the lowell Ger

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issue 38

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stories of perseverance

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page 11



It's time for the annual Riverwalk Festival

~Three-day festival begins this Thursday, July 7

by Tim McAllister contributing reporter

The Riverwalk Festival is Lowell's annual three-day summer party. This year the Riverwalk Festival will take place on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 7, 8 and

"The businesses on Main St. and the food establishments do verv well during Riverwalk," said Liz Baker, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director. "We like people to patronize our businesses. If you just want to come and eat, there are lots of different things to eat. If you're just here to listen to entertainment you can do that as well. Kids can go play in the Kid Zone and there's always lots of fun games for them to play."

The Riverwalk Festival will start with live music on Thursday, July 7 by Joe Hertler and the Rainbow Seekers, then continue on Friday, July 8 with local favorite, the Kari Lynch

"We are going to kick our festival off on Thursday night with a Sizzlin' Summer Concert," Baker said. "Joe Hertler and the Rainbow Seekers will perform live on the Showboat. Friday night [July 8] is more kind of the party night. We're excited, that will be a good night."

There is a long list of favorite activities that are returning for the entire three-day event.

"We're going to bring the free pontoon rides back this year," Baker said, "along with street entertainers, the cash bar on the Showboat. arts and crafts booths, the commercial vendors and the nonprofits, the classic cars will be back and the canoe and kayak race on the river will be back."

Englehardt Library's used book sale is always swamped with people looking for rare and out-ofprint books.

> Riverwalk Festival, continued, page 4



Farmers' market in full swing on Thursdays

by Kathryn Atwood

Lowell's

downtown Farmers' Market is in full swing each Thursday afternoon located at the city parking lot on the corner of Monroe and Avery Street, just east of the Showboat. The market is open from 12-5:30 pm and features about a dozen vendors from Lowell

Vendors include SwissLane Farms of Alto, new vendor Sandy's Fudge and Wabasis Creek Farms of Greenville.

Other highlights include an onsite tasting of locally developed mead, artisan breads and pastries from Saranac-based Busy Beez Bakery, herbs fresh

from Clarksville's Brewer Farm, and homemade dog snacks from blossoming Lowell business the Pawstry Shoppe owned by Amy Albert.

The cleverly named company is in its first year according to Albert who joined the market this season with products inspired and

approved by her own family dog Axl Rose. "I make everything right in my own kitchen. We just got started up so we are keeping it local and seeing where we can go from there. We have our little Axl Rose at home and he is our official taste tester."

Vendor space for the market is still available on both a daily and seasonal basis. Further information and applications can be found online at www. lowellchamber.org by contacting Cinnamin Piggott at (616) 916-9193.



Lowell to become a Trail Town, public meeting Monday, July 11

by Tim McAllister contributing reporter

Lowell is already the national headquarters of the North Country Trail. Soon it will also become a "Trail Town." A Trail Town is a town that lies on or near a long distance trail and offers interesting and unique attractions to hikers. The North Country Trail is 4,600 miles long and goes through New York, Pennsylvania,

Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota.

"This project will not only improve and showcase the North Country National Scenic Trail in and around Lowell, but it also offers opportunities to provide for users of the Flat River Valley and LARA trails, paddlers on the Flat and Grand rivers and even

the dirt road cyclists that come to the Lowell area to ride their bikes on our scenic back roads," Andrea Ketchmark of the North Country Trail Association said in a press release. "It offers businesses the opportunity to successfully market to all of those outdoor recreationists, both visitors and residents."

The North Country Trail

Town steering committee will have a public meeting at city hall on Monday, July 11 from 6 pm until 8 pm.

"At the next meeting, we'll start to identify the existing and needed infrastructure and amenities and do a walking assessment of a portion of the trail through town," Ketchmark added in the press release.



The Lowell area of the North Country National Scenic Trail.



SEPTEMBER 17 IN DOWNTOWN LOWELL Sign up at WWW.pinkarrowpride.org

PINK ARROW PRIDE 2016

We have held on to many of last year's banners - IF YOU HAVE ONE TO HANG PLEASE DROP IT OFF (by July 25) AT THE LEDGER OFFICE (105 N. Broadway)

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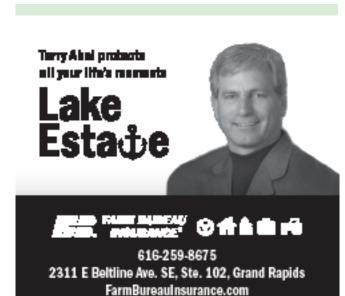




Sorry, not this year.

Banners will begin being displayed August 15th

SAVE THE DATE Friday, Sept. 16 - Lowell hosts Ottawa Hills - volleyball, soccer & football



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Big Band Nouveau plays for a large crowd on the Riverwalk

by Kathryn Atwood contributing reporter

The sound of the 16-piece ensemble Big Band Nouveau welcomed

music lovers to the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concert last Thursday evening.

Sunny pleasant welcomed a large crowd

the Riverwalk and the water of the Flat River temperatures with spectators. The Grand for the concert both filling Rapids based band shared their jazz and Latin infused sound.

The band boasts a core membership which includes Michael Doyle, Fred Knapp, Mark Wells and Joe and Paul Lesinski, along with an energetic love for music

audience.

Next week the concert series will feature Joe Hertler and the Rainbow Seekers, a Motown and folk rock band who exude a 60s hippy spirit and creativity. In a rare occasion for the series, the two-hour show will also feature two opening acts, folk singer and

which translates to their musician Ralston Bowles and passionate lyricist and vocalist Audrey Pearson.

