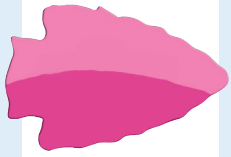


stories of perseverance



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pet rocks



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next week's concert



page 2

city council meeting



page 3

Thousands enjoyed sunshine, music, food and more at Riverwalk Festival



"It's going well, really good," said volunteer Teresa Hoffman. "We have last year's shirts for \$2, we've been selling lots of those and lots of duck tickets."

"The Riverwalk Festival is great, it's where everybody should be this weekend," said volunteer Jeanne Noorman. "We're giving away five \$100 prizes and one \$1,000 grand prize [on] Saturday at 4 pm. You have to have a raffle ticket to win, but they're only two bucks each. They're going like hotcakes."

There were vendors lining the Riverwalk selling

hundreds of different products like crafts, food and art. There were even a couple local authors selling their books.

"The book is about a shy kid from Whitehall, Michigan, who gets kidnapped by a circus and through a series of adventures, he finds his courage," said 'Traveling Circus' author and illustrator Ingar Rudholm. "So far I've gotten positive reviews. The Detroit Free Press called it a fast-paced, well-designed story about believing in yourself. Channel 13

Festival, continued, page 16

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Thousands of people attended the 2018 Riverwalk Festival last week, enjoying sunshine, music, food, an appearance from Batman, a parade and much more.

"Perfect weather, big crowds, it couldn't be any better," said volunteer Greg Canfield, who was assisting people on and off the free pontoon rides. "Liz Baker from the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce does a great job promoting the city and it's nice to see the crowds come out to see what Lowell is all about."

The pontoon rides were very popular and quite educational.

"They're looking at all the places up the river where the things used to be a long time ago, like the logging business, the sawmill and those kinds of things," said Lowell Area Historical

Museum volunteer Carolyn Jane Blough. "Luanne Kaeb researched it and found out what used to be there. We've done it for a number of years now."

"You need to go for a pontoon ride, it's a great evening on the river," Canfield said. "You can cool off and get a historic tour of the riverside. They have someone from the museum that's giving descriptions of what used to happen in different areas. It's about a 20-25 minute ride, round trip. You go about a mile up the river then come back down."

Lisa Sostecke said it was her fourth year running a food booth at the festival.

"I think it's very good this year," Sostecke said. "It's been a beautiful day with a huge crowd and great music. Main Street BBQ stepped up and did the cooking, so the

pig roast [has] been much easier this year. It was good before, but this is easier for us."

The used book sale was swarmed with people buying stacks of inexpensive reading material. Hardcover were \$1 and paperbacks were \$.50.

"It's picking up as people walk in," said Joy Smith from the Friends of the Englehardt Library. "They love the idea and at these prices, they can't resist. I think it's wonderful that people love books that much. A lot of people from out of town have stopped by, people who don't know very much about our library, so I have to tell them about our big sale. Also, we always have a sale on Thursday nights during the Sizzlin' Summer Concerts."

There were brisk sales of raffle tickets, tote bags and t-shirts at the Chamber of Commerce booth.



Roger MacNaughton of Alive and Well

Missionaries from Impact Church stuck in Haiti during riots

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Twenty missionaries from Impact Church were stuck in Haiti last week when protests erupted on the island.

They were there installing water filters and were about to head back to Lowell when Haitian president Jovenel Moise announced he was planning a drastic increase in fuel prices. The protests began on Friday, July 6 and escalated to fires, looting and blocked roads.

"We were on the Île de la Gonâve installing water filters," said Shay Bogear, a

pastor at Impact Church who was on the fateful trip. "We got to go into Haitian homes and put in these sand and rock water filtration systems so they can have clean water. We had four days there; we went to one village for the first two days and another village for the second two days. We were about 40 minutes from Port-au-Prince and about an hour and 20 minutes from the airport. We just had headed back to the mainland for a one night

Haiti, continued, page 3



50¢



Rowdy roadhouse country of Bootstrap Boys on Riverwalk next week

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Next week's Sizzlin' Summer Concert will bring the classic country sound of the Bootstrap Boys to the Lowell Showboat stage.

"This is our first time performing in Lowell, but I've been through Lowell," said lead singer and songwriter Big Jake Bootstrap. "I like fishing on the Flat River. When we were up there we caught a mess of bluegill and we ate them right away. It's a recently discovered fishing spot for me, that was my first time there but it was a good experience and I can see myself going back."

