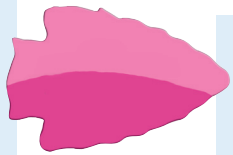


stories of perseverance



pages 7-10



page 2



page 15

50 CENTS



School year begins early this year

by Brianna Massey
Lowell Ledger intern

The Kent Intermediate School District (KISD) completed a waiver through the Michigan Department of Education that is allowing them to bypass the State law and start school on August 21, prior to Labor Day

The Lowell Area School District is following suit, starting school on August 22.

“We’re not excited about change either to be very honest, but at the same time, how do you make it most valuable to your students and your families?” said Greg Pratt, superintendent of Lowell Area Schools. “You have to focus on keeping the students at their maximum focus and figuring out what’s going to benefit them as they move forward.”

Former governor, Jennifer Granholm, signed legislation in 2005 requiring schools to begin the academic year after Labor Day, a ploy to bring in more revenue for the tourism industry in Michigan. But, with the acceptance of a waiver, school districts are



Cherry Creek Elementary is one of six schools in the Lowell district that will be starting before Labor Day this academic year.

able to get around this State law.

“Numerically speaking, we’ve had an increase in school districts seeking the waivers,” said Bill DiSessa, spokesperson for

the Michigan Department of Education. “We call this a Labor Day waiver. There must be a reason for the district requesting the waiver and it has to fall under one of four categories.”

According to a document provided by the Michigan Department of Education, school districts can request the waiver if:

1. The school “is on the same calendar as

an institution of higher education and the school shares facilities, faculty or courses with the higher education institution.”

School, continued, page 4

Revival performance of River of Time this Saturday



Lowell Area Historical Museum education director Luanne Kaeb has been busily preparing local 4H participants for a revival performance of the pageant River of Time this Saturday at the Kent County fairgrounds.

Hosted about every four or five years, the pageant is performed by students and shares stories of Lowell’s past according to director Lisa Plank, “Luanne Kaeb teaches the kids about our early history, helps them build the set and learn their parts.”

Those that have seen the production before, like avid community supporter Bruce Doll, are anxious to view it again, “If you live in the Lowell area this is a MUST see. It is amazing the history that this area has and how well it is portrayed by the kids and adults who put on this performance. I have been waiting to see it again for years!”

The free public show is scheduled for this Saturday, June 22, at 2 pm.

Chair-A-Tee for Pink Arrow Pride



by Brianna Massey
Lowell Ledger intern

Uniquely painted chairs created by 70 area artists are currently on display along Main Street in front of businesses and organizations until August 18 to raise funds for Pink Arrow Pride. The Chair-A-Tee chairs will be available for purchase through a silent auction. The bidding starts at \$75 with \$5 incremental bids and \$300 results in an immediate purchase of the chair before August 18. The bid sheets are available at participating businesses and organizations which display a pink t-shirt style poster in their windows. The chairs will be displayed at the LowellArts Gallery, 223 W Main Street from August 22-26, where bidding will continue with no ceiling. Saturday, August 26 there will be a reception at LowellArts where final silent auction bids can be placed and participants will be recognized.



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

If you have a question you think would be an excellent conversation starter, feel free to suggest one.

Send your Street Smarts questions to:
 ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
 subject line - "Street Smarts"

Lowellian or Lowellite? Michiganian or Michigander?

by Tim McAllister
 lead reporter

Michigan residents have been debating what to call themselves, Michiganders or Michiganians, for over a century. Governor Rick Snyder says ‘Michigander,’ while previous governors Jennifer Granholm, John Engler and Jim Blanchard said ‘Michiganian.’ The last poll on the subject, from 2011, showed that 58 percent of Michigan residents prefer ‘Michigander,’ 12 percent prefer ‘Michiganian’ and 23 percent have either no preference or dislike of both. The word ‘Michigander’ was actually coined by Abraham Lincoln to make fun of Michigan Territory governor Lewis Cass for exaggerating his military accomplishments. For the final nail in the coffin, if you look ‘Michiganian’ up on Wikipedia, it redirects you to the ‘Michigander’ page.

There are not any polls or statistics on ‘Lowellian’ versus ‘Lowellite.’ However, there are 21,600 Google results when searching for ‘Lowellian’ and only 2,210 when you search for ‘Lowellite.’

Last week we took to the streets to find out what a few random people around town have to say about it.



David B., Lowell area
 “Michigander. Gander is a male prefix, that’s the only reason. I’ve never thought about Lowellian or Lowellite. I’ve never heard either.”



Derek B., Lowell
 “Michiganders, that’s what you call somebody who lives in Michigan. Not Lowellites, Lowellians. That was always a bad thing when I was growing up, Lowellites sounds too much like “low lifes.”



Jennifer G., Ada
 “I guess it doesn’t matter. Either way. I don’t have a preference. I like Lowellites. It sounds better to me. It rolls off the tongue better.”



Daniel P., Jamestown
 “Michiganders is the correct one. The other doesn’t sound as good. ‘Michiganders’ sounds tough. You ever mess with a gander? They’ll chase you out of the yard. Lowellians sounds a little fancier.”



Sarah W., Lowell
 “Michigander. I’ve never heard Michiganian. Lowellite. I always say “low life,” that’s the only one I’ve ever heard.”



Dakota M., Lowell
 “Michiganders. It just sounds better. I’ll say Lowellites. It sounds better too.”



along main street

KENT COUNTY PARKS TOUR

The Kent County Parks Foundation and Grand Rapids Bicycle Company present the “Kent County Parks Tour” on Sun., July 30. Cyclists of all ages and abilities are invited to join us for a fun ride that showcases our Kent County parks and trails. The ride begins at Roselle Park in Ada, with various routes that feature different lengths, difficulty and scenery to suit all riders, with rest stops at various Kent County parks. The goal of this event is to highlight some of Kent County’s premier parks and green spaces surrounding our area. We will provide each rider with an event-day packet, a fully marked course and with snacks or lunch at our volunteer-run aid stations. This event is a benefit for the Kent County Parks Foundation and all proceeds will go towards preserving our local natural areas. <https://www.bikereg.com/kent-county-parks-tour>

THE RIVER OF TIME PAGEANT

Experience the history of Lowell on July 22 at 2 pm on the banks of Flat River at the Lowell fairgrounds. Bleacher seating or bring a chair. Presented by Alto Active Achievers 4-H Club and Friends. Sponsored by Lowell Area Historical Museum. The River of Time is a historical pageant written by Heidi Kaeb Stoller and presented by local students to teach the early history of Lowell. It begins in Wabwindego’s Odawa village, includes a visit from trader Madame LaFramboise and the arrival of trader-settler Daniel Marsac.

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.

Get our 3-Bed, 2-Bath, 4-Door, V-6 discount.

Deborah Wills, Agent
 11827 Fulton St E
 Lowell, MI 49331
 Bus: 616-897-8227
 dwills@statefarm.com

Put auto and home together for hundreds in savings. When you have a State Farm car and a State Farm home, get ready to drive around with a big, money-saving State Farm smile. **GET TO A BETTER STATE. CALL ME TODAY.**

State Farm™

1103163.1 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL

Rudd's SEPTIC SERVICE LLC

• Septic Tanks Cleaned •
 • Home Sale Evaluations •
 • **LOWEST PRICES IN TOWN** •

\$15 Off Septic Pumping

WE ACCEPT COMPETITORS COUPONS!

897-8560

the lowell ledger

(USPS 453-1034)
 Published weekly for \$25 a year for zipcodes beginning with 483 or 495; \$38 a year any other zip code.

Deadline for display advertising is Friday at Noon
 Deadline for classified advertising is Monday at 5 pm

Jon Jacobs Publisher
 Jeanne Boss Editor
 Tim McAllister Lead Reporter
 Kathryn Alwood Contributing Reporter
 Tammy Janowiak Classified/Accounting
 Jon Jacobs Advertising Sales
 Danielle Eichhoff Advertising Sales

(616) 897-9261
 email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
 Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday
 POSTMASTER: Send address change to:
 The Lowell Ledger
 PO Box 128 - Lowell, MI 49331
 www.thelowellledger.com

Food trucks and signs discussed at council meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council discussed food trucks and signs at their meeting on Monday, July 17. The meeting lasted about 38 minutes and was attended by nine local residents.

City attorney Dick Wendt led the council in a discussion of a potential food truck ordinance. Wendt prepared a draft ordinance based on the food truck rules from Grand Rapids, Ferndale and Marquette.

“One of the first provisions in this ordinance is to require licensing,” Wendt said. “Everyone would be required to have a license. Usually a license is granted for a year period. This ordinance provides that it’s a period that would run from May 1 through April 30, it’s non-transferable and it’s non-refundable.”

The council’s next step is to come up with a fee schedule, which should be ready to vote on by the next meeting.

“Maybe what I’d do is maybe at the next council meeting I’d come back at least with maybe some proposed ideas for license fees and we can discuss that,” said city manager Michael Burns.

The council discussed signs and banners that organizations have been hanging in local parks and at the fairgrounds.

“Throughout previous years the youth fair, Lowell youth football and the Lowell little league have been allowed to place several temporary banners on the fences surrounding their fields,” Burns said. “While this provides

donations from businesses sponsoring such banners, it does not coincide with our current sign ordinance. [...] It is important to note these organizations have utilized banners in this way for many years. However, there have been complaints regarding the condition of the banners.”