> Showtime is scheduled for this Thursday at 7 pm with the Rainbow Seekers taking stage at 7:45. As always food, refreshments and adult beverages are available onsite along with both bleacher and lawn seating.

Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.



Kayaks and pontoons float beside a full Riverwalk to listen to the 16-member Big Band Nouveau.



along main street

COVERED BRIDGE BIKE TOUR

The Fallasburg Historical Society will hold its annual Covered Bridge Bike Tour on Sunday, July 10. All well-marked routes from 12 to 100 miles begin and end in the historic village of Fallasburg. Register in advance online at www.fallasburg.org or on site at the Schoolhouse Museum from 7-9 am the day of the event. For more information or to volunteer call 616-682-0785 or email: kentamke@comcast.net

GILDA'S CLUB LOWELL CLUBHOUSE

Garden with Gildas – Tues., July 12, 1-3 pm. Come on over and join us in the gardens, the 2nd Tuesday of each month. There are a variety of ways to help maintain and enjoy the beautiful gardens here at Gilda's Club Lowell. We welcome your help.

Camp Sparkle - Tuesdays, July 12, 19, 26 and August 2, 10 am-2:30 pm. Camp Sparkle is a program of Gilda's Club Grand Rapids. We invite your children to connect with other children impacted by cancer or grief. Together, we will be traveling around the world, here at the clubhouse (1806 Bridge Street NW), with our "Share Around the World" theme. Please register by calling 616-453-8300.

Cake and Thanks! - Tues., July 19, 4-5 pm. Join us for an open house and piece of gratitude cake as we thank the students and staff in the Lowell school district for their generosity in "Pink-ing It Forward" to Gilda's Club Lowell throughout the year.

Chitchat Readers Book Club – Tues., July 19, 4:15-5:15 pm. Join other members of Gilda's Club in discussing a great book. Stop by the clubhouse to borrow a book.

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

YOUTH ART CLASSES

Youth art classes are being offered for students ages 8 to 12 at LowellArts! Classes are 3-5 pm on Wednesdays and a few spots are still available in these remaining sessions: July 13 – Drawing Animals on Scratchboard; July 20 – Torn Paper Circus Mosaics; and July 27 - Circus Prints. Registration is required. Program sponsored by Lowell Rotary Club. For more information or to register, visit www.lowellartsmi.org or call 616-897-8545.

YOUTH THEATER

Big Top Barry Youth Theater Experience is being offered by LowellArts! for students ages 7-18. The class that will meet July 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and August 1, 2, 3, 6-7:30 pm at Fallasburg Park, will learn the basics of acting, assist with set design and prepare a short For more information or to register, visit www.lowellartsmi.org or call 616-897-8545.

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.

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.

LL&P to install high tech meters

by Tim McAllister contributing reporter

Lowell Light & Power's Advanced Infrastructure Metering Project is getting closer to implementation. The new meters will replace every L&P customer's electric meter with a new, high tech meter. The new meters will allow L&P customers to view power use statistics, pay bills online, closely monitor their electricity consumption online, check for outages, communicate with the company, and a lot

"It's going to be awesome," said Lowell Light & Power assistant general manager Steve Donkersloot. "One of the biggest benefits will be for commercial customers, because they'll be able to monitor their power usage on half hour increments so they can try to control their demand, which is a component of big commercial customers' bills."

The new meters will allow all 2,700 L&P customers to get instant information from the utility.

"The customer portal will be both an app and a platform that somebody can log onto with a computer," Donkersloot said. "They'll be able to view their usage, view their billing, submit a service request, receive and e-bill, pay their bill, view energy efficiency tips, and view outage information. An outage map will eventually be part of that."

Work on the project has already started. Recently

signal boosters, called "relays," were placed on power poles around town and a lot of computer equipment is being installed at the L&P office.

"We're still looking at late summer, August or September, for the actual deployment of the meters," Donkersloot said. "Everything is going according to schedule."

Donkersloot will give a presentation about the project at the Lowell city council meeting at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, August 1. Customers with questions or concerns before that might attend the next L&P board meeting, which will take place at their 127 N. Broadway office at 6 pm on Wednesday, July 13.

www.lowellartsmi.org www.discoverlowell.org



business directory









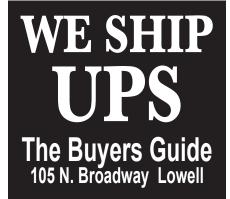












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Riverwalk Festival, continued

"The Englehardt Library used book sale, that's a biggie. That's always a huge hit at the Riverwalk Festival," Baker said.

Flat River Outreach Ministries is doing their Food Fight again this year and the winner will be revealed at the Riverwalk Festival on Saturday.

"FROM's Food Fight begins in May at the high school and then it spreads to the community," Baker said. "It's always been the north against the south, the south against the north, Main St. being the dividing line. Riverwalk is the end of the Food Fight and they always announce the winner at Riverwalk."

Saturday is also the day of the big parade and the talent show on the Showboat. If you want to participate in the open mic night on the Showboat, you can register on the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce website.

"The parade starts at noon and the entertainment

that day is always the open mic," Baker said. "We've done that the last couple years and that's gone really well. There's lots of people that come out and do it and that's fun."

The Duck Raffle is your chance to win a pile of money.

"Our Duck Raffle ticket sales will start that night as well," Baker said. "First prize is \$1,000, with five \$100 winners. Cold, hard cash."

Many stores and galleries on Main St. will have sidewalk sales and other special events.

