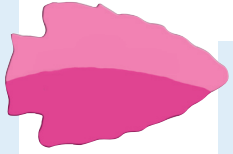


stories of perseverance



pages 7-10

stoney lakeside's new playground



page 4

jeweler's prize



page 15

Lowell's annual Riverwalk festival starts Thursday

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell is the next place to party! The Riverwalk Festival, Lowell's annual summer blow-out, will take place on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 6, 7 and 8. It will be three straight days of live music, food, drinks, prizes, parades and fireworks.

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

The Riverwalk Festival will kick off with live music on Thursday, July 6, with Gunnar & the Grizzly Boys, who play loud,

energetic country rock. Then on Friday, July 7, the Bronk Brothers will play Americana music, a genre that is generally described as a mix of folk, country, bluegrass, blues and rockabilly.

"We are going to kick our festival off on Thursday night with a Sizzlin' Summer concert," Baker said. "Gunnar & the Grizzly Boys will perform live. Friday night is more kind of the party night. We're excited. That will be a good night."

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

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

The popular "Kidz Zone" area has been revamped this year and will include an appearance by a famous superhero and his ride.

"The Kidz Zone is expanded and they're going to have a lot of fun things for kids to do," Baker said. "On Friday night we're going to have Batman and the Batmobile at the north end of the Riverwalk from 5 pm until 7 pm. Ninjas on the Move will be at the Kidz Zone on Friday night from 8 pm until 9 pm and all day Saturday. All kinds of different things will be happening down there on Saturday. Branch Adventures is going to be there along with the Lowell Fire Department's smokehouse."

Englehardt Library's used book sale is always swamped with people

Riverwalk Festival,
continued, page 3



The Riverwalk duck adorns lamp posts on Main Street advertising and inviting folks to the festival.

Artful seating on display in town for "Chair-A-Tee"



Kendra Postma, president of Flat River Gallery and Framing stands next to the chair she painted.

Uniquely painted chairs by 70 artists from all around the Grand Rapids area, including Lowell, Caledonia, Hastings and Grand Rapids will be displayed along Main Street outside of businesses and organizations from July 5 through August 18 to raise funds for Pink Arrow Pride.

"For a little community to be able to raise that kind of money for Pink Arrow to support so many people is amazing," said Kim Gill, Chair-A-Tee organizer, vice president and events coordinator at Flat River Gallery and Framing and local artist. "We wanted to do something special at the gallery to honor the project."

The "Chair-A-Tee" idea came about when Kendra Postma, president of the gallery, suggested that the artists paint spare chairs in the shop to brighten up the place.

When Sheryl Ruter, a gallery member, saw the chairs, a lightbulb went off in her head.

She thought of a fundraiser that was done

for her son-in-law who was fighting cancer. Chairs were painted and sold and the money raised was used to assist Ruter's son-in-law in his fight against the disease.

Flat River Gallery and Framing began to collaborate with the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, LowellArts and The Gilda's Club of Lowell to make the "Chair-A-Tee" idea a reality.

With the help of LowellArts, The Gallery began to call on local artists, 16-years-old or over, to paint chairs to benefit Pink Arrow Pride.

"Our goal was to have 60 chairs painted, but we were initially struggling to reach that goal," said Gill. "Then all of the sudden we had people from all around the Grand Rapids area show interest in painting a chair for a good cause. We ended up with 70!"

Gill was surprised to find that many of the artists were personally affected by cancer or had a close family member deal with the disease.

"I fought against breast cancer only a few years ago so when given the opportunity to help give back to those who helped me, I was more than happy to paint a chair which now reflects the freedom I feel having fully recovered from my treatment," wrote Kendra Postma, president of Flat River Gallery and Framing on the card attached to her chair explaining why she decided to create one.

"I love the idea of people creating chairs because they find it healing to help with their own journey of cancer or [a] family members or [a] friends," said Gill.

Chairs will be available for purchase through a silent auction on August 26. The bidding starts at \$75.00 with \$5.00 incremental bids. Anytime before August 18, a chair can be purchased outright for \$300.

The chairs will be on display outside of participating local businesses until August

Chair-A-Tee,
continued, page 3

50
CENTS





along main street

COVERED BRIDGE BIKE TOUR

The Fallsburg 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 Fallsburg, 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.fallsburg.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 Fallsburg Village. For more information or to volunteer call: 616-682-0785 or e-mail: kentamke@comcast.net

SENIOR FOOD COMMODITIES

Senior Food Commodities provides low income adults 60 years of age or over with a monthly distribution of food that may include cheese, vegetables, fruit, grains, cereals and canned meats. Upcoming distribution dates are August 9-11 and pre-registration is required and must be completed a month prior to receiving food. Distribution is during regular food pantry hours, July 12-14. For more information or to register, contact Flat River Outreach Ministries at 897-8260.

FOOD COMMODITIES

Food Commodities provides Kent County families at or below 200 percent federal poverty level or in need of food. If you or a family you know could use this assistance please have them stop by the food pantry July 13-14, Thurs. 9 am-11 am and 2-4:30 pm and Fri. 10 am - noon (no need to pre-register). Please call 897-8260 with any questions.

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.

Feel free to send your event information to the Ledger for Along Main St. All submission requests for Along Main St. are subject to space limitations. The Ledger makes no assurances that they will appear in print. To ensure that an event notification will appear in the Ledger, it is best to place a paid advertisement. All efforts will be made to place suitable items in the Along Main St. column but they are printed at the discretion of the publisher. For profit events, church services, yard sales and the like, will not appear in this column.

SAVE THE DATE PINK ARROW BACK FOR THE DATE QUIVER FOR 2017!

5K RUN & FAMILY WALK SEPTEMBER 9 IN DOWNTOWN LOWELL

Sign up at www.pinkarrowpride.org

PINK ARROW PRIDE 2017

We have held on to many of last year's banners - IF YOU HAVE ONE TO HANG PLEASE DROP IT OFF (by July 24) AT THE LEDGER OFFICE (105 N. Broadway)

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Please fill in your name, address and phone number below, check yes or no and send this information back to us at: PO Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331 We thank you for your support. Make checks payable to Pink Arrow Pride.

Any questions contact Teresa Beachum at 616.581.6199

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Banners will begin being displayed August 11

SAVE THE DATE Friday, Sept. 8 - Lowell hosts East Grand Rapids volleyball, soccer & football



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Lowell Amateur Radio Club holds field day event

by Tim McAllister
contributing reporter

On Saturday, June 24, at Stoney Lakeside Park, the Lowell Amateur Radio Club participated in the American Radio Relay League's annual field day event, where amateur radio operators and clubs all over the country take their equipment into the public and set it up as they would if there was an emergency situation.

"This year we had over 15 club members come out to either help set up, tear down or operate radios," said LARC member Del

Rockwell. "As a club, we did very well this year. We made a contact in all 50 states and most of Canada and also several outside North America. This is the first year we know of that we were able to contact all 50 states in the 24 hour period and log them. We also had a very good year with public attendance. We had probably 10 to 20 people come up and ask us about what we were doing. The field day event is a great one to get a taste of how [amateur radio] works. We can get you on the air without a license with

an experienced operator guiding you. In fact, we had several people that made contacts with dozens, if not hundreds, of people during the event. The weather was great. No rain, lots of sun and cool temperatures. The cool temps help the set up and tear down crews a lot. We had planned for rain again and had a trailer where we set up most of the radios, but the rain never came."

The event attracted amateur radio enthusiasts from around the area.