Bootstrap is a country music songwriter with a literary bent. He said he gets inspiration for his songs from gospel, poetry, the great country musicians of the past and his experiences in various living situations.

"I am drawing my influence from cutting my teeth on Johnny Cash, Johnny Horton, Lefty Frizzell, Hank Williams Sr. and trying to put my own twist on what country music means to me," Bootstrap said. "Country music is how I grew up and how I formed a lot of my early ideas about how I interact with and relate to the world. Growing up in a rural community and then living in a city later on in life can give you some perspective on that, I think. I've been a singer songwriter since I was a kid and I've been in multiple bands throughout the years. I wrote my first chapbook of poetry when I was about eight or nine years old. It was very gospel oriented. I had a heart for the sinners of the world because I grew up in a tight knit but very evangelical rural church. Those were my ideas at the time. What I found was that I enjoyed

expressing myself through the written word and I never quit. If you're a writer, I don't think you can quit. You can stop for a while or put it on pause, but it comes back around, you pick it up again. I am a writer, I would say and my medium is song."

The Bootstrap Boys don't sound much like the bland, inauthentic, modern type of "country music" they play on a popular local radio station.

"It's difficult, but I can't discredit everything that's come out of that movement," Bootstrap said. "Who am I to do that? When I do listen to what I would consider to be modern, popular country, I listen for the nuggets that I can take from it and for the bits and pieces that remind me of what country can be versus what it currently is. Just like many things, it's a trend, it'll pass. There is a lot of great modern country still, they just don't play it on that particular station [B-93]. Margo Price is making great modern country music, John Prine just put out a new album."

Instead, they play a rowdy, "roadhouse" style of country music that can work their audiences into a lather.

"We'll throw in a couple ballads, but we mostly do kind of raucous stuff," Bootstrap said. "It depends on the crowd, you try to play to the audience. We have a



The Bootstrap Boys will play in front of the Lowell Showboat on Thursday, July 26 at 7 pm.

giant catalog of songs that we can play. We'll play it by ear and do a bunch of our original songs and we'll do a bunch of traditional, old songs and some classic country covers. We do traditional songs that we don't know who wrote, Woody Guthrie songs, a few Johnny Cash songs, a Hank Williams tune, maybe some Kris Kristofferson songs. We'll usually nail down about 15 to 20 songs per hour depending on what kind of crowd it is. If it's a rowdier crowd, we'll nail down 20 songs in an hour. If it's a more mellow crowd where we're taking our time, more like 15 or 16. Sometimes when the bluegrass groove takes hold, sometimes we get caught in a boogie woogie."

The group has recorded

two albums so far and are working on a third. The first two are available for purchase at cdbaby.com, bootstrapboys.com or in person at one of their shows.

"We're hoping to have a vinyl record out by the end of this year," Bootstrap said. "We have recorded some demo tracks that we're probably going to re-do. We have four tracks recorded for it so far and a few new ones to put down still. The recordings were done at Cold War Studios in Grand Rapids with Rick Johnson."

For more information about the concert series, visit lowellartsmi.org/2018-sizzlin-summer-concerts. To learn more about the Bootstrap Boys, visit bootstrapboys.com

Lend A Hand

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Literacy Center of West Michigan is offering an informational meeting on Fri., July 20 at 2 pm and Wed., July 25 at 10 am for prospective volunteer tutors. These meetings last one hour. They provide potential volunteers the opportunity to find out more about the Literacy Center and the role of a volunteer tutor. No experience necessary. The Center provides volunteers with all the training they need to be successful tutors for adult learners.

The information sessions will be held at the Literacy Center of West Michigan, located at 1120 Monroe Ave., NW, Suite 240, Grand Rapids, MI. Please call 459-5151 (ext. 10) or email info@literacycenterwm.org to register.

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Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

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POSTMASTER: Send address change to:

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~ Andy Warhol (1928-1987)

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City council designates Lowell as a Brownfield Redevelopment Zone

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, July 16. The meeting lasted about 54 minutes and was attended by 11 citizens.

During public comment, Pink Arrow pride volunteer Perry Beachum offered an update about that organization's activities.

"[Pink Arrow] Community Day this year will be on Aug. 16," Beachum said. "That will be the first time you can get your shirts. Get them soon because the game is going to be this year on the 30th, on the Thursday before Labor Day, as before it's usually been the Friday after."

The council voted to designate the city of Lowell a Brownfield Redevelopment Zone and to establish a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. According to the resolution passed unanimously by the council, brownfield zones "promote revitalization of environmentally distressed, functionally obsolete and

blighted properties in the city."