“I’d just point out that it’s kind of snowballing,” said city councilor Jim Hodges. “Years ago we didn’t have nearly as many banners. We had a few. Now we’ve got many and it is quite unsightly. I don’t think it adds to our community when you come in from the south and that fence is just lined.”

Lowell city council’s next regular meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, August 7. At



City attorney Dick Wendt led the council in a discussion of a potential food truck ordinance.

5:30 pm that same day the council will have a special meeting to discuss allowing marijuana-related

businesses to set up shop in Lowell. They will also hold a “Coffee with Council” at the Lowell Area Chamber of

Commerce building on the Riverwalk from 8 am until 10 am on Saturday, August 5.

Light & Power board approves IBEW contract, projects at July meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell Light & Power ratified a union contract, approved a few special projects and took care of some write-offs at their latest regular meeting on July 12.

At the beginning of the meeting the board went into a closed session for over an hour and a half to evaluate general manager Steve Donkersloot’s performance. When they came out of the closed session, they voted unanimously to renew his contract, give him a four percent raise and pay \$575 for his Rotary dues. The board also voted to approve their contract with employees who belong to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union. The contract was ratified by the union in June and will take effect July 1.

“All employee raises

are effective July 1 and they agreed to the [contract] before July 1,” Donkersloot said. “I think it’s only fair that we do the same with the IBEW.”

The board voted to write off \$3,407.62 in outstanding utility bills, \$611.60 less than last year. The write-offs are balances from accounts that were

closed, in collections or with no activity for over a year.

“We are right on par with other utilities our size in the nation,” Donkersloot said. “We’re actually doing better than 75 percent of all utilities.”

The board voted to approve three projects for a total of \$41,500. The work will be done by GRP

Engineering. The first project was \$15,000 and involves a new circuit.

“The purpose of this project is to construct a brand new circuit, number 203, from the Bowes Rd. substation to the north side of W. Main St.,” Donkersloot said. “This will allow project number 105 to go forward which is a circuit upgrade from 4,160 volts to 12,470 volts. That will reduce line losses. In addition, circuit 203 will allow a decreased load on circuit 205.”

The second project involves new capacitor banks and will cost \$4,500.

“Project 107 is the installation of capacitor banks on circuits 201 and 202,” Donkersloot said.

“That fixes a lot of the power factor penalties.”

The third project the board approved cost \$22,000 and will replace some unreliable relays.

“The purpose of this project is to replace the eleven 15kV breaker protective relays at the substation,” Donkersloot said. “They are all 15 years old and are no longer as reliable as they need to be.”

The board voted to pay OnPower \$15,891.16 for


some work they did on the Siemens combustion turbine in May and June.

“They were on site to adjust and calibrate the water injection process and exhaust emissions,” Donkersloot said. “In June they were here for the stack test.”

The board’s next regular meeting will be at the utility’s Broadway St. headquarters on Wednesday, August 9, at 6 pm.



Electric distribution and transmission manager Ryan Teachworth helping the board understand some of the projects they approved.



COPY SERVICE
Black & White and Color
Quick Service, Great Quality
the lowell ledger
105 N. Broadway, Lowell • 897-9261

FREE DENTISTRY!

THROUGH JULY AND AUGUST 2017

- Free pre-school entrance exams
- Free cavity detection exams with x-rays
- Free wisdom tooth exams with x-rays
- Free orthodontic exams

Free information on questions you may have about decisions/directions to take regarding present and future needs, longevity or improving your smile with options.





TODD GILLAN, DDS, PC

2186 MAIN STREET • LOWELL
LOCATED ACROSS FROM ARBYS
www.lowelldentalcare.com
WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO CALL

(616) 897-8491



CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN LOWELL



Experience the History of Lowell!

The River of Time Pageant

July 22, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Banks of Flat River on Lowell Fairgrounds

Bleacher seating or bring a chair

Presented by: Alto Active Achievers 4-H Club and Friends

Sponsored by: Lowell Area Historical Museum

The River of Time is an historical pageant written by Heidi Kaeb Stoller and presented by local students to teach the early history of Lowell. It begins in Waburindegan's Odawa village, includes a visit from trader, Madame LaPomboise, and the arrival of trader-settler Daniel Musoc. Watch Lowell spring up!



Lowell Area Historical Museum

325 W. Main Street • Lowell, MA
www.lowellmuseum.org

business directory

FRY DADDY'S
608 West Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331
897-FISH FISH SANDWICHES
WINGS DRINKS
CATERING SERVICE

DAILY SPECIALS
OPEN SUNDAYS 3-8 PM
MONDAY SPECIAL:
PULLER BASKET \$4.99
Best Fish in Town!!!



Rich's Service Co.
In-Home Appliance Repair
Dryer Vent
Cleaning

INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS
STOVE/OVEN DISHWASHERS • STOVES • DRYERWASHERS

209 E. Main St. **RICH CURTIS**
Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686



KIRK COLLINS
Owner
Showboat
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.

Auto Value
Parts • Services

1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI
(616) 897-9231

HOURS: MON - FRI 8-7, SAT 8-5:30, SUN 9-3



897-4728

Arctic Inc.
Heating & Cooling

• Heating Oil • Cooling Oil • Radiators • Water heaters
• Air Conditioning • Forced Air Heat • Base and systems
• Walk in coolers • Hot water • Radiators

Great Service and Integrity • Honest, Affordable
and Dependable



BILL WHEELER
Certified Public
Accountant

W.J. WHEELER MICHIGAN
103 Riverside Dr.
Lowell, Michigan 49331

616-897-7711



Edman Landscape Construction

Hard Scapes - Brick Paving -
Retainer Walls - Retaining Walls -
Decks - Fences - Tractor Services -
Bark - Mulch

Joel Edman, owner
Lowell
616-892-2888
joel@edmanllc.com



In the business world, the rearview mirror is always clearer than the windshield"

~ Warren Buffett (1930 -)

**YOUR BUSINESS
COULD BE HERE!
SAVE \$\$\$\$\$
ADVERTISING IN THIS SPACE!!!**

**Only \$17.00
PER WEEK!**



**TO ADVERTISE
in the
LEDGER
BUSINESS DIRECTORY
Call 616.897.9261**

School, continued

2. "It operates a school calendar that includes a summer break during the summer that is no greater than six weeks in length."

3. "A local educational agency governing a school identified as persistently lowest-achieving is required to implement an intervention model specified under federal regulations and guidelines."

4. The district offers a program with "extended learning options to students throughout the summer break in a manner that provides an experience similar to that of a shortened summer break."

The Kent Intermediate School District superintendent, Ron Caniff, had option one in mind while requesting the waiver.

"We're aligning our calendars with the Pre-Labor Day start with colleges and institutions in which we partner which may include GRCC (Grand Rapids Community College), Davenport and Ferris, just to name a few," said Caniff.

Lowell Area Schools felt the pressure to follow KISD in their early start for the 2017-2018 school year.

"To ensure Lowell students can experience all the opportunities and resources Kent County has to offer, we have aligned our academic year with that of the Kent Intermediate School District and with West Michigan regional programming offered through KISD," said Pratt, in a March 20th letter to Lowell Area Schools parents. "Nearly 200 students are involved in KISD programs, so being out of alignment with their calendar would put those students at an academic disadvantage."

Educators, staff, students, and parents felt blindsided by this short notice announcement, many of them having to cancel previously planned vacations.

"I was very surprised at our early start date, it seemed one week earlier than everyone else," said Sarah Ellis, Lowell High School Spanish Teacher and Aquinas College student studying Studio Art. "I had to cancel a trip we had planned out West."

Pratt wished for at least a two-year warning, but that was not the case.

"I'm not sure that Kent County could have moved any faster for us," said Pratt. "They had to get their actions done at the State level before I could have done anything here at a school level. The timing wasn't tremendous and I accept that and I apologize to parents when I talk to them but the reality is we got a calendar out as quickly as we possibly could."

Those affected by the change also showed concern with students being in school during the hottest days of summer.

"My mom is concerned about the summer heat and how the temperature will potentially affect students' performance in the classroom," said Quinne Duhr, 2018 senior class president.

Granholt put this law into play a decade ago in hope of benefiting the Michigan tourism industry.

"Many communities depend on high school students as their labor force during the summer and the early start puts a fence on those communities," said Caniff.

Caniff is hoping the days off for students and educators at the beginning of the year, will offset the negative effects on the Michigan tourism industry while still allowing families the ability to take those normal Labor Day vacations.

"We don't have school the first Friday of the year and the following Friday, we are kicking into Labor Day weekend which will provide an opportunity for those last "hurrahs" of summer vacation."

But, for Caniff and Pratt, the benefits to the early school start out weigh the drawbacks.

"We believe that realigning the calendar with the college schedule will make it easier for our kids to do dual enrollment," said Pratt. "Our dual enrollment is up over the past several years, but it's not a large number and part of it is because students have to start classes earlier in the summer than Lowell starts school."

"In 2015, the State mandated 180 school days, requiring Lowell to add five student days to the year," Pratt said in the letter addressed to Lowell parents. "A second law requires a consistent county-wide calendar for Thanksgiving, winter and spring break."

Educators are hoping that tacking five days on the beginning of the school year rather than the end will give students' academic advantages.