"We had several ham radio operators from the

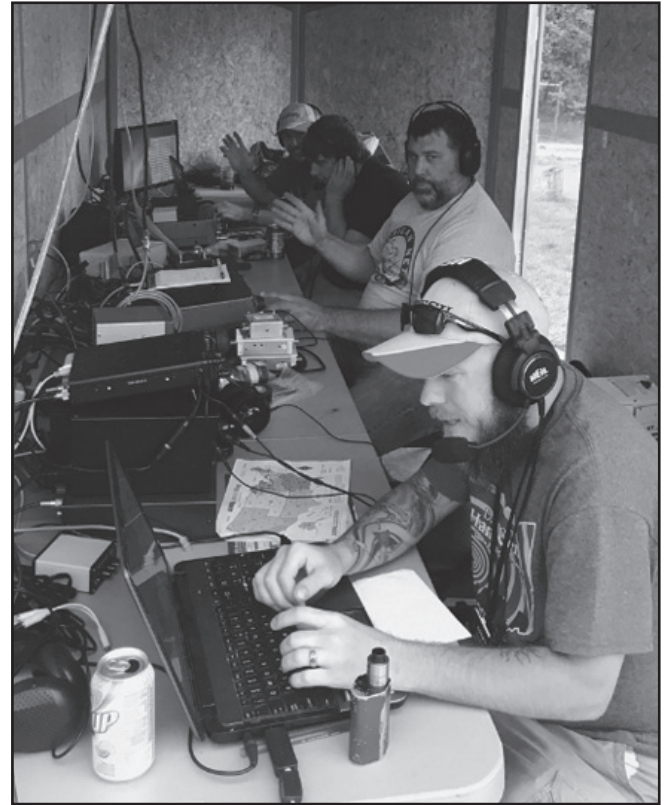
area that aren't involved with the club come out to see what our setup was like," Rockwell said. "We had Scott Westerman from the ARRL come out to see us and find out how we were doing. An officer from Homeland Security happened to be at the park and saw our setup and stopped to talk. We had one really nice retired Coast Guard diver show up and talk with us at length about our setup and amateur radio in general. And we were thrilled that two members of the city council stopped to see us. Greg Canfield stopped by for a few minutes and Jeff Philips spent several hours with us learning what the club is all about and what we do for the community. It was really fantastic to have the wonderful support of the city of Lowell and the Lowell city council this year. It was nice for them to stop and show their support."

Lowell's amateur radio club can be found at events all over the area; they help people become licensed radio operators and they also help track dangerous weather.

"Some of our club members help support radio communications for many events, such as the 24 hour bike challenge and the Fifth Third River Bank Run," Rockwell said. "We have meetings Thursday nights at FROM where we talk about ham radio, but so much more

in the technology arena. We work with and help people with Raspberry Pi, Arduino, 3-D printing and many other technologies. We run 'Ham in a Day' classes every few months where people can

Radio club,
continued, page 4



From this little booth in Stoney Lakeside Park, amateur radio enthusiasts made contact with people all over the world and in all 50 states.

Riverwalk Festival, continued

looking for rare, out-of-print books.

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

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

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

Saturday, July 8, is also the day of the big parade and the talent show on the Showboat. If you want to participate in the open mic night on the Showboat, you can register on the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce website.

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

The "Duck Raffle" is your chance to win yourself a nice pile of dough. Plus if you buy 30 tickets you get a free Riverwalk Festival t-shirt.

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

Many stores and galleries on Main St. will have specials, sidewalk sales and other unique events.

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

The pig roast was such a huge success the first year that they ran out of pork, but there is never a shortage of food choices at the Riverwalk Festival. Your choices this year will include barbecue, wood-fired pizzas and about eight other food booths and trucks. Then on Saturday, July 8, the Riverwalk Festival will literally close with a bang.

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

You will find plenty of family-friendly events and activities on and around Lowell's Riverwalk and historic downtown for the duration of the Riverwalk Festival.

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

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

Chair-A-Tee, continued

18th. The businesses will have a Pink t-shirt style poster in their windows.

The chairs will be on display at LowellArts from August 22-August 26 where bidding will continue with no ceiling. "At that point, the sky's the limit," said Gill. "We want to raise as much money as we can to benefit the project."

The event ends with a reception at LowellArts on August 26th from 2 pm- 4 pm and the bidding ends at 3 pm.

\$50 of the proceeds will go to the designer to compensate for materials and time and the rest of the money will go to benefit the Pink Arrow Pride. The

artists have the option of donating the \$50 to the Pink Arrow Pride.

"Pink Arrow is huge in Lowell and this is a new way to be able to raise money that brings in a different sector of people," said Lorain Smalligan, executive director at LowellArts.

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business directory

Stoney Lakeside gets new playground

by Brianna Massey
Lowell Ledger intern

Volunteers from Impact Church gathered at Stoney Lakeside Park from June 26-June 30 to build a new playground in honor of the church's annual Love Week campaign.

"The old playground was 33 years old, with barely any remaining amenities on its frame," said Rich LaBombard, Director of Public Works.

He credits Bob Rogers for making it his mission to get the old equipment replaced. "Bob took it by the horns and ran with it," said LaBombard. "We are very fortunate to have people like him to step in, see a need and fill it."

Rogers said that he first realized a need in new playground equipment at Stoney Lakeside while volunteering at the park two years ago for Love Week.

"I've served the community through various service projects and roles and I saw this as my next step," said Rogers.

Rogers and his wife Amanda, started to discuss the idea in February 2016.

They worked closely with the city and the Parks and Recreation Commission to outline Roger's replacement plan and funding strategy. After several meetings with city employees and playground vendors, he set out to make the project happen.

In September 2016, nine plans from three vendors were presented to the community. On October 1, 2016, the community selected the winning plan. It was projected to cost \$57,062.46.



Volunteers were tasked with knocking down the old equipment and then digging out 12 inches of soil for new mulch.

From October 2016-May 2017 Rogers led a campaign to raise the necessary funds.

He started a GoFundMe page and Lowell responded with big hearts.

Local businesses donated over \$10,000, other community organizations pledged \$14,266, individuals contributed over \$6000 and the Lowell Area Community Fund added a \$28,000 matching grant.

On May 19, 2017, the playground equipment was ordered.

Volunteers replaced the 33-year-old Stoney Lakeside equipment with a new American Disabilities Act approved playground last week. "This is the first playground in Lowell where someone with a disability

can actually play on the equipment," said Rogers. "I've had a handful of families say that they're excited about the new equipment because their child in a wheelchair will be able to enjoy it."

"The new equipment could be the catalyst for doing more things at Stoney Lakeside," said LaBombard. "It might encourage a little more investment into the park."

"Long range, we would be looking at over at Stoney, maybe a boardwalk that goes down to the lake, being handicap accessible, maybe redoing some of the parking lots, maybe upgrading some of the ADA amenities like drinking fountains, door handles and water faucets," said LaBombard.

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Radio club, continued

come in and study, then take a licensing test. We helped the West Michigan Aviation Academy with the needed equipment and expertise to make a contact with the International Space Station. Our members regularly participate in the Michigan State Parks 'On the Air' event. Some of our members are on the Kent County RACES team and Kent County Search and Rescue. And many of our members are trained weather spotters for Skywarn. When you hear a meteorologist on TV or radio during a severe weather event, say they just got reports from weather spotters on the ground that there is hail, funnel clouds, high winds, etc. at a certain location, those are almost always ham radio operators

that have gone through Skywarn training. Spotters tell the National Weather Service office what they have observed and that is passed on to the stations. The equipment that LARC has in Lowell is also used over a 100-mile diameter area by other ham operators and is the main system used by both Skywarn in bad weather and Kent County Search and Rescue to communicate during their searches."

Rockwell said that knowing your way around radio equipment could save your life someday.

"In a time where communications are paramount, it is a good opportunity for community members to learn about the Lowell Amateur Radio

Club," Rockwell said. "For all of us involved this is a hobby we enjoy. But many of us also do it because of the community service aspect. If people were around during the heyday of CB radio and enjoyed that, they would love ham radio. While it is more regulated than CB, it isn't that hard to get licensed. In fact, the Lowell Amateur Radio Club holds 'Ham in a Day' events regularly to help people get their license. Once you're licensed and know the rules, you can regularly talk to people from all over the country and world. The Lowell Amateur Radio Club is very active and prominent in the ham radio community in Western Michigan."

viewpoint



The Department of Natural Resources asks Michigan residents to help keep the state's up-north icon a wild animal by keeping bears at a distance. With many people (whether they're seasonal visitors or year-round residents) outdoors and enjoying northern Michigan in the summer months, removing bird feeders is an easy answer to bear problems.

"When situations occur concerning a bear, some form of food has usually attracted the bear into the area," said DNR wildlife communications coordinator Katie Keen. "The common element is usually a bird feeder – seed, suet and even hummingbird feeders. The good news is a homeowner can choose to take control of the situation."

Michigan's estimated black bear population is over 12,000 adult bears – 2,000 in the northern Lower Peninsula and 10,000 across the Upper Peninsula. Typically, black bears are shy animals, but they have a great sense of smell and can remember a food source. As a result, a black bear will go places it normally wouldn't if a food reward is available.

In addition to bird feeders, pet food, garbage, barbeque grills and bee hives also can attract bears. Pet food should be stored indoors, as should garbage until the time of pickup. Garbage that is set out the night before can attract bears and can have more of an impact than just an overturned garbage can.

"Bears are smart, so we have to be smarter," said Keen. "They are wild animals that are unpredictable and can travel many miles. Your habits can affect those around you and a bear that loses its natural

fear of humans because food has been introduced can end up being bold or dangerous and may need to be put down."

Michigan's bear population generally is found in the northern half of the Lower Peninsula and across the Upper Peninsula. Bears eat most items found in the forest, including plants, berries, nuts, acorns, insects and occasionally, small mammals. Because bears will eat most anything, their behavior and normal travel patterns will change if an easy food source is discovered.

"Don't wait for the first time a bear knocks down your bird feeder or garbage can; be proactive and don't let a habit form," said Keen.

Learn more about living with bears and ways to avoid attracting bears to your property with the DNR's "The Bear Essentials" video.

Bear population and distribution are managed

through regulated bear hunting. Michigan's bear hunting seasons vary by bear management unit, with the first 2017 season starting Sept. 8. A total of 7,140 bear hunting licenses will be available this fall. Bear hunting licenses are distributed through a preference point system.

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

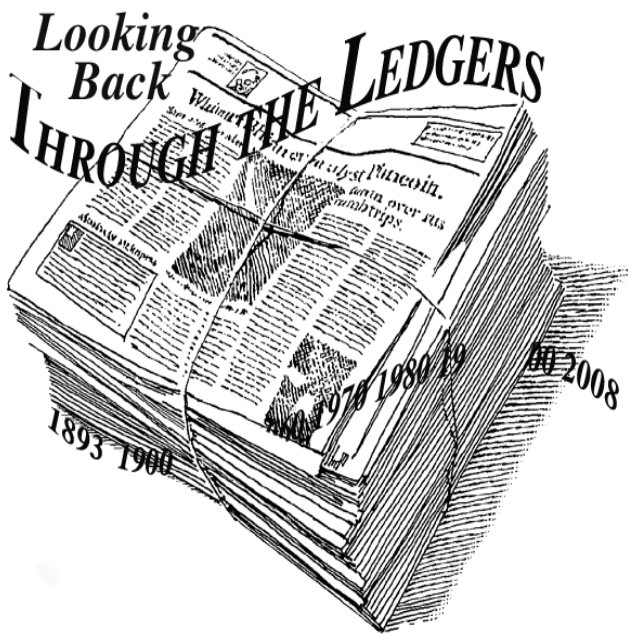
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125 years ago Lowell Journal July 6, 1892

Sunday evening the occasional pop of the fire cracker was heard, the irrepressible small boy found it impossible to retain all his enthusiasm 'till the slow hands of the clock should both point upward and at about 11:30 pandemonium broke loose and it seemed to those who were endeavoring to get some rest, as though the entire juvenile population of the town was gathered under their window and the racket was kept up until daylight.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 5, 1917

Boys in training write Lowell friends from Fort Omaha, Neb. Dear Editor: We noticed your editorial of recent date regarding the Ledger and enlisted boys from home. We surely will be glad to receive the paper as it makes us feel closer to home. It will soon be two months since the time we raised our right hand to be

sworn in the service for Uncle Sam. During that time we have become quite familiar with the Army life and what goes with it.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 9, 1942

Treasurer Elmer S. White reported the annual tax roll for the Village of Lowell to the Common Council on Monday evening. The roll shows real estate valued at \$919,000 and personal property valued at \$220,300, for a grand total of \$1,139,300. The tax rate is 70c on each \$100 of assessed valuation to yield \$5,696.50 for the general fund, \$1,708.95 for the sinking fund and \$569.65 for the band fund. Total tax to be raised \$7,975.10.

4-H Fair as usual Kent County clubs will go ahead as planned, no objections in Washington. Kent County 4-H Club folks have been rather undecided about their annual fair due to attitudes from Washington about holding country fairs this year.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger July 6, 1967

Lowell police are fortunate to have several public spirited citizens in the community, who have volunteered to assist the regular officers in emergencies. About all the equipment furnished are helmets for the five regulars and for five reserve officers, some uniforms are available. About all the special arms for the cruisers are a rifle and shotgun for use on road blocks. Reserve officers must provide their own side arms and in most cases their uniforms.

A set of 21-note Mass Cathedral chimes has been presented to the Ada Congregational church by Mrs. George Dey, and friends of the family in memory of her husband, the late George Dey, sr., of Lowell. The chimes are an appropriate memorial to one who loved church music as did George Dey. The chimes will be dedicated in a service early in the Fall.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 8, 1992

The Lowell City Council reluctantly agreed to cut the Lowell Library branch hours by 15 percent for the summer months of July and August. "In the letter stating our agreement, let's make sure the language is strong showing our unhappiness with the cutback," Lowell Mayor Jim Maatman said.

Burger King learned that it will do things the City's way Monday night. Lowell's City Council decided to play out its option in regards to the re-zoning and site plan for the Burger King development project. After hearing a brief presentation from the project's general contractor, Larry Christiansen, the Council agreed unanimously, minus the presence of Councilman Bill Thompson, to set a public hearing for its July 20 meeting. "While views of the residents were heard by the Planning Commission, it would have appeared as if the Council was railroading something through had it not set a public hearing," Councilman Jim Hodges said. The Planning Commission received comments from the neighboring residents primarily concerned about the anticipated traffic increase on West Street. Christiansen said the access drive leading out onto West Street would have 20 feet of buffers between it and the residents. Christiansen said Burger King is also offering to construct a six-foot good neighbor fence, and have a light timer shut off the access drive and monument sign lights at 11 p.m. each night. Christiansen said the idea of the access drive is to teach local residents to take West Street to Bowes Road, and then Valley Vista to the light. "With the use of signs, we have found that this retraining can be achieved," Christiansen said. The general contractor said he was disappointed in the Council's decision to set a public bearing. "That's okay, though, we have time," he explained. At its regular meeting on June 22, the Planning Commission held a public hearing to consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding the re-zoning of three lots on the west side of south West Street (adjacent to Crystal Flash) from residential to commercial.

Church members give back during "Love Week"

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Holding true to their unofficial slogan "The church has left the building," hundreds of members of Impact Church spread throughout the Lowell area putting on their work gloves for their annual Love Week service project. Started in 2012, by parishioner Bonnie Lent-Davis as a way to show love to the community, the event also serves as a source of fellowship for the volunteers.

According to current

director Robert Rogers, "It provides us, as Christians, a way to band together, to join each other in celebrating Jesus through service."

The growing effort soon required more coordinators and hosted hundreds of volunteers doing projects throughout the community. "In 2015, it grew into something big enough for there to be multiple coordinators. We had a coordinator for the school projects, one for the fairgrounds and one for municipality projects."

explained Rogers who took over the lead in 2016.

Now operating with project managers on each location who directly coordinate with property owners, Love Week has also added a logistics manager and added to their work force by coordinating with another local church.