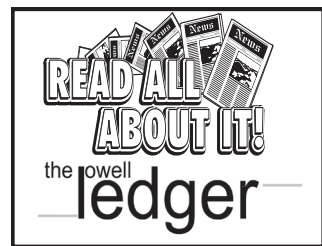
"We would establish the entire city as the redevelopment zone," said city manager Michael Burns. "This would give us flexibility to offer tools for any possible development within the city limits. The public hearing would [also] be set for Monday, August 20, 2018 at 7 pm in city council chambers."

City manager Burns gave a PowerPoint presentation about the city's MERS [Municipal Employee Retirement System] accounts.

"In 2008, MERS changed from a rolling 30 year payment schedule to a realistic 30 year amortization schedule," Burns said. "The baseline is [that] in 2038 the pension needs to be funded at 100 percent. If the economy has another recession, it will put additional stress on the city to increase the contribution to meet the funding needs of the retirement system. Also, we also have what just came into

effect last year, [which] was Public Act 202 of 2017. [...] One of the things we want to make sure we do is we want to make sure that employees who work hard for the city are rewarded with a pension that is fully funded. We also want to make sure we plan accordingly so we don't need to make eliminating existing services [happen] to pay for this liability from the past."

Lowell city council's next regular meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, August 6. Additionally, they will meet with the public at a "Coffee with the Council" event at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce building on the Riverwalk from 8 until 10 am on Saturday, August 4.



Haiti, continued

stay at Wahoo Bay Beach Club and Resort in Carriès. We were supposed to leave on Sunday, but Tuesday is when we actually left. It was just the two days that were unplanned there. The only thing we only heard was just news relayed from other people. We physically could not hear anything happening where we were because we were far enough away. We just knew from reports that our road was blocked to get to the airport."

The missionaries were lucky to be at a resort when the riots hit, so they were able to make the most of their unplanned vacation.

"We just spent time as a team hanging out together and spent some extra time getting to know each other better," Bogear said. "The resort hotel was right on the water so we were able to swim, then in the evenings we would have dinner together and we would actually spend a lot of time talking about our trip and what we had been doing all week and how the students were processing all the good that we got to do, but also this weird tension of

not being able to go home. Some students actually missed a couple things that they were very sad about. We spent time helping them understand that this type of thing happens, especially in Third World countries where they don't have the same level of infrastructure that we have at home. We helped them work through some of those emotions. It was just a really good time for our team to get to do things together, just to be with each other for a couple days after serving for the most part non-stop during the week before."

They finally arrived home around 4 am on Wednesday, July 11.

"The trip was good," Bogear said. "The blockades had all been taken down. There was still some leftover debris and whatnot on the road that we had to drive around, it caused congestion. There was so much congestion because people hadn't been able to get through for a few days. People were going home or going to the market to get food, restocking their fuel and things like that. We got to another missionary

organization's base there. They were actually the ones who provided the transportation for us. They picked us up in the morning, got us to their place, got us some water and food and then we jumped on a bus and they took us to the airport. The airport was pretty busy as people were trying to rebook flights and get out since everything had cleared. The trip home was fine. There was a slight weather delay in Miami, but the drive from Chicago to Lowell was pretty short and sweet in the middle of the night."

Bogear said that he and the other missionaries plan to make more similar trips to Haiti, despite the unrest there.

"I'm definitely not scared off," Bogear said. "As long as they get back to a more stable place, we would love to go back. We absolutely loved our time there. Our goal is to actually go every other year."

For more information about Impact Church, visit their website, impact.church, call 616-897-8304 or find them on Facebook.



Lowell city manager Michael Burns gave a presentation about the city's pension accounts.



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Kids can create their own Pet Rock at Alto Library

by Tim McAllister
 lead reporter

Pet Rocks are back and they're coming to the Alto Library on Thursday, July 19.

"We have a bag of rocks that we got from the craft store and kids will be painting them with acrylic paints," said branch manager Sandy Graham. "They will be doing rocks and also decorating boxes for their houses."

Pet Rocks were a huge fad in the 70s. They were invented by advertising executive Gary Dahl in 1975 in Los Gatos, CA. The original Pet Rocks were smooth stones harvested on Rosarito Beach in Mexico. They were sold in custom-made cardboard boxes with straw and breathing holes and they came with a sarcastic 32 page booklet called "The Care and Training of Your Pet Rock." Dahl sold 1.5 million Pet Rocks for \$4 each and became a millionaire within six months. He died in 2015.

"It was a big craze at one time and I can remember thinking that somebody was a marketing genius to make money off of it," Graham said. "I was a little bit too old for that when they came out, but I thought it was a cute idea. Some of my younger cousins had them. In our case, they're making their own, they're not buying it. That, to me, makes perfect sense. Buying a Pet Rock does not make sense. Making one is genius."

The free program is at Alto Library, 6071 Linfield, on Thursday, July 19 at 1:30 pm. To learn more about programs and other services available at the Alto Library, call 616-784-2007 or visit kdl.org



NEWSPAPERS Outperform Cable Television in Michigan

More adults in Michigan read a newspaper than watch news networks* on cable television.¹

Buyer's Guide and News

Nearly 7 in 10
 Less than 4 in 10

Newspapers are the preferred source of shopping information over television.³

47% of adults in Michigan choose newspapers for shopping information.

Michigan adults make more purchases as the result of newspaper ads than television ads.³

65% of U.S. adults say television ads are intrusive, and 42% feel unfavorably about them³

43.3% Only 43.3% of U.S. adults purchased or sought out information about a product as the result of a television ad⁶

Cord Cutting is Increasing.

- 25% of all U.S. households have eliminated cable or satellite television services.⁷
- 61% of new cord cutters will be married.⁷
- 56% of new cord cutters still have children under 18 in their home.⁷
- 54% of new cord cutters will have household income over \$75,000.⁷

Top 5 Frustrations Driving Cord Cutting⁸

1. Not getting competitive, reasonable rates/pricing
2. Having to pay for channels/content not watched
3. Being nickel and dimed with multiple fees and charges
4. Can no longer afford paid television/it was too expensive
5. New customers get better deals than existing ones

¹2017 Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved; ²Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; ³Morning Consult; 4GfK Ownership and Trend Report from The Home Technology Monitor™; ⁶Forrester Research; ⁷cg42 Cord Cutter & Cord Never Study; ⁸NAA

...
To believe that getting stuff is the purpose and aim of life is madness.
 ~ Hubert Selby Jr. (1928-2004)

TOWNSHIP OF GRATAN PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Public Accuracy Test for the August 7, 2018, Primary Election has been scheduled for July 30, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in the Township Hall at 12050 Old Belding Rd., Belding, MI

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate the computer program used to record and count the votes cast at the election meet the requirements of law.

Michelle Alberts
 Grattan Township Clerk

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viewpoint

to the editor

Make your voice heard

Dear Editor,
Does anyone remember from your government/civics class, what our forefathers envisioned as far as what our country's leadership should look like? I do, and what they wanted was a balanced center, a fair mix of conservative and liberal ideas.

What happened to that idea? I know that most of my friends fall into that balanced mix. I also know that we have civil discussions about current events and politics and I've even changed my opinion

on a few occasions because of this.

I believe a biased media (yes, FOX included!) along with alt right and left groups have brought us to a point where we, the balanced center, have our voices drowned out. One such alt-left group, Indivisible, makes their sole premise of being simply to resist the president's agenda. Anyone can Google his agenda and find many good things there, healthcare reform, welfare reform, tax reform and infrastructure. But when you have a group whose

only purpose is to resist no matter what, where is there any opportunity for civil discussion? Other groups such as Antifa and Black Lives Matter, are more of what I consider hate groups, but again with no chance of civil discussion.

This does not leave the alt-right unscathed. There has been recent attention to neo-conservative groups, including Richard Spencer with his rally at MSU. There have been groups vehemently opposed to anything our past president tried to accomplish, with again no opportunity for discussion.

And still, the balanced center, you and I, are left out. If my friends and I can talk respectfully to each other and more importantly listen to each other, why can't our

leaders do this? I don't have much problem with our local representatives and state senators. Further up the chain, however, seems to be where the leadership loses touch with you and I. A friend of mine shared with me an editorial, which absolutely nails, I'm sure, how most of us "centered" people feel. It's much too long to share here, but easily found on the web. Orlando Sentinel columnist, Charley Reese's final column. Please take a moment to find and read this. Then take action! Letters, faxes, emails and calls to your representatives. Make sure your voice is heard!

*Nancy Stroosnyder
Lowell Township*

of a sound system for the council chambers. This newspaper heartily concurs. No doubt those residents interested enough to turn out for the meeting agree as well. We might have said "turn out to hear the council".. but this would certainly be an inaccurate summation. There were 18 people at Monday night's meeting. Only those with extremely sensitive ears would have been able to hear what the council, the city manager and the city clerk were saying. That the press could not hear is of little consequence. What matters is that the citizens... taxpayers, if you will . . . do not have a fair opportunity to listen to matters that pertain to the present and future government of their own city. It is a matter that should be given serious attention.

Lowell Sidewalk Days, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, July 19 and 20, represents paradise to the average bargain hunter. Main Street will be a veritable forest of good buys and that doesn't even take into consideration the fun of hunting for them. This bonanza of bargains, sponsored each year by the Lowell Chamber of Commerce will provide the thrifty a chance to take advantage of the one-of-a-kind, discounted and special buys which will be featured by the merchants on Lowell's Main Street. Remember—Sidewalk Days -Friday and Saturday. Early shoppers will find the best bargains, save the most money.



125 years ago Lowell Journal July 18, 1893

Martin Schneider came near losing a load of hay, last Thursday, from fire. When in front of Train's Hotel smoke was discovered issuing from the load. Investigation showed that the load had sprung the rack so that the iron guards rested on the wheel causing so much friction that the hay became fired. The small hose cart was run out, water turned on and the fire drowned out.

We wish to make a correction regarding Maud Worden. We stated last week, she was sent to the reform school for girls, at Adrian, on complaint of her father, for vagrancy. The charge was truancy, her father could not control her so he caused her to be taken care of. The sentence was five years unless sooner discharged and so soon as a suitable home can be obtained for her, she will be discharged.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 18, 1918

Pete Speerstra, who has three sons in service, two of them in France, is doing his bit right at home, selling thrift stamps, an all-around booster. Pete also has a large chicken ranch. Attaboy Pete.

Clare Carr, Pete Lampert and Herm Wykom are contemplating entering into the manufacture of a new potato bug exterminator which they have lately perfected.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Nellist have just received a letter from their son Russell, now at front in France. He is recovering from an attack of trench fever and writes that boys in his unit are coming fine.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 22, 1943

The village of Lowell, which has been operating on Eastern War Time for the past three months, will abandon the same at midnight, on Sunday, August 29, 1943, by setting the clocks back to Central War Time. The motion to return to Central War Time was made by L. W. Rutherford at Monday night's meeting of the common council. The motion was supported by W. A. Roth, and all members of the council voted in the affirmative. Eastern War Time has proven very unpopular among farmers, and has also been much disliked by Lowell business men. Recently the Kent County board of supervisors adopted a resolution requesting the Lowell common council to get in line with the rest of Kent county and western Michigan. Various organizations also opposed E. W. T. and as late as Monday of this week a petition carrying 122 names asking for a return to C. W. T. was presented to the common council.

Jennie Harris Oliver, Oklahoma's poet laureate, who died last October, had a story entitled "The Long Bow," published in the June issue of "Woman's Day." Mrs. Oliver, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Harris formerly of Lowell, was a most versatile writer. In addition to her poems, published in book form, she has written many short stories, and several books.

Clifford Geiger, who lived in the Owen Ellis barber shop, has rented the small building (former Coffee Shop) near postoffice, and will operate a shoe repair shop in the near future.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger July 18, 1968

Several times during Monday night's session of the City Council, Mayor Arnold Wittenbach mentioned that perhaps the city fathers should consider installation

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 14, 1993

Its owner has built Cumberland Marketplace based upon what its customers have told him to buy. "Every time a customer spends money here they are voting "yes" that the produce we carry is better than someplace else," said Cumberland Marketplace owner, Jeff Roys. Roys describes Cumberland Marketplace, 11250 E. Fulton (M-21), as a specialty produce shop bent on providing the best service. "I built this place based upon what the people said they wanted," Roys said. Beyond produce, the year-round marketplace also provides its customers with a full line of dairy items, a full service garden center, and Roys said it is working toward a full service floral shop and bakery. Roys's market is patterned after Westborn Market in Detroit. "Eventually we will sell fresh everything," he says. The Ada resident wasn't even fresh out of middle school when he began working for a local grocery store at the age of 13. He stayed there working for 10 years, before starting his own financial securities, investments and insurance business in 1984-85. "I knew after 2-1/2 years that it wasn't what I wanted to do," Roys remarks. After a stay at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel as a beverage buyer, Roys went back to what he loved, he landed a job at Kingma Produce. After five years, Roys outgrew his position, and decided at that time he needed to move on. Next stop - Lowell. Cumberland Marketplace, open Monday through Saturday 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. until 7 p.m., first opened on April 30. "I decided right then that we are going to be here 20 years," Roys smiles. I look forward to coming to work every morning. Sure there are frustrations of opening a business, but I love working each day." The Ada resident remembers as a youth going into a Ma and Pa Spartan grocery store. "It was a big deal to me that someday I get to press the stamper on the cans." he muses. The owner of that Ma and Pa grocery store was Ray Dumas, who advised Roys not to open his own business because he'd have to work too hard. "I told him I already do." Roys laughs. The owner says Cumberland Marketplace will be open year-round. "I want this place to be 3-4 times larger a year from now," he explained. "In this business you can never be content. I'm going to stumble forward. Someone once said if you stumble forward 30 straight times in a football game, you'll score a touchdown." Roys, hasn't scored a touchdown yet, but since April he's been marching forward.

college news

Lauren J Pelkey, of Ada has been named to the 2018 spring semester dean's list at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

More than 3,000 Grand Valley State University students participated in commencement ceremonies on April 27 and April 28 at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

Local students who graduated at the conclusion of the winter 2018 semester in April include, of Ada: Matthew Criado-Cano, Bachelor of Arts; Rosemary Cusack, Bachelor of Music Education; Carly Eck, Bachelor of Arts; Ryan Ellis, Bachelor of Science; Travis Faulkner, Bachelor of Science; Kendall Frimodig, Master of Public Health; Katelyn Galan, Bachelor of Science; Ana Gomez, Bachelor of Science; Aaron Hall, Bachelor of Business Administration; Tashkent

Kaur, Bachelor of Science; Meredith Lane, Bachelor of Science; Chiara Licari, Bachelor of Arts; Alexander Mervenne, Bachelor of Science; Victoria Christine Minzloff, Bachelor of Business Administration; Angela Pierce, Master of Business Administration; Brooke Rosier, Bachelor of Science; Kira Rosol, Bachelor of Arts; Callan Schoonveld, Bachelor of Science in Nursing; Lindsay Seekell, Bachelor of Arts; Caleb Smith, Bachelor of Science; Emily Thomet, Bachelor of Science; Rachel Trisch, Bachelor of Arts; Teri Van Tongeren, Master of Business Administration; Trent VanWagoner, Bachelor of Science; Laura Vogelsang, Master of Social Work; Luke Vroegindewey, Bachelor of Science; Joshua Witherell, Bachelor of Science; and Christopher Yasenchak, Bachelor of Science; of Alto: Travis Brubaker, Bachelor of Arts; Jaime Canada, Bachelor of Science; Maureen Kaczanowski, Master of Education; Carissa Paiz, Master of Public Health;

Angelo Saxon, Bachelor of Science; Courtney Stauffer, Master of Social Work; and Alex Ziuraitis, Bachelor of Business Administration; of Lowell: Daniel Barrett, Bachelor of Arts; Kyle Bowers, Bachelor of Science; Blythe Carvajal, Bachelor of Business Administration; Robert Coffey, Bachelor of Science; Scott Devroy, Bachelor of Business Administration; Allysen Dubisky, Bachelor of Science; Jack Dues, Bachelor of Science; Daniel Dyer, Bachelor of Science; Rajmonda Gieske, Master of Science; John Heffron, Bachelor of Business Administration; Madison Holmes, Bachelor of Business Administration; Jessie Jones, Bachelor of Science; Jacob North, Bachelor of Business Administration; Chase Peterson, Bachelor of Business Administration; Sarah Philo, Master of Social Work; Meghan Plutschouw, Bachelor of Science; Erica Raymond, Bachelor of Arts; Sarah Robertson, Bachelor of Science; Tyler Roth, Bachelor of Business Administration; Aubreigh Steed, Bachelor of Science; Stephanie Stevens, Bachelor of Science; Kelsey Wittenbach, Bachelor of Science; Fengting Xue, Bachelor of Business Administration; and Tara Zamarron, Bachelor of Science.

and Spanish. Smit is the child of Lyle and Fionna Frederickson of Alto and is a graduate of Lowell High School.

Teresa Crawford of Ada has received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Western Governors University. The online, nonprofit university held its 64th (Orlando, Florida); 65th (Seattle, Washington); and 66th (Las Vegas, Nevada) commencement ceremonies earlier this year to celebrate the recent graduation of more than 15,000 students from across the country.

Central Michigan University has announced the spring 2018 honors list. Local students are, of Ada, Wade George Ansara, Natalie Marie Carrington, John Clancy, Bridget E Lally, Cassandra Jo Marshall, Maggie Christine Obermeyer, Jessica D Rowland, Amir Tazi, and Eric Michael Terwilