress of meeting the challenges of modern life styles. Fresh air and exercise are a requirement for maintaining good health.

Finding time and opportunity to be outdoors and enjoy the benefits of doing so takes extra effort for most of us. Eight out of ten people residing in Michigan live in an urban setting. The lure of around the clock on-line entertainment and obsessive social media involvement creates major distractions from other activities. In urban and suburban areas it

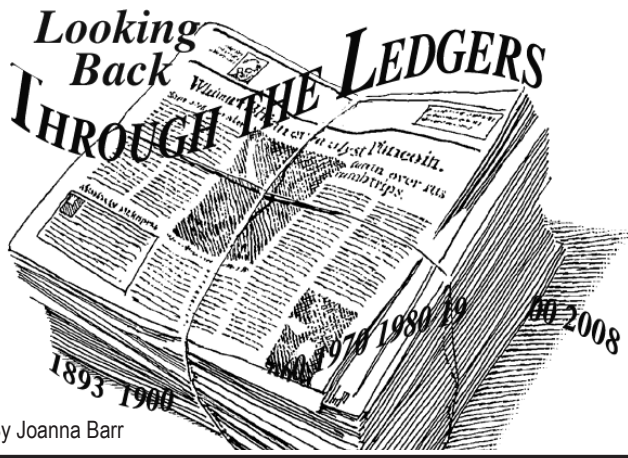
is becoming unusual to see children outside.

When I was a teenager a friend was having difficulty dealing with serious family issues and was making unwise decisions which were leading him toward a troubled life. When I met him he was attending his 6th school and came and went in my life in less than two years. A few years before his passing in his 70s he wrote and published a biography which revealed his struggles in life as well as joys which included a wonderful family, extraordinary business success, and lots of community service.

In the book, Bob recalled our outdoor adventures while roaming and trapping a large road-

less tract of fields, woods, and water northeast of Grand Rapids. Bob revealed that during that short period of time he chose a new direction for his life which led to a satisfying and productive future. Bob was two years older, and I was encouraged by his example to examine the course of my own life.

I believe that lessons learned from experiencing the reality of nature can have a significant effect on ones perspective of life. Hey! Sit quietly in the woods at daybreak and watch, listen, and smell the woods come alive. Feel the tug of a brook trout on a tight line, or drift silently down a clear water stream. Make sure your kids don't miss it. Trust Louis Armstrong it is a wonderful world, it's just harder to find these days.



By Joanna Barr

125 years ago Lowell Journal June 17, 1891

The commencement exercises of the State Normal school will be held the week of June 19 to 24. This vicinity has its quota of students there and probably a number of our people will attend.

The Electric Light Co. met with an accident last Wednesday evening which resulted in the town being left in darkness for that night. The settling of the arch caused a break in the feed water pipe and when they started to get up steam the water blew out of the boiler. The Co. intend to put in another boiler at once so in case any accident happens to one they will have one in reserve. The Lighting Co. show commendable enterprise, in guarding against every possible contingency so they can at all times give perfect service.

Who weeps with you when you are sad, and laughs with you when you are glad and smiles at you when you are mad—the editor. Who has to be both kind and wise and never (hardly ever) lies, and when he does, creates surprise—the editor. Who owns a heart as well as cheek, possessed of spirit proud, yet meek, and lives on forty cents a week—the editor.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 15, 1916

Thirty-four L. H. S. graduates – largest class in the history of Lowell Schools. Closing events of school year. Auditorium filled for commencement. Dr. Wishart's

address to class. The thirty-ninth annual commencement of the Lowell High School—the first in the new building, was a success—fully carried out according to program in the auditorium yesterday afternoon and evening, when thirty-four young men and women of Lowell and vicinity, whose names and portraits are printed on the insert page of this issue of The Ledger, received their diplomas and the congratulations of their many friends. The attendance both afternoon and evening taxed the capacity of the large auditorium, which is greater than that of the City hall.

Notice to village taxpayers. Work on the new concrete road from the village limits on Hudson street to Grand River bridge is about to begin. It is proposed to extend same north from the limits to the pavement. All who are interested are requested to attend the Council meeting Monday evening, June 19, and then and there offer objections, if they have them. Committee.

Farmers are advised to plant beans this year and those who ought to know say that the crop will be worth \$3.00 per bushel, plus.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 19, 1941

We learned that there is a village ordinance regulating the riding of bicycles on sidewalks, the ordinance having been adopted a number of years ago when motor traffic on Main Street was not the problem that it has attained in these days. The subject was discussed informally at Monday night's Council meeting, it being the concensus of opinion among Council members that the hazard to life and limb would be too great if youngsters were forced to ride their bikes on the street pavement.

Local merchants have organized the Lowell Merchants' Account Service. Its purpose is the exchange of information relative to customers' credit and assistance on delinquent accounts. The office will be located at 116 South Riverside Drive and will be in charge of T. A. Anderson.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger June 16, 1966

Police Chief Avery Block is asking anyone who can catch the pet deer roaming around the west side of the community to notify him. He feels that if the deer is not

protected, dogs will destroy it. The deer will be taken to the John Ball Park Zoo, if it can be caught.

Lowell mail is carrying dates of '66 Showboat. All the first class mail leaving Lowell daily, estimated at over 15,000 pieces a day, is carrying a cancellation with the words Showboat, July 25-30. This includes a special cancellation stamp in the postoffice, and each of the local industry postage meters which carry a sketch of the Showboat and the dates. By the date Showboat opens on July 25, the local postoffice expects to have sent out 675,000 pieces of mail with the Showboat dates inscribed.