"We're also proud to welcome the First Baptist Church this year into Love Week. They've taken on the Lowell Middle School and Lowell High School

projects," explained Rogers. "To alleviate some of the pressure on me this year, Bill McElroy has taken on all of the logistics for the projects meaning if anyone needs more paint, brushes, hoses, ladders, he finds it for them."

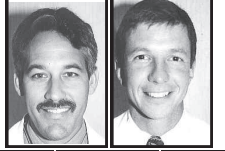
Rogers reported there were 31 destinations with per request projects on their to do list this year. "We had several throughout the City of Lowell such as the parks, library, curb painting and window washing. We have a few projects in the townships as well, such as the Lowell Airport and Vergennes Township Hall."

While total volunteer numbers and service hours have not yet been calculated, Rogers said that last year a total of 649 volunteers gave 2,501 "hours of love" with eager spirits, "The volunteers look forward to these months in advance of Love Week. Many take time off from work and start to hunt down their red Love Week T-shirt from years past. The volunteer's anticipation of the work to be done is always positive, no matter how dirty or grungy the work is," said Rogers.



Love Week volunteers prior to their assignments along the Lowell Riverwalk.

health



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

traveler's diarrhea

Traveler's diarrhea occurs often in visitors to lower income countries. It is due to bacterial contamination of water or food. Symptoms include diarrhea, stomach cramping, nausea, vomiting, and occasionally a fever. The illness lasts four to five days in untreated individuals. Steps to avoid traveler's diarrhea:

1. Wash hands often.
2. Wash produce with clean water and peel yourself.
3. Drink beverages from factory sealed containers or boiled water.
4. Avoid buffets, food should be very hot.
5. Avoid tap water and ice.

6. Avoid undercooked meat and seafood.

If you develop traveler's diarrhea it is important to replace fluids, otherwise dehydration may occur. Make sure the fluids you drink are safe. Bottled water, tea, soups and sports drinks are good choices. You can take Imodium or Pepto Bismol to suppress diarrhea. Many people will get a prescription for an antibiotic to take with them, just in case they develop traveler's diarrhea. If your symptoms persist for more than a few days after you return, you should see your doctor.

happy birthday



JULY 5

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

JULY 8

Jason White, Tony Stencel, Ryan Vashaw, Jessica Tulppo, Marilyn Venneman.

JULY 9

Elaine Haines, Leo Pfaller.

JULY 6

Marty DeYoung, Jason Barber, Amy Stencel, Darrel Hesche, Chris Page, Ed Walling, Jan Bieri.

JULY 10

Pete VanLaan, Austin Bieri, Carter Peel, Kelly Landman.

JULY 11

Dina DeCator, Jodi Hutchinson, Savannah Rice.

JULY 7

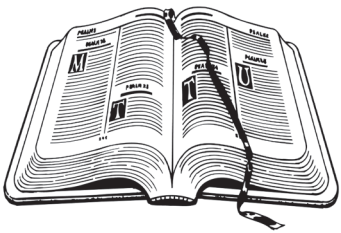
Phil VanLaan, Elizabeth Gerard, Tim Tulppo, Zach Meiste, Wayne Racine, Brice Wingerter.



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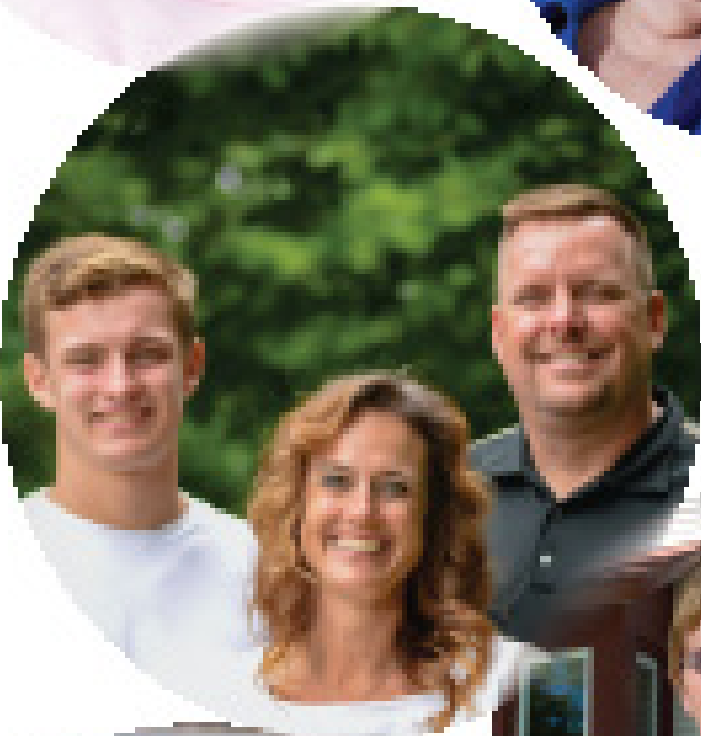
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Perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Dale Latva



"I am such a blessed and lucky person to have been given this 'Gift of Life.'"

My name is Dale Latva and I am 62 years old. I have been married to Karen for 36 years. Our family consists of Robert and Jessica and grandson, Jameson and our youngest son, Jon. Karen and I are both retired teachers from Lowell Area Schools and taught 30 and 32 years respectively.

I was diagnosed with cirrhosis, or scarring, of the liver in April of 2015 resultant of a hereditary condition commonly referred to as a "fatty liver."

My "fatty liver," coupled with many years of alcohol use...I was told that they don't play nice with each other...contributed to the extensive scarring.

I immediately quit consuming alcohol and did what my doctors told me. My doctors monitored me very closely and things went very well up until February of 2016.

In February of 2016 after a routine ultrasound of my liver, a suspicious lesion was found and suspected of being cancerous. My gastroenterologist, Dr. Matthew Moeller, immediately sent the ultrasound and lab tests to Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. A short time later it was confirmed that the lesion was, indeed, cancerous. The short-term solution was to do an ablation, a burning of the lesion, to kill the cancer, which was done in May. The long-term solution was to start

preparing for a liver transplant, as the traditional treatments of radiation and chemotherapy were not options.

Henry Ford Hospital has one of the best liver transplant clinics in the country, so I knew I was in good hands. The process of preparation began in March of 2016 with many medical tests and meetings with transplant preparations wrapping up on May 10. I was officially on the transplant list but would be inactive for six months because I was still very healthy and my "MELD" score, a system used to rank the urgency for a transplant, was quite low.

I was lucky in the fact that I was never sick during this whole process, unlike many cancer patients who are to one degree or another. I, again, followed the orders of my doctors and took good care of myself by exercising and losing weight to prepare for the surgery.

The six-month wait ended on November 11, 2016; I officially received my exemption points necessary to increase my MELD score qualifying me for immediate transplant. I was so fortunate to get a call two days later on November 13; a compatible donor organ had been found and was accepted on my behalf. I was told to report to the hospital on November 14 at 6:00 am and transplant surgery would begin at 10:00

am. I was in the hospital six days and then sent home to recover. I continue my recovery by taking my medications, getting the required frequent lab tests and check-ups with my doctors at Henry Ford Hospital. I also continue to do what the doctors tell me by taking good care of myself with exercise and diet.

"I am such a blessed and lucky person to have been given this 'Gift of Life.'"

I also have had fantastic support from my family, friends and great doctors, nurses and technicians.

If I could give some advice to anyone that is battling cancer or has a family member battling, it would be to make sure you trust and have confidence in your doctor and if you don't, find one that you can. I can't emphasize enough the importance of asking questions and always having a "second set of ears" with you at all appointments. Follow your doctor's orders and if you don't understand, ask them.

Frame of mind is as important, in my opinion, as the medical treatment that I have received. I learned this from my parents, Ted and Shirley Latva, back in the 1970s, when my mother battled cancer for 10 years. They worked together as a team with their doctor and had that "never give up" attitude.