"It made sense for us to put those extra instructional days in the front than the back," said Caniff. "There is conceivably more instruction time for students leading up to assessments and AP [Advanced Placement] tests."

"Students taking the SAT [Suite of Assessments] will have an advantage of learning more of those materials before the test, so hopefully we see some scores that get our kids more opportunities and more scholarships," said Pratt.

According to Pratt, there is a new state law that requires students to be at grade level reading to pass third grade. "Moving the days forward in our schedule and providing more of a summer base program for those at-risk kids, we'll have more students reaching grade level reading by third grade," said Pratt. "All of these things influence decisions like this, but it's hard to get on a one-page letter to parents."

Caniff and Pratt also mentioned that many athletes, musicians, etc. are starting to prepare for their respective activities starting in early August, so the early start of school will not be much of change for many students.

How long will this early school start be in place?

The Labor Day waiver is a three-year commitment.

"You don't want change to happen every other year, so having a sense that we're going to do this for a couple of years gives parents a chance to plan," said Pratt. "We're looking at this as a multiple year trial."

There has been talk of eliminating the post Labor Day start law.

"We're at the beckon call of the Michigan State Legislature to start after Labor Day weekend," said DiSessa. "It could change down the road, but that would take the legislature and the governor signing off on that."

REACH THE STATE with this ad!

THIS AD FOR SALE!

No other media offers the volume of loyal, local, repeat readers you'll reach through community newspaper!

71% of adults read newspapers in print or digitally!

CALL TODAY!
888-227-7636 www.CNAand.com



viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Journal July 20, 1892

We stated some time ago that Austin VanDusen was building a new house. We were mistaken, it is Will VanDusen who is building the house. Now young ladies just put on your best bib and tucker and smile your sweetest. Will isn't looking for a hired girl this time. He has got, or soon will have, a nice cage and he is looking for a nice bird and he is going to find one too.

Mrs Geo. Frost caught the largest black bass of the season, in Murray's Lake. It weighed over 5 lbs.

Clinton Snow has a fine field of raspberries and a large number of pickers. He has added a tent to his grounds.

Wm. Krum took home a new Buckeye binder last Thursday and Silas Collar took home a new Deering binder Saturday.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 19, 1917

The Kent Transit Co. incorporated, is the name of a new company organized to run a bus line service between Lowell and Grand Rapids, beginning Monday, July 23, at 7 a.m., at which time the first car will leave Lowell for Grand Rapids by way of Alto, McCords, Whitneyville and Cascade. At 7, a.m., also a car will leave Grand Rapids for Lowell by way of Ada. Cars run each way every four hours thereafter, four round trips daily. Fares have been fixed at 75c for round trip, 50c for one way. Pro rata charges at intermediate points. The passenger equipment consists of two 25-passenger cars on Republic trucks, providing for comfort in all sorts of weather. Lowell headquarters will be the Overland garage. Cars will start at east end of town, taking on passengers at all crossings and at every farm house. Depot in Grand Rapids at Bertles Motor Sales Co., 18-20 Commerce street. It is expected that a freight service will be added about two weeks later.

Lowell student at U. of M. mustered in. Wayne Young of Lowell is one of 21 students in the University of Michigan who was mustered into the United States ordnance reserve corps at Ann Arbor. Mr. Young has been specializing for some time in army stores. He has been assigned to the Rock Island, Illinois, arsenal with the other university students by Recruiting Officer Captain Sales of Detroit, for five weeks' training. They will then be assigned to the regular ordnance service and later expect to sail for France, there to engage in active service.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 23, 1942

A group of Lowell's business and professional men have just forwarded 53 cartons of cigarettes to that number of young men from this vicinity now serving over-seas. The gesture will serve to show UN receptors that they are not forgotten by those at home. While chatting the other day with Rev. Fr. J. W. McNeil, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Parnell, the editor learned that upwards of 30 young men from Parnell and vicinity were now serving in various branches of the armed services, and that more will soon be called. A constantly increasing number of homes are being affected by the war, against tyranny and oppression.

Ed. Kik, chief clerk of the sugar rationing board for Kent county, was in Lowell Wednesday night making arrangements for the next sugar rationing program for fall canning. In the new county arrangements each township will have a rationing site and for Lowell township W. W. Gumser and Mrs. L. E. Johnson will act as clerks of the site. Instructions will be given to the clerks and any of the registrars who wish to attend at the central high school in Grand Rapids on Friday, July 31. Certificates will be issued for the fall canning at the Lowell City Hall on August 4, 5, 6 and 7. The same plan for rationing will be followed as in the last program, one pound of sugar for four pounds of canned fruit. Mr. Gumser and Mrs. Johnson are calling for volunteers to assist in the work.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger July 20, 1967

Three robberies puzzle police Three robberies reported over the week end have kept Lowell's Police Department officers busy following leads and investigating suspects. Monday morning at 3:40 a.m., a Lowell officer on routine patrol discovered a rear window at Parker's Service on West Main broken. Investigation found that some \$1,200 in tools had been stolen along with merchandise from the station. Monday morning construction workers at the Bushnell Elementary School reported that a router, valued at \$80, had been stolen from a tool room. Police reported that a door was left open in the new school. A third report of a robbery came Monday morning when Midwest-Jacobsen Co., on South Washington St, discovered a cash box hidden in a closet missing. The box contained \$91 in cash and several checks the company reported. No signed or forced entry into the office could be found by the police.

Rose Fongor announced this week that she plans to open a drive-in restaurant in the former service station building at the corner of West Main and Pleasant Streets. She will feature sandwiches and soft ice cream with tables and counter as well as in-the car service. The new drive-in as yet unnamed, plans to open early in August.

The new Bushnell Elementary public school located on the Lowell's west side, will be dedicated later this fall to the memory of Marion A. Bushnell, longtime teacher in the Lowell system, who died last week. Miss Bushnell, who had taught over 1,700 children in her long career, retired last year after 44 years of teaching.

Pfc Gerald M. Estes, USMC was wounded July 4, in the vicinity of Quang Tri, Republic of Viet Nam. He sustained fragmentation wounds to the right hand, neck, and right elbow from a mortar round while on an operation. He is now receiving treatment at the 3rd Battalion. His condition is good. Gerald graduated in 1965 from Forest Hills and began Marine Boot Camp In August, 1966. He arrived In Viet Nam in June 1967, and is a member of the infantrv. His mailing address remains the same: Pfc Gerald M. Estes, 2311317, L Co. 2nd PLT 3-9 3rd Marine Div., Care of FPO San Francisco, California. 96692.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 22, 1992

LDC general contractor Larry Christiansen has presented more projects to city councils than he can count. Some have probably treaded through some rough waters before earning approval status. Monday night there was a hint of choppy waters. Seeing this, Christiansen did what he could to calm them and walked away with approval of a zoning request to re-zone lots 26, 27 and 28 of Sweet and Smiths Addition from one family residential to general business. The request came from Burger King to allow use of off-Street parking for the proposed restaurant lots of 27 and 28. The adjoining property to the north (126 S. West) was included in the request for continuity, though not part of the Burger King plan. The disenchantment from West Street residents, however, did not come from the rezoning, instead it concerned the access drive that would allow Burger King traffic to flow out onto West Street instead of all the traffic dispersing out onto M-21. Tami Bailey expressed concern for the children on West Street. "West Street has no sidewalks, kids must walk to Bowes Road to catch the bus, there will be more trucks coming down our road, this puts the safety of the kids in question," Bailey said. "Is Burger King so big it can't understand the concerns of the people in this town." After hearing Bailey's concerns and hearing a Council that was empathetic with her concerns, Christiansen finished his public hearing presentation by saying Burger King would be willing to pay for the residents share, through the City sidewalk program, to run sidewalk south of the access drive all the way to Bowes Road and north to Main Street (M-21). A three-year City sidewalk program that was completed approximately a year ago, offered to pay half the resident's costs with the resident paying the other half or having it assessed on the owners taxes over a five-year period. "That's a real positive move on behalf of Burger King," Lowell Councilman Bill Thompson said. Bailey was even pleased by the extra step the fast food was willing to take. "That helps alleviate a lot of my concern about children having to walk on the street with all the extra traffic. My main concern throughout all of this has been the children." The West Street resident still saw some problems even with the sidewalk. "With the new sidewalk, property value will increase, property taxes will go up, with the access road, traffic will go up but our property value, as far as selling the home, will decrease. The Council made it clear that legally it could not stop Burger King from putting in the access road. The Council approved the off-street parking, citing by denying it, it would defeat the safety purposes. Lowell Police Chief Barry Emmons presented a traffic study as to the number of accidents on West Street from January of 1990 through July 13, 1992. The study showed there were five accidents on West Street. The number of accidents on M-21 between Center Street and Valley Vista was 62. In another study presented by Emmons, it showed that the average speed on West Street was between 25-29 miles per hour. There were 18 vehicles southbound on West Street to eastbound Bowes Road. There were seven vehicles south bound on West Street to westbound Bowes Road. There were 16 vehicles eastbound on Bowes Road to northbound West Street and there were five vehicles westbound on Bowes to Northbound West St. The traffic study was done July 4 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on South West Street. The Planning Commission recommended that the re-zoning be approved back on June 22. At its July 6 meeting, the Lowell City Council set a public hearing for July 20. Christiansen said Burger King's open house is scheduled for the fourth week in September.