"Saturday for sure you'll see a lot of merchants downtown out on the streets with their wares," Baker said. "We have so many antique dealers now. It's really nice, I think it adds to the whole ambiance of the downtown. It's just kind of natural for people to walk around town."

The pig roast was such a huge success the first year that they ran out

HOURS:

Mon. - Sat.

9 to 6

of pork. This year the pig roast will be on Thursday from 5 pm until 7 pm. Even if they run out, there is no shortage of food choices at the Riverwalk Festival. Your choices will include barbecue, wood-fired pizzas and about eight other food

On Saturday Lowell will close out the Riverwalk Festival with a bang.

booths and trucks.

"We are still going to do the fireworks on Saturday night, that's our grand finale," Baker said. "A lot of people go to Stoney Lakeside Park on Bowes Road because that's where they shoot them from. But many people, like me, we go to the fairgrounds, because you can view them from over there as well. I like it there because it's open. Everybody has their favorite spot where they go for the fireworks."

Not all of the details have been worked out yet, but you can expect to find lots of family-friendly events and activities around Lowell's Riverwalk and historic downtown for the duration of the festival.

"There's a little bit for everybody to do, from classic cars to shopping," Baker said. "It really, truly is a family event."

A lot more information including maps, a list of area hotels, vendor and parade applications and a schedule of events can be found on the official Riverwalk Festival website, riverwalkfestival.org or by calling the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce at 616-897-9161.



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Michigan's beer distributors celebrate Michigan Craft Beer Month

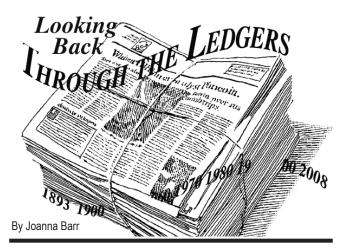
Michigan's independent, locally-owned beer distributors are proud to help craft brewers across the state celebrate Michigan Craft Beer Month, which began July 1.

"Thanks to Michigan's independent and family-owned beer distributors, our state is now the fifth largest beer producer in the country with over 200 small brewers and brewpubs," said Spencer Nevins, president of the Michigan Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association. "Michigan is poised to keep growing and launch even more new breweries and distributors are proud to play a role in this continued success story."

The state's beer distributors play a pivotal role in helping local craft brewers grow their brand and provide incomparable access to retailers, big and small, across the state. Michigan beer distributors will continue to play that crucial role in this month-long celebration of Michigan craft beer as brewers showcase their brands at tap takeovers, special events and festivals.

"Independent, local beer distributors help promote growth, choices and competition, working hand-in-glove with small craft brewers to help them succeed today and in the future," said Nevins.

Michigan's beer distributors employ 5,000 people and have a direct economic impact of more than \$610 million in the state. The state's entire beer industry, ranging from brewers and distributors to retailers and supporting industries such as agriculture, transportation and hospitality, pumps more than \$6.6 billion into the state's economy each year. According to a report released in 2015 by the National Beer Wholesalers Association and the Beer Institute, Michigan ranks No. eight nationally in total beer jobs and 14th in total economic output.



125 years ago Lowell Journal July 8, 1891

O. Beach has taken up a novel branch of stock raising—skunks—having 11 old pets and 80 little ones, which are attracting visitors from adjoining towns, and "Skunk Haven"—so called—is no dangerous place.

Emily Weekes is like a "touch me not" school marm. She has a felon on her thumb and commences to "holler" don't look at me.

The rain last night and this morning is just what is needed for the early potatoes, though some with hay to draw wont quite like it. Wheat in some fields has gone down badly. We can't account for it unless the straw is weak from its rapid growth during the earlie spring rains. We have had no storms to cause its falting.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 6, 1916

The drinking and gambling debauch held in Lowell in the name of our glorious Independence day, was a disgrace to civilization. Hereafter, probably, some precautions will be taken before the name of our town is lent to irresponsible parties to drag in the mire.

Principles are expensive. The Ledger has just refused an order for \$200 worth of cigarette advertising. It costs something—in more ways than one—to publish a clean newspaper. Did you know it? Please remember it next time you see something here you do not like.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 10, 1941

Softball games at Recreation Park are drawing bigger crowds of late, no doubt due to the fact that

a new night-lighting system has been installed by the Municipal light plant crew. The diamond has also been reconditioned, the grandstand has a coat of paint and a new protective screen. It all goes to make a big improvement.

The Ledger has been informed by Ben Told, man about town who hears everything, that a number of residents are planning on putting in drive-wells, no doubt remembering the pure, cold, delicious water that used to be obtained in that manner. The Common Council might consider the installation of a number of drive-wells to be used by the people of their respective neighborhoods. Well! Well!

50 years ago Lowell Ledger July 7, 1966

One of the country's top humorists and winner of the coveted Emmy and Peabody awards, Bob Newhart, born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, has been billed as the top act for the '66 Showboat, which will make its first docking at the Showboat Stadium on Monday evening, July 25.

Work on the new sewage treatment plant, just south of Recreation Park, is moving rapidly. At this time it is about one-third complete. Each digester will hold 45,000 gallons, which will be heated, to kill the bacteria and then the solids will be pumped into drying pits. The liquid sewage will be chlorinated and pumped into the river. The new plant, which is part of the cleanup of the Grand River basin, will have a total cost of nearly \$400,000, and an annual operating cost of \$20,000.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 10, 1991

Sunday storm rips down trees and leaves many in area without power. The weekend storm helped to put School and City problems on the back burner, and replaced them with more intimate inconveniences. While many residents in the City of Lowell were without power for short periods of time Sunday evening, residents on the outskirts of the City limits may have to deal with the inconveniences of no water, and no electric up through Thursday. That is unless they are hooked up with Lowell Light and Power. Herb Haines, Lowell Light and Power Superintendent, said as of Monday evening all but just a couple of homes had electricity. "Those homes had their house services ripped off their homes by the wind," Haines said. Possibly glad to see its name off the front pages, the Lowell School Board reached out to those who will be without electric for at least the next couple of days as it agreed to open up the Lowell Middle School shower facilities to community members who are currently

without power, from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. through Friday. "We ask that people bring their own towels and soap. Those who would like to take water home with them are also asked to bring water containers. People should also use the Middle School's east entrance next to the gymnasium. And please, no snapping towels in the shower," laughs Lowell's Director of School and Community Services, Dick Korb. Haines said this is the worst storm to hit the Lowell area since the ice storm. "When Lowell was hit by the ice storm it took 39 hours to get services back to all of our Lowell Light and Power customers," he said. "It took roughly 24 hours to get people back on line this time." Haines added that there are still downed trees and limbs that need to be taken care of. Lowell City Manager Dave Pasquale said that if people will put there tree branches out by the curb, the City will pick them up. "The City will provide this service all this week, and has set aside Monday and Tuesday of next week to pick up what was missed. Haines said the downed trees and limbs disrupted the primary and secondary distributions. The high wind was also the cause for lost fusing in one sub station and the primary wire in a second sub station burned. Employees from Lowell Light and Power, Kent Power Services, and engine room personnel all helped with the cleanup,.

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes your Letters to the Editor.



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.

phone signature, 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 are required

to bear the author's

anniversaries

~ Anderson



George and Carole (Parsons) Anderson will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Sunday, July 17. They are blessed with three children, nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Their children are Debbie and Ed Erway, Doreen and Doug DeVries, and Denise Amidon.



George and Carole Anderson

Ivan K Blough scholarship recipient for 2016 announced

Chamber Foundation has named the 2016 recipient of the Ivan K Blough Vocational Scholarship. Mason Misiak is currently employed and plans on attending Grand Rapids Community College in the winter where he will obtain a certificate in welding.

The Ivan K Blough Vocational Scholarship Fund ideal is to encourage career skills and educational opportunities for high school seniors and graduates within the Lowell Area Schools District boundaries. To promote and foster volunteerism and pride in the Greater Lowell Community and demonstrate community service before self. To honor Ivan, they wish to seek individuals destined

science studies/business, local commercial business

etc. The scholarships are programs, as well as trade for a two-year certificate

The Greater Lowell for trade schools, agri- entrepreneurial endeavors, or technical certificate skills development.



Mason Misiak is pictured with Carolyn Jane Blough.

Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment.



happy birthday

JULY 6

Marty DeYoung, Jason Elaine Haines, Leo Pfaller. Barber, Amy Stencel, Darrel Hesche, Chris Page, Ed Walling, Jan Pete VanLaan, Austin Bieri.

JULY 7

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

JULY 8

Jason White, Stencel, Ryan Vashaw, Bellah, Jill Taylor, Hayley Jessica Tulppo, Marilyn Fritz, Georgan Watrous. Venneman.

JULY 9

JULY 10

Bieri, Carter Peel, Kelly Landman.

JULY 11

Dina DeCator, Hutchinson, Savannah Rice.

JULY 12

Tony Cole Burdette, Samantha

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A community fighting cancer

~ *Jane Tschannen -* Fuller Septic

recently celebrated five years cancer fire. Her husband Tomdied from concer in 2011 and herself ever since.

already, son you believe it,"

All of the

Technomen gives a lot of money to Pink Agrees Prids.

"I did the Quiver Run four years ago. Usually trethat blad of stell?"

Since Lowell invested it in 2008, communities across the nation hold similar events. Trebennen gets a blak out of Eving where it all started.

"H's been five years already, can you believe 69 On June 2 Thad my five-year anniversary. Time fles!" - Jane Fichannen

"Ther cut it cut. The type of all, It's very next to be a part

from World Way I that are all the rage on the licternet there

much has changed in my

think is a good thing. I don't think of moself of an being a until all of a radden its been fire years. I look flowerd to the firture, working hard,





SAVE - THE - DATE

Friday, September 16, 2016 **Lowell hosts Ottawa Hills High School** Volleyball, Soccer and Football!

~ Joann Childs

pain. They feel like no me Jeff's death I went to SCO. Survivors of Sainide, which I still go but I felt I seeded more. I knew Gilda's Clubwas for owner and I on a 20connector, Julie, who we just lave. She is so kind and understanding. There are

people who have lost spouses, could see my bruken heat. I to be basied by Jeff and he is. children, siblings, Stiends, will never get ever this big. Another Stiend, Lee, comes





N community, fighting cancer

~ Shirley Gulver

me to update the story of my concer journey. By the summer of 1043, when my first white speared in the Ledges, I had been through surgery and chemotherapy to less the concerns mass that had been found in our abdones. My occulogist had continued me that, though my cause was currently in remission, it may executably reent. Consequently, I began the routine of followay visits with my dectors. At first, I was examined every three mentio and after two years. my checkups were achedoled for every aix mouths. Finally, my dector suggested that I go through a series of bedraind if everything checked out obus. he would be easily to remove the port that had been need for my chemotherapy treatments.

After arrest months of testing it was evident that the original concer had respond and in addition. the areas of my left has looked suspicious. Initially we thought this might be a result of the passances. I was being treated for, but more detailed a cays showed cancer in the lung. The lung concer is not related to my original cause. Though I had stopped smoking 16 years earlier, the years of tobacco use had caught up with me. I am open about my years of smoking in hopes that it may serve as a continue to others.

I have now consisted six weeks of sudiation and a Eakt dose of chemotherapy. As a result of the treatments my heat been to fination. absormally, so that had to be corrected before I could underen farther treatment. lidy heart in back to a normal. dethn and I an exempty undergoing the full dose of chemistheory.

I am so expected for the He I have been given and I find joy in counting my blemings. Buch stage in Me has taught me what I would need to know for my future. My yesterdays prepared me for my tomorrows. I grew up during the dispression and the lessons bearsed in my childhood continue to serve me today. As a shift I server bases I was poor until one day a sirt at achieving stated out that my skirt was made from feed andia. I ware the skirt before my mother had becomed it said the name of the feed company

edge. I was confused when the girl mid, "I didn't know that you've poos" When I get home that day I substant mether if we were poor, and she told me that we were not poor as long. as you wrom provided our files its women who had lived off grid their station lives and who so gracionaly chared their windom with me. It is anaring what yes one have from persons of

I loved my life in Aleska. and had always had at least

my see and his family, of my neighbor survey the street. of my Siends at church and beyond. A women in my

where I know the support of go right by us and we don't even recognize them. I know that God has work for me to do in the time I have left. I have two prayer lists; daily I pear for each cerum on my lone was moving here from Detroit. Hat, and the about list in for necessary the need posper wanty



take once of correlines. So many of the skills I have developed over the years I was able to accomplish became of the lessons I begreed in my

I fived in Alaska for 28 years and for the first six months I had neither electricity or water. Though I later had electricity, I never had maning water year round. as I lived outside of Paintanks where you cannot die a well. because of the neonafoot. Mr house was built four feet shows around which heat my pipes from freezing during the wasmer months of the year. Horsever, I had no indoor planting from mid-Hovenber through mid-blay. Water is a precious commodity in that pet of Abeks and the active women taught me how to clean and sook vegetables without using much water. There didn't have element, so there filled the bottom of the kettle with recits. A screen caught my particles of venetables that fell spect. They tought me to steam hard-boiled eggs in just a small amount of water I am on threshild for those agrice

two jobs, sometimes three. I other worked one full-time job along with a couple of parttime jobs. The cost of living is very high in Abaka and, as a single person, I couldn't make it work with just one job. My health began to deteriorate because of injuries sustained in an auto accident. God finally got my attention. I had wandered more from God for 20 years and I am so thankful that Glod never pure up on me. but called me back to a life of faith. My danakters also Eved in Alaska and one day I told my daughter that I could no binner work hard enough to affined Albaha's cost of Brine. the select 2 I had thought of seturning to Lowell where my son and his family live. A flew weeks later any postur encouraged me by pointing out that I would be able to give of provides a new cheeds back in Michigan, just us I had leved weeking in my congregation in Albaha. With their words of enconcapement, I moved back to Lowell where my social security income could better meet my flooraid needs.

And, indeed, I am so Messed in this community

together. We have become and wie bee showing bong drom been my faithful driver when I have needed transportation to medical appointments. Anyone who complains about old upe abouid be thankful for all the years they have been given to live. Reducing six become a blessing in my life because I met en meur vanne marker who won't see her next birthday and a vosse man who was going through rediction with the hope that it might give him a few more years. I added one young man if I could offer a proper for him and he thanked me for being a Messine, but I was the one who was blessed.

The gift cards provided to me by Figh Amon have been a real bleming. But trip I make to the concer center is 32.5 miles and the ail's cards have paid for the gas, as well as helping with my out-of-pocket expenses for medicine.

We let an many blemious

that God has allowed me to maintain my mental faculties, on I help manage my brother's care. He calls me each evening on we can check on each other.

I start my day with my prayer routine, then feed my dogs and then look at my calcular to see what medical appointments I might have that day. I will do what I am supposed to do to keep my health. I may that the soud Lord will give me the strength to do what he has in store for me. I want to deal with: concer in a year that belon me inspire others to live a life of field. I have beened so much about beening on others during this time of need. Each day we have a mountain to climb. With each step, we should be avaiteful because we have been able to take that stee. I have had to less on God and in God I find the strength I need.



A community fighting cancer

~ Grant Pratt

ing Lewell High School. Garaceed with breast concer. While her cancer is currently in remission, she showed me. of my treatments flavo me to how to fishe this disease on a step at the hospital for up to

concer insures of are own. In the full of 2015. I became nick. I continued to play fleehall progressed and my body had given in. I was sent to Helen where I had many blood tests and n-rays taken. Late in the night on November 28, nine hours. Chemotherapy 2015, my doctor explained to gives me side effects such my purests and me that I had on bredutes, body aches, been diagnosed with acute names, fidgue, mouth sorse, lymphoblastic leukemia. joint pain, swelling, and hair

Fruit. I am 14 years intervals the drugs in as well. They change the drags so the causer does not become accustomed to say certain therapy. I most often receive treatment in an outpatient format at Helen Devon Children's Hospital Oscology Clinic. But on accusion pome a west. Though I may not I am batting through a sujey my treatments in the hospital. the names and staff traffe try to make them more

Alppical day at the clinic relatively short (four hours) but others can take up to



joint pain, evoiling, and hair "I have drawn strength from famtly, , friends and community. I received countless cards and well wishes from across the state."

and how it would affect me. Later that night they admitted me to the hospital. I speak a

to a time when I don't have to deal with them. Offentiones, I forget what it feels like to be

One way that beloame feel week in the hospital getting normal is attending achool. I

is smooth. Athletics have been a big part of my life prior to the diagnosis. I continue to week not so that I can be did my strength and straning to that I can play football in the full

- Grant Print

Floure dozen strength from family, friendspool community. I received countless useds and well wishes from across the state. Also, I have received special mediration from Oake and Max Dean, who wrestly at a collectate level. We stay ent. I am blessed to have the support system throughout the community of Lowell.

Lowelling special place to have the Pink Aurory Pride and the Citida's Clab partnership

which impacts to many people screen our community. This year. Pink Arrow will have a different messang to me. I think it will be a happier time became I will be wropping up my intensive chemotherapy After that I will undergo at least two and one-half years of

Though my journey is not over, I hope to take away positives that will make me a etter person. I have beened to peneron, be patient, work hard, and accept challenges.



PINK ARROW QUIVER

BACK FOR 2016!

5K RUN & FAMILY WALK

SEPTEMBER 17 IN DOWNTOWN LOWELL Sign up at www.pinkarrowpride.org

Little Leaguers bring home district 9 championship

by Kathryn Atwood contributing reporter

The Red Arrow sluggers hit the Little League fields this season on a mission for victory and one succeeded in the ultimate way bringing home the organization's first District 9 Championship title.

The tenacious group of seventh-grade students ended their regular season with an impressive 11-1 record. They proceeded to tear through the tournament going 3-0 topping Western Little League, who dealt them their only loss in the regular season for a 14-1 overall finish.

Maybe even more impressive than the title win is the road that the team took to get there. According to coach Damien Dixon, who has been with Lowell Little League for the past eight years, "We started with this group of boys back in mid January working out at the Spring Training facility here in town and continued into middle school baseball with them. That season started off with a bang going 5-1 in our first six games. We then went 0-11 in our next 11 games, losing 8 of those contests by 1 run."

He went on to explain, "During that time we just were not mature enough baseball players to figure out how to win those tight games, the boys just mentally couldn't figure it out. All the physical tools were there but we lacked the mental toughness to win."

But something happened between that devastating season and the winning one. "Because of that experience I truly believe our boys really grew up a lot in those 17 games and I would say the biggest development in the boys was them learning how to win," said Dixon.

The late 6-2 loss added fuel to an already sparking rivalry between the two teams, on and off the field,



Pictured, left to right, top row: Kyle Teachworth, Derek Mohr, Reid Reynolds, Drew Hackstedt, Elijah Dixon, Josiah Koster, and Josh Hackstedt; middle row: Brayden Teft, Bradley Salgat, Ethan Hoevenaar, Elijah Birmingham, and Johnny Olmos; front row: Rohan Dixon, and Troy Taylor.

that would be rekindled in the first round of playoff action where the Arrows came out on top plating six runs in the first inning en route to a huge 11-5 victory. Faced with what Dixon described as "chippy" comments and "dirty" baseball during the commanding win, the Arrows had even more motivation when they met again in the final round.

Down by three in the bottom of the seventh the Arrows had their backs against the wall in the championship match, but came surging back toward a last minute victory with a pair of doubles and two huge hits deep into right field that tied the game and forced an extra inning. The Arrows saw the winning blast take off from the bat of the team's number 12 hitter.

"Now most teams would have a guy hitting 12th that maybe wasn't the best hitter on the team, but I have never built my lineup that way. Our 12 hitter did what he has done so often for us this season and came thru in the clutch with the game winning RBI single," said Dixon.

That hitter, Ethan Hoevenaar, and the rest of the Arrows celebrated their victory with their coach.

Red Arrow Rohan Dixon logged the pitching win giving up only two unearned runs during his two innings on the mound. Fellow ace Drew Hackstedt delivered the first five innings giving up just two earned runs on 95 pitches. Derek Mohr sent out the game tying the RBI.

"This year truly was a team effort. We had so many players that when their number was called they stepped up and delivered a performance worthy of recognition. Without every one of them we would not have won the championship," said Dixon.

Dixon, who coached the team alongside assistants Mike Hoevenaar and Mike Taylor and Lowell High School athletes Josh Hackstedt and Elijah Dixon, said the season is a good indicator of where the program is and where it is headed. "I feel like this is a great group of young men and a great group of young baseball players. From where I stand it looks like the future is very bright for Red Arrow baseball. I feel like these boys could achieve great things if they

are given the opportunity to continue to play together and further build the trust in each other that is so important in a team sport to win. This year was the first year that we were really able to keep a core group of players together to see what they were capable of and I think the results speak for themselves," concluded Dixon.

LOWELL LIGHT & POWER Job Posting POSITION Communications Specialist/Office Assistant

JOB DESCRIPTION

Under the direction of the General Manager, develop and write communications materials for websiles, newsletters, customer bill inserts, direct mail, email marketing and social media as required to communicate with employees, customers and local officials. Assist customers with account information, various billing inquiries, concerns and payments. Preparing and maintaining customer account information. Assist customers with establishing, transferring and disconnecting their electric service. Support other office staff with the monthly billing and collection processes. Participate in committee or team activities. Perform other duties or special projects as required or assigned.

EDUCATION

High School Diploma or equivalent required, higher education in accounting and communications desirable.

EXPERIENCE

One to two years experience in communications and customer

Interested applicants should mail resume no later than July 20, 2016, Lowell Light & Power, PO Box 229, Lowell, MI 49331



obituaries

MANSZEWSKI

Sharron L. Manszewski, age 72 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, July 3, 2016. She is survived by her husband of 27 years Gerald; children, Todd Palazolo, Kelly (Joseph)

Heather Hawley, Shipaila, Melissa (Bart) Olin; brother Mike; and seven grandchildren. Sharron was a Lowell School Bus Driver for 33 years before retiring. She gardening loved and the outdoors. She was a loving and caring person who loved being her family. with Visitation will be Thursday 6-8 at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson,



Lowell. Funeral Service Friday 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home chapel. Rev. Mark Peacock officiating. Interment South Boston Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of one's choice.



LEDGER OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 5 pm Friday: 8 am - Noon Closed Sat. & Sun. P.O. Box 128 Lowell, MI 49331 897-9261

CITY OF LOWELL

KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

The City of Lowell Planning-Cifizens Advisory Commission will conduct a public hearing at Lowell City Hall, located at 304 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 on Monday, July 25, 2016 at 7:00 PM concerning a proposed amendment to the City's Zoning Ordinance. The following provides a summary of the proposed amendment and its regulatory effect.

The amendment will revise Section 12A.D2
"Uses permitted by right" of Chapter 12A
"Light Industrial District" of "Appendix
A-Zoning Ordinance" of the Code of
Ordinances of the City of Lowell, to include
"Commercial Kennels" as a use permitted
by right in the I-L Light Industrial District.

At the above time and place, all interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard. Written comments concerning the proposed amendment may be mailed or delivered to the Lowell City Clerk, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 up to the date of the public hearing. Copies of the proposed ordinance amendment may be viewed at City Hall at the address noted above during normal business hours.

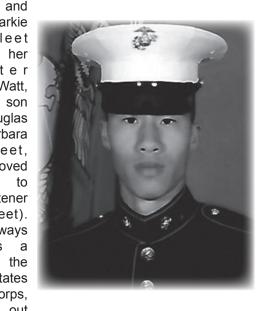
The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those with disabilities planning to attend upon three (3) days' notice to the City Clerk. Individuals who require such services should contact the City at the address listed above or by telephone at 616-897-8457.

Susan Ullery City Clerk

VANPORTFLEET

Mitchell HeeYun VanPortfleet entered into eternal peace with the Lord Friday, July 1, 2016. He was the devoted

husband father to Markie VanPortfleet and her daughter Maybel Watt, loving son Douglas of Barbara and VanPortfleet. and beloved brother to Abigail Whitener (VanPortfleet). He was always faithful as a reservist in the States United Marine Corps, stationed out



of Battle Creek, Michigan. Mitch graduated from West Catholic High School in 2006, and received a track and field scholarship to Grand Valley State University, where he excelled as a scholar-athlete. He graduated from Michigan State University in 2013 with his B.S. in Engineering. Mitch's smile and laugh were endearingly contagious, and anyone who came into contact with him couldn't help but reflect his big grin. Mitch loved nothing more than spending time with his wife and daughter, and being around his family. He is survived by wife Markie; daughter Maybel; parents Barb and Doug; sister Abigail; half brother Brian (Tonya) VanPortfleet; half sister Andrea (Michael) Eadie; nephews Rafael and Miguel Nieto, Kaden VanPortfleet, and Brendon Eadie; niece Megan Eadie; and grandparents Nicholas and Juanita Capriglione. Visitation will be Wednesday 5-8:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Thursday 11:00 a.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 4351 Parnell N.E., Ada. Rev. Mark Peacock presiding. Interment with Military Honors at St. Patrick Cemetery. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations to the Semper Fi fund be made in Mitchell's name.



CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The July Board of Review will meet as follows:

Monday, July 18, 2016 at 11:00 am

ACT 14 OF 1985, being Section 211.53(b) of the General Property Tax Laws, provides for corrections of clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact relative to the correct assessment figures, and the corrections of Principal Residence Exemptions, these shall be verified by the local assessing officer and approved by the board of review at a meeting held for that purpose, to be held on any day of the week of the 3rd Monday in July.

On July 18, 2016, a meeting will be called for this purpose at 11:00 am in the City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowel, MI 49331, to conduct business as provided for in Section 211.53(b), Michigan Compiled Laws.



City of Lowell Clerk Sue Ullery

Preparation starts with information

From women and children, to the elderly and disabled, Social Security has you covered. Because we value and appreciate the differences that make up our nation, our programs are as diverse as those we serve. We're with you throughout every stage of your life, and we're always working to provide services that meet your changing needs.

Our programs serve as vital financial protection for millions of people. When you work and pay Social Security taxes, you earn credits. These credits count toward retirement, disability, and survivors benefits.

A program everyone should be familiar with Social Security's retirement program. Whether you're a young adult paying Social Security taxes for the first time or a retiree receiving benefits, this is a program that will affect you during and after your working years. You can learn more about your earnings and potential benefits by visiting www.ssa.gov/ retire/.

Social Security administers the largest disability program in the

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nation. A severe illness or injury robs a person of the ability to work and earn a living. Thankfully, Social Security disability benefits can provide a critical source of financial support during a time of need. For more on disability benefits, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

When a family loses a wage earner, it can be both emotionally and financially devastating. However, Social Security can help secure a family's financial future if a loved one dies with survivor benefits. The best thing you can do for your family is prepare as much as possible: get started at www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors.

Social Security's programs are neutral regarding gender, age, race, and orientation individuals with identical earnings histories and needs are treated the same in terms of benefits. We're proud the diverse public we serve reflects the programs we offer. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov today to see how we can serve you and secure your today and tomorrow.





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Lowell's Tae Kwon Do brings home 22 medals

Since 2011, The Lowell YMCA's Ramos Institute of Tae Kwon Do has competed in the Meijer State Games of Michigan, garnering much success. 2016 was no exception. The group achieved great results from the single elimination

competitions winning 22 medals in individuals categories against a field of 240 competitors.

This was a special year as Master Patricia Ramos was named co-director of the World Class Tae Kwon Do Tournament.

Left to right (back row) Kara Hoffert (gold-sparring bronze form), Julia Smelt (bronze-form), Kevin Hadley (silver-sparring bronze-form), front row, Lavonda Jousma (gold-sparring, gold-form, silver-board breaking), Parker Salgat, (gold-form, silver-board breaking), Jolene Jousma, (silver-form, bronze-sparring), Dallas Marenette, (gold-sparring, silver-form), and Addison Day, (gold-form.) Missing from picture: Lance Miller (gold-board breaking, silver-form) and Camdyn Eckert (Bronze form).







NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING

Please take notice that the Vergennes Township Board has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held during their regularly scheduled meeting on July 18, 2016. The meeting will be held at 7:00 pm in the township meeting room at 10381 Bailey Dr., located on the corner of Bailey Dr. and Parnel, Lowel MI 49331.

Chris and Sandy Hardy are applying for a special exception use permit to live temporarily in a 5th wheel camper while they construct their permanent house on property located on the end of the cul-de-sac at 1405 Kazemier Woods Dr. parcel number 41-16-15-400-030. The application is regulated under section 201.415 B, Temporary Residence, of the Zoning Ordinance.

The complete application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674]. Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Township Clerk at the Township Offices. Comments may also be emailed to: derk@vergenneship.org.

Mari Stone Vergennes Township Clerk

college news

Colin VerWys, from Lowell, a student at Kent Career/Tech Center, was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Computer Programming, one of the nation's highest awards at the 2016 SkillsUSA Championships, held in Louisville, Ky., on June 22-23

More than 6,000 students competed at the national showcase of career and technical education. The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world and covers 1.2 million square feet, equivalent to 19 football fields or 25 acres.

Students were invited to the event to demonstrate technical skills workplace and personal skills in 100 hands-on occupational and leadership competitions, including robotics, technology, automotive drafting, criminal justice, maintenance aviation and public speaking. Industry leaders from 600 businesses, corporations,

trade associations and unions planned and evaluated the contestants against their standards for entry-level workers. Industry support of the SkillsUSA Championships is valued at over \$36 million in donated time, equipment, cash and material. More than 1,700 industry judges and technical committee members participated this year.



Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: Are we really heading for a coal-free power future in the U.S. or is this just an environmental pipe dream?

- Jack Summa, Boston, MA

Far from just an environmental pipedream, the coal industry in the U.S. and around the world is in the midst of a major downswing. In 2011, coal dropped below 40 percent of total U.S. energy generation for the first time since the late 1970s, while in 2015 coal accounted for only 33 percent. And given the influx of cheap natural gas and the ascendance of renewable energy sources—not to mention recent coal mine safety lapses with tragic consequences—coal might not be able to mount a comeback.

"Technological advances have made natural gas, wind and solar—and efficiency—increasingly competitive," reports John Brinkley in *Sierra* Magazine. "The once-robust overseas demand for coal is disappearing."

Brinkley adds that a decade of sustained public advocacy for clean air and clean energy has left coal out in the dark. The Obama administration's landmark Clean Power Plan that forces big coal fired power plants to clean up their acts dramatically or shut down has been one major factor in coal's slide, while the Paris climate accord has sped up the process even more by taking a huge bite out of potential U.S. coal exports.

Over just the last five years, fully one-third of U.S. coal plants, some 232 different facilities, have been closed or scheduled for imminent retirement. Plans for another 184

new coalfired plants have been shutteredactivists claim credit but development of technologies that make harvesting natural gas much



cheaper may have more to do with coal's death knell. For the first time in 200 years, no new coal plants are on the drawing board in the U.S.

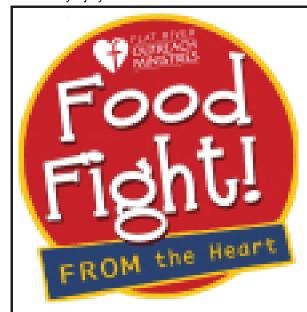
According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), which collects data and reports on energy statistics for the federal government, some 13,000 megawatts of coal power went offline in 2015 as a result of coal plant retirements, while wind energy added 8,600 megawatts and solar tacked on another 7,300 megawatts. The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign reports that coal's downswing is just beginning, with another 50,000 megawatts of coal power predicted to go offline by 2030.

And the trend isn't stopping at the border. "Many countries that used to be reliable customers for U.S. coal just aren't into it anymore, partly because of last year's successful UN climate change conference in Paris," reports Brinkley. Even before the Paris agreement, China, the world's largest producer and consumer of coal, had been scaling back production and imports drastically in efforts to clean up urban air pollution and reduce its carbon footprint. In 2015, China cut imports of U.S. coal some 86.5 percent from 1.7 million tons to only 229,000.

Of course, coal is still big business in the U.S. and beyond, and it isn't going away overnight. But how long it can stick around as a viable contender for Americans' energy dollars is anybody's guess. "The trajectory for the coal industry is clear, but the timeline is not," sums up Brinkley.

CONTACTS: Sierra Club's Beyond Coal, www.content.sierraclub.org/coal; Energy Information Administration, www.eia.gov.

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"FROM The Heart" Food Fight
Riverwalk Parade
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