You can't sit around feeling

sorry for yourself. You have to get up, if you are able and be as active as you can. I was reminded of this from our neighbor, Janet Johnson, over the last few years before she passed away.

Never, ever, give up! I want you to know that I do my best to practice what I preach.

A few final thoughts about this journey... first, I have the most supportive teammate in my wife, Karen. She is phenomenal as a caregiver and is the best. My family and friends continue to support me just by listening and asking about how things are going. Pink Arrow has been a wonderful support for all of us on the cancer journey in many ways. We were taken aback when the support from Pink Arrow came our way after my transplant.

The very last and final thought would be to encourage everyone to consider signing up for organ donation. Gift of Life Michigan is a wonderful organization that handles the organ donor registry and coordinates matching donors with recipients. I have been given a second chance at life because of the selfless act of organ donation; I will forever be grateful for this incredible gift.



Perseverance A community fighting cancer

Claire Block



"We are incredibly fortunate to have had the support system that we did during our journey."

that stretch. Reflecting back, those moments are incredibly vivid, but so far away at the same time.

Looking at Claire today, if you did not know her story, or see her scars you would not know how her tiny body fought and beat cancer. Last October, through the grace of God and our amazing Oncologist Dr. Mitchell, Claire was officially declared cancer free. She will endure no more poops, no more scans, no more harsh treatment. She will see her oncologist annually for a physical. Our family can finally put the nightmare behind us. She is a vibrant and sweet nine-year-old. She is laid back and has joy for life. Not much gets her down. Claire loves to paint, to play with Legos and being with her brother. She and Kaleb are the best of friends and have the sweetest bond.

While Claire was in treatment, Melissa became friends with a young woman named Amanda Winn who was undergoing treatment for Hodgkins Lymphoma at Helen DeVos. Amanda went on to start Children's Healing Center, the nation's first year-round recreational facility for kids with weak immune systems. As close to a germ-free facility as possible, the Center is the one place that families who have a child at greater risk for infection than their peers can relax, let their children run-free and build community with people who understand exactly what they are going through. In the summer of 2015, Melissa left her corporate job to join the

non-profit industry as associate director at the Center. She feels privileged to use her experience as a cancer mom to support families in similar situations. Learn more about the Center by visiting: www.childrenshealingcenter.org

We are incredibly fortunate to have had the support system that we did during our journey. Our family, friends, and the Lowell community embraced us, prayed for us and cared for us. We are blessed to call Lowell home. Thank you, Pink Arrow for making a difference in the lives of so many.

Matt, Melissa,
Claire and Kaleb Block

Eight and a half years ago we were an average young family. We had just purchased our first home, Claire was almost 2, and we were expecting the birth of our second child. We thought we had things mostly figured out for that stage in our lives and we were full of plans for the future. December 4th, 2009, all of our plans came to a standstill and the bottom dropped out from underneath us when we heard the words: "Your daughter has cancer." Suddenly, the future we were so sure of became hazy and uncertain.

Claire endured several years of intense, hard treatment. We spent more time as residents of the hospital than we did in our home, while our newborn son Kaleb was being loved on and cared for by family and friends. We experienced the lowest lows during

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Perseverance

Chelsea Weiskerger

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"Cancer is not a joke and has undoubtedly turned our lives upside down, but your story (Mom), strength and positive attitude are so amazing."

Dear Mom,

It's been a year since you heard those words that everyone dreads... "You have cancer." One operation, two rounds of radiation, three cancer doctors, and countless appointments later, the fight continues, and we are all so grateful for that. You have been nothing short of inspirational through the process, and our entire family is so proud of you!

The memory of the day that you got your diagnosis is still so clear in my mind. It was a warm, early July day. You were at home in Denver, and I was at school in East Lansing. I went to my office at MSU, hoping to get some work done for my graduate school research, but knowing that very little would get accomplished until I heard from you after your doctor's appointment. When the call came, and you and Dad so bravely told me about the diagnosis and plan for treatment, it took all that I had not to break down on the phone. I knew what I had to do; I was on the next flight home because I wasn't about to let you go through this without me.

The diagnosis was stage 4 lung cancer that had metastasized to the brain. Within the month that I was home, you went through surgery to remove the brain tumor, physical therapy to regain your strength, and one round of radiation. We were going to doctor's appointments every day, sometimes more than once a day. It was clear that you were tired, but I'll never forget what you told your radiation doctor when he talked about the treatment plan - "do what you have to do, I want to be back to normal."

Your recovery from surgery and response to treatment was incredible to watch, even from 1,500 miles away. It was almost like you willed yourself to get better. Dad and I still joke about the day that you came home from the hospital after your brain surgery; we had to chase you around the house and force you to take it easy

- you just wanted to get back to your normal day! You even came through the second round of radiation glowing and with all of your hair still on your head. And in December, we received a Christmas miracle - not only was the cancer under control, but it wasn't active in your body anymore. Doctors use so much jargon when talking about cancer that it can be difficult to understand what it all means, but this was the best news that we could have received. We were lucky enough to be together during the holidays, and we celebrated the wonderful news while looking forward to a much better 2017.

Like any cancer journey, this one has not been without hiccups. In October, you found yourself in the hospital for dehydration after a bad reaction to your chemotherapy treatment left you without an appetite for two weeks. After that trip to the emergency room, you stopped your chemo treatment in order to regain your strength. It was a wake-up call to all of us, a reminder of the intense impacts that cancer treatment can have on the body.

For the first half of 2017, the brain and lung cancer have remained inactive, but we discovered a small tumor near your kidney in March. While this was not the best news, you tackled it just like you had before, telling the doctor "I have stuff to do, let's get this treatment done so I can get on with my life!" You were lucky again, in that you have been able to take a chemo pill throughout your treatment, and not experience many of the side effects of traditional chemotherapy. In typical Mom fashion, you have powered through the ongoing chemo treatment and you are now "stable" - none of the tumors are changing.

It has been a year full of terrific highs and devastating lows, but the common factor has been your determination and strength. You are an absolute

warrior, and I am so proud to call you my mother. Even though the fight is ongoing, it's clear that you have what it takes to beat this diagnosis, and please know that you have the support of everyone around you, always.

But I know that you don't need to be reminded of the support and strength that you have. Throughout the process, you have been worried about me and how I was dealing with the journey. The first few months were tough, especially when I had to return to Michigan for school in the fall. It tore me apart that I couldn't be there to take care of you and help out around the house. Even tougher, though, was being so far away at school. When people would ask why I wasn't acting like myself, I would tell them what was going on. Most people would react by saying that they were sorry to hear the news, or they would tell me a story about someone that they knew with cancer. While I appreciated the support, it all seemed generic... they were saying what they thought I needed to hear, because they didn't truly know what it is like to directly deal with cancer. That made me feel very much alone, and the feeling of loneliness grew as time passed.

It wasn't until November that I fully realized the toll that it was taking on me, and I recognized that I couldn't continue to deal with it alone. Mom, you are so

strong... you're the one going through treatment, and yet I'm the one who needs support! I was extraordinarily fortunate to have found Gilda's Club in Lowell. Their cancer support group has given me advice, kept my spirits up, and provided a community of people who are battling the same condition. (Sometimes, going to Gilda's Club is like going to therapy. It's an outlet where I can say what I need to say and confront my emotions head-on and without judgment. Other times, I just take in the stories of those around me, appreciating that there is a group of people to support one another on this journey. Through my Gilda's Club family and their stories and encouragement, I have found strength and inspiration. So, I know that you will never stop worrying about me, but I'm doing well; now it's time to leave the worrying to me!

Cancer is not a joke and has undoubtedly turned our lives upside down, but your story, strength and positive attitude are so amazing. So Mom, with your spirit of positivity and strength in mind, I want to wish you a happy cancer-versary this July, in the hope that there will be many more cancer-versaries to celebrate in the future.