July and August sees open air services

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Lowell First United Methodist Church (LFUMC) offers an uncommon open air service each Sunday morning in July and August which welcomes the public to enjoy the scenic backdrop of the Flat River along the downtown Lowell Riverwalk.

Worship at the Riverwalk, led by Pastor Brad Brillhart, was added to the church calendar about five years ago, according to

parishioner Carol Briggs, who has attended the church with family for more than 50 years. "Holding our services outdoors connects those who attend more directly to God's creation," said Briggs. "Sitting outside on a beautiful morning, hearing the wildlife and feeling the breeze as we worship puts a wonderful twist on our weekly time together."

Meeting from 9:30-10:30 am for a less formal, more casual service that includes music, Briggs said

that returning to the natural setting each summer is something she and fellow church members await. "Our congregation loves the outdoor setting and looks forward to relocating to the Riverwalk."

Besides bringing church attendees closer to nature the unique outdoor sermons are a great opportunity to welcome the public to their church, "We want to make this setting comfortable, welcome and enjoyable to all. If you come, you will feel welcome," said Briggs adding that the same was true year round and in case of inclement weather. "If

any Sunday is rainy, we end up at the church at 621 East Main Street."

Saying the church's connectivity with the community continues to grow Briggs reported that Worship at the Riverwalk is just one of the many reasons she loves her church. "Our congregation is very giving. LFUMC provides a location where anyone at any phase of their life can feel welcome and included. I love that we encourage all persons to visit, worship and hopefully want to return to our congregation."

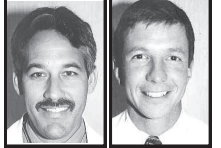


Carol Briggs, center and other parishioners sing along with hymns Sunday at the Riverwalk.



Pastor Brad Brillhart leads Lowell First United Methodist Church at their open air service.

health



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

bee and insect stings

Stinging insects such as bees, wasps and fire ants inject a venom into their victims which can irritate the skin. Stinging insects do not usually transmit disease.

Some people can have a severe reaction to a bee sting call anaphylaxis. People that have an allergy to bee stings may experience trouble breathing, swelling of the face, mouth, lips and throat. They may also experience stomach cramps, vomiting and diarrhea, dizziness and passing out. If you are stung by a bee and are experiencing these symptoms you should dial 911 and get to an emergency room as soon as possible.

People that have a severe allergic reaction can receive allergy shots for a few years that may reduce the more severe reactions. All persons with a history of anaphylactic reaction to

bee stings must have access to an epi-pen to use in an emergency.

Most people have less serious reactions to bee stings. Common reactions include pain, swelling and redness at the site of the bee sting. The affected limb may swell for a few days and feel hot. If you are stung by a bee, apply ice or a cold compress, wash the area with soap and water, take an over-the-counter antihistamine like Benadryl, Zyrtec or Claritin. You can take Tylenol or Motrin for the pain.

To avoid getting stung keep foods and drinks covered when you are outside, slowly, back away if you see a stinging insect and do not swat at a bee. Call a pest control service to remove wasp/hornet nests near your home.

Host an Exchange Student Today!
(for 3, 5 or 10 months)

Make a lifelong friend from abroad.
Enrich your family with another culture. Now you can host a high school exchange student (girl or boy) from France, Germany, Scandinavia, Spain, Australia, Japan, Brazil, Italy or other countries. Single parents, as well as couples with or without children, may host. Contact us ASAP for more information or to select your student.

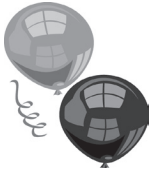
Victoria from Australia, 17 yrs.
Enjoys spending time with her family and younger siblings. Victoria plays volleyball and is excited to learn new sports while in America.

Georgia from Italy, 16 yrs.
Loves to play basketball and spend time with her dogs. Georgia also plays the guitar, and she dreams to be a professional in American high school.

Call Whitney at 616-889-7861 or Amy at 1-800-677-2773

ROSSIE
Founded in 1976
AIEE International Student Exchange Program is a Public Benefit, Non-Profit Organization.
Perpetrating misuse, please share our goal of small nations

happy birthday



JULY 19
Bob Elzinga, Danielle Rittersdorf, Marcia Baird, Mark Dupont.

JULY 22
Kelly Marie Roth, Laurie Fonger, Eric Shear, Noreen Myers, T.J. Butler.

JULY 20
Cara Thaler, David Thaler III, Maureen Pawloski, Beth Berry, Amber Brown, Jerry Taylor.

JULY 23
Dave Fosburg, Nathan Swift, Heather Pretzel, Robert Jahnke.

JULY 21
Dara Anchors, Stephanie Wade, Carolyn Mercer, Jeff Gurney, Kelly Tulecki, Alexander Stiles.

JULY 24
Nathan Bush, Mike Lally.



area churches



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

OPEN AND AFFIRMING
www.lowellucc.org

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 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
Barrier-Free

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
402 Amity St. • 897-9820
www.stmarylowell.com

Weekend Masses: Sat 5 PM; Sun. 10:30 AM
Saturday Confessions: 3-4:30 PM
Prayer & Adoration each Wed. 8:00 AM - 8 PM
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7915
SEE LOWELL CABLE CH 393, EWTN FOR 24HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
discover. grow. share
621 E. Main Street
897-5938
www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance

WORSHIP
9 AM - Traditional • 11 AM - Contemporary
Kid's Crew 11:15 AM
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

Find Out What The Buzz Is All About with a subscription to the lowell ledger

Call to start your subscription **897-9261**

Main Street BBQ supported Pink Arrow before they opened



The team's wanted their second anniversary to be a day everybody in Lowell without the usual dining Main Street BBQ support.

"It's been amazing," said owner Eric Wallace. "We're really busy here and it's awesome. Getting that really takes off. The people here are amazing. We have a lot of local business. This restaurant is our baby."

They're doing so well in Lowell that they might open one more location sometime.

"Right now we're looking at doing a couple Main Street Market take-out locations," Wallace said. "We're looking at doing the Green Highways of Good Food. We plan on opening up a few more around the area."

They decided to support Pink Arrow BBQ because they've owned their place since day one, ever since somebody showed the nation. Main Street BBQ created a slogan.

"We give them a check every month, one dollar for every order of nachos sold," Wallace said. "When we came into the community it was important to us that the community knew that we were here to stay. Being involved with Pink Arrow BBQ was a good way to do that. It shows that we're invested in the community."

They had several like a later platform way to donate to Pink Arrow.

"We do the whole thing in house, then we top them with our spicy cheese sauce, salsa, jalapenos and tomatoes."

"It's hard to find somebody that it hasn't touched. I lost my sister and my grandfather to lung cancer."

Eric Wallace

Wallace said. "When you get to choose between brisket and pulled pork, or a combination of both. We make all of our meat in-house and it's delicious. Everything is made in house. All the different sauces are homemade. We do it all. I have a good crew, a good, strong group."

Nachos are not the only way that Main Street BBQ supports Pink Arrow BBQ. They also have a barbecue contest every fall. They had the first such event last fall, but next year they plan participation to a minimum. Contact the restaurant if you want to compete.

"We are going to do our barbecue competition again on Saturday Sept. 16," Wallace said. "That's the day after the Pink Arrow game. Hopefully we won't have a rainout like we did last year."



**210 E. Main, Lowell
987-3352**

Perseverance A community fighting cancer

Ed Mohr



“Knowing that we are surrounded by so many wonderful people, rallying around us, make a really hard journey so much easier!”

At the end of June, I was asked to share my cancer story. I was willing to do so in the hopes that it would help others find hope and understand how important the Pink Arrow Pride is to the future treatment of all forms of cancer and the people living with them.

My wife and I are both Lowell graduates and have raised our three children in Lowell. Our daughter Kayla graduated in 2009, Athena in 2014 and our son, Jason will be a senior this year. We have been involved with the Pink Arrow movement from the beginning.

My personal story begins in February. I was having slight chest pains. As my wife had just undergone open heart surgery, she insisted that I go to the doctor. I agreed to go. A few tests were done which led to the call that no one wants to receive, being told that I have lung cancer. I lost my mom four years ago, just weeks after she was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. So when I got the call that I had lung cancer, I was even more shocked and scared. I immediately started researching lung cancer and soon discovered that not

everything on the internet is accurate, true or up to date. All I managed to do was scare myself even more. So started the battery of testing. Our entire family spent a lot of time in prayer. A biopsy of the mass was taken and several scans were done to check for spreading to other parts of my body. The cancer had not seemed to have spread, but the tumor was large and had invaded my chest wall. Treatment was not certain at this point as the actual type of lung cancer had not been identified. Thus, we were referred to a cardiothoracic surgeon to discuss possible next steps. Initially we were told by the surgeon that there was nothing that could be done; it was too risky. But soon after, our prayers were answered when we found a surgeon who was willing to operate. The same surgeon, in fact, who had completed my wife's surgery only months prior. And so it began. I underwent a six-hour surgery, spending 11 days in the hospital, losing part of my lung, part of my chest wall and four of my ribs. Following the surgery, we were informed that my cancer was only stage

2 as it had not spread to any other part of my body, including my lymph nodes. The tissue that they removed had “clear margins,” meaning they were able to remove all of the cancer, as far as they could see, we were overjoyed with this news and I again began forecasting a future.

