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Well-attended Big Boiler Brewery soft opening helps raise funds for art council

by Brianna Massey
Lowell Ledger intern

“Modern meets rustic” best characterizes the space that once was a furniture store. A warm ambience, the sound of laughter and

the smell of comforting food and a face plate to the original boiler that heated the building sits on the wall. But, it goes deeper than the food and the craft beer. It

is about community and helping a fellow business succeed.

“It has always been a Lowell community philosophy to participate

in the things our neighbors do and encourage everyone to build for the future of the community,” said Matt Horan, general manager of Big Boiler Brewing Company.

Big Boiler Brewing was bustling with people on Saturday evening, who were there in support of the LowellArts Moving to Main campaign.

“It was an opportunity for us to do something good for a nonprofit here in town,” said Brent Slagell, one of the five partners and the visionary of Big Boiler Brewing. “LowellArts

brings a value to the city and enhances what we want to have here and we wanted to be a part of that.”

When Dave and Jan Thompson heard that Big Boiler was opening in town, they went to Loraine Smalligan, the LowellArts executive director and Rick Sauber, one of the Big Boiler Brewing partners and proposed that Big Boiler hold a fundraiser for LowellArts.

“They had to think about it a little bit. But Dave brought it up to them and

Arts council fundraiser,
continued, page 3



Big Boiler Brewing Company was bustling on Saturday evening with people in support of the LowellArts Moving to Main campaign.

Lowell Relay for Life 2017 holds luau-themed event

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Teams consisting of local families, businesses and organizations gathered at the Lowell Riverwalk last Saturday for the twelfth annual Lowell Relay For Life fundraising event.

Dressed in grass skirts, leis and floral pattern

shirts the crowd of cancer crusaders gathered for the twelve hour luau themed event. At the closing ceremony the individuals and sponsors involved had raised more than \$30,000.

The money goes to the American Cancer Society who has been on a quest

for more than 100 years to educate and eradicate the deadly disease. They attempt to accomplish this mission through legislation and research while simultaneously providing services for those fighting the disease.

Examples include Road To Recovery which offers rides to patients who experience difficulty getting to and from their cancer treatments and the Grand Rapids Hope Lodge which offers free and comfortable refuge to those commuting long distances for theirs.

According to ACS staff partner Kelli Ellis, who coordinates the event alongside volunteers, programs like this would not be available without Relay For Life which is the main fundraiser of the ACS and that Relay would not be possible without the people. “This event is made possible by the community! It takes people dedicated to the fight against cancer



Survivors and caregivers on their first lap in celebration of their victories over cancer.

Relay for Life 2017,
continued, page 8

Concert season in full swing on the Riverwalk

Clouds loomed as the six-man cover band Brena took the stage in front of the Showboat along the Lowell Riverwalk. Fans attended in abundance despite the threat of inclement weather, filling the green space and bleachers. Brena’s upbeat mix of music stems from the roots of 90s alternative rock and includes branches of top Motown, pop, R&B, classic, oldie and even country standards that are recognizable to any crowd.

Despite falling rain, some fans stayed in their seats taking cover while continuing to jam. Officials eventually called the event concerned with guest safety. In total, the band played for 40 minutes.

This Thursday, the Rhythm Section Jazz Band will bring their big band sound to the Riverwalk with swing and jazz tunes. The show is scheduled to begin at 7 pm.



Modern eclectic band Brena was on stage last Thursday evening playing until the last fan ran for shelter during a rainy edition of the weekly Sizzlin' Summer Concert series.

50
CENTS



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Gardening plots still available at WWC

Gardeners lacking the space for their plants to flourish are invited to enjoy the Wittenbach/Wege Environmental Center Community Garden. The center still has available plots for summer and fall.

Operational from March through November, the garden was constructed to offer a place for both

experienced and novice gardeners when the space does not exist at home. Gardeners not only grow fresh produce and colorful flora but cultivate friendships and an appreciation of the land and community involvement.

The plots are available to Lowell area residents for a nominal fee and are

utilized by individuals and families. Local classrooms also use them as a learning opportunity for their students. Benefits of gardening, according to the center's director Courtney Cheers and staff, include the ability to work together, to learn about the processes of gardening, the chance to harvest from their own labor

and lower their grocery bills and as a basic stress reliever.

Those interested in plot rental or any of the other nature related activities and learning opportunities available can find out more by calling (616) 987-2565 or stopping by the center located at 11715 Vergennes in Lowell.



along main street

BLUEGRASS MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Bluegrass Music Festival will be June 30 - July 1 at Lowell fairgrounds. Concerts, campground jamming, open mic, instrument workshops, slow jams, vendors, bake sale. Camping available. For details call 616-914-4282 or see www.wmbma.org

COVERED BRIDGE BIKE TOUR

The Fallasburg Historical Society will present the 23rd annual Covered Bridge Bike Tour, Sun., July 9. Pedal through the beautiful countryside at your own pace. All well-marked routes from 12 to 100 miles begin and end in the historic village of Fallasburg, north of Lowell. Enjoy wonderful refreshments at scenic rest stops along the way and a home cooked meal with all the trimmings when you finish. Register in advance online at www.fallasburg.org or onsite at the Schoolhouse Museum from 7 am - 9 am the day of the event. All proceeds benefit the continued preservation of Historic Fallasburg Village. For more information or to volunteer call: 616-682-0785 or e-mail: kentamke@comcast.net

LUNCH BUDDIES

Lunch Buddies is a weekly food program for children age 3-18 living in the Lowell School District. Lunch Buddies meets once a week and provides five free meals each week. Children are able to shop for the meals in a pantry designed specifically for kids. Summer Lunch Buddies meet Tuesdays through Aug. 15 (except for July 4) from 1-7 pm at FROM.

BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

FROM provides backpacks and school supplies to school aged children living in the Lowell Area School District. Sign ups for Fall 2017 backpacks through August 1 during Lunch Buddies at FROM. Backpack distribution will take place Aug. 8 and 15.

THE BABY PANTRY of LOWELL

The Baby Pantry of Lowell will be open on Tuesdays through Aug 15 (Except for July 4) from 1 -3 pm. They are also open every Monday 5:30-7:30 and Thursdays 2-4:30. Parents are welcome to come once a week. The Baby Pantry is a non-profit organization that helps area families with basic needs like diapers, wipes, formula, baby food and clothing. They are located at 11535 Fulton Street E (FROM location). Connect with us on Facebook @ BabyPantryofLowell and our website BabyPantryofLowell.com

college news

Grand Valley State University announces the names of students who were placed on the dean's list for the winter 2017 semester concluding in April. The list includes those students who have maintained a 3.5 grade point average and been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. The honor is noted on the students' official records.

Students honored for the winter semester include, **of Ada:** Keaghan R. Bacon, Joshua E. Boonenberg, Tyler W. Brewer, Marshal J. Brummel, Christina A. Byl, Rosemary F. Cusack, Benjamin J. DeVries, Jacob P. DeVries, Molly C. Dlugos, Morgan M. Dodde, Erica E. Fischer, Natalie E. Fischer, Emily M. Fries, Evan J. Gerondale, Ryan D. Hilbert, Marion L. Jamet, Bisam M. Javaid, Nicole E. Jimenez, Joshua S. Karafa, Rebecca V. Karl, Kolby C. Kloosterman, Rebecca A. Koster, Ethan H. Kramer, Meredith A. Lane, Chiara A. Licari, Sydney C. Liverance, Carli S. McGuire, Samuel A. McKim, Kelly M. McMillen, Ryan T. Merrill, Jenna M. Michael, Samuel S. Morse, Macie L. Pasciak, Katherine E. Platt, Lucas A. Posthuma, Matthew S. Posthuma, Stephen J. Prefontaine, Ruth I. Rapeyko, Sarah L. Robertson, Kira N. Rosol, Riley P. Rouse, Rachel L. Rye, Lindsay M. Seekell, Avery C. Sena, Shaelen R. Sena, Tabitha Y. Sherk, Claire V. Shymanski, McKenzie L. Slupe, Kyrn M. Stoddard, Cassidy J. Terhorst, Jacob W. Theisen, Rachel A. Trisch, Nabeel O. Vali, Trent R. VanWagoner,

Jenna M. Williams, and Joshua P. Witherell; **of Alto:** Kellie N. Abraham, Emily T. Barofsky, Kendra L. Clark, Drake M. Ellens, Luke T. Ganzevoort, Kendall A. Kempker, Megan N. Latreille, Leah M. Metzler, Grant L. Mortenson, Hannah L. Petersen, Gretchen A. Pyscher, Devon S. Schumaker, Kaitlyn M. Schweda, Laura I. Shinavier, Kimberly R. Sterzick, Jessica K. VanderSloot, Reuben P. Wattenhofer, and Thomas J. Williamson; **of Lowell:** James P. Barnard, Casey R. Cahoon, Lisa A. Castro, Kayla J. Cook, David A. Crawford, Jordan M. Drake, Allysen M. Dubisky, Haley N. Epema, Eric J. Gable, Nicole L. Gaunt, Jacob A. Geers, Katie L. Holzhueter, Haris I. Islamcevic, Philip R. Janowski, Daniel H. Johnson, Jacob M. North, Lauren M. Penninga, Jessica M. Piell, Meghan K. Plutschouw, Bailey L. Reitsma, Anna M. Rozema, Aubreigh M. Steed, Brianna D. Steiner, Jake W. Will, Madelynn A. Willemstein, Kelsey S. Wittenbach, Jian Xue.

Saint Mary's College named the following students, from Ada, to the dean's List for the spring 2017 semester: Hannah Anderson, Megan Brownley, Rachel Fetterhoff and Mellissa Henry. To earn academic honors at Saint Mary's, a student must achieve a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.6 on a 4.0 scale, have at least 12 graded credit hours, no incompletes and no grades lower than a C.