I love you so much
and miss you every day,
Chelsea



Ledger reporter pens book of short stories

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

A former Lowell Ledger reporter is publishing a collection of short fiction. Emma Palova has been a professional writer her entire life, but “Shifting Sands Short Stories” is her first book. The Kindle edition will be available from Amazon.com on June 30. The print edition will be available July 3, also from Amazon. The Kindle edition will cost \$7.99, the print edition will be \$9.99.

Palova described her fiction’s genre as “magic realism.” The characters are in a mundane situation, then they are either confronted with or do something out of the ordinary.

“In magic realism you combine the fictitious with fantasy and sometimes you use real characters to model the fictitious characters,” Palova said. “It can be a hybrid. I don’t write about Martians. I write about human beings.”

Many of the stories are based on experiences Palova has had during her time living and working in Lowell.

“A reader could probably recognize aspects of Lowell, but it isn’t specific to this town,” Palova said. “It could be any hometown in America, a small town of this size with these types of politics, politicians, business people and merchants. I’m pretty sure if you went to any small town in America, Saranac or anywhere, you’ll find the same setup. Anyone could recognize themselves in there. I’ve covered thousands of small town meetings. You start to see a pattern in people, how they behave and their different agendas. Once you go somewhere else you see the same forces again. People who have their own interests and agendas, they bring it to the city council and they push it there. You see that wherever you go. I look at real life and then I transform it to something else. Magic realism is

kind of a juxtaposition. You turn it around. You get your characters from somewhere, then you place them in a different situation and setting. They do crazy, blown-out stuff that normally they wouldn’t do in their life. They’re not all nice people, just like real people are not all that nice. They go off on a tangent and they do something crazy that they wouldn’t do in normal life. For example, love can kill, somebody in town can kill you. It happens all the time. That’s where the magic comes in. By the end of the stories the characters evolve. Either they’re dead or they evolve.”

Palova said that, despite some similarities to Lowell and Lowellians, the local characters and settings were only used as a template.

“If you recognize yourself in it, you could recognize yourself in anything, in any character,” Palova said. “Look at movie characters. You empathize with them because you probably have some of the same qualities, you like the same things and you hate the same things. If you read these stories, you’re going to interpret them totally different than somebody else. Each person will interpret them on a totally different level based on how you relate to them. People are reacting to it in very different ways. How you react to it will be based on your interpretation of the material. The law, in this country or in any country, is based on interpretation, right? Which can be good or bad depending on who is doing the interpreting. Let’s say today we were each given a subject to write about. You would put a totally different spin on it than I would. If we had 100 other writers in here you would get 100 different stories and the same goes for the readers. A lot of the stories are psychologically based, because I believe in thinking first and then acting.”

Palova is preparing a screen adaptation of one of the stories in the book. Palova’s daughter plans to create a short film first and eventually a full-length version.

“For one of the stories I wrote a script and we plan to make a movie out of it,” Palova said. “First we’re going to do it as a short film. The stories are very visual, so they’re easily made into movies.”

Other stories in the new book were inspired by her time going to college while simultaneously working a retail job.

“I took journalism classes at Grand Rapids Community College in 1995 and 1996 while I worked in a store,” Palova said. “The second group of stories is tied to the store, which is equally juicy. I was working second shift at the store and writing in the morning. Again, it’s magic realism, so I blow up the characters out of proportion and make them do wild stuff that normally they wouldn’t do.”

Palova is a native of the Czech Republic. She visited the United States once as a child and moved here permanently in the 1990s. Many of the stories in “Shifting Sands Short Stories” deal with her immigration journey.

“I was brought up by my grandparents because my parents traveled around,” Palova said. “My dad was a mathematician and a scientist. He was sent to work in Africa. They were out of the country, so I grew up with my grandparents in the city of Vizovice. I had a lot of friends in Vizovice. It was fun. We always waited for my parents to come back from some country. One year I remember they flew from Africa to Italy. They rented a Fiat, the tiny little car and they drove it from Italy and drove it to the house where I was with my grandparents. They had a big box of oranges they brought. I loved it. The first time we came here I was



Emma Palova during her days as a Ledger reporter. Stock photo

like 10 years old and I loved it. I won a writing contest in Stipa in the Czech Republic. It was Czechoslovakia back then. It was quite a shock for me and I still continue to recover from that shock. In the US, I totally fit in at school and everything. When we returned back home to Czechoslovakia I couldn’t fit back in with the Czech kids. It was a problem. They called me ‘the American girl’ and all that stuff. From then on American culture was instilled in me and I always wanted to come back here. I started writing professionally for Czechoslovakia Newsweek. That was the only time I wrote in Czech. I freelanced for them as a correspondent off and on and I had a column for like six or seven years. When I came here to the USA in 1989 I saw it with a different set of eyes, of course. I was grown woman, married with two kids and I was devastated. I had my suitcases packed three times to go back to Czech. I wanted to go back. The country had just

changed regimes from being a socialist country to a free country. I didn’t know the new freedom, much like the people didn’t know the new freedom and I wanted to go back to that old set of standards that I was used to. That took years to overcome. I’ve been writing my entire life, but it was that huge adjustment on different continents several times that formed me as a writer. Those are the first three stories, this immigration era when I was getting used to living here, being torn apart between the old and the new. Struggling to accept the new and letting go of the old. Those stories draw on these forces of loneliness, being homesick and fear of the unknown. My parents live in Big Rapids. I came here to join them. They left separately and in between I got married. The old regime wouldn’t let

me go because I had a new family there. My husband went to Canada and I went here, we were separated for some time. That was even more difficult. I was in Big Rapids with my parents and the kids for about eight months. Then in the summer of 1990 I went up to Canada to join him. We came here because I consistently wanted to go back to the US. The first stories are about this movement between Canada and the USA and my struggle. To accept the new you have to get rid of the old, but you can’t quite get rid of the old, it stays with you. The old is sometimes coded in you. That’s been a life-long struggle for both of us. My husband was born in Czech and the kids were born in Czech. Of course, the kids don’t have that problem anymore, but we both still have it. That is reflected in almost all of my fiction. The psychology of this inside struggle, that you can’t totally adapt. You try and you feel good, but then here comes a letter from back home. It’s never out of the picture and it never will be. You can’t get rid of your past and you don’t want to because it’s part of you.”

Palova said a recent trip back there is what inspired her to create a collection of her decades of short fiction.

“I would say since 1989 I’ve been in the Czech Republic maybe four times,” Palova said. “The last time I was in the Czech Republic was in January of 2017. I flew there for the funeral for my aunt, the last living sibling of my dad. My parents couldn’t fly so my husband and I went. I don’t really go back there very often. Social occasions. Other than that, I

Emma Palova, author, continued, page 15

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obituaries

BYRNES

Kristine Suzanne Byrnes, age 68 of Lowell, passed away Monday, June 26, 2017. She is survived by her children, Jon "Erik" (Kristin) Kelley, Sara (Jesse) Bladey, Wendy (Gary) Cowles, Melissa Kelley; brothers, Bruce (Bonnie) Byrnes, Robert (Pat) Byrnes; sisters, Cheryl (Dennis) Beaudoin, Patti Byrnes-Lyman; grandchildren, Aidan & Delaney Kelley, Kaeziah, Abrielle, Halaina & Olivia Bladey, Veronica & Remy Cowles-Young, Charlotte Lyman; and many nieces & nephews. Kristine worked for more than 30 years as an RN at Metro Health Hospital. She was an avid horseback rider and active in Relay for Life. She loved spending time with her grandchildren, as well as traveling with friends and family, especially to Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Memorial Mass was celebrated Friday, June 30, at St. Mary Catholic Church, Lowell. Rev. Aaron Ferris presided. Memorial contributions may be made to Pink Arrow Pride, PO Box 246, Lowell, MI 49331.



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GOGGINS

Shannon Dawn Goggins, age 39 of Lowell, went to be with her Lord Wednesday, June 28, 2017. She was preceded in death by her father Ken Vos; grandmothers Barb Vos, Annabelle Wittenbach; and grandfather Gene Kelly. She is survived by her husband of 15 years, Chris; children Ryan and Halle; mother Linda Vos; brother Kristian Magro; father and mother-in-laws Ron & Ann Wittenbach, Pat & Peggy Goggins; brother-in-laws Kevin (Cher) Goggins, Paul Goggins; sister-in-law Cara (Jason) Beach; grandmother Carol Kelly; grandfathers John Vos, Bill (Twyla) Schmidt; grandmother-in-law Velma Perry; special friends Brooke Slocum, Heather Hoffman, Stephanie Peele, Monica & John Meier, Kathy Lutz, Kalie Schmidt, Deb Briggs; and all of the helpful friends who provided love and support. Shannon graduated from Lowell High School in 1996. She worked as an occupational therapist at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital in Grand Rapids for over 10 years. Memorial service will be held Monday, July 10, 11:00 a.m. at Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Rd. SE, Ada MI 49301. The family will greet friends and relatives prior to the service from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the church. Pastor Doug Redford officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the family to assist with funeral expenses.



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SCOTT

Connie Jo Scott, age 65 of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, June 27, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband, Michael Scott. She is survived by her children Brian (Deb) Scott, Kristina (Luis) Maldonado; brother Roger (Sandy) Fetterhoff; sisters Suzanne (Phil) Albert, Cindy (Denny) Addington, Sherri (Denny) Huver; grandchildren Brandon & Jenna Scott, Cailey & Mariah Maldonado. Funeral services were held Friday, June 30, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, Lowell. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the family to assist with funeral expenses.



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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
KENT CO. PROBATE
COUNTY OF KENT

or affected by the following:

PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE OF HEARING

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on August 8, 2017 at 9:00 am at 180 Ottawa Avenue NW, Ste. 2500, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 before Judge David M. Murkowski (P35026) for the following purpose: to request the appointment of full guardian.

FILE NO. 17-201528-GA

In the matter of FRANKLIN H. ROPER, an Alleged Incapacitated Individual. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: Thomas Lee Roper, son, and any other unlocated or unknown heirs, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred

June 29, 2017

Servants Center
PO Box F
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
616-456-8512

NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP Adoption of Noise Ordinance Amendments

Notice is hereby given that approval of amendments to Noise Ordinance #2016-0815, originally adopted on August 15, 2016, were adopted at a regular meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on June 19, 2017, to amend the section in its entirety as shown below:

Section A. Prohibited Noise.

2. Specific Violations.

h. Target Practice. Excessive noise emanating from the discharge of firearms or other shooting or firing devices for target practice, recreational or sporting purposes for such continuous periods as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort or repose of a reasonable person of normal sensitivities in any office, dwelling, hotel, hospital or residence in the vicinity. This section does not apply to gun clubs or shooting ranges.

Violation of this Ordinance is a municipal civil infraction. This Ordinance will be enforced and administered by the Township Zoning Administrator or such other Township official as may be designated from time to time by resolution by the Township Board, or the Kent County Sheriff Department.

The complete text of the Ordinance with amendment 2017-4 is on file at the township office, located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, and copies are available during regular business hours. The offices are open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 to noon. It is available on the township website at www.vergennestwp.org.

This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after publication.

Heather L. Hoffman
Vergennes Township Clerk

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COMING EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for nonprofit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are subject to space availability & ARE NOT GUARANTEED. If you would like to check back your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified advertisement. NOT charge or solicit during fundraising events. All Coming Events of charge to members must be submitted by fax: 800-4800, email: classified@ledgerjournal.com, by mail: PO Box 120, Lowell, MI 49001 or in person: 100 N. Broadway

THE LOWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 100 High St., Lowell.

FLAT RIVER WATERSHED GROUP - second Monday of each month at the Main Street Inn in Lowell at 6:00 p.m. Our purpose is to protect, enhance, and maintain the Flat River Watershed. For more information call Lloyd at 678-1812. Also, "Like" our Facebook at the Flat River Watershed Council.

WOMEN FOR SOCIETY - Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 12021 85th St., corner of Main Nash. Call Sue at 868-1070 or www.womenforsociety.org

WOMEN OWNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY - meet the 1st-4th of the month at 10 a.m. at the Historical Museum at 820 Alden Nash.

WHEELERS - second & fourth Monday evenings, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bowne Center Main Community Room.

WOMEN OF THE MOON - first Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

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

W.R. PORT WOOD - meet the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3718 Alden Nash St.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Sunday 7:00 p.m. during school year in Blood Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or comparing 8th grade. Call Scoutmaster Clay Anderson at 858-0500 or clay@scout102.org

TECH HELP - Tuesdays by appointment from 10 p.m. Help with computer, internet, cell phone, etc.

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LEDGER AT THE LIBRARY - see our website for more information.

meet, 8 p.m. Bowne Center Building at 100 High Street, Lowell

BOWNE TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Bowne Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing to consider a request for a variance from the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Applicant: Pat Howard-Howard Family Development, LLC
Address of Variance: 10912 & 10910 100th Street, Freeport, Michigan 49325
General Location: Southwest of the intersection of 100th Street and Colchester Avenue SE
Zoning of Property: R-1, Rural Residential

- Variance Request:**
- 1) Section 6.05 of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance requires the minimum lot size in the R-1 Rural Residential District to be 2.5 acres; the applicant is requesting a variance to create four parcels with lot areas of 2.2 acres, 2.2 acres, 1.5 acres, and 1.3 acres. Section 2.49 of the Bowne Township Zoning Ordinance defines the area of a lot as the area exclusive of areas determined to be non-buildable such as wetlands, steep slopes, flood plains, and any road right-of-way. The variance request is the result of the necessity of excluding non-buildable areas from the calculation of lot size.
 - 2) Section 4.0B Schedule of Regulations, footnote (1), requires that in the AG Agricultural District and R-1 Rural Residential Districts, if the lot area is less than 40 acres in size, the depth of the parcel shall not be greater than three times its width (one to three ratio). The applicant is requesting that two parcels be created that exceed the width to depth ratio, and that those lots have a width to depth ratio of one to 4.5 and one to 3.4.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2017
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: BOWNE TOWNSHIP HALL
8240 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
ALTO, MI 49302

The application materials are available for review at the Bowne Township offices, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Alto, Michigan, 49302 during normal office hours on Wednesday & Thursday from 9 AM to Noon and 1 PM to 5 PM and on Friday from 9 AM to Noon or by calling 868-6846.

Sandra Kowalczyk, Clerk
Bowne Township

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS

ACROSS

- 1. Q-tips
- 6. **"Straight Outta Compton" Cube
- 9. Twirled
- 13. Betty Page or Grable
- 14. Motion of approval
- 15. Speak up
- 16. Red-headed orphan
- 17. Rudolph's Clarice, e.g.
- 18. 4:1, e.g.
- 19. *What Groot and Rocket were guarding
- 21. *"____": Fury Road"
- 23. Like some martinis
- 24. Ditto
- 25. Perfect summer sandwich?
- 28. Lover's strike
- 30. Dickens' "The Pickwick ____"
- 35. Plural of lira
- 37. Zeal or elegance
- 39. Reduce pressure
- 40. Maple, to a botanist
- 41. Paisleys in paisley fabric, e.g.
- 43. Deceptive maneuver
- 44. Committee head
- 46. Tallest volcano in Europe
- 47. ____ en scene
- 48. Bean-shaped organ
- 50. Chows down
- 52. Ground cover
- 53. Movie-____
- 55. Mont Blanc, e.g.
- 57. *Maverick and Goose movie
- 60. *Sigourney Weaver's 1986 sequel
- 63. Isabel Allende's "Portrait in ____"
- 64. Driver's aid

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JUNE 28 - JULY 4

- Gov Rick Snyder on Friday vetoed a bill that would have created a "choose life" fundraising license plate option for Michigan motorists.
- This week marks the 10th anniversary of the Apple I phone.
- Shoe giant Nike confirms it's opening up an Amazon shoe shop on its site.
- Tennis star Venus Williams at fault in fatal car crash; the victim's family in return sues the tennis star.
- Illinois is on the verge of becoming America's first state with a junk credit rating. The state is now grappling with 15 billion of unpaid bills and an unthinkable quarter-trillion dollars owed to public employees when they retire.
- "Donald Trump is not well" Brzezinski of MSNBC Morning Joe responds to Donald Trump twitter tweet.

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- 66. Sweater style
- 68. Fill with optimism
- 69. Make mistakes
- 70. Follow
- 71. USSR to USA during WWII
- 72. Actor Liotta
- 73. Shabby and tatty

DOWN

- 1. Health resort
- 2. POTUS' West one
- 3. Tolstoy's Karenina
- 4. ____-a-Bear Workshop
- 5. Britney of "Baby One More Time" fame
- 6. *Dr. Jones, to his friends
- 7. Make a pigeon sound
- 8. a.k.a. dropsy
- 9. Canned meat
- 10. Hummus holder
- 11. Windows alternative
- 12. Opposite of paleo-
- 15. Trying experience
- 20. Vascular tissue in plants
- 22. Unit of electric current
- 24. Cover with drops
- 25. *B in "MIB"
- 26. Chinese fruit
- 27. Do it lightly?
- 29. Sunburn soother
- 31. Make waves
- 32. Tiny purses
- 33. *Actress Rene in "Lethal Weapon 3" and 4
- 34. *Keanu Reeves' 1994 action thriller
- 36. Sportscaster Andrews
- 38. Fashion house founder Ricci
- 42. Bringing death
- 45. Bob Marley's music
- 49. Texter's u
- 51. Woodworker's woe
- 54. *Bruce Lee's "____ the Dragon"
- 56. Type of feather
- 57. "____ it like it is"
- 58. October stone
- 59. Feel for
- 60. Bald eagle's home
- 61. #60 Down
- 62. Hare's tail
- 63. *Black Pearl's domain
- 65. Baseball stat
- 67. Anthem author

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VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE

The Vergennes Township Board will receive comments regarding a proposed 2017-18 Community Development Block Grant project. Comments will be taken during the regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, July 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell.

Proposed project: Lowell Area Fire Building- Main Entrance ADA upgrades and maintenance

Written comments will be accepted if received by 7 pm on July 17, 2017 by the Township Clerk. They can be sent to PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331, or by e-mail to clerk@vergenneswp.org.

Heather L. Hoffman
Vergennes Township Clerk

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A ‘surprising’ \$1,000 win for jeweler when husband secretly submits her entry in contest

In hopes of winning his missus a \$1,000 Stuller account credit, Cliff Yankovich submitted an entry for his wife, Julie DeVoe, to the Stuller Inc. Fix My Bench contest.

“I got a notification from Stuller on social media that said: ‘two days left to enter the contest,’” said Cliff Yankovich, co-owner of Chimera Design. “A light bulb went off. I thought: ‘why not do a wacky video?’ Something that would get their attention.”

Those entering the contest were required to submit a video or a picture of their jewelry bench along with three reasons why they could use a bench makeover and a wish list from the Stuller tools catalog.

The contest ran from May 12 to June 3 and received over 100 entries.

On June 9, Yankovich received a call from Stuller saying DeVoe had won the Fix My Bench contest.

“Cliff got a phone call and he started screaming,” said DeVoe, co-owner of Chimera Design. “I was like, what’s up’ and he was like ‘we won, we won!’ and I was like, ‘what did we win?’ He told me we had won the \$1,000 from Stuller and my first thought was: ‘I wonder how much we owe them?’”

In Yankovich’s video submission to Stuller, he panned to DeVoe’s bench which held many outdated jewelry tools and equipment. He also mentioned that she just recently celebrated a birthday and “with advancing age comes failing eyesight.” Continuing on to say that he would use some of the winnings to purchase a tool for his wife so “she could do her work with a whole lot less squintin’ and swearin’.”

“Choosing Julie was easy,” said Jason LeMaire, director of tools at Stuller Inc. “We thought it was

really nice that her husband, Cliff, went out of his way and ‘secretly’ entered her into the Fix My Bench contest.”

DeVoe is thrifty with spending her winnings. She has only purchased a regulator for her propane tank.

“We don’t have any money, so this is a lot of money for me to do something with and I don’t wanna spend it on the wrong thing,” said DeVoe. “It seems like if you start spending it, it just goes away and I’m not ready for it to go away yet. I want to leave my options open a little bit.”

DeVoe mentioned that she plans to spend the money on “bench stuff.”

“It was clear in the video submission that a bench makeover was needed and what better time to receive one than right after her birthday. It wasn’t until after we picked her that we



Cliff and Julie in front of a jewelry counter at Chimera Design.

learned all her bench tools were 15 years or older,” said LeMaire.

DeVoe found her start in the jewelry industry later in life.

“I was able to reinvent myself back in 2000 and take a different turn in my life,” said DeVoe. “I decided that I didn’t want to do what I was doing. I wanted to go in a different direction, so I took a jewelry class at adult education.”

She describes herself as a “toolaholic.”

“I grew up always fixing things,” said DeVoe. “I was the one with the tools, always.”

Shortly after she discovered her love for behind-the-scenes jewelry work, she began to take Kendall Art and Design’s adult jewelry fabrication classes. Then DeVoe attended the Blaine Lewis Bench program in Virginia Beach.

In 2002, just two years after she started her journey with jewelry, she and

Yankovich opened Chimera Design. “It was just one thing after another. The pieces fit,” said DeVoe.

DeVoe is no stranger to winning money from Stuller.

When they began their Internet presence, she was a frequent online shopper. One day, she received a call saying that she had won \$500. “They said I had the most clicks through the website in the shortest period of time,” said DeVoe.

•••

You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do.

~ Henry Ford (1863 - 1947)

Emma Palova, continued

don’t go there. I don’t miss it anymore. Flying there is what inspired me to put this thing together. When I was at the airport and I saw people reading on devices, Kindles and Nooks and all that kind of stuff. I’ve collected these stories since 1990 when I took my first classes in creative writing. I was 30 years old then. I thought now was the time to preserve these stories. I also call it a history project. I am a lover of history. You don’t have to be old to love history. I was born as a history lover.”

Palova has also completed a novel, which she plans to publish through Amazon in the future and she is working on a memoir about her family’s immigration saga. She said that anybody who thinks

they have a story to tell should write it down and publish it for posterity.

“Amazon’s motto is ‘demystifying the publishing process,’ which I love and they did,” Palova said. “They make it easier. It’s not easy, but it’s easier. There are huge technical requirements with formatting and all that and that is what I struggled with the most. Some of these stories were written in 1990. You lay it out in the Word template and then it converts into the Kindle template, but it doesn’t always turn out right. The technicalities of it are, at least for me, challenging. There is no upfront cost and they can print on demand, so if you want to write a book, go ahead. Why not? If you

have the guts, you should tell your story.”

Palova will have a book signing in the one-room schoolhouse at Fallsburg Park on July 16 from 1 to 4 pm. For more information on Palova and her writing, check out emmapalova.com To purchase “Shifting Sands Short Stories” or keep track of her future projects, check out her author page on Amazon, www.amazon.com/E-m-m-a-P-a-l-o-v-a/e/B0711XJ6GY

“As of June 30 it will be available as an e-book and three days after that it will be in print,” Palova said. “I will have a reception and a book signing at the Fallsburg one-room schoolhouse. Everyone is welcome. I will also have more scheduled events.”



Julie in her natural habitat, at Chimera Design, repairing a customer’s ring.



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Riverwalk FESTIVAL

JULY 6, 7 & 8
Lowell, Mi



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FIREWORKS
Saturday July 8th starting at 10:15pm

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