William Schreur, a resident of Vergennes Street, two miles north of Lowell, has been bothered with drag racing on the road in front of his home and was determined to do

Looking Back, continued, Page 14

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor.

Letters are required to bear the author's signature, phone number and address (for verification purposes only, not for publication). Letters will be published at the discretion of the publisher; duplicate comments/authors within a short period may be dismissed. Opinions expressed in "To The Editor" are not the views of the Ledger employees or the publisher. All letters are subject to editing. Thank you letters and advertising will not be printed.



Letters may be submitted via email to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com ("to the Editor" in subject line) or dropped off or mailed to: The Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, MI 49331.

engagements

Johnson/Koning



Sarah Johnson and Steven Koning

Sarah Johnson and Steven Koning have announced their engagement. A wedding date has been set for August 20, 2016.

Parents of the couple are Todd and Maryanne Johnson of Holland and Steve and Cindy Koning of Lowell.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Holland

High School. Sarah trains and exhibits horses professionally. She is the owner of Sarah Johnson Show Horses.

The future groom is a graduate of Lowell High School, MSU Horse Management and Wolverine Farrier School. Steven is the owner of Circle K Performance Horses.

You can still file for benefits and suspend, even with these changes

You probably heard that changes in the law now affect the way you file for certain benefits. These changes place limits on when voluntary suspension and reinstatement can begin for you and your family members who might also be entitled to benefits on

that record. This is not the demise of “file and suspend.” It’s still one of your best tools for boosting your Social Security benefit after you reach your full retirement age.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 made changes to the Social Security claims filed by married couples. The law affected an unintended loophole primarily used by married couples to gain more money.

If you’re full retirement age or older and apply for Social Security retirement benefits, you can suspend your benefits for any amount of time up to age 70. You may do this to earn “delayed retirement credits,” which result in a higher benefit payment when you turn 70 or when you request reinstatement of benefits, whichever comes first.

Under the new law, when you submit a request to suspend your benefits to earn delayed retirement credits on or after April 30, 2016, you will no longer be able to receive spouse’s

or widow(er)’s benefits during this voluntary delay period. In addition, if you suspend your benefit, any benefits payable to your spouse and children on your record (except for a divorced spouse) will also be suspended for the same time period.

There is an exception. A request for voluntary suspension will not suspend a divorced spouse’s benefit. Also, your divorced spouse can receive benefits on your record during this voluntary delay period.

Remember, you can still plan and make the most of your retirement benefit by filing and suspending. These new rules don’t prevent you from doing what’s best for you and your family. We have a wealth of retirement information at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire.

For more information and answer to your questions about these changes in the law, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/claiming.html.

business matters



Greenridge Realty announced that Philip Hooker received Realtor of the Month in May.

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JUNE 19

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JUNE 16

Roger Raymor, Michael Pretzel, Orin Comdure, Jean Bishop, Mike Kenney.

JUNE 17

David Ryder, Cody Kastanek, Tricia McGovern, Cyndi Dalga, Doug Green, Logan Wilcox.

JUNE 20

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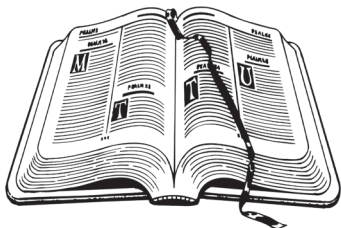
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Elementary students raise funds for Relay For Life

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

The Champs at Cherry Creek Elementary came out swinging against cancer last week when they took part in the first ever Lowell Relay For Life Penny War. Using small change to make a big one, the students raised a whopping \$571.11 in just five days. Cindy Young's fifth-grade students were the winning classroom donating an amazing \$178.59. Top classroom donator Hayden Mitchell said his large contribution was made in honor of his grandmother. "It was a few days after my birthday and I found out my grandma had cancer and it just broke my heart," he said drawing a heart over his own with his finger. Mitchell will be sharing the rest of his story at the RFL event on June 25 at noon. Other top student contributors were from the classrooms of Emily Conlin, Rachele Severts, Janet Ansara and Carmen Tawney. All proceeds will benefit the eleventh annual cancer fighting event taking place this year from 11 am-11 pm at the downtown Lowell Riverwalk.



Cindy Young's fifth-grade students were the winners of the first annual Relay For Life Penny drive held last week at Cherry Creek.

EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk:

Which current artists, bands and music festivals are leading lights when it comes to reducing their environmental footprints and spreading awareness about sustainability?
- Jim Greenville, Brewster, NY

The music industry has indeed come under fire in recent years for the huge amount of plastic waste it generates at outdoor concerts and festivals each summer. The 2015 Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival, for one, generated some 679 tons of waste over just four days. Aside from their irresponsible disposal after the fact, these single-use plastics are also fossil fuel-intensive to produce to begin with. But recent acknowledgement of this issue by the industry has resulted in actions by fans, bands and entire festivals.

Musician Jack Johnson has led the charge on this initiative, championing the elimination of disposable plastics on his tour, as well as partnering with several environmental groups

to found the Sustainable Concerts Working Group. This organization created a blueprint for making tours more sustainable, listing actions to take by both the band and the fans. Their website has a long list of goals, followed by specific actions to achieve them—for example, reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by switching to renewable energy sources, more efficient lighting and biofuel-powered transportation.