Following surgery, I spent a couple months on the couch recuperating. It was still possible that cancer cells too small to see had spread to other areas of my body. Thus, I started chemotherapy, of which, I was to have four rounds. After a couple months, I had made it through three rounds, which left me down and worn out, but I was slowly getting better and able to do more and more. In the week following the third round, I started to have severe shortness of breath and decided it necessary to go to the ER. It was there that the doctors discovered cancer on my adrenal gland. This was heartbreaking news. My cancer could now be classified as stage 4. Despite the fear that instantly filled me and my loved ones, my oncologist informed me that there is still a lot of

hope. I am now getting ready to start on immunotherapy, which I believe to be the future for cancer treatment. People are living longer after undergoing treatment with immunotherapy and reporting a better quality of life. We are once again hopeful as we begin a new part of our journey.

We have had so much support from our family, friends, church family, coworkers, employers, and this community. We have been to Gildie's Club, which has been such a comfort. There are many others who understand what we are going through. We were honored to be a part of the first ever Pink Arrow lacrosse game and are planning on being a part of the Pink Arrow football game in a new way from a very different perspective. Knowing that we are surrounded by so many wonderful people, rallying around us, makes a really hard journey so much easier! We have a long way to go, but we are so thankful to have God to lean on as well as the care, love and support of those around us.

PINK ARROW PRIDE 2017

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, September 8, 2017

Lowell hosts East Grand Rapids High School

Perseverance

Lyle Gentry



A community fighting cancer

"Thanks to the community for being there for my dad (and mom). That you care for those in crisis or illness situations is a blessing"

My dad, Lyle Gentry, opted for me, his daughter, Debby, to tell his story. How would I describe my dad? He is one of the friendliest guys I know. If you go to Meijer and you see a man in a Navy veterans cap with white hair peeking through, talking just as friendly as can be to clerks, another veteran, anyone; it might be my dad. He is a people person.

He has worked hard his whole life, growing up doing farm work (not easy chores), then, working in the fields for Del Monte in the Rochelle, Illinois area. He and his friend hitchhiked (a common practice back then, not recommended today) to join the navy. His friend went to Great Lakes, he went to Panagut, Idaho. Dad went to gunnery school and taught night vision to identify Japanese ships on the horizon. He was put on a tanker but was taken off, due to the Sullivan Brothers Law. His brother had been killed in the Battle of the Bulge and another brother was fighting in the Pacific. Dad finished his military career in Algiers, Louisiana. Dad has always been proud that he served his country. Proud of his family, as well. He had two uncles in WWII and a nephew in Viet Nam. (Strong stock, patriotic to their core.)

After the service, dad worked for Standard Oil and moved from Illinois to Michigan and back to Illinois again, three more moves. He married his soul mate, Ethel, had three children, Debby, Doug and David. He had a strong work ethic, which he shared with his children. Down the line, he and mom had seven grandchildren and then, three great-grandchildren. Proud

grandparental

He and my mom packed up their belongings and moved to Lowell, Michigan, nine years ago this fall. My brother, Doug and his wife, Waverly, live there. Dad loves cutting the grass on his riding lawn mower, taking care of the flowers and garden, fishing, golfing, enjoying the birds, and building bird houses. He loves to tinker and fix things. He has a new hobby, reading. He is ninety-one years old.

One fall day, dad told my mom, "For the first time in my life, I feel old." (She said, "It's about time!" He sat down on the steps, after mowing. Mom had noticed bruises on his arms. (She called them "blood spots.") Dad prolonged a visit to the doctor, saying he had an appointment coming up. He had a blood test and his white blood cell count was seven times what it should have been. An IMMEDIATE visit to the hospital was called for! They thought he had leukemia and worked on getting his platelets, white cells and red cells back to normal before starting treatment. He was in the hospital two weeks and chemo began a few days before going home. The chemo did NOT work. They reevaluated dad and diagnosed his condition as MDS (myelodysplastic syndrome). Due to dad's age, he could not have a bone marrow transplant; he could only have chemo treatments to manage this blood disease. Dad began a series of chemo shots seven times a month. He did not lose his hair and thanks to an anti-nausea drug, an hour before treatment, he does not get sick. He forgot the pill ONCE, got sick and he never forgot THAT PILL again!



Dad continues to amaze the doctors and nurses. One nurse said, after dad had a low count, "I would be on the floor with a count like that!" He has done so well, they only give him five shots a month now.

He never complains, just goes to the doctor and hospital when he has to go, gets the job done and he's home. He praises his doctors and nurses who have been very good at their jobs, are always personable, with good bedside manner and he has met many incredible staff members, also amazing patients fighting cancer. Dad had no immune system to speak of, so he had to stay away from germs and wore a mask whenever he went out. It was tricky at Christmas, dodging sniffles and colds, so people stayed away. Now, dad's immune system is doing well, no mask unless dad feels the need for it. Dad is looking forward to ninety-two!

Now, while battling MDS, which seems to be managed, Dad has been taking over all duties inside the home, as well. He is caregiver to my mother, recently diagnosed with congestive heart failure, until she gets back on her feet.

He cooks, cleans, bakes, does everything for my mom. I was in Michigan to help for the month of May, after mom was diagnosed and was in the hospital. I had the privilege of being there when Teresa Beachum presented dad with the gift cards from Meijer. What an honor to be presented such a thoughtful community gift! My mom, who was still weak and recuperating, had a big smile of pride for my dad.

If I could offer any words of wisdom to anyone, I would recommend going IMMEDIATELY to the doctor, DON'T wait, if you have symptoms or health issues come about suddenly. EVEN if you have an appointment down the road, cancel it and go right away to seek medical attention. It could mean your life!

Thank you, again, Teresa and Pink Arrow for such a lovely gesture. Thanks to the community for being there for my dad (and mom). That you care for those in crisis or illness situations is a blessing. What a wonderful world it would be if we all looked out for each other in this way! We thank you very much!

PINK ARROW
QUIVER
5K RUN & FAMILY WALK

SEPTEMBER 9 IN DOWNTOWN LOWELL
Sign up at
www.pinkarrowpride.org

Perseverance A community fighting cancer

Jan Howland



"It's a great comfort to have a place like Gilda's Club, where I can go and feel like I am not alone on this road."

treatments, even though they said they "got it all" just for the extra protection, in case there was a stray cell or two in the area. I declined to do the chemotherapy, if they got it all like they said, what exactly was the point? I have never been a fan of pills and doctors and don't like pharmaceuticals, especially something that I knew would make me sick and possibly cause so many other issues. I had a new grandbaby on the way, a husband who still needed to be cared for, a life that I wanted to live. I did have to defend my position on this to a few people, but in the end, it's a decision that no one gets to make for someone else—my life, my choice and I have no regrets about that.

It was at the surgeon's office that I picked up a program flyer for Gilda's Club. I had heard about the program and was interested in many of the things that were offered. I thought I'd check out a workshop on essential oils that was being offered at the Lowell area clubhouse and as soon as I walked in, I knew I had found a very special place. It was the first time since my diagnosis that I didn't get the look—that look you get from people when they find out you have cancer, a mix of pity and discomfort when they don't know what to say. I felt like I had found my safe haven! Everyone was wonderful, warm and caring, without being condescending or dismissive. I decided to come to the breast cancer support group once to see what that was like and I was hooked. The ladies in the group have been such a great source of help, information, inspiration, affirmation, love and laughter. It was the best thing for me at that time in my cancer journey and meeting so many other women who had been through it or were still going through it, really gave me hope for my own recovery. No judgments, no reproach of any of my choices, just support, just a safe place to be, to talk, to listen, to let it all out. I am not dismissing the support and help that I had from my family and friends, because they were all wonderful through all this, but I didn't want to burden my children with all of my fears. I felt that it was not their place to be the fears for me, I'm the mom, I had to be strong, even when I didn't have it in me. Gilda's Club helped me find that strength within myself.

Last year on Father's Day, my husband was diagnosed with end stage lung cancer and even though it wasn't breast cancer related, my Gilda's group was there for me. It was devastating for our family and totally unexpected. He chose to treat it aggressively with a very strong chemo, but it had already spread to his liver and his bones. Sadly, by October he was gone and my life was upside down again. I think I am adjusting fairly well, most days, other days not so much, but I know there is a support system available and that helps. My children and their spouses and my grandchildren have really been there for me, given me reasons to not run away from holidays and other grief triggers. And of course, my group ladies have been a great source of support. I will attend the grief group one of these days, when I'm ready to share it all with a new group of people. I think I will probably find it will help me as much as my own cancer group has, once I get there. Right now, I am focusing on finding my way through life on my own, adjusting to the life changes of the last year, trying to find my new normal. It's a great comfort to have a place like Gilda's Club, where I can go and feel like I am not alone on this road.

When your life gets turned upside down, all you want is for things to make sense again, a couple of hours that you don't have to make life and death decisions, a little bit of normal. Gilda's Club of Lowell was where I found that and so much more.