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Arts council fundraiser, continued

said the idea is that it's a staff training, before you open to the public, a test run," said Smalligan.

Big Boiler went for the idea.

"It was an opportunity for us to help bring people in with a mindset and understanding that we're having a soft opening, the food might not come out as quick as you want," said Slagell. "Then when we do open live public, we're more trained up."

There were four different seating times on Saturday: 5:00 pm, 5:30 pm, 7:00 pm, 7:30 pm. Tickets were \$50 per person which included: appetizer, full menu item, dessert and soft drink. Alcohol and gratuity were an additional cost.

100 percent of the proceeds went to the LowellArts Moving to Main fundraising campaign and The Lowell Area Community Fund matched each ticket cost two to one.

LowellArts has raised 92 percent of their 1.25 million dollar goal. "We have slightly under \$100,000 to raise yet," said Smalligan. "After tonight we will probably be around \$95,000 that we still have to raise."

"We're asking people to kick in whatever they can," said Smalligan. "It can be a very small gift if that's all somebody can give. If they can make a larger gift, they can also pledge over three years. It's 100 percent tax deductible."

LowellArts moved from its original location on Hudson Street to Main Street in October 2016.

"It has helped liven up main street and put a new face on downtown Lowell," said Debra Reid-Jenkins, Lowell resident and former ArtPrize painter. "It connects a lot of people in the community."

The new building where LowellArts resides, 223 W. Main St., is roughly two times bigger than their original Hudson Street location. The larger space allows for more parking, art classes, theater productions and concerts, "This space is intended to be a flexible space for both gallery and performances," said Smalligan.

"It's great that they have events where kids participate and learn about and create art," said Jenkins-Reid. "I understand that that's not so popular in the

schools, so the kids in the territory are lucky."

Many in attendance characterized the event as a "two-for-one."

"We wanted to try the new place and we wanted to come on the night that would benefit LowellArts," said Sherry Olson, a Lowell resident of 28 years who attended the event on Saturday. "It's a family place with a wonderful menu. It will be a big boost for our town."

Big Boiler, which opened officially to the public on Sunday, serves a wide range of food, most of which is locally sourced, including hamburgers, sandwiches and salads.

"We wanted to focus on really good comfortable pub food," said Horan, Big Boiler general manager, "food inclusive to having a couple of drinks and having a good time."

Big Boiler serves a variety of beers, including: ales, porters, India Pale Ales (IPAS) and Extra Strong Bitters (ESBS). They are hoping to have 14 beers on tap in the near future and to eventually serve loggers and barrel aged beers as well. All of their brewing equipment was custom made by Psycho Brew, a company located in Greenville, Michigan.



Anne Pasquale, Dave Pasquale, Jim Hodges and Chris Hodges enjoyed the great food, great beer and great company.

"We hope to be a destination that people go to have experiences in their lives and being in Lowell gives us an opportunity to be a part of that," said Horan.

Slagell and his wife purchased the former Superior Furniture building in 2011 to operate their growing medical supply company. They sold the company about three years ago and were left with a large vacant building.

"There were a lot of new breweries popping up in West Michigan. That was the scene," said Slagell, "and we didn't have one in Lowell." Slagell discussed



Lowell residents, Bill and Laurie Ingraham, enjoyed the evening at Big Boiler.

matters with his wife and they agreed to start the journey of opening a brewery and restaurant in Lowell. Three years ago, Slagell brought in Rick Sauber (CQ), Mike Organek (CQ), Matthew Fouts (CQ), and Jim Zawacki (CQ) as partners and they joined together to develop a business plan.

"LowellArts' reach and networking draws in people from outside of Lowell and it's valuable for all businesses in town," said Horan.

As the night came to a close, the laughter died down, but the strong community that is Lowell continues on.



Sherry Olson, Lowell resident of 28 years, was excited about the new restaurant/brewery and supporting the arts



Kevin Arnett and daughter Courtney Nelson-Arnett.



Big Boiler Brewing Company got part of their name from the original brewing plate that used to heat the building.

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~ Warren Buffett (1930 -)

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LPD May statistics

According to recently released statistics, Lowell police department made 27 arrests during May. These arrests included four drug law violations, one alcohol law violation, two for drunk driving, two for driving with a suspended license, eight for outstanding warrants and 10 that are described in the police department's

information as "other arrests." That adds up to a total of 122 arrests in Lowell during the first five months of the year.

Lowell police also responded to plenty of misdemeanors during May. There were seven larceny calls, one call for malicious destruction, five disorderly conduct calls, one breaking

and entering call, three dog/animal complaints and nine assaults. Lowell police issued 38 citations and notified 13 residents about ordinance violations. They were called to "assist" 79 times and were dispatched to 14 accidents. Out of 142 traffic stops they let 132 drivers go with just a warning.

Charlton Park plans patriotic party

A celebration to honor America's independence will be Tuesday, July 4, at Historic Charlton Park in Hastings. Festivities during the 35th annual Old-Fashioned Fourth of July and Veterans Barbecue will take place from noon to 4 p.m. Parking and admission are free.

A flag-raising ceremony featuring representatives from all five military branches and a presentation by the Lawrence J. Bauer American Legion Post will start the day's activities in front of the Upjohn House at noon.

Field-day style games for visitors of all ages will

begin on the Village Green at 1 p.m. Adults and kids can join in games, such as three-legged and sack races, watermelon- and pie-eating contests, hay-bale toss, needle-in-a haystack and baby crawl. Ribbons will be awarded to all winners.

Many talented bakers as they vie for the honor to be named grand champion during the annual pie contest. Local "celebrity" judges will award Charlton Park event passes and merchandise to first- and second-place winners. All pies will then be auctioned off to the highest bidders,

with proceeds benefitting the special event fund at Charlton Park. Uncle Sam will also be on hand with a free treat for everyone.

Sandy Schondelmayer's BBQ Pork Buffet, sponsored by the Hastings American Legion, will be available from 12:30 to 4 pm. The cost of the buffet for anyone 13 and up is \$8; children 5 to 12 can eat for \$5 each; and children under 4 can dine for free. A portion of the proceeds support the local American Legion. "Guests told us they wanted more free community events, and we are happy to host this fun-filled day," said Stacey Graham, Charlton Park office manager.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to our past and present service men and women who are stationed around the world. Purchase a meal and help support veterans' programs locally."

Guests can come early or stay late and enjoy the beach, fishing, picnic area, hiking trails or boat launch. The historic village will be open for self-guided tours.

The 300-plus-acre park is open every day from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Historic Charlton Park is between Hastings and Nashville, north of M-79 at 2545 S. Charlton Park Road. More information can be found online at charltonpark.org

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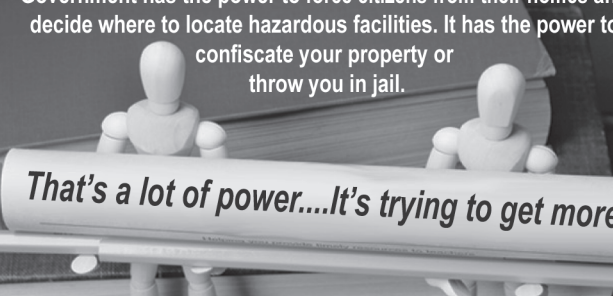
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viewpoint

to the editor

Dear Editor,
 Lowell's city council recently had an infrastructure update, the condition of the city's water sewer and streets and discussed how to finance any needed replacement. A suggestion was made that the millage rate could be raised to the charter limit or a city income tax could be brought about. There are some in the community where a substantial raise in taxes would have little effect on their livelihood,

but think about the ones that are just getting by where a large raise in taxes could be devastating.
 Voting on any type of tax increase should not be rushed into. I believe voting to have a city income tax would give the people running the city a blank check to spend on whatever they decide. A bad idea.
 First there should be a public hearing where there's a full comprehensive layout of what has to be done including the total cost

before a decision is made to put anything on a ballot for a vote. I believe the last time the city rushed into something was the bringing about of a biodigester and look what happened there. Now I would like to say something about the ex-biodigester which is back in the news. I don't know about the constituents of Lowell, but when I make a decision I want all available information. I recently read the comments made by Ross Pope, owner of Advanced Water and Energy Solutions, in the Lowell Ledger, when he was at the June 19 city council meeting about the biodigester. It was stated that Mr. Pope and

his company was hired by anonymous investors of the biodigester to investigate what went wrong with the facility. I said to myself, could what they found in their audit be the missing pieces of the puzzle? It was mentioned that the complete audit will be out in three to four weeks.
 Hopefully, the city manager and city council will find the fortitude to discuss the audit with Mr. Pope in a public hearing where the community can engage. The community deserves nothing else.
 Sincerely,
 Jim Howard
 Lowell

outdoors

michigan weather

Dave Stegehuis

Summer in Michigan is a great time for outdoor recreation. Residents and throngs of visitors from across the country converge on the woods and waters of the Great Lakes State.
 Generally, the weather is comfortable and suitable for all manner of outdoor activities. Extreme hot and cold temperatures do happen but are usually of short duration. Rain and storms occasionally pass through which are difficult to predict because of the effect of the Great Lakes on atmospheric conditions.
 Due to the uncertainty of what kind of weather to expect it is best to prepare for everything. This would include clothing as well as shelter.
 The rule of thumb, when away from home, is to take along hats and jackets and enough to layer under in case of cold temperatures or wind and in some cases both. I have a pair of jersey gloves in all my coats and jackets and have had occasion to use them frequently in early and late summer. I have often seen people wearing shorts, tee shirts, and sandals looking uncomfortably cold in the middle of summer. Rain gear should be at hand. The theory is that if you don't need it you can take it off, but if you don't have it you're out of luck.