Many other musicians are also working to green up their industry. The Dave Matthews Band has taken significant steps to neutralize its environmental impact via its Bama Green Project, which educates fans around the world about paths toward sustainability. The band travels in a biodiesel tour bus and eats locally. Pop icon Adele has publicly championed the charity, Drop4Drop, which provides local, clean water to impoverished areas of the world. Rock band Phish founded the group WaterWheel in 1997 to focus on clean water and urban gardening. Meanwhile, U2 has worked closely with Greenpeace since the 1990s, helping them with protest campaigns from nuclear reprocessing in England to the destruction of forests in Russia. And punk rockers Green Day live up to their name by partnering with the Natural Resources defense Council (NRDC) to raise awareness about American dependence on foreign oil.

While individual musicians have found success in mitigating

environmental impact, some have also taken larger-scale actions. Dave Matthews, Maroon 5, Willie Nelson, The Roots, Sheryl Crow and others founded the Green Music Group (GMG) in 2004 to help change the industry as a whole. The group has four core principles with which they hope to incur a paradigm shift: create a community of environmentally conscious musicians and fans; facilitate "large-scale greening" of the music industry through touring, development and public service campaigns; give environmental nonprofits a megaphone for their cause; and position musical leaders as voices for change. GMG has already made 80 major tours sustainable while reaching over 10 million fans in just over 10 years.

Music festivals are also starting to follow suit. Bonnaroo recently partnered with the Plastic Pollution Coalition to encourage attendees to bring their own reusable containers, rather

than giving out thousands of plastic cups. The Outside Lands Music Festival only uses biodegradable containers. Other festivals have completely eliminated the use of plastics; instead offering discounted products in return for reusable stainless steel containers. With this trend gaining momentum every year, music fans around the world can be optimistic that the music industry will continue on this road to sustainability.

CONTACTS: Bonnaroo Festival, www.bonnaroo.com; Bama Green Project, www.bamagreen.org; Drop4Drop, www.drop4drop.org; Green Music Group, www.greenmusicgroup.org; WaterWheel Foundation, phish.com/waterwheel/; Outside Lands Music Festival, www.sfoutsidelands.com.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of the nonprofit Earth Action Network. To donate, visit www.earthtalk.org. Send questions to question@earthtalk.org.

We won't have a society if we destroy the environment.

~ Margaret Mead

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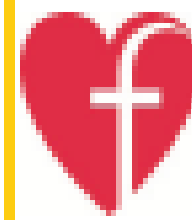
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What will you be doing on Father's Day?



From time to time our Ledger reporters will pose a question while out on the streets of Lowell. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SPEAK OUT.

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April Harrington, Lowell
"I think we're going to celebrate Father's Day with a family barbecue at home."



Austin Kammeraad, Grand Rapids
"We'll do something pretty simple. Probably just taking my dad out for dinner or something. My dad is probably going to be in Wisconsin, that's where he works; but my stepdad lives in Holland so I'll try to find something to do with my stepdad."



Caroline Peltcs, Allendale
"I will be celebrating Father's Day by remembering my grandfathers who passed and also celebrating my stepfather and my actual father with a brunch."



Carsten Greene, Lowell
"We will probably be barbecuing a pork shoulder and we'll have some family over."



Greg Canfield, Lowell
"We'll be hanging out with family, having a great time enjoying Father's Day with other fathers."



Josh Bartholomew, Belding
"I'll probably help out my dad and my grandpa around the house with stuff that needs to be worked on, like mowing the lawn and helping move cattle."

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Elementary students celebrate the start of summer

After nine months of fun and learning students in the Lowell Area School district celebrated their last day of the 2015/2016 school year last Friday, June 10.

A week filled with field trips, field days and special yearend events at the high school, middle school and four elementary buildings in the district culminated in the students celebrating their final bell in a variety of fun and festive ways. Bushnell Elementary celebrated with a fanfare filled last day welcome.

Students at Cherry Creek Elementary gathered around the flag pole in front of the building for their final farewells at the end of the scheduled half day and students at Alto Elementary took part in a bus parade where they were bid farewell by teachers and staff. School is scheduled to resume Tuesday, September 6.



Bushnell students being welcomed on their last day of school.



Cherry Creek students gathered around the flag pole to celebrate.

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Skilled Trades Regulation Act intended to simplify process

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

Last month politicians in the Michigan Senate introduced a package of bills called the Skilled Trades Regulation Act. The bills are intended to simplify the tedious, inconsistent application and testing process for skilled trade licensees and for those who are licensed in more than one trade. Senate bills 963 - 972 were introduced on Wednesday, May 18 by Kenneth Horn (R-Frankenmuth), Tonya Schuitemaker (R-Antwerp Township), Peter MacGregor (R-Rockford), Dale Zorn (R-Ida), Marty Knollenberg (R-Troy) and Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City). The Skilled Trades

Regulation Act is based on guidelines from the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act and the state's Public Health Code.

"Creation of the Skilled Trades Regulation Act will update and revise the relevant laws into one universal code that would ensure they meet the highest standards for enforcement and efficiency," Horn said in a press release. "We want to encourage our current and upcoming generations to seek education, training and experience within the skilled trades. The modernization of these statutes will do just that. Our goal is to ensure that the new act reflect the

safest, most efficient and highest standards in each respective industry and that our skilled trades applicants face minimal barriers obtaining work in their field of choice."

"As the owner of a small business that employs and depends on highly skilled workers, I know first-hand the need for standards that are tough, clear and efficient," Zorn said in a press release. "I co-sponsored the creation of the Skilled Trades Act because it will ensure that we have safe and high standards and also help encourage current and future workers to choose a rewarding and successful career in the skilled trades. Jobs in manufacturing and other skilled trades have led the Michigan recovery, yet our growth is being limited because many job providers are finding it difficult to find young people with the technical skills needed for available jobs. By putting in place updated, uniform standards that meet the highest marks for enforcement and efficiency, Michigan can better ensure the safety of our workers,

the quality of their work and the ability of employers to find the skilled workers they need."

The bills were referred to the Senate Committee on Regulatory Reform, where a hearing was held on Wednesday, May 25. Five people presented testimony to the committee. One was in favor, two were against and two were neutral.

Robert Hoekwater of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors said in his testimony that the proposed Act doesn't go far enough.

"I understand and support the consolidation of all the different trade laws into one law," Hoekwater said. "However, I am concerned with several sections of the current electrical administrative law not being included in the current proposed legislation. Sections regarding continuing education for renewal of licensure as well as requirements for an electrical inspector to be licensed as an electrician as well as others have been omitted."

Testimony from

Thomas Bowes of the Electrical Industry Training Center picked up on the same issue that Hoekwater did.

"I am opposed to the changes that have apparently been made during this process relative to the initial qualifications for electrical inspectors and the continuing education requirements for electrical license holders," Bowes said. "There seems to be no requirement in the proposed legislation that requires an electrical inspector to also be an electrical license holder. I believe that this approach is ill-advised."

Matthew Kapcia of Matt the Plumber, Inc. presented the original bill to the committee, but with his changes highlighted in yellow. One of Kapcia's changes was an increase in fines from \$100 to \$1,000. "Although not extensive, these few changes will refine some of the language in the bill and also clarify some of the responsibilities of the plumbing trade," Kapcia said.

Brindley Byrd,

executive director of the Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association and the Michigan Air Conditioning Contractors Association, wanted more time to look into the bills.

"Due to a very limited time to review the bills and that each respective board has not vetted the entire bill package, we must submit a position of 'neutral' on the proposed package at this time," Byrd said. "We do request this committee give time for our organizations and the many other stakeholders who are similarly situated trying to figure out what these bills say, the intended and unintended consequences and position my boards to make an informed decision on the bills."

On the Senate website each one of the bills are listed as "referred to Committee on Regulatory Reform." Plenty of fantastic, mediocre and terrible ideas die in committee every year. Only time will tell if that is what will happen to the Skilled Trades Regulation Act.

Green Party candidate discusses PACs

Green Party candidate, Cliff Yankovich, issued a statement about how he believes Political Action Committees are eating up opportunities in the state. Yankovich is running for state representative in the 86th District.

"PAC men (and women) are gobbling up Michigan one bite at a time," said Yankovich. "Their actions and the net result of them are wrecking our great state and in my mind they are unconstitutional."

Yankovich went on to cite the opening words to the Michigan Constitution: "All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for their equal benefit, security and protection."

Yankovich contends that the current batch of

legislators in the Michigan House for the most part are bought and paid for by PAC men.

"Because of PAC men, the majority of our legislators do not do what is right for the state and the people. They fail to do what they know is right. They do not do what they know in their hearts would be best for Michigan because they dance to the tune of PAC money," Yankovich said. "They do what the PAC men and women tell them to do."

To prove his point he examined the effect of PAC money on three of the biggest issues facing Michigan today: Pipeline #5, roads and public education.

"The water supply of millions of people remains under constant threat

because of the power of the oil and gas PAC men. We cannot repair our roads because of the strangle hold of a pledge to a PAC to never raise taxes," he contends. "The best interest of our children are being pimped out for charter school PAC money - all while paying lip service to 'doing what is best for the children.'"

As a Green Party candidate Yankovich cannot take money from Political Action Committees no matter what side of an issue they represent. In an effort to learn more about the devastating effects of privatization and charter schools on public education, he recently requested and was granted a short meeting with a group of teachers. When he asked for the meeting he was told that

they would be examining all the candidates before they decided who to support and pledge their PAC money to.

"I told them that I was not interested in their PAC money," Yankovich recalled. "My purpose was to dig deeper into the issue and learn what I could about it from their perspective. Sure, I would love their votes this fall, but I cannot take their PAC's money."

Yankovich contends that anyone with a moderate degree of common sense would realize that the roads in Michigan need to be repaired and that money needs to be raised to effect those repairs. He believes that nothing effective to fix the problem has been done because so many in the House have taken a pledge to a very powerful PAC, or set of PACs, to never raise taxes for any reason. The "equal benefit" of a good infrastructure that should be shared by Michiganders who use our roads has been thwarted by the power of PAC money.

"PAC men are not 'the people' mentioned in our Constitution," Yankovich concluded. "PAC men are cartoon beings that were created to gobble up what ever is in front of them in order to get to their objective. The only way to stop PAC men from devouring Michigan is to elect men and women who do not, will not, or cannot take money from them. I am one of those candidates and there are others stepping up around the state."

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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High schools join forces for next season's aquatics teams

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell High School will join forces with Caledonia and South Christian High schools next school year as the Arrows dive back into the pool with both boys and girls aquatic teams.

Caledonia will be the lead in the newly formed partnership which will kick off next fall with the

ladies' season of swim and dive contests; gentlemen will compete in the winter. The team will be practicing inside the aquatic facilities of Grand Rapids Community College and host no home meets due to the fact that none of the three schools have pools in their districts.

Red Arrow athletic

director Dee Crowley said that other details, such as coaching staff, are still being worked out between the schools at this time but the response has already been positive. "The co-op team is working to finalize items. We have had good interest from students looking to participate."

Lowell will be replacing former co-op partner Byron Center High School on the roster this season after they decided to break from the program after 2016. The original partnership, which began in 2004, reached its greatest competitive successes in the past few years with the

ladies claiming back to back conference championships for the 2014 and 2015 seasons.

The team will operate as a varsity sport but will be self-funded by the team's athletes and supporters through their own fundraising efforts. Those in the community

wishing to offer support in the new athletic venture are encouraged to visit the team's Go Fund Me page, titled Caledonia Aquatics, to make a donation. Proceeds will be used for pool rental, transportation costs and training equipment.

Backyard Blast tourney takes over Creekside Park

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Youth baseball took over Creekside Park in Lowell last weekend when the annual School's Out Backyard Blast Baseball Tournament rolled into town for the eighth time.

Coordinator Shane Beach said that the event has grown into a thriving tournament since its inception. "Our first year I think we had 25 teams and it's grown to as many as 80 teams over the years. The biggest changes over the years have simply been how we grow to accommodate teams and still give them a quality event. Growth means needing more fields and more help to run the tournament."

This year Beach, along with 13 tournament employees, welcomed some of the best club and little league teams in West Michigan and drew teams out of Fort Wayne, IN and Chicago, IL. The growth was evident as the tournament spilled out of Creekside Park into neighboring baseball facilities, including Ada Park and Recreation Park at the fairgrounds in Lowell.

Beach has been involved in baseball since he was old enough to swing a bat and developed both a love of the game and a love of sharing the game with up and coming sluggers. An all-state infielder, Grand Valley State University letter winner and semi professional player, Beach said he is proud to offer kids the opportunity to compete.

Beach believes that competition is important to the development of well-rounded people. "Competition creates character and character creates good human beings. Opportunities to compete isn't something I've ever taken for granted. When I grew up, opportunities were limited so to be able to offer opportunities to kids is special. Seeing them compete and gaining memories of a lifetime is priceless."

With the support of community sponsors, such as the Ice Cream Caboose, Lowell McDonalds, Grand Rapids Orthopedics, Purity Cylinder Gas, Alto Marathon and Food by Design, the event was a

success lasting three days and boasting more than sixty games. Beach said he has a lot of favorite moments from the event this year but, his top highlight is always playoff day. "Sundays

are exciting, loud crowds cheering while teams are vying for a championship. I enjoy handing out the championship and runner-up trophies, to see all the smiles on the kids' faces."

The tournament winners were Diamonds Fury in the 9U category, the Forest Hills Tigers in 10U, the Westside Smash in 11U, Diamonds Crew in 12U, and the Diamonds Renegades

who swept both the 13 and 14U competitions. Three champions were also named in the event's first Backyard Golden Arm Competition, Kendall Smith, Kellen Payne and Mark Musgrave.



The Diamonds dominated the tournament winning championships in four of the eight age groups, including the 12U Crew pictured with their first-place plaques.



The hosting Backyard Dreams 13U team with coach and tournament organizer Shane Beach.



Pitcher Brayden Mitchellsen on the mound.

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GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Special Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes June 6, 2016

- Motions Approved:
1. Approval of Minutes
 2. Accounts Payable
 3. Consent Agenda

Our next Township Meeting
will be July 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
The approved minutes may be reviewed
on our website at www.grattantownship.org

obituaries

COLE

Gerald "Jerry" Patrick Cole, age 59 of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, June 8, 2016. He was preceded in death by his parents Harry and Joan Cole and brother Michael. He is survived by his wife Brenda; sons John (Wendy) Cole, Paul Mochmer and Matt Mochmer; daughters Angela Keena, Andrea Wilcox and Joan Hernandez; brother Harry Cole; 4 grandchildren, Ashley, Brittany, Collin and Alina; brothers and sisters-in-law, as well as nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held. Pastor Ken Ford officiated. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the family to help with expenses.



RALYS

RALYS, JACQUELYN, age 82 of Lowell, passed away Saturday, June 11, 2016. She was preceded in death by her husband, Stan; daughter, Michelle Micham; brother, Ron Parsons. She is survived by her children, Dianne (Jim) Morris, Marcia (Joel) Bieri, Steve (Tracy) Ralys; sisters, Carol Conklin, Phyllis (Jim) McDowell, Kathy (Gary) Newland, sister-in-law, Shirley Parsons; grandchildren, A.J. and Ryan Morris, Alexandria Micham, Kenny (Nicole) Bieri, Phil (Rebekah) Bieri, Danny Bieri, Brooke and Katie Ralys; great grandchildren, Sadie and Gavin Bieri; also many nieces and nephews. Jackie's greatest love was her family and then the Tigers. A private funeral and burial will be held. Memorial contributions may be made to Gentiva Hospice, 2221 Health Drive S.W., Ste. 1400, Wyoming, MI 49519 or a charity of one's choice.



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ROBIDOUX

Mary Kay (Stiles) Robidoux, 68, born January 9, 1947, went to heaven to see all God's beauty on June 4, 2016. Mary was the daughter of Jack and Lila Stiles of Lowell. They preceded her in death and her husband, Bud and stepson, Timothy Robidoux. Mary has one daughter, Staci (Joe) Naab; two stepsons, Dale Robidoux and Gale Robidoux; two grandchildren, Kaylee (Josh) Swinford and Jake Clayton; and one great-grandchild, Aurora. Also two sisters, Connie (Dick) Biggs and Pat DeYoung with whom she shared an apartment and was her caregiver; several nieces and nephews, Robin (Jim) Cahoon and Paula (Tom) Kamp. Both spent time caring for Aunt Mary. She thought the simple things in life are the most important and to be thankful for the beauty that God has given each of us in our lives. Mary loved flowers, especially roses; country music (Merle Haggard or Johnny Cash), the old kind she would say not the new stuff. But bass fishing was the thing she liked to do best. You see she was going bass fishing Memorial weekend, that was her goal, but was back in the hospital for 12 days; she put up a tough fight. It gives us great comfort to know she is in Heaven, probably catching the biggest bass she had ever seen. She taught us the great strength you need to get through tough times and to always be humble and kind. With all our love, The Mary Kay (Stiles) Robidoux family. Special thanks to Tony McCaul and Mike DeVore for always being there; and all of Mary's neighbors and friends. A celebration of Mary's life was held Saturday, June 11, 2016 at Stoney Lake Park, 1200 Bowes Rd., Lowell, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be sent to Robin Cahoon, 10291 Grand River Ave., Lowell, MI 49331 for cremation expenses.



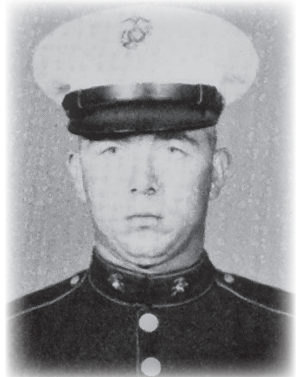
ROTH

Doris June Roth, Age 88 of Lowell, just shy of her 89th birthday, went to be with her Lord on Wednesday, June 8th with her family at her side. She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Edwin Christian Roth, whom she married on May 25, 1946; children Steven (Barbara) Roth, Jeanne (Glenn) Vandersloot, Nancy (Michael) Moore; grandchildren Aaron (Barbara) Roth, Aletha (John) VanValkenburg, Ryan (Renae) Roth, Kyle Roth, Trenton (Jessica) Roth, Nicholas (Melissa) Vandersloot, Nathan (Beth) Moore and Brett (Melanie) Moore; 18 great-grandchildren; sister Phyllis Petersen; brother-in-law Walter Roth; and sister-in-law June Roth. Doris was born in Remus, Michigan, where she grew up on a farm. Upon high school graduation, she moved to Grand Rapids to find work. A roller skating rink is where Edwin and Doris met. Once married, the couple ran a dairy farm together until retirement, after which they traveled the world extensively. Doris loved finding family genealogy, collecting rocks, gardening and family time. Funeral services will be held Monday 11:00 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Lowell, 621 E. Main Street. Pastor Brad Brillhart officiating. Visitation Sunday at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, 2-4:00 p.m. and 6-8:00 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Lowell or FROM (Flat River Outreach Ministries), 11535 Fulton St E, Lowell, MI 49331.



TOPOLSKI

Ronald Michael Topolski, age 71 of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, June 7th, 2016. He was preceded in death by



grandchildren Kaitlyn Powell and Adin Palmer. He is survived by his wife Margaret



"Peggy" Topolski; children Michelle (Chris) Powell, Angie Nichols, Michael (Becca) Topolski, Jason (Ronda) Engle, Jacqueline (James) Armstrong and Crystal (Shane) Palmer; grandchildren Erin (Jake) Johnston, Marissa, Andrew, Emma and Nicholas Powell; Anthony and Dominic Topolski, Makenna Nichols; Austin, Caden and Casey Engle; John, Kennedy and Dana Simmons; James and Michael Armstrong; Katherine VanDyke and Brendon Nash. Funeral services were held. Reverend Paul Kuiper officiated. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 129 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids MI 49508.



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LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING

STATE OF MICHIGAN

The Probate Court for the County Of Kent

In the matter of IRENE PARKER, Guardianship

File No. 16-199,401-GA, Conservatorship File No. 16-199,400-CA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including children and siblings of David Minix, 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 July 8, 2016 at 9:00 am

at Kent Co. Probate Court, 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: Appointment of a Guardian and Conservator.

Dated: June 7, 2016

Adult Protective Services, DHHS, Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
616-391-1675

VAN ESSEN AND ASSOCIATES PLLC, Attys. for Petitioner by Amanda Van Essen Wirth (P75001)
3425 Kelly St.
Hudsonville, MI 49426
Phone 616-633-0196

KCEA recognizes achievements of Lowell staff and students

submitted by
James Christians

Every year the Kent County Education Association invites the schools in our county to nominate students and teachers whose performances are worthy of recognition and distinction. After carefully considering each submission, the organization determined four teachers and three students to be worthy of their awards.

This exceptional showing is simply one more example of the fine achievements by the students and professional educators in this district. The four teachers represent the spectrum of teaching and learning taking place every day from early elementary to high school. These four have clearly gone above and beyond to impress students, families and colleagues. We are honored to celebrate their achievement and congratulations are in order for each of them.

Below are the profiles for each teacher featured.

Amanda VanWeezel - first-grade teacher at Bushnell Elementary

In her many years of teaching young children, VanWeezel has displayed incredible levels of creativity, patience and compassion. Not only does she work tirelessly to ensure the best lessons for all of her students, but she also manages to stay flexible to the daily issues that seem to arise with our district's youngest. Her colleagues captured this quality in her nomination. "She has a talent for calmly talking to students who have shut down. Amanda finds a way to get them working again. Amazingly, she does this not only with her own students but [also] with students from her colleagues' classrooms as well." In addition to her amazing work with students, VanWeezel has proven to be a dependable and knowledgeable colleague. She has served regularly on the School Improvement Team and has been a supportive LEA member throughout her tenure.

Jan Hanson - third-grade teacher at Alto Elementary

After 38 years of high end elementary instruction, Hanson has decided that it's time to further explore her talents in retirement. However, before exiting, her colleagues felt compelled to share her gifts with the greater world. Hanson has been a leader and example in her building for as long as anyone can remember. She has been the model for what

to do and how to do it. Kids in her room are challenged, loved and encouraged. She wears a positive attitude every day and keeps her comments positive and professional. Hanson has been known to show up early, stay late and sacrifice weekends to get the job done right. In her nomination, her status was captured succinctly. "She is one of the most highly efficient and effective teachers I know." Hanson may be humble in reflecting on her outstanding career, but she's leaving a legacy of teachers and students who will always list her toward the top of educators who truly made a difference. Hanson embodies the dignity and ethic all educators strive to attain.

Margaret Tuori - sixth- and seventh-grade ELA teacher at Lowell Middle School

In 19 years of teaching across the district, Margaret has earned a reputation of being a superior educator, a powerhouse and a force of energy. She balances exceptional subject matter knowledge with an uncompromising love of kids and delivers engaging and relevant lessons each and every day. She has single-handedly revolutionized the way secondary educators promote reading for life among diverse students. She has written grants and initiated discussions about how we can continue to foster a love of reading among our kids. Her success is undeniable. Staff and students, alike, have explored authors, stories and subjects to unprecedented levels. One of her nominees characterized her persona in a most poetic way. "She is all things good and positive, loving and generous." Tuori is a champion for all kids and she'll laugh, cry and scream right along with them. Her passion is contagious and her commitment to excellence inspires those around her.

Phil Beachler - algebra and geometry at Lowell High School

Beachler may be a steady presence in the Freshman Center, but his achievements permeate the entire high school. Both staff and students provide extensive examples of the positive contributions made by Beachler. He's encouraging and demanding. His quiet intensity forces those around him to raise their game to his level of achievement. He may be responsible for teaching math, but through

his work and his character, he instills much more in his students. While math may not be every student's favorite subject, Beachler goes the extra mile to help students see the connections between the lessons and their lives. They respect his approach and respond with often unprecedented effort. Beachler's accomplishments in the classroom have not gone unnoticed. Numerous colleagues thought to nominate Beachler for this recognition and one summed up his approach clearly. "Phil is always supportive and encouraging to those around him. His passion and positivity for this job are contagious." Beachler has been a consummate team player throughout his career and whether he's leading from the front or leading from behind, all can rest assured that if he's involved, good things are going to happen. He has a smile and a voice that reflect safety and sincerity. At the high school level, Beachler is truly a gift to be cherished.



Pictured at the KCEA Awards Banquet are Jan Hanson, Amanda VanWeezel, Margaret Tuori, Phil Beachler, Dan Kruse, Andrew Struckmeyer, and Faith Wilson. Each of these Red Arrows was recognized for outstanding contributions in their respective schools.

Another school year is winding down and plenty of folks are taking the time to look back and recognize the numerous accomplishments that have taken place in the rooms, offices and fields of Lowell area schools. It's

always a bittersweet time to say farewell to another year of serving the Lowell community, but we should not pass on to the summer without extending our most sincere thanks to all who have worked so hard

on behalf of these kids. While VanWeezel, Hanson, Tuori and Beachler earned the awards this year, we definitely want to give high fives to every teacher as he/she closes that classroom door one final time this June.

Junegrass, continued

"That's going to be a pretty big event," said Strassberger. "A guy bought [the guitar] brand new and donated it to us to raise money, as a fundraiser for the WMBMA. We've sold quite a few tickets. It's been pretty good."

Tickets to JuneGrass are \$35 for the whole weekend, \$15 for Friday

and \$20 for Saturday. You can buy them at the gate on the day of the festival or in advance at LowellArts! or the fairground office. There are also additional fees for camping at the fairgrounds. More information, including a complete schedule of events, is available on the WMBMA website, wmbma.org



The well-used banjo of NewTown's J.R. Williams.



For most of the week the campground will be full of bluegrass fans jamming with guitars and fiddles.

Looking Back, continued

something about it. He has filed citizen's warrants on five youths from this area.

Wittenbach Sales and Service and the Lowell Police cooperated last Friday and Saturday in safety checking over 175 cars. Wittenbach's turned over their garage operation to the safety program and cars were rapidly processed. Chief Avery Block said that this was one of the most complete car checks, and that many defects were uncovered in brakes and tires that are ordinarily missed. A vote of thanks is in order for this community service.

Six 1966 graduates of the high school pleaded guilty to painting their class numerals on numerous signs and buildings in the Lowell area, in Justice Court last week. Sentencing was delayed until Wednesday, June 15.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 19, 1991

Sgt. Purcell returns home in time for special show. Sgt. Michael Purcell, of Lowell, will be returning home June

20. Purcell has served from December, 1990 until May, 1991 in Saudi Arabia. Proud to be in the Army, he will be spending only a few days here in Lowell, before returning to Pennsylvania with his wife, Kim and their two children, Elizabeth and Timothy. From there Purcell will travel to Germany, where he is presently stationed. Sgt. Purcell's family is grateful that he will be returning in time to hear his singer/ songwriter sister, Tricia Sturgis, sing at Lowell Showboat on Thursday, June 20.

Lowell's Meltons lose home in Father's Day blaze. It was Father's Day, and Henry Melton did what most Americans did on Sunday, he went to visit his father. Melton, his wife, Teri, and their two children Josh and Shirley had their visit shortened when their neighbor called to inform them that their home had caught fire. When Melton and his family arrived at their home, Lowell firefighters were on the scene attempting to put out the blaze. According to Lowell Fire Chief, Frank Martin, the blaze started in the attic. Lowell Fire did not leave the scene until 8:30 p.m., according to Martin. He estimated the damage to be roughly \$60,000.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: INDEPENDENCE DAY

ACROSS

- 1. Beaten as punishment in some countries
- 6. Tai's partner
- 9. Suite cleaner
- 13. Savory taste sensation
- 14. Time delay
- 15. *Colonial money: pounds, shillings and _____
- 16. Dyed fabric
- 17. Pooh's wise friend
- 18. Can't stand
- 19. *Grilled July 4th favorite
- 21. *The Washington Monument, e.g.
- 23. Confession subject
- 24. Under a fig leaf?
- 25. Talking Heads' "And She _____"
- 28. New Zealand fruit
- 30. *At center of the American Revolution
- 35. Crumbs
- 37. Before "saw" and "conquered"
- 39. Butterfly, pre-metamorphosis
- 40. Curved molding
- 41. Each and all
- 43. Pinocchio's claims
- 44. Albrecht _____, Renaissance artist
- 46. Alleviate
- 47. Legal wrong
- 48. Pined
- 50. Hibernation stations
- 52. Pig's digs
- 53. Worker's reward
- 55. Two-year-old sheep
- 57. *Washington and Jefferson's Mt. Rushmore neighbor

CROSSWORD												
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72						73			74			



JUNE 8 - JUNE 14

- An Orlando Florida nightclub was the scene of the worse massacre to date in the country. 49 people were murdered and many were rushed to the hospital with life-threatening wounds. The gunman was shot and killed.
- James Weeks, a heavysset Libertarian late-entry candidate stripped down to a g-string in lieu of a speech.
- Draymond Green of the Golden State Warriors was suspended for Game 5 and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat them 112-97. The Warriors will now travel to Cleveland for game 6.

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- 61. Holy Hindu
- 64. Foreign Language Oscar winner, 2012
- 65. **All men _____ created equal"
- 67. Arm bones
- 69. Equipped with feathers
- 70. Famous T-Rex
- 71. Spritelike
- 72. Famous cookie brand
- 73. "For _____ a jolly..."
- 74. City in France
- 27. "Private Parts" author
- 29. **"...star-spangled banner yet _____"
- 31. Sodium
- 32. The Three Musketeers and Destiny's Child
- 33. Not hidden
- 34. Highly unpleasant
- 36. "As _____ on TV"
- 38. Gaelic
- 42. Gossipmonger
- 45. Say it differently
- 49. Indian restaurant staple
- 51. **"The Independence Day: Resurgence," e.g.
- 54. Grind teeth
- 56. Post-rain ditch
- 57. Mount Vesuvius output
- 58. Mosque V.I.P.
- 59. Nay, to a baby
- 60. Prompter's comments
- 61. Lawyers' charges
- 62. Too much _____
- 63. *What you hope it doesn't do on July 4th?
- 66. Poe's Morgue
- 68. Lt.'s subordinate

DOWN

- 1. Mowgli to Raksha in "The Jungle Book"
- 2. Nanjing nanny
- 3. North Atlantic Alliance, acr.
- 4. Gives off
- 5. Tiny antelope
- 6. Heidi's "Magic Wooden Shoe"
- 7. TV variety show "Hee _____"
- 8. Icy hut
- 9. One of three square ones
- 10. Opposed to
- 11. Frosts a cake
- 12. Office furniture
- 15. _____ red, pH indicator
- 20. On the rocks
- 22. Baby's apron
- 24. Lemonade cousin
- 25. *Guthrie of "This Land Is Your Land"
- 26. Lock horns

Puzzle solutions on page 10

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Euchre Tournament

Sign-up at 6:00 PM
Tournament starts at 6:30 PM

5K Run • 7:00 PM

Beer Tent • 7:00 PM

The Weatherheads Band

7:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Live Music

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

Mass • 4:00 PM

Helicopter Ball Drop • 5:00 PM

\$5000 awarded to the ball that falls closest to target

Festival Auction • 5:30 PM

Las Vegas • 7:00 PM - Midnight

Beer Tent • 5:00 PM - Midnight

Alive and Well

9:00 PM - Midnight

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

Family Fun

12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Children's Games

Bingo - 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Annual Custom Classic Car, Truck & Antique Tractor Show
The Diddle Styx Polka Band

1:00 - 5:00 PM

Beer Tent

Opens at 12:00 PM

Chicken Bar-B-Q Dinner

Served Sunday
from 12-5 p.m.

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Drawing June 26, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
*Tickets must be submitted by 5:00 p.m.

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2nd Prize: \$2,500

3rd Prize: \$1,000

4th Prize: \$500

Ticket Price: \$5.00 per ticket

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