My story has taken some twists and turns, taken me places that I never thought I would be. I first found a small lump in 2013 while doing my monthly self-check. It was right before our annual vacation with friends, so I just kept it to myself, thinking I would call the doctor when we got back to have it checked out. When we got back home, I was busy at work and, truth be told, a little nervous about going in, so put it off for a couple of weeks. Then came the phone call that my husband had been in an accident on his motorcycle—a deer had hit him broadside and AetnaMed was taking him to Spectrum downtown. He was critically injured and for several days I wasn't sure if he was going to survive. With all of that going on, my tiny little lump went right off the list of things to worry about. Fortunately, he did make it through, after almost a month in the hospital and was able to come home. There was some permanent damage and I became his nurse/physical therapist and our lives revolved around trying to get him back to good health and mobility again. Fast forward about six months, self-exam time again and the tiny lump is a little bit bigger, so now it goes back to the top of the worry list. I told my husband about it and to my surprise, he didn't go into heart failure again. He took over while I fell apart for a minute and we started on the cancer trip together.

While the lump had grown some, it was still pretty small. Once they were done with all the tests and biopsies, I was scheduled for surgery within two weeks. I was shocked that it went so quickly and I was home the same day. Waiting to get all the test results back from the lymph nodes and other tissue samples seemed interminable, but they all came back clear. I agreed to do a regimen of radiation

Local band Headhunters back together for reunion

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Headhunters, Lowell's most famous 60s rock band, reunited last weekend for two special concerts. Terry DeWitt, Dick Nowak, Tom Speerstra and Roger MacNaughton got the band back together to play at Lowell High School class of 1967's 50 year reunion on Saturday night.

On Friday night, at a cook-out in MacNaughton's front yard, the Headhunters played a 45 minute "dress rehearsal" of 60s classics such as 'Louie Louie,' 'I'm A Believer,' 'Kind Of A Drag' and 'Nowhere Man.'

The group sounded pretty tight for a bunch of guys who hadn't performed together for decades and their silly but informative between-song banter gave the show a 'VH1 Storytellers' vibe.

Three of the Headhunters have been rehearsing together for over a year, but Nowak lives in Hawaii.

"We weren't even sure he was going to be able to come," MacNaughton said in an interview before the show. "He's been here for two weeks and we've been rehearsing. People are starting to be able to recognize the songs now."

The highlight of their set at the Friday night cook-out was a performance of 'Times We Share,' the a-side of the single the Headhunters did for legendary Sparta garage rock label Fenton Records. It's considered a rare item today; copies of their single have sold on eBay for hundreds of dollars. The band never played the song live back in the 60s.

"We did a record way, way back and we never played it live anywhere," DeWitt said before the band played the song.

"Because it couldn't be done," Nowak added.



The Headhunters: Terry DeWitt, Dick Nowak, Tom Speerstra and Roger MacNaughton.

"The cool thing about this tune is that it was our ticket to fame and fortune," MacNaughton said. "Or it was supposed to be. It got real positive reviews from, like, three people. The record manufacturers put the wrong labels on the wrong sides."

"No, they put the right labels on the wrong sides," Speerstra said.

"The DJs couldn't play it, they never knew what song was going to come out," MacNaughton said. "It was played a couple times on WGRD."

The Headhunters originally formed at Lowell High School in 1965 and split up for good in 1968. Until last weekend they had not played music together since 1993.



The Headhunters in their 60s heyday.

Yoga and Tai-Chi along the Riverwalk



by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Continuing their mission to inspire healthy living Lowell Community Wellness (LCW) recently reintroduced their summer fitness classes along the Riverwalk on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Led by local health experts the classes are another of LCW's community wide initiatives aimed at educating and promoting healthier lifestyle choices to the people of Lowell. Local instructor Sarah Ryder of The Hammock, a therapy and wellness center located on Alden Nash, leads the hour long Monday yoga class which begins at 7 pm. Longtime local physician Dr. John Mogor, who practices at the Lowell Spectrum Health location on Hudson Street, hosts and leads Tai-Chi on Tuesday at the same time. Both fun and low impact exercise options request a \$5 donation per session. Tai-Chi will run through August 1 and Yoga through August 8.

EXTRA!

LEDGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

We can take care of it right over the phone - place it on your credit card & receive your first issue the following Wednesday in the mail!

The Lowell Ledger

105 N. Broadway • P.O. Box 128 • 897-9261

EXTRA!

Yep we cover Home

...
None but ourselves
can free our minds.
- Bob Marley

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

Terry Abel
311 E Main Street, Lowell
(616) 421-4542
FarmBureauInsurance.com

Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts

Through August 25
Thursdays at 7pm

Concerts held in front of the Flat River on Riverwalk Plaza, in downtown Lowell
Presented By LowellArts and Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

lowellArts **LOWELL**
Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

July 27 at 7pm
The Natchez Trace

Country, Rock Award-winning group, celebrating 30 years, kickin' instrumentation and tight 4-part harmony

www.LowellArtsMI.org
www.discoverlowell.org

Concerts and parking are free. Bleacher seating or bring folding chairs. Venue is wheelchair accessible. Concessions, beer and wine are available.

Sponsored in part by:

Lighthouse Lowell DDA OUR Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts

Free Outdoor Summer Concert Series

obituaries

NOON

Karen Noon, age 56, died July 9, 2017. She was an amazing woman who touched many lives through her short life. She was preceded in death by her father, Martin Bartl; and her grandparents. She is survived by her husband of 36 years, Randall Noon; children, Joseph, Juanita, and Melissa; and six grandchildren. Celebration of Life memorial service will be held on Sunday,



July 23, 2107, from 1 to 3 pm at Lowell Charter Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash Ave. SE, Lowell, Michigan 49331. Small service with Pastor Frank at 1 pm.

UEBERROTH

Travis Paul Ueberroth was born in 1978, the 6th day of May, to the proud parents Mark and Teri Ueberroth (Gardner) in Lansing, Michigan. Although Travis left us on June 20, 2017, his legacy lives on. Travis will always be remembered as one of the most thoughtful, loving, and giving souls a human could be fortunate to share space with. To call him friend or to share the bond of blood that comes in the form of family was an honor. Travis had a knack for finding us at our worst moments in life, seeing us through our tragedies, and celebrating our accomplishments. He was our confidante, cheerleader, friend who gave the best hugs to all who knew him. He was a gentle giant; although physically imposing, a pushover to anyone who knew him. His loving and generous nature was balanced with a wicked sense of humor and wit. Travis loved his family deeply and was known to be a father who was committed to maintaining connections to his sons and their happiness. Travis had an appreciation for the simple things such as rainbows, laughter of children, books, and music. He also carried a fierce belief in humanity, feeling acceptance and equality to all was a non-negotiable. Often known to say something deep and serious followed by his head thrown back, his dimples deep, and releasing that gravelly laugh from the depths of his soul, like no other. He was preceded in death by his father, Mark Ueberroth; and brother, Vincent Ueberroth. He is survived by his children, Brandon Charles Starkey Ueberroth, Cameron Webb, Landon Webb, and Nevan Webb; grandchildren, Roman Webb and Addaline Rice; mother, Teri Ueberroth; stepmother, Oralya Garza; sisters, Sharla (Scott Caro Sr.), Marisa (Jimmy Mata), and London Ueberroth; grandfathers, William Gardner, and Winfield Ueberroth; many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, neighbors and friends. Visitation will be held Thursday, July 27, 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Roth Gerst Chapel, 305 N Hudson St SE, Lowell, MI 49331. Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, July 29, beginning 3:00 p.m. at Ted and Tate Bristol's, 10218 Sayles Rd., Lowell, MI 49331.



EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: Is the federal government's decision to take Yellowstone's grizzlies off of the endangered species list good news or bad news for the iconic bear? -- Jeffrey Elder, Los Angeles, CA

It depends who you ask. The majority of environmental and wildlife advocates would prefer to keep endangered species protections in place for Yellowstone's grizzlies, which they consider to be still at risk. Meanwhile, many ranchers, hunters and libertarians applaud the Trump administration's decision to take the fearsome predator off the list.

But why now? According to the National Park Service (NPS), some 690 grizzly bears now roam the greater Yellowstone ecosystem—up from only 136 or so bears in 1975. "The number of females producing cubs in the park has remained relatively stable since 1996, suggesting that the park may be at or near ecological carrying capacity for grizzly bears," reports NPS.

Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke considers the delisting decision "very good news for many communities and advocates in the Yellowstone region" and "the culmination of decades of hard work and dedication on the part of state, tribal, federal and private partners."

But the non-profit Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) counters that while grizzly bear numbers in the Greater Yellowstone area may have improved since the animals were first protected in 1975, the bears continue to be isolated from other grizzly populations and are threatened by recent increases in human-caused mortality. Meanwhile, climate change and invasive species have taken a huge toll on two of the bears' primary food sources, whitebark pine seeds and cutthroat trout, prompting the bears to prey on livestock outside national park borders, leading to increased conflict with

livestock ranchers. CBD maintains that drought and climate change are likely to worsen these problems.

Recent scientific data showing a decline in the bears' population over the past two years as a result of "managed kills" due to livestock conflict, car crashes and poaching support CBD's claims. The group's senior attorney, Andrea Santarsiere, says that the Trump administration's real reason for pushing the delisting is more about appeasing trophy hunters "who want to stick grizzly bear heads on their walls" than about concern over the health of iconic American wildlife populations.

"This outrageously irresponsible decision ignores the best available science," says Santarsiere. "Grizzly conservation has made significant strides, but the work to restore these beautiful bears has a long way to go." Overall, grizzlies now occupy less than four percent of their historic U.S. range. European settlement led to the decimation of some 50,000 grizzlies that once roamed the western half of the Lower 48.

"It's incredibly disturbing to see the Trump administration end protections for these beloved Yellowstone bears even as their numbers are falling," says Santarsiere. "This deeply misguided decision just isn't supported by the science, so the Trump administration may be leaving itself vulnerable to a strong legal challenge."

While the Trump administration has not made any noise to date about delisting the other major population of grizzlies in the lower 48 in and around Montana's Glacier National Park, environmentalists worry that it's only a matter of time given the relative population stability there too.

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

Oak Meadow
TREE SERVICE INC.

Your Local Tree Care Experts

- Tree & Shrub Fertilization
- Disease & Insect Control
- Pruning & Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Fully Insured

Call Today!
616-890-2348

TCIA MEMBER
ISA MEMBER

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

C	L	O	C	K	E	S	T	G	L	A	D		
L	O	D	E	N	A	K	A	G	R	E	C	O	
E	C	O	L	I	S	I	B	E	A	V	E	S	
F	I	R	E	F	L	Y	B	O	N	F	I	R	E
	B	E	Y	H	Y	P	E						
K	I	T	D	I	D	O	T	R	A	C	K		
I	K	O	N	N	I	L	S	A	F	O	O	T	
T	O	R	E	G	A	S	P	S	A	C	R	E	
E	N	T	E	R	S	T	O	W	R	O	A	N	
	S	E	D	A	N	E	T	A	S	A	N	T	
		P	U	R	R	Z	A	P					
Z	I	P	L	I	N	E	F	I	S	H	I	N	G
O	V	O	I	D	V	A	R	H	A	L	E	Y	
L	A	C	E	S	U	T	E	A	G	I	S	M	
A	N	O	N	E	V	E	Y	E	A	T	S		

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

ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
July 10, 2017

Motions Approved:

1. A new pump for Grattan/Vergennes Pump Station #13
2. Resolution 2017-017 Establishing Township Property Tax Rates for 2017

Budget Amendments:

1. From 101.191.970 Election Equipment to 101.951.955 Aerial Photo equaling 4,610.00

Our next Township Meeting will be August 14, 2017 At 7:00 p.m.

The approved minutes may be reviewed on our website at www.grattantownship.org

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: OUTDOOR FUN

ACROSS

- 1. Big Ben's face
- 6. "C'____ la vie!"
- 9. Hefty competitor
- 13. Water-resistant wool cloth
- 14. William F. Cody, ____ Buffalo Bill
- 15. Domenikos Theotokopoulos, a.k.a. El ____
- 16. Food-borne bacteria
- 17. Bro to sis or sis to bro
- 18. Bat dwelling?
- 19. *It lights up the sky
- 21. *S'more cooker
- 23. Turkish title of respect
- 24. Sensational promotion
- 25. *Take a first aid one on a camping trip
- 28. Lover of Aeneas
- 30. *____ and field
- 34. Singular of #26 Down
- 36. Lagerl'f's "The Wonderful Adventures of ____"
- 38. Where there's trouble?
- 40. Ripped
- 41. Labored breaths
- 43. 43,560 square feet
- 44. *Done to get in a race
- 46. Stash in the hold
- 47. Multicolored horse
- 48. Type of car
- 50. Greek Hs
- 52. *Picnic invader
- 53. Make like a cat
- 55. Nuke
- 57. *High ride
- 61. *Requires luring
- 65. Roundish

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19					20			21	22				
			23				24						
25	26	27		28		29		30		31	32	33	
34			35		36			37		38			39
40					41			42		43			
44				45		46				47			
	48				49		50		51		52		
				53		54		55		56			
57	58	59	60					61			62	63	64
65						66	67			68			
69						70				71			
72						73				74			



JULY 12 - JULY 18

- Washington – Monday the White House featured Made in America week. They will feature a product made from each state.
- Senate GOP Health Care Bill fails in the senate. GOP leaders will take it up again later this fall.
- On Thursday, July 20, O.J. Simpson will go before a parole board in a hearing to decide whether he can be released from prison.
- Authorities are looking into how marijuana worth one million was hidden into brand new Mexican made Ford Fusions at a dealership in Ohio.
- Chicago endured another bloody weekend as a spate of shooting left 11 people dead, including a ten-year-old boy.
- On Monday evening a 7.8 quake between Russia and Alaska to possibly cause hazardous tsunami waves; Pacific Tsunami warning center.

dish
Our Best Deal Ever!

DISH TV
\$39⁹⁹ MO
2 Year Price Guarantee

INTERNET
\$14⁹⁵ MO
Where Available

Free Installation!

Call Today, Save 30%! **1-800-318-5121**

for more information

© StatePoint Media

- 66. Variable, abbr.
- 68. "Roots" author
- 69. Shoe binders
- 70. Shoshonean
- 71. Discrimination against seniors
- 72. Soon, to a bard
- 73. The day before

- 74. "The Second Coming" poet

DOWN

- 1. Staff leader
- 2. Places
- 3. Carbon monoxide lacks this
- 4. "The Late Show" guest
- 5. Stabbed
- 6. No problem
- 7. *Used on powder and water
- 8. Brindled kitty
- 9. Tennis great Steffi
- 10. First name in jeans
- 11. Maple, to a botanist
- 12. Doctor's order
- 15. Genus in plural
- 20. What Pinocchio was doing?
- 22. Make a choice
- 24. Gun sleeve
- 25. *On a string
- 26. Paintings in an Orthodox church
- 27. Layered cake
- 29. "Days" in Havana

- 31. At a great distance
- 32. Served hot in winter
- 33. God's revelation to Muhammad
- 35. Financial aid criterion
- 37. Dick and Jane's pet
- 39. *Camping abode
- 42. Mbabane native
- 45. *Shoot this?
- 49. Teresa of Calcutta, e.g.
- 51. Move sideways
- 54. A variety show
- 56. Bacteriophage, informally
- 57. French novelist ... mile
- 58. Popular Russian name
- 59. Little bit, in Mexico
- 60. Right to a property
- 61. "Born ____," movie
- 62. Pelvic parts
- 63. Home on a limb
- 64. Fitness centers
- 67. *For any terrain

Puzzle solutions, page 12



LEDGER OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday:
8 am - 5 pm
Friday: 8 am - Noon
Closed Sat. & Sun.

P.O. Box 128
Lowell, MI 49331
897-9261

SUDOKU

GOT KNEE PAIN?

Get a Pain-Relieving Knee Brace At Little or No Cost to You You May Qualify for Free Shipping We Do All The Paperwork Shoulder Braces, Ankle Braces, Back Braces Also Available

Medicare Patients Call Us Right Now

1-800-984-0360

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

© StatePoint Media

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.

...
In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on.
- Robert Frost

A-1 MOBILE ROOF-OVER SYSTEM
Michigan's Oldest and Finest Roof Replacement System
FREE ESTIMATES
12x60 \$3280 Installed 14x70 \$3980
Conserves Energy • Made in Michigan
1-800-872-2089
www.mobilehomeroofsmi.com

The Classifieds:
Your Ticket to Local Finds

Call or go online to **browse, buy or sell!**

the lowell **ledger**

105 N. Broadway, Lowell • Ph. 897-9261
classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

Drew Struckmeyer

Position: President and founder of Ninjas On The Move
Education: 2016 summa cum laude graduate of Lowell Senior High School, Associate of Arts Degree from Grand Rapids Community College and will attend Grand Valley State University in the fall to receive a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Social Studies Education
Family: Dad, Phil; mom, Andrea; brother, Nick (16); sister, Emily (13)
Interests: Playing the bass guitar, drums, melodica, and mallet instruments; helping at his church, Impact; and assistant coaching the Lowell Middle School track team high jumpers and hurdlers



by Brianna Massey
 Lowell Ledger intern

Kids dream of being Ninjas: stealthy, agile and strong and thanks to Drew Struckmeyer, that has become a reality for many local youth.

"I saw the show (American Ninja Warrior) four years ago and I started training for it," said Drew Struckmeyer, 19, president and founder of Ninjas On The Move (NOTM). "I started building a backyard course

and it got to the point where it was kind of ridiculous for just my brother Nick and I to use it, so we figured we should add some classes for kids."

Struckmeyer started NOTM the fall of his senior year of high school around two years ago.

"We went from having 13 kids at the first camp to now; we'll reach over 3,000 this summer," said Struckmeyer.

NOTM, a part of Bonnie Lent-Davis' non-profit, Construct Lowell Area Youth (Clay), has an outdoor, indoor and mobile course and is adding another indoor location in August 2017.

"I like to call it gorilla business because it's all over the place and you don't know when it's going to hit you next," said Struckmeyer. "We have an outdoor location in my backyard with a full course

and a training center inside of Vanguard BJJ, (Vanguard Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Center) and we are opening a training center inside of Grand Rapids Gymnastics on August 8th."

At the ninja camps, kids are taught "...how to train for Ninja Warrior and how to do specific obstacles and get the techniques," said Struckmeyer.

The mobile course can be found at school assemblies, church events

and festivals. It made an appearance at The Riverwalk Festival last week and the course will be available in August at the Kent County Youth Fair.

"It's a twofold thing," said Struckmeyer. "The health and wellness side of it encourages fitness and to do the ninja course you have to be agile, fast, well balanced, and strong. It also adds a positive intergenerational thing. Everyone who works at the course is between 15 and 19, so it helps build up high schoolers for job readiness and it also helps younger kids know that there are good role models."

Not only is being a ninja on the move beneficial mentally and physically, but it is also highly affordable.

The classes offered range from \$25 to \$45.

"Our mission is to bring Ninja Warrior to those who otherwise wouldn't have access to it by creating affordable and accessible opportunities to push their limits," said Struckmeyer.

Bill Briggs, obstacle consultant and Ada resident is to thank for creating the course equipment.

"He knows the ins and outs of design and 3-D modeling and he builds the obstacles and makes them a lot safer," said Struckmeyer.

Struckmeyer trains right alongside the little ninjas to prepare for local and national Ninja Warrior competitions.

"I took third at Rockford [MI] Ninja Warrior, the largest course in the world outside of the show [American Ninja Warrior]. I made it to the national finals for the Ultimate Ninja Athlete Association, LLC (UNAA) and I was a course tester for the show last season and this season."

Struckmeyer has future plans to compete on the American Ninja Warrior television show.

"You have to be 21 to be on the show. I can do season 11. It's season nine right now."

Struckmeyer advises young entrepreneurs to take "initiative." "You have to ask to make it happen," said Struckmeyer. "Nothing bad will ever come from asking. Go for it and have the initiative to start it because no one else is going to start it for you. If you see a need, try and meet it."

Have little ninjas who would be interested? Visit ninjasonthemove.com, email drewstruck.ninjasonthemove@gmail.com or visit the Ninjas on The Move Facebook page.



Drew Struckmeyer, president and founder of Ninjas On The Move, surrounded by muscular ninjas in training at an outdoor camp. Photos by Kyle Yates

ARE YOU READY FOR A BETTER DENTAL EXPERIENCE?

Dr. Ann Wilson, Dr. Jennifer Byrd and their dedicated team welcome you into our caring family environment.

7AM AND FRIDAY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

Family Dentistry of Lowell
 147 North Center Street, Lowell
 616-897-4835
 www.familydentistryoflowell.com

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Back-to-School Backpack Program

Open to elementary through high school students living in the Lowell Area School District. Pre-registration is required

Pre-register at Lunch Buddies: Tuesdays 1:00-7:00 pm. June 20-August 1 at FROM

will distribute backpacks and school supplies August 8 & 15 1:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. at FROM

11535 Fulkn St. East (616) 897-8260 www.fromlowell.org

This program is partially underwritten with a grant from the Amosy One-By-One Foundation



Celebrating the heritage of area farms

Local man brings small farm experience to industrial farming

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Not all farming conforms to the popular image of the small, family operation. Most farming is large-scale, industrialized and complicated. Pieter Serne, sales representative and dairy specialist for Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, has worked in agricultural his entire life.

"Farming has been what I have done pretty much my whole life up until I took this job," Serne said. "I work for Boehringer Ingelheim, an animal health company. They sell pharmaceuticals that are meant just for animals. Antibiotics, therapeutics, reproductive hormones, right down the line. Anything that deals with treating an animal or giving that animal something to treat it. I go out and talk to the farmers. It's really a sales role, but I also do customer service, troubleshooting and things like that. I deal with distribution and over the counter sales, but the bulk of what I do is dealing with veterinarians and dairy farmers. I've been doing that for about four years now. Before that I worked on a handful of

He passed away when I was very young. It really came down to my uncle Mike, my uncle Jim and my cousin Mike. They were the ones that really worked at it for their whole life, pretty much. My uncle Jim and my uncle Mike passed away and my cousin was the one who kind of took it over and handled it for as long as he could before he got married, had kids and became pretty busy. How it works is, everybody who is hauling milk has a route that they're given. It's almost like shares. When you get out you sell that to somebody else and then they continue hauling the milk. Now it's called County Line Farms, out of Trufant, Mich. They are the ones that purchased what was my family's old milk route. It's pretty intense and pretty dedicated. They're usually out there around two in the morning getting the truck going and warmed up. You hop in the truck at about three in the morning. We would make our first stop north of town and pick up milk and then you hop from dairy to dairy to dairy until the truck is full. At about 11 o'clock we would head into the milk plant in Grand Rapids.



dairies, managing them and managing their people."

His family has been in the dairy industry for at least three generations, mostly in milk transportation.

"My grandpa milked cows back before I was ever born," Serne said. "Then he sold his cows and started hauling milk and so he picked up for everybody else. That's where I, as a little guy, got my feet wet in the industry. My uncles, Jim, Tom, Bill and Mike Serne and my dad Pat Serne, all hauled milk and my grandpa did.

They would have to pull all the tests for antibiotics and all that stuff, then if they give you your approval you empty the milk. While you're doing that you're washing the truck, then you head back home. You're home by two or three in the afternoon. Check over the truck and go back again, seven days a week. Milk flow does not stop. My dad used to tell me they would actually spend the night in the truck out on the road just so that they could get to the dairy in the morning to pick up their milk."

Serne grew up farming in Lowell and still does a moderate amount of farming today.

"My grandpa's old farm was right on M-21," Serne said. "My mom and dad lived right across from Impact Church and that's where I grew up. I graduated from Lowell High School in 2003. I was involved in FFA, football, wrestling and all that good stuff. Then I went on to Michigan State University and graduated with a degree in dairy management. Now I live out on Five Mile, so I'm still pretty close. We have a little 20 acre hobby farm. That is always what I wanted to have. We're looking at growing ourselves and trying to do more things and trying to become more diversified. We have some meat sheep, some beef cattle and some horses, but we would like to grow that even more and look into supplying some restaurants. Right now with the amount of people demanding local food, it has been big. It's one of those things that, I don't want to see it go the way of 'organic and natural' where it becomes almost a cliché. There is a lot of that stuff."

He gained some experience with animal pharmaceuticals and reproductive management when he spent some time on the other side of the planet.

"I worked in Tasmania, Australia, for two years doing reproductive management of cows. There are a lot of cows there, I never would have guessed that. I did synchronization programs, genetics, a lot of artificial insemination of cows, planning for the next year what the farmer wants, what's worked, what hasn't and a little bit of vet work. For example, I set up hormone programs for synchronizing, so all the cows ovulate at the same time. That way when you breed them they all get pregnant at the same time and they all have babies at the same time. A lot of people hear the word 'hormones' and they think about the growth hormones that they've heard about. There are so many types of hormones. They're all naturally occurring

hormones and they're all at different levels in different animals. It's not like you're going too far off the charts. You're boosting it a little bit, but at the same time, the half-life on all that stuff is pretty quick. It's like tipping over dominoes, all you're doing is pushing that first domino and the rest is the domino effect, it's what naturally happens."

He is also a member of the Young Dairy Leaders Institute, a leadership and communication skills development program created by the Holstein Foundation.



"The Young Dairy Leaders Institute is a three year program focused on bringing dairy leaders from the United States, Mexico and Canada together," Serne said. "I had to apply for it and be accepted. You go through everything from personality training to speaking. It's a leadership course built around dairy. We meet in Phoenix, Arizona, in February."

Serne said that organizations like PETA disseminate a lot of spurious information in order to further their agenda, including incorrect information about animal pharmaceuticals.

"Antibiotics are a big issue, there are a lot of misconceptions about antibiotics getting into the food chain somehow, some way," Serne said. "We want to provide a clean product at the end of the day that is safe for everybody. There are some initiatives like 'antibiotic-free' and things

like that. Some people have allergies, so if penicillin or something like that got into the food chain it could possibly pose a danger. For example, all chicken is antibiotic-free when it comes to your plate. Now, the bird may have had antibiotics in the past for treatment or something. What would you do if your child was sick? Would you give them antibiotics? Sure, you would. That's the same thing we do with animals. When we put this 'antibiotic-free' thing in place is it meeting our husbandry standards

That milk goes into a large bulk tank where it's cooled to about 38 degrees. It sits in that bulk tank from 24 to 48 hours depending on the size of the farm and the size of the tank. The milk truck comes, picks it up and brings it to the dairy. At the dairy it gets bottled or processed into whatever the end product is going to be."

Michigan is one of the biggest agricultural states in the US and we're growing all the time.

"The Michigan dairy industry has had a huge amount of growth in the

for those animals? When they're sick we have to do something and we want to do what we know works. We could go off the chart and try some different therapeutic things, but it may or may not be the best thing for the animal."

Serne described the process through which milk goes from the cow's udder to the grocer's shelf.

"Milk does not come in a jug and sit on a shelf, it's not made in a machine," Serne said. "It starts at the farm level. You have a calf, a baby cow. That animal is raised for about two years before it has a calf. When they have a baby, they begin to produce milk. The first four to six milkings are saved to feed that baby because it contains things necessary for the calf's immune system. Then as that clears out of the system and you have just regular milk, that goes into the milk stream. Cows are milked two or three times a day.

past four years," Serne said. "We have the perfect mix of good soil and lots of water. There are about 1,800 dairy farms in the state of Michigan and they produce a ton of milk. We produce more milk in Michigan than we can consume or even process. We have milk leaving the state of Michigan every single day, to go to the southeast states like Kentucky, Tennessee and Florida. It can go as far as they can get it. Michigan is the second most agriculturally diverse state in the US, after California, because of the Great Lakes."

Farming is an incredibly complex endeavor and farmers are becoming very rare.

"Two percent of the people feed the rest," Serne said. "Only two percent of the population are farmers. That window will continue to shrink."