An R.V. unit can provide shelter as well as a quality tent of appropriate size and shape. In either case locate camp on high dry ground and away from overhead hazards like dead trees and branches.
 When out in the open or on water lightning is a danger. At the first sign of possible lightning strikes seek shelter immediately. Radio weather bands, weather channels, and apps for cell phones make it easy to keep track of severe weather. We fish in some rough conditions, but at the first hint of lightning we're gone.
 We are camping today in a small city campground in the central Upper Peninsula; there are big R.V. rigs from Texas, Colorado, Montana, and California. These folks have chosen Michigan as the place to spend the summer. I guess the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. Most of you are already here so make sure you take advantage of all the resources the state has to offer residents and visitors. Plan ahead for varied weather conditions so you will be comfortable and safe while enjoying yourself outdoors. Have a great summer.



125 years ago Lowell Journal June 29, 1892

The graduating exercises of the Lowell High School were given at Music Hall last Friday evening with the program, as published last week. The papers were all well written and well delivered. The musical part of the program was a treat, in fact our orchestra is hard to beat, even though it is an amateur organization. Miss Hattie Wilson's two numbers were revelations to her friends, her improvement during the past year having been wonderful. One number on the program which was only labeled "Music" was a duet by Mrs Larzelere and Miss Lockwood and was uproariously received. D. G. Look presented the diplomas in a neat speech, congratulating the class on their work and the patrons on the improvement in our schools, a diploma today admitting to the State Normal without examination. The Hall was packed, there being by actual count, 725 persons in the hall, they commenced coming early in the evening and an hour before the exercises began, seats were at a premium. The scholarship given by Adrian College to the graduate having the highest standing was won by Miss Cora Lee.
 A gang of 150 tramps is roaming around Berrien County, the members of which make it decidedly interesting for the neighborhood in which they encamp.
 The alarm of fire last Friday afternoon was caused by a fire in Geo. Murray's house, on King St. The fire evidently caught from the kitchen stove, as the kitchen was all on fire when help arrived, but prompt work on the part of the citizens and fire department had the

fire soon out. The loss was about \$400 on house and goods, which is fully covered by insurance.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger June 28, 1917

A hundred million pounds of poultry wanted. It's an urgent call—to all old Poultry raisers and to those who have never raised poultry. The President urges men, women and children everywhere to do their utmost. Those who cannot bear arms can aid in growing food products.
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75 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 2, 1942

Showboat cancelled, wartime conditions and other factors enter into decision reached at a meeting held Monday night at City Hall. The 1942 production of the Lowell Showboat has been cancelled. This decision was reached at a meeting of the Showboat committee held Monday night at the City Hall. After considerable discussion, the committee of 17 members voted unanimously in favor of cancelling the 1942 Showboat. A number of factors entered into the decision reached, the principal factor being that of patriotic cooperation with the nation's war efforts. Another factor was the scarcity of available help for the building of the Showboat. The members of the band are now widely scattered, some helping on farms, some working in factories, and still others likely to be called to the armed forces. Still another factor is the fact that because of War Savings time, performances could not start until nearly ten o'clock and that would mean that the show would not end until around one o'clock in the morning. This factor, coupled with driving restrictions, would mean a greatly diminished attendance as compared with normal times. The action taken at Monday night's meeting is in line with what is being done throughout the country at the request of the government. State and county fairs are being cancelled, also conventions and many kinds of public entertainments. For 10

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.

anniversaries

Tichelaar



Ed and Gracia Tichelaar

Louis Jr. "Ed" and Gracia Tichelaar of Saranac will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 30, 2017.

Gracia was born in Grand Rapids to John and Mary Schipper. Ed was born to Louis Sr. and Helen Tichelaar (Wyman) in

Grand Rapids. The couple met at Ada Community Reformed Church and were married there on June 30, 1967. They have three children, Ann Geers and husband Craig of Belmont; Louis "Ed" Tichelaar III and fiancée Gillian Byron of Belmont; and Janet Pugh

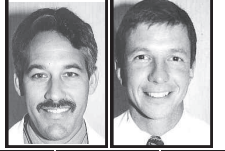
and husband Wayne of Loganville, GA. They have four grandchildren, Thomas and Abby Tichelaar and Josie and Alex Geers, all of Belmont.

Ed retired in June of 2004 after 38 years as a

high school vocational machine tool instructor, 37 of those years at Greenville High School. Gracia is a homemaker.

The couple will celebrate with their children.

health



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

babies with low birth weight

Any weight between 5 1/2 lbs. and 8 3/4 lbs. is within the normal range. Low birth weight babies weigh less than 5 1/2 lbs. at birth. Very low birth weight refers to babies who weigh less than 3 1/2 lbs. at birth. Babies are born with low birth weight because of prematurity, poor intrauterine growth (growing too slowly in the womb) or both. In 2012, eight percent of babies born in the U.S. had low birth weight and 1.4 percent had very low birth weight.

In the U.S. some of the most common causes of low birth weight are:

- Multiple gestation – twins, triplets, etc.
- Substance abuse such as smoking, drinking alcohol, using illegal drugs.

• Chronic medical conditions like high blood pressure.

If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, some things you can do to decrease your chance of having a baby with low birth weight include:

- Avoid smoking and drinking alcohol.
- See a doctor as soon as you think you are pregnant and continue getting regular prenatal check ups throughout pregnancy.
- Tell your doctor if you have had a baby with low birth weight in the past; there may be specific things you can do to help it from happening again.

Did you know?

According to the American Cancer Society, melanoma skin cancer is less common than other types of skin cancer, though it is more

likely to grow and spread. Melanoma begins in skin cells known as melanocytes. Melanocytes make melanin, a pigment that gives skin

its tan or brown color and protects the skin from some of the harmful effects of the sun. The ACS notes that most melanoma cells still make melanin, and when that occurs the melanoma tumors are typically brown or black. When melanomas do not make melanin, the tumors may appear pink,

tan or white. Melanomas can develop anywhere on the skin, but they are more likely to develop in certain areas depending on a person's gender. For men, melanomas are most likely to develop on the chest or trunk, while women who develop melanomas are most likely to get them on their legs.

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happy birthday



JUNE 28
Brian Doyle.

JUNE 29
Stephanie Yonker, Jackson Simmons, Trevor Wernet.

JUNE 30
Sheila Yeiter, Kayleigh Page, Miranda Jo Zalewski, Noah Garrett, Louise Kamphuis.

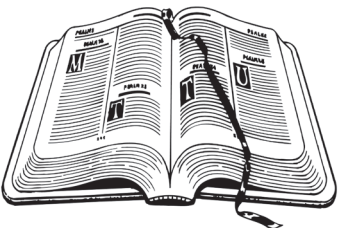
JULY 1
Brandon Hewitt, Dylan Borton, Amy Markel.

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

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

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

area churches



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
 103 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
 www.goodshepherdlowell.org
 Worship Service Sunday - 10:30 AM
 Sunday School..... 9:15 AM
 Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307
 All facilities are wheelchair accessible

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
 865 Lincoln Lake SE • 616.897.5906
 Worship Service - Sundays 10:00AM
 Lowell's Open Table - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM
 Serving meals and providing fellowship to the greater Lowell community
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL
 CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES
 2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
 897-7168 - www.fbclowell.org
 Pastor Jon Pickens, Lead Pastor
 Pastor Phil Severn • Youth Pastor
 Christi Swain, Director of Children's Ministries
SUNDAY WORSHIP..... 9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
SUNDAY School..... 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**
Middle & High School - Mon-school year*Wed, summer, 7 PM

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
 897-7060
 Rev. Dr. Paul Mpindi PHD
 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
 Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM
 Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
 Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM
 Nursery available at both services
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 Kid's Crew 11:15 AM
 Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

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Meet our new summer reporter

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

It's possible that you could see the Lowell Ledger's new summer intern on CNN someday. Brianna Massey, a 2016 graduate of Lowell High School, is a sophomore studying journalism at George Washington University in Washington, DC. Although she plans a career in television broadcasting, Massey is a talented writer so she wanted to get some experience in print journalism.



Brianna Massey

"I am going to do a major in political communications and a minor in journalism in mass communications," Massey said. "I want to do something like news anchor or political correspondent, something in broadcast journalism. I would like to work for a national news network like CNN or MSN, something like that. That would be really awesome. It's cool being in DC, it's the perfect place. I like being in the hub of everything. One day I was walking past the White House, it was actually the day of the election and I was just looking around and

I was like, 'I think that's Anderson Cooper.' What do you know, it was Anderson Cooper just walking by the White House. I've gotten to see a lot [of] political figures speak, like Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. It's been cool."

She said that the mood in the capital has changed since Trump was elected.

"It does seem like it has changed and it has been interesting to see," Massey

said. "I remember the day after the election, it was kind of rainy and it was really quiet. There weren't many people out. There have been so many protests and different marches [since Trump's election], which are cool to go to. I went to the women's march, the science march and the climate march."

During her first year at George Washington she has sung at the Department

of Energy as part of her a cappella group, she has worked for the campus radio station and written for a campus magazine.

"I recently started writing for a multicultural magazine on campus called 'Ace,'" Massey said. "I just wrote my first piece for them. Being at a school that's predominantly white, 'Ace' focuses on minorities at the school, tips for them, making them comfortable and stuff. The article I just wrote on that is called 'Guide to Roommates.' Sometimes it can be hard being the only minority, especially if you have a roommate who is a lot different than you. It's a cool magazine because they have a different take on stuff that you normally wouldn't see. It has been interesting coming from Lowell, very white, going to George Washington where it's very liberal, very diverse. It's one of the most diverse colleges."

Her career goal to be a broadcast journalist stems from her three biggest passions, acting, politics and writing.

"When I was in kindergarten I started to do acting and theater," Massey said. "I also really liked public speaking. Then I got into politics in high school and middle school and I did model UN at school. I thought the combination

of those things - politics, public speaking and acting - was perfect for a career in broadcast journalism as a news anchor."

She said she definitely does not want to use her education in politics and communications for a career in politics.

"I've thought about it, but you have to be a bulldog," Massey said. "You really have to be a monster and I don't know if I could do that. A lot of it too is like, like money is so involved in like politics, you have to be loaded. I don't know if I would want to. It takes a special type of person and I don't know if I could do it."

"In high school I was very involved in student government," Massey said. "I was the class president senior year and I was student representative on the school board. I would sit there and relay information that was going on in different schools to the school board. I got to meet a lot of new people and learn about what was going on in the school district, which was really awesome. I was in the Lowell Women's Club as well. I did a lot

with them. I did a lot with the Interact club, which is like a youth Rotary. I was a secretary for them. I played cello in the orchestra and did a lot of theater at school. I was in 'Hairspray,' 'Annie, Get Your Gun' and others. I did so many they start to blend together."

She is looking forward to covering a lot of events in the Lowell area this summer.

"I'm excited to be here; I like being back home," Massey said. "It's fun to see people's reaction when they find out I'm going to be writing for the Ledger this summer and they get so excited. It's cool to be back home and be talking to people that I know and people that I grew up around. It's cool to be back with people I know and love. So far, so good. It has firmed up that this is definitely something that I want to do as a career, something along these lines. I want to get out in the community and talk to different people. It's been good too because I like to be in the middle of things and know what's going on all the time. I'm excited."

...

Find out what you like doing best, and get someone to pay you for it.

~Katherine Whitehorn



At Your Local Library

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

fiber jewelry making

Participants will be introduced to the art of needle felting and use this process mixed with embroidery techniques to create a broach or

another piece of jewelry to take home with you. All supplies are included. Pre-registration required. For adults. Mon., July 10 at 6:30 pm.

Science on Wheels! - Impression 5 will visit all the way from Lansing to bring KDL hands-on science exploration and dynamic, inquiry-based learning fun. For children and families. Tues., July 11 at 1 pm.

Yep

we cover Auto



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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The July Board of Review will meet as follows:

Tuesday, July 18, 2017 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, 2017, a meeting will be called for this purpose at 11:00 am in the City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331, to conduct business as provided for in Section 211.53(b), Michigan Compiled Laws.

City of Lowell Clerk
Sue Ulery

Relay for Life 2017, continued

working together to make Relay possible. Sponsors, team captains, participants, survivors and caregivers all play a huge roll in supporting Relay.”

This year’s top fundraising team was Mirror Images (Magna Mirrors) in Alto who was led by team captain Melissa Lopez. She and

her co-worker teammates raised \$8,000 through their efforts over the year with matching dollars still to come from their generous company sponsor. This is

the second consecutive year that the team has earned top fundraiser efforts, “Relay is a time for people to come and celebrate life and honor both survivors and remember

loved ones that fought so hard,” said Lopez of their tenacious involvement in the event. “This [is] our way of showing that we will not give up trying to raise money in hopes that they will find a cure one day.”

Lopez went on to thank those who helped make their total possible through their work and donation, “I would like to thank my whole team for pitching in and making this year’s Relay a huge success and the many sponsors who offered their backing to our efforts, Alto Fire Department, American Legion Post 175, Bimbo Bakeries, Bricks Alto Marathon, Discovery Toys, Effex Management Solutions, Enviro-Clean Services, Informs Inc., Magna Mirrors, Neff Engineering, New Orleans Crispy Chicken, The Alto Bar and Wild Mikes.”

Teams raised money with individual fundraising efforts over the year and hosted some onsite with low cost activities, such as a

bounce house, face painting, yard games, a dunk tank and the sale of refreshments, toys and treats. The day also featured a variety of luau themed contests, DJ service provided by Jenner Willard, live music presented by local talents, Alise Forward, Archer Pina and Off The Radar and a few guest speakers, such as the opening keynote from Lowell resident Cliff Yankovich who began the event’s survivor celebration.

Yankovich, co-owner of Chimera Designs in Lowell, shared what he called his “dance” with throat cancer with those in attendance saying afterward that he felt inspired by the community’s willingness to come together yet again for a worthy cause. “I am constantly inspired by the community of Lowell. The efforts people make on behalf of others is amazing. Being there Saturday has prompted me to increase my own effort,” said Yankovich.

Other highlights included a community feast provided by PorkFat Slim’s BBQ featuring specially prepared Hawaiian fare such as Kahlua pork and pineapple chicken, a free lunch for survivors and caregivers graciously provided by Backwater Cafe and Catering every year of the fundraiser’s existence, a Zumbathon that welcomed area Zumba instructors to lead an action packed marathon and the fun purple glove dance that brought survivors, caregivers and supporters out to dance as part of the survivor celebration.

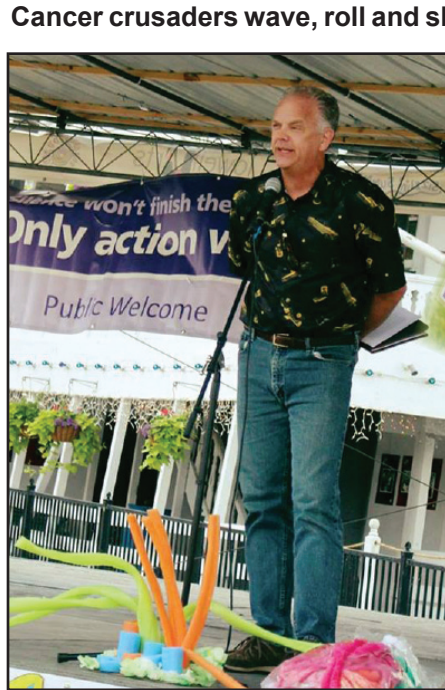
The night culminated at sunset with the touching Luminaria ceremony where participants light candles inside white bags decorated to represent the loved ones in their lives who fought, won or lost their battle with cancer. The bags lined the Riverwalk beside an equally breathtaking horizon as participants silently reflected with a lap and the listing of the names of those honored in the ceremony.

This year the event was sponsored by Martin Vredenburg DDS, Gravel Bottom Craft Brewery & Supply, Grand River Veterinary Hospital, Meijer, Bernard’s Ace Hardware, Farm Bureau Insurance, A1 Laser, M&M Drafting Services, Charron Law Office, Michigan Reformatory and JCJ Auto Sales.

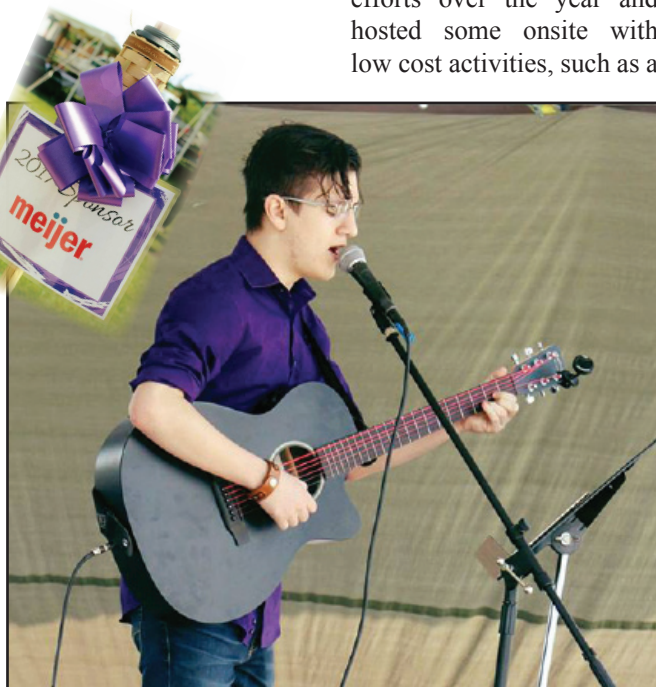
Planning for next year’s event starts immediately. Anyone interested in volunteering, sponsoring or in any way supporting Relay For Life of Lowell in 2018 can contact Ellis at kelli.ellis@cancer.org



Kyla, Krista and JJ of team “Department of CUREctions” perform.



Guest speaker Cliff Yankovich addresses the crowd.



Vocalist Archer Pina brought a country flair to those enjoying the survivor lunch.



Endurance walker Betty Rehl and event co-chair Holly Milks strutting their stuff on stage.

Lowell Showboat Sizzlin’ Summer Concerts
 Presented By LowellArts and Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce
 www.lowellartsml.org www.das.co.vertoowell.org

June 15–August 25
 Concerts held in front of the Flat River on Riverwalk Plaza, in downtown Lowell
 Thursdays at 7pm

Gunnar & the Grizzly Boys
 Country, Rock, Americana Honest storytelling and music that explodes into the audience like an electrifying dose of adrenalin **July 6**

lowell Arts LOWELL
 Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

Thursday at 7pm. Concerts and parking are free. Venue is wheelchair accessible. Bleacher seating or bring folding chair. Concessions, beer and wine are available.

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Free Outdoor Summer Concert Series

St. Patrick Festival, a tradition since 1850

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Last weekend the annual St. Patrick's Festival was held at the church located just northwest of Lowell in Parnell.

Originating in 1850 as a parish picnic, the event has evolved over the years becoming a homecoming celebration in the early 1900s and eventually a fundraiser with live entertainment, activities and the festival's famous chicken dinner. Thousands of yearly visitors raise funds for the church and contribute to the education fund.

Friday night began under the tent and along the countryside as the festival presented live music, beer, food and a euchre tournament as well as a fitness focused 5K run. Cash prizes and trophies were awarded to the winners of the well-attended euchre tournament while the

music of Kari Lynch filled the grounds. Michigan native Lynch is an up-and-coming Nashville star and a hometown favorite in Lowell who has played both locally and nationally opening for major label acts and receiving radio airplay. Her plentiful three-and-a-half hour set featured her own original tracks, as well as well-loved covers. Runners took part in the timed 5K event which meandered through the local countryside raising fitness awareness and additional dollars for the Education Fund.

The celebration continued Saturday after mass with the fast-paced auction featuring items donated and created by parishioners and supporters of the church. The live auction featured 76 items up for bids, including a day at the Michigan Capitol with

Representative Thomas Albert, a tandem bike donated by Howard and Colleen Mitchell and front row seats at Christmas Eve Mass. The auction typically reaches north of \$100,000 with last years total reaching \$130,630. Final totals from this year's event are still being tallied.

On Saturday, attendees enjoyed the musical styling of Belding born Alive & Well and played classic casino games during Las Vegas night. Guests spun roulette and bet on black jack, while the seven-piece band pumped out classic rock hits and standards. Recognized as one of the top bands in West Michigan, the performance brought folks to their feet for their three hour set.

Sunday's family focused lineup of entertainment included a game tent featuring a



Attendees enjoy the second annual quilt show inside the church.

small petting zoo and old fashioned carnival games. Young festivalgoers were also able to enjoy a massive bounce slide, the playground equipment and

the annual Car, Truck and Tractor Show. The show features classic cars and trucks on the east side of the building and antique farming tractors on the west

and is always a hit. Bingo, beer and concessions, served all weekend by students of the 8th grade class at St. Patrick's, were also available on site.

Sunday's largest drawing event was the "Famous Chicken Dinner" featuring BBQ Chicken prepared onsite by High's Rotary Grill out of Waterloo and served in the church's dining hall. Adorned with all the fixings and homemade desserts, the community meal is a staple of the festival that began in 1923. First advertised in the local paper for just 50 cents, the full course meal is now \$9 for adults and \$4 for children and annually serves more than 1,600 meals. According to parishioner and volunteer Maura Lamoreaux, whose daughter attends St. Patrick's school, about 2,000 meals were served this year.

The day also featured the second annual quilt exhibit held inside the ornate and newly restored church, as well as a cash raffle drawing which awarded one lucky winner a total of \$15,000, with \$3,500 being awarded to second through fourth place. Church patriarch Father Mark Peacock expressed great pride when asked about the hands that made the successful event possible, "This is a great community event and I am so proud of how it went. I am so proud of everyone who contributed and of our community."

The highly anticipated chicken dinner Sunday afternoon is always a big hit.



Young festival goers enjoyed a petting zoo, bounce house.





DNR offers tips for avoiding problems with beautiful but plentiful birds

Perhaps one of the most recognizable birds in Michigan is the large, regal-looking Canada goose. Once a rare sight in Michigan, Canada geese now are very plentiful in the state – so plentiful that some people tend to think of them as pests. The Department of Natural Resources reminds Michigan residents that, with a little patience, understanding and perseverance, homeowners can learn to respect and appreciate these beautiful birds.

The subspecies of goose that is most plentiful in Michigan is the giant Canada goose. Because they are so abundant, many would never suspect that the giant Canada goose subspecies nearly was extinct in the 1950s because of unregulated overhunting and wetland habitat loss.

In recent years, the giant Canada goose has experienced population explosions in areas throughout North America due, in part, to the success of wildlife management programs and the adaptability of these birds. In Michigan today, the number of giant Canada geese counted each spring is well over 300,000. They nest in every Michigan county, but are most common in the southern third of the state, where 78 percent of the goose population is found.

Geese are herbivores and prefer grass shoots, aquatic vegetation, seed heads and various grains. Adult Canada geese have very few predators.

“In general, geese have benefited from the way humans have altered the landscape,” said Holly Vaughn, DNR wildlife communications coordinator. “Canada geese are attracted to areas that provide food, water and protection. Urban and suburban areas with lakes and ponds and neatly manicured lawns offer all the resources that geese

need to survive.

“During the summer months, Canada geese can be a problem for some property owners, as they are very adaptable creatures and can live close to humans.”

These simple tips can help keep geese away from your yard:

- Make your yard less attractive to geese by allowing the grass to grow long and refrain from fertilizing or watering it.

- Use scare tactics like bird-scare balloons, loud noises and mylar tape to make unwanted geese leave the area.

- Apply repellents to the lawn to deter geese from feeding on the grass. Grape concentrate is useful for yards and turf.

- In June and July, Canada geese are unable to fly because they are molting. Construct a temporary barrier between your yard and the water to keep flightless geese out.

- Do not feed Canada geese. Artificial feeding can habituate them as well as harm their digestive system. Bread products are not beneficial to waterfowl survival.

- Be aware of your surroundings when visiting parks and areas near water. Canada geese are protective of their nests and hatchlings. Do not disturb them or get too close.

Vaughn said that the key to success is using a variety of techniques to keep the geese guessing, as they will get accustomed to just one scare tactic. Some sites have good luck with hiring a contractor that specializes in goose control, including using dogs to scare birds away when they first arrive in the spring. If multiple techniques have been tried and have been unsuccessful, the DNR offers a Resident Canada Goose Program that can permit nest and egg destruction and roundup and relocation by a licensed contractor in some areas of the state.

Consumers should still be concerned about credit card skimmers in Michigan

Approximately 82 skimmers found in the state to date

Credit card skimmers are still being found in Michigan more than two years after the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development found the state’s first skimmer in the Grand Rapids area in 2015.

“In the last few weeks – primarily on a Friday – we’ve found five new credit card skimmers. Consumers should be extra cautious as we gear up for the summer tourism season,” said Jamie Clover Adams, MDARD director. “Looking for and removing skimmers at the

4,691 gas stations located across Michigan is now part of the standard inspection process. We are committed to doing our part to protect consumers from fraud.”

Credit card skimmers, which can’t be seen from outside the pump, can be installed in seconds. Criminals use keys to open the pumps quickly, insert the skimmers and then leave. The skimmers copy the consumer’s card information for criminals to make fraudulent purchases.

Local, state and federal regulators, MDARD’s

Weights and Measures inspectors, various law enforcement agencies and gas station owners continue to be on the lookout as part of the ongoing efforts to crack down on consumer credit card information being hacked by skimmers.

“Some steps station owners can take and have taken, to protect their patrons from cyber-criminals are changing locks, using tamper-proof security tape, and security cameras. MDARD is also encouraging station owners

to increase the frequency of their regular dispenser inspections,” added Clover Adams.

Consumers are being encouraged to monitor their banks and credit card accounts. If a consumer sees a charge they didn’t make or looks erroneous, they should immediately contact their banking institution.

If you want to know how inspectors look for credit card skimmers, you can watch a video online at <http://goo.gl/u4l0sP>

More peregrine falcons are finding homes in southeast Michigan

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have released a report highlighting nearly 40 years’ worth of monitoring data on peregrine falcons in southeast Michigan. These data show that the southeast Michigan peregrine falcon population has expanded from five young birds, which were reintroduced in 1987, to 15 nesting pairs that reared 30 young in 2016 – a remarkable recovery for a species once listed as federally endangered.

The complete report includes a history of peregrine falcons in Michigan, status and trends of nesting birds from 1987-2016 and management and research needs into the future.

Peregrines are considered endangered in Michigan, though they are no longer federally endangered, so monitoring them is important as their population recovers from a major decrease in the

1960s. The peregrine falcon population declined precipitously as the shells of peregrine eggs became extremely fragile because adult birds had accumulated DDT, a pesticide that interfered with calcium metabolism. By 1968, the entire U.S. peregrine falcon population east of the Mississippi was gone.

Michigan began its peregrine recovery efforts in 1986. In 1993, the peregrines in Michigan began reproducing successfully. In 2016, there were 54 nest sites in the entire state and 29 of them produced young. Thirteen of the 29 sites that produced young were in southeast Michigan. There currently are 29 sites being monitored for peregrine nesting in the southeastern part of the state.

“The peregrine falcon recovery in southeast Michigan is a true conservation success story,” said Christine Becher, southeast Michigan peregrine falcon nesting

coordinator for the DNR. “One thing we must all remember is that we share the same ecosystem with peregrine falcons and if southeast Michigan is cleaner for peregrine falcons, it is cleaner for all of us.”

Peregrines are crow-sized birds with a wingspan of 36 to 44 inches. Adults have slate-gray backs and barred breasts, while immature birds have brown backs and heavily streaked breasts. All peregrines have prominent cheek (“moustache”) marks on either side of their head. As is true in most species of birds of prey, the female is larger than the male – female peregrines average 32 ounces in weight, while males average only 22 ounces.

These falcons require large areas of open air for hunting and are not found in areas that are heavily forested. The diet of the peregrine falcon includes a wide variety of small birds,

including pigeons, seabirds, shorebirds and songbirds. Occasionally, they have been known to take small ducks, earning them the misleading name “duck hawks.” Peregrines hunt by diving at their prey from far above and catching it in mid-flight. During these incredible dives, called “stoops,” the birds can reach speeds of 180 miles per hour.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state’s natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr

Red Arrow

SPORTS

TOP TEN MOMENTS IN LHS SPORTS

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter**#10 Branagan buzzer beater**

There is nothing better than a nail-biter and this game truly was. The boys varsity basketball team was in battle against the Red Hawks of Cedar Springs. Behind 51-50 moving into the fourth period of a ferocious back-and-forth battle, the lead continued to change hands until the two were knotted at 67. With just ten seconds remaining on the clock, the Arrows set out with their last possession. Quickly launching the ball to the end of the court, waiting senior Austin Branagan nailed the game winning layup setting the crowd on fire. The talented baller also led scoring that night with a total of 26, followed by fellow seniors, Matt Beachler who netted 22 and Andrew Poulton who chipped in seven. Just one of the many great moments provided by this trio of seniors.

#9 Arrow football reloads

It was the first game of the season for Lowell varsity football and things were not looking good. Three turnovers due to fumbles and an erroneous snap in the first quarter had Red Arrow Stadium on edge. The Arrows put their fans at ease quickly as they stormed back in the second holding their Warren De La Salle opponent out of the end zone mounting a 36-19 victory. QB David Kruse threw for 128 yards and scored one touchdown, ran the ball for 110 yards and found the end zone himself once scoring the first Arrow touchdown of the season on a 34-yard run. Senior running back Nate Stephens scored two touchdowns rushing 105 yards on 13 carries. Receiver Hayden Barry-Coulier nabbed the ball from lefty Kruse four times for a total of 80 yards and a touchdown. The Arrows don't rebuild, they reload.

#8 Girls wrestling

When you have already mastered the mat with the boys, what do you do next? According to the Red Arrows, you break new ground with a female wrestling team. The girls had an all-star season taking to the mat with a determination that produced two individual state champions, grappling sisters Alexis and Reese Gonzales and the first state championship title in the high school debut season. One year, one state title. The tradition continues.

#7 Hockey heaven

After a top season in their first year of Tier 3 competition, the Arrow gents on the co-op Lowell/Caledonia hockey team were on the ice vying for their first regional championship. The opponent was Grand Ledge/Fowlerville and it took a pair of edge of your seat overtimes to do it, but they got it done. The double overtime goal set the chilly arena on fire and propelled the team into the history books.

#6 Softball sluggers

A bat exhausting season of action on the diamond for Lady Arrows varsity softball culminated in the number six moment of the year. The young team produced a clean sweep over the Greenville Yellow Jackets to finish off a fantastic 14-2 OK White season, racking up, 36 runs to their opponents two in the three game series. The wins garnered the fourth conference title for the team in the history of the program. Pitchers Maddi Jordan and Emily Depew were key to the team's success as hurling gems all season long. The team graduated no seniors this season, promising great things on the diamond next spring.

#5 Bowling perfection

It was absolutely perfect. All season. Duel after duel. They just could not lose. The varsity boys bowling team pulled off a flawless season burning up the OK White for an undefeated first-place conference championship finish, claimed the district and regional titles and earned historic first team title with a 44 pin comeback victory over Eaton Rapids in the state finals. The victory was rolled by Landon Smith, Ben Stewart, DJ Simpson, Logan Smith and anchor Carson Clark, who also qualified for individual competition finishing tenth in the state.

#4 Girls end drought

Stellar seniors Bridget Garter, Christy Lyon and Hana Steinebach finally got their victory this season. The girls varsity basketball team had not claimed a conference title in eleven years, but the drought ended this past season when the Arrows smacked down the Greenville Yellow Jackets with a 43-28 win to earn the OK White title. The team ended their season with an impressive 16-6 overall and 9-3 in conference. Their victory will be remembered with its commemoration on the gymnasium walls.

#3 A shade worthy future

After competing for their fourth consecutive wrestling state title as a team a Red Arrow grappler took to the mat once more in individual state competition. It was an unusually disappointing day for Lowell with only seven wrestlers placing and zero coming out on top in their respective weight classes. The team's last hope was freshman Austin Boone who looked cool and collected as he entered into competition to save the day for his teammates. Fresh off an undefeated run in the team finals, Boone delivered once again battling to a 6-3 decision win that produced the Arrows' lone medal. A wrestling future so bright, he may need shades.

#2 Purple basketball

The Red Arrow girls varsity team had a secret mission and it was a beautiful one. Prior to going into battle on the hardwood against former OK White rival the Caledonia Scots, the ladies demonstrated an extreme act of sportsmanship by pausing to honor a life lost too soon. Each of the Lady Arrows crossed the gymnasium quietly and respectfully placed a purple rose, representative of Scot colors, on the empty seat saved each game by the team for Macayla "Mac" Kohn who passed in a tragic car crash the previous fall. It was a sentimental moment that left the Caledonia fans and players stunned and in tears of appreciation. A moment that showed the spirit of true champions.

#1 Smell a skunk

It was the first home match of the new season and the boys were on the mat against Ottawa Hills. 74 points and 13 match victories later the Arrow wrestlers earned a sweet smelling skunk over their opponent in front of a pumped Lowell crowd. Six Arrows won their matches by fall, including Reagan Zimmerman, Carter Bierling, Joshua Havey, Lane Ryan, Tyler Greenop and heavyweight Connor Nugent. Nick Kornhorn, Collier Kaufman, Hayden Lenard, Christian Biemers and Alexis Gonzales earned their victories by forfeit. The 74-0 blow out was just the beginning for the talented team who wrestled flawlessly through the OK White before grabbing the conference, district and regional crowns en route to their fourth consecutive state championship led by seniors Max Bishop, Eli Boulton, Bryce Dempsey and Sam Russell who were along for all four state wins.

RUNNERS UP ...**Comeback football**

The boys were behind 24-7 after the first quarter, 30-13 at the half. Sole possession of the OK White was on the line. It was time for a comeback. Varsity footballers David Kruse, Addison Buckius and Nate Stephens each crossed into the scoring zone racking up 21 unanswered points in a blistering fourth quarter while the defense stopped opponent Forest Hills Central's last minute gridiron efforts to steal a 41-37 victory. The Arrows maintained possession eventually nabbing the conference, district and regional championships before falling just one game short of a back-to-back bid at Ford Field.

Arrows honor military

Following in the footsteps of the Lowell varsity gymnastics team, the varsity basketball program introduced their first Military Salute this season, honoring those who have served, between a doubleheader of wins over Greenville. Both the girls and boys teams participated in the patriotic event created as a way for the students to give back to the community as well as honor American heroes.

Volleyball takes down FHC

The ladies had a phenomenal 25-15-1 season overall and a 9-3 conference finish with two of their three losses coming at the hands of Forest Hills Central. That is why the district semifinal win over the same team makes the cut. Sweet revenge. The 3-2 victory was a come from behind giving fans an extra thrill. Though the ladies did not earn any hardware this season, they certainly garnered the respect of the newly aligned OK White.

Great American toppling

Lowell dominated varsity football competitor East Grand Rapids last fall in the Great American Rivalry Series ending with a lopsided victory score of 34-7. The Arrows held the lead from the first kickoff of the game thanks to Brady Douma whose fast feel returned the ball 90 yards through an ocean of unsuspecting Pioneer defenders and into the end zone. This was not the only time that Douma made this play over the season, but it was one of the fan's favorites.

Like Beckham

So Junior Gabe Bendall may not be a super famous right midfielder, rather a varsity soccer goalie for the Arrows, but man can this kid play some soccer. The depth of his talent shined in a game against Greenville inside Red Arrow Stadium. Elijah Dixon led all scorers in an 8-0 shutout that saw four other Arrows find the back of the net. But nobody could find the back of the net with Bendall in it. The quick and on point goal keeper earned his fourth shutout of the season that night and went on to combine with teammate Trevor Sherman for a total of 11 over the season. The Arrows finished the year with a winning record of 18-4-2, one of the best on record for the program.

Points record

When the boys of the varsity basketball team exited the Cornerstone Holiday Tournament early in the season, they left without a win but with a brand new record. Senior Matt Beachler's two game 44 point effort busted through the school's career scoring record set in 1971 by Denny DeWitt who held the position with 1,250. Beachler surpassed the record by four points that night, with 15 games still remaining in the season. The Central Michigan University bound sharpshooter ended the season with a massive 1,572 point record.

Homer saves game

The Rockford Rams always present an uphill battle for the Lowell varsity sluggers. This year, senior Nate Stephens grabbed them by their proverbial horns in the district semifinals and granted his team a shot at the title. With two men on and the game tied at two in a forced eighth inning, Stephens took to the plate and claimed victory with a three run homer. The Harvard bound slugger and fellow teammates went on to collect the team's fourth district championship.



obituaries

KLINE

Robert James Kline, age 84 of Ada, went to be with his Lord Wednesday, June 21, 2017. He was preceded in death by his parents, "Pop" and Alice Kline; sisters Phyllis Zimmer, Barbara Bradley; and brother Les Kline. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sally; daughters Anne (Charlie) Blood, Patti (Jeff) Boyd; brother, Walt Kline; grandchildren Alayna (Christopher) Tombridge, Tyler Boyd, Christopher Boyd, Patrick Blood, and Alex Blood. In high school, Robert played football, baseball, and was all-state in basketball. He was a Staff Sergeant in the Marines, and served in the Korean War. Robert worked 30 years for Spartan Stores, and he loved to fish, hunt and golf. Memorial service was held Tuesday, June 27, at Lowell United Methodist Church. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to Lowell United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331.



ROTH GERST
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RUST

Kelly Arthur Rust, age 53 of Lowell, passed away after complications from heart surgery Thursday, June 22, 2017. He was preceded in death by his mother, Sharon Lee Fletchic. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen Lois Rust; father Harry Arthur Rust of Brooklyn, IL; sisters, Loretta (Daniel) Noguera of Madison, WI, Kathaleen (Brett) Stoffregan of Cross Plains, WI; in-laws, Jack and Kay Trowbridge of Ada, MI; brother-in-law George (Stephanie) Trowbridge of Belding, MI; sister-in-law Laura (Jim) Marcero of Powell, OH; 4 nephews; and 2 nieces. Kelly graduated from Morrison High School, Morrison, IL. He served his country in the US Air Force, and received his bachelor's and master's degrees in geology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Incredibly knowledgeable, Kelly was a wonderful advisor and friend. He was extremely skilled at home renovation. Kelly was a great lover of dogs; he and Kathleen adopted six shelter dogs throughout their relationship. Visitation will be held Thursday, June 29, 4:00-7:00 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI. Private interment South Boston Cemetery. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to Ionia County Animal Shelter, 3853 Sparrow Dr., Ionia, MI 48846.



ROTH GERST
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WHEELER

James A. Wheeler, age 87 of Grand Rapids, formerly of Alto, passed away peacefully Wednesday, June 21, 2017. He was born in Detroit, Michigan on July 31, 1929. He was preceded in death by his parents Ralph and Laura Wheeler; older brother Harold; younger brother Jerry. He is survived by his wife of 66 1/2 years, Venita; children Ralph (Janet) Wheeler, Jamie (Joel) Moran, Ellen (Paul) Seese, 9 grandchildren, James (Marisa) Wheeler, Brandee (Ricardo) Williams, Heather (Brian) Hazelett, Angela (Todd) Osborn, Robert (Maggie) Moran, Ashly Burnett, Joshua Moran, Leannah Seese, Raymond (Aminat) Seese; sister-in-laws Shirley Wheeler, Nancy (Larry) Karcher; brother-in-laws Kenneth Laser, Gordon Laser; several great grandchildren, and very special cousins Ed and Joan Wheeler. Memorial service was held Sunday, June 25, at Raybrook Manor Chapel. Interment Bowne Center Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Cook Dementia Center at Raybrook Manor, 2121 Raybrook SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



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financial focus



Christopher C. Godbold

declare your financial independence day

We're getting close to the Fourth of July, when we celebrate the freedoms we enjoy in this country. The U.S. constitution grants us many of these liberties, but we have to earn others – such as our *financial* freedom. What steps can you take to achieve the financial independence you need to reach your long-term goals?

For starters, always work to build your resources. Contribute as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. At a minimum, put in enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered. If you don't take advantage of this match, you are essentially leaving money on the table.

While *how much* you invest is an essential factor in gaining your financial freedom, *how* you invest your money is equally important. So make sure you have sufficient growth potential in all your accounts. While growth-oriented investments, such as stocks and stock-based vehicles, carry investment risk, you can help moderate this risk by also including other investments, such as bonds.

Another way to gain your financial independence is to liberate yourself from the shackles of debt. This isn't always easy, of course – most of us have experienced times when our cash flow simply wasn't sufficient to meet our expenses, so we had to take on some type of debt, either through a credit card or a loan. But the more you can control your debts, the more money you'll have to save and invest for your future.

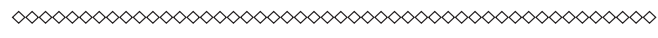
One way to manage your debt load is to build an emergency fund, containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, which you

can use to pay unexpected costs such as a major car repair or a large medical bill. Ideally, you should keep this money in a liquid, low-risk account, so you can access the funds quickly and without penalty. Aside from possibly helping you control your debts, an emergency fund also may enable you to avoid dipping into your long-term investments to pay for short-term needs.

Thus far, we've only discussed achieving your financial freedom through methods of saving and investing. But you also need to consider your *protection* needs, too. If you were to become ill or suffer a serious injury, and you could not work for a while, your financial security could be jeopardized. Your employer might offer you disability insurance as an employee benefit, but it may not be enough for your needs, so you might need to purchase some additional coverage on your own. And to help ensure your family's financial security, you'll also need sufficient life insurance.

You also might want to protect yourself from the catastrophic costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay. The average annual cost for a private room in a nursing home is more than \$92,000, according to the *2016 Cost of Care Study* issued by the insurance company Genworth. And Medicare generally covers only a small percentage of these expenses. You may want to consult with a financial professional to learn about ways you can protect yourself from the long-term care burden.

By following these suggestions, you can go a long way toward declaring your own financial independence. Consider taking action soon.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

A	L	G	A	E	F	A	T	O	R	E	O	
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A	R	I	A	E	R	A	E	A	S	T	S	

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EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: What are some ways people are using games to help reduce their carbon footprints? -

Leah McNeil, Colchester, CT

Environmental advocates and organizations are increasingly employing gamification—defined by Merriam-Webster as “the process of adding games or game-like elements to something...so as to encourage participation”—to get people to learn about environmental problems and take action to reduce their carbon footprints and overall impact.

To wit, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Ecoresearch.net and the DecareboNet research project have partnered on a “game” called Climate Challenge that gets everyday people to pit their predictions about climate change and its effects against the opinions of

experts around the world in an effort to see if the “wisdom of the crowd” can come up with answers faster than the experts alone.

Players are encouraged to research answers to questions about things like annual Arctic Sea Ice minimum coverage or the monthly average global surface temperature before submitting their answers. According to Climate Challenge creators, it’s not cheating to research to find the best answers; indeed, it’s the goal.

Players can come back every month for new questions, and see how they are doing compared to experts, friends, and even the collective “crowd”—and can win prizes by guessing closest to the actual value for a given question each month.

Another game focused on educating people about climate change is EduCycle, from Finnish game designer Neste. The free augmented reality (AR) app encourages players to design a city’s transportation, buildings and farms while cutting greenhouse gas emissions to levels specified under the 2015 Paris climate accord. “By simulating the carbon cycle in real life,” Neste maintains, “the game teaches kids and adults about the effects of global warming.”

Save Ohno is a creative take on gamification for the sake of the climate, courtesy of concerned college student Dylan Husted. The main character in the free online game is Ohno, who represents the player’s great granddaughter and is impacted by climate change in the future thanks to our actions and behaviors today. On the game’s SaveOhno.org website, players can see Ohno’s town get destroyed by extreme weather. But when players take positive action in the real world, the conditions in Ohno’s online (future) town improve accordingly.

Players can improve Ohno’s world by following tasks

suggested within the game, and can also plug in real world campaigns and activism they are involved with to improve Ohno’s town. “An example ‘campaign’ could be a petition to get your local school to invest in renewables,” says Husted.

Meanwhile, World Climate Simulation is a role-playing exercise whereby groups can take part in mock United Nations climate negotiations and learn what it’s like to work with others to craft global environmental policy. The game uses an interactive computer model that allows participants to find out how their proposed policies impact global climate in real-time. All the tools and materials for the World Climate Simulation are available for free and multiple languages are supported.

CONTACTS: Climate Challenge, www.ecoresearch.net/climate-challenge; EduCycle, www.neste.com/preorderthefuture; Save Ohno, www.saveohno.org; World Climate Simulation, www.climateinteractive.org/programs/world-climate.

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* Dylan Husted won the Judge’s Choice Award at Babson College’s Climate CoLab contest and went onto to launch the game as a start-up devoted to helping people fight climate change.

Looking Back, continued

years, the Lowell Showboat has been hailed as one of Michigan’s most important summer attractions, the attendance growing larger and the quality of the show better with each succeeding year. Happier days will come again and the Lowell Showboat will come sailing ‘round the bend with greater glory than ever before.

Glenn Barnes is back at his old post at Henry’s drug store where he had previously rendered 12 years of good service. Seems like old times to greet Mr. Barnes at the old stand.

Home grown black raspberries and black sweet cherries began to appear on the local market a few days ago and other varieties of these fruits will soon follow. Nothing more delicious than our home grown fruits and rich in vitamins, too! It is claimed that lots of fruit will be wasted unless sugar rationing is made more liberal. We know of one family that canned over 400 quarts of peaches last season in order to prevent their being wasted. This same family could get only six pounds of sugar at the recent rationing because they had been frugal enough to save last year’s peaches.

Our usual invitation is issued and your editor continues his practice of carrying a pencil and piece of paper or using the back of an envelope, to have within easy reach when you stop him on the street and tell of visitors at your home, of any trips you expect to make or have made, or call his attention to something that neighbors have done that is interesting to the readers. You will find that you have given your hometown paper something to satisfy the subscribers and all subscribers of small town newspapers are really its chief news-gatherers. It doesn’t take much of your time and there is a certain reward in knowing that you have aided in making the home paper a better one because you have taken a personal interest in it.

Wood is challenging the metals for a place in the war picture. Wood has been substituted for aluminum and other materials in making pontoon boats, and bodies of army cargo trucks, formerly made of iron and steel, now are made of hardwood.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger June 29, 1967

The Lowell YMCA will sponsor its 1st annual “Bike race” this Thursday, June 29, at Recreation Park. All area bicyclists are urged to have their bikes ready for the first race at 10 a.m. Competition is open to all boys and girls, ages 6 to 13. Awards will be given to all winners in their respective classes. This is your big chance to prove you have the fastest bike in town.

Nearly 100 young swimmers from Lowell and the

surrounding area will participate in the first annual Lowell YMCA City Championship Swimming Meet this Saturday, July 1st, at the Lowell pool. There will be races for boys and girls of all ages, with the first four finishers in each race receiving colorful City Championship ribbons for their swimming efforts. There is no charge for either contestants or spectators for this big event of the summer at the pool, so come on down to the pool that day and watch this city’s best swimmers perform! The finals for boys and girls ages 5 through 10 will begin at 9:30 a.m., and the finals for boys and girls ages 11 and up (through high school June graduates) will begin at 2:30 in the afternoon. There were not enough entries to make preliminary races necessary, and so all youngsters will race on Saturday. Swimmers ages 10 and under may begin warming up in the pool at 9 a.m. on Saturday, and the older swimmers may begin their warm-up swims at 2 p.m. before the afternoon races.

Lowell may be planning a quiet Fourth of July, but surrounding communities have plenty of activities set up. In Cascade and Ada, there will be parades, contests, fun-filled and entertaining booths, and gigantic fireworks displays. Mort Neff will be filming the area activities in color for his Michigan Outdoors TV program. T

The first step in constructing a senior-citizen housing unit, for Lowell, was taken last week with the purchase of 8 acres of land from Mr. and Mrs. George Hale. The land, located on Bowes Road, runs back to undeveloped Grand Street and has frontage along Cherry Creek. The actual purchase of the property was made by the Schneider Fund at a cost of \$12,000. Members of the fund trustees are Ray Rittenger and Phillip Schneider, and Donald O. Johnson of the Old Kent Bank

Lowell Police thought they had a thief trapped in the Ledger office Saturday night about 11 p. m. Alert officers, in the cruiser, spotted someone moving in the darkened building as their headlights hit the front window. They blocked off all the exits to the Ledger, and called the editor to open the door. Caught in the act, when the door was opened was the editor’s youngest son, entertaining his girl friend, in what he thought was a nice quiet place.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 1, 1992

Lowell City Manager turns down 6.4 percent increase. The Lowell City Council approved a three percent pay hike for Lowell City Manager Dave

Pasquale. Pasquale, who will celebrate his fifth year in Lowell come August was offered a 6.4 percent increase, but turned it down. “I felt a three percent increase was more appropriate and in line as to what other city employees are receiving,” Pasquale said. The three percent increase bumped Pasquale’s salary from \$47,000 to \$48,500. Had he accepted the 6.7 percent pay-hike he would be earning \$50,000. “Obviously the decision was also based on concerns for the budget and special assessments,” Pasquale said. “I appreciate the confidence the Council has shown in me.” Pasquale’s last raise was five percent.

Okay students, today’s topic is Michigan history. A college professor cut out a map of Michigan’s lower peninsula, turned it face down and then stuck a pin through the center of the map. Name the geographical center of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula? The answer is.... St. Louis, MI. St. Louis Mayor, George Kubin and other city officials visited Lowell on Thursday as part of Michigan’s Mayor Exchange Day. “Mayor Exchange Day allows for cities of the same size to gain answers and solutions to similar problems that they share,” Kubin said. Kubin has been St. Louis’ Mayor for six months. He has found his new job challenging. “It has been challenging. The biggest challenge facing St. Louis right now is the improvement of the infrastructure. Our roads need work,” Kubin explained. Larry Wernette, the St. Louis City Manager for the past nine years adds the need for parks and renovative work on the utilities is also needed. Kubin said he was very impressed with the nice foundations that have been started in Lowell.



**STATEPOINT
CROSSWORD**

**THEME: COMIC
BOOK HEROES**

ACROSS

1. Blue-Green scum
6. ___ Tuesday
9. Black and white treat
13. Viola da Gamba, pl.
14. ___ trip
15. * ___ Thing, of the DC Universe
16. Do like Etna
17. Listening organ
18. Front of cuirass
19. *Bandana-wearer named for a painter
21. *It bit Peter Parker
23. Cash provider
24. Mallet or saw
25. Geological Society of America
28. Heard more than once
30. Ukraine's neighbor
35. Opposite of riches?
37. France's currency
39. Excessive sternness
40. Paella pot
41. Run off to wed
43. Dumpy establishment
44. Teatro alla Scala performance
46. ___ sack
47. Iditarod ride
48. Japanese mat
50. By way of, for short
52. Old age, archaic
53. "The Sun ___ Rises"
55. *"Rogue ___": A Star Wars Story"

CROSSWORD													
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64						65	66			67			
68						69				70			
71						72				73			



JUNE 22 - JUNE 27

- A judge in Madrid has ordered that Salvador Dalí's body — interred for nearly thirty years — be exhumed. María Pilar Abel Martínez, born in 1956 in Girona, said her mother, Antonia, had a secret affair with the artist and said her mother told her several times that Dalí was her father so DNA tests on Dalí's bones will settle the paternity suit.
- The European Commission has fined Google 2.42 billion euros (\$2.72 billion) after finding that the company used its dominant search engine to drive people TO Google's shopping service.
- The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says the Senate health care bill will cause 22 million people to lose health coverage under the Senate's plan. It's projected to lower the deficit by billions over 10 years, and will cut taxes on corporations and the wealthy.
- From the land of "it takes one to know one" North Korea's state media published a report describing President Trump's "America First" policy akin to "Nazism in the 21st century."



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57. *Wonder Woman, e.g.
60. *Captain ___
64. Unimpressed
65. Hole punching tool
67. Helper
68. Was violently angry
69. #35 Across, sing.
70. Bloodhound's clue
71. #44 Across solo
72. Chapter in history
73. Sunrise side, pl.
31. Jar covers
32. Light-footed
33. Writer's opus
34. *Judge of Mega City One
36. Actress Gilbert
38. Moonfish
42. Erasable programmable read only memory
45. Dumbfounded
49. U.N. workers' grp.
51. Apprehension
54. Rabbit trap
56. ___ Kane of soap opera fame
57. Wing-shaped
58. New Testament sages
59. Between ports
60. #1 Across, sing.
61. Bad day for Caesar
62. Lincoln coin
63. A in B.A.
64. Women's undergarment
66. *"Captain America: Civil ___"

DOWN

1. Affirm
2. Turkish currency
3. Trend higher
4. Top dog
5. Posthumous type of tax
6. "I ___ your pain"
7. Agha, alt. sp.
8. Body trunk
9. Was in the hole
10. Unpleasant road display?
11. Dubai dignitary
12. Operations or opportunities, for short
15. *Popeye
20. Mike holder
22. Weasel-related onomatopoeia
24. Capital of Ontario
25. *"I am ___"
26. Planktonic tunicate
27. End of a shoelace
29. *a.k.a. Dr. Robert Bruce Banner

Puzzle solutions, page 12

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

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Celebrating the heritage of area farms

Howard family farm commemorates 175 years

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

This week a farm in the Lowell area is celebrating 175 years of ownership by several generations of the same family.

The 106-acre Howard farm is at the corner of Parnell Ave. and Two Mile Rd. in Vergennes Township. The farm started when Timothy Howard and three of his siblings emigrated to America from Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland, in the late 1830s. Howard worked his way through Canada, New York, Ohio and Michigan as a laborer on the Michigan Central Railroad. When the railroad failed, the State of Michigan took over and paid the workers off with land grants. In 1841 Howard received an 80-acre grant in Section 8 of Vergennes Township. Howard cleared the land and began farming

it. Before his log cabin was built he slept in a hollow log. In the winter of 1842 he walked to Detroit to record his land grant. Then he walked to St. Catherines, Ontario, to find work on the Welland Canal that connects Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. During this time, Howard met a woman named Mary Driscoll. They were married in Ontario and returned to the Parnell area. They were one of the founding families of St. Patrick's Church there. Eventually, Timothy and Mary Howard had six children: Johanna, Margaret, Mary, Owen, John and Julia. The two youngest children, John and Julia, died when they were small. Johanna married John Walsh of Lowell, Margaret married Owen McGee of Vergennes Township, Mary married Richard Bergin and

Owen married Jane "Jennie" Bergin.

In 1861 Timothy Howard was stabbed to death by a disgruntled former employee.

"My great grandfather was the original Timothy Howard who came here from Ireland and started the farm," said Tim Howard III, the farm's current owner. "He had a hired hand that was working for him. There was some kind of dispute between him and the hired man so great grandpa let him go. He was going up to Parnell to see about hiring somebody else and the guy came out and stabbed him and murdered him."

Howard's murder left behind his wife Mary and three young children. Mary's brother Dennis lived in Cincinnati at the time. Dennis traveled here and took over the management of the farm for a brief period. Known as "Uncle Dennis," he became a beloved local figure. He used to walk for miles to the post office in Fallsburg to collect the daily mail and newspapers. The neighbors would often gather around to listen as Uncle Dennis read the mail and the newspaper out loud, including one memorable incident when he broke the news of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Meanwhile, Owen and Jennie Howard remained on the farm and raised 10 children there. One of their children, Frank Howard, became a Catholic priest. One of their grandchildren, Timothy Howard III, has been the owner and operator of the farm since the 1970s.

"I never met my grandfather [Owen "O.J." Howard], he died before I was born," Howard III said. "He and my grandmother had 10 kids. One of them was my dad, Timothy Howard. Two uncles and a maiden aunt stayed on the farm, Ruth, Lester and Ralph. The rest of them left. My dad left the farm back in the 30s and went to work for the power company. I acquired the farm through my uncle Ralph."

In 2005 the Howard farm was the very first one placed into the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights program. According to Kent County's website, the PDR is "a voluntary program that compensates owners of agricultural property for their willingness to accept a permanent deed restriction on their land that limits future development of the land for non-agricultural purposes." This will ensure the land's use for agriculture or as green space in perpetuity.

"It's a program sponsored by Kent County," Howard III said. "By doing that we were paid a sum of money and the development rights on the farm have been permanently extinguished. It can never have houses on it. It will always be farmland, green space or something like that. I hate seeing everything turned into houses. I like to look at nature, to watch the birds and the deer. It's a beautiful area to live in."

Over the decades the farm has produced crops such as wheat, hay, corn,



Patrick, Matthew and Tim and Izzie Howard

soybeans, black beans and wheat and corn. The wheat goes to King Milling. The corn goes to whatever the best market is."

There are no plans for ownership of the farm to leave the Howard family. "It's definitely going to stay in the family," Howard III said. "I have a couple sons, but neither of them are farming right now. My son Matthew lives in Columbus, Ohio. He wants to come back someday. I'll be here as long as I'm on this side of the soil."

"We just like farming," Howard III said. "The farm adapted to different types of agriculture through the years. It was a dairy farm for a long time. We raised beef and cattle but we got [out] of that when my health started getting bad and we wanted to travel a little more. Right now we have



Haywagon with Ralph and Timothy Howard II.



Current farm



The original farm house that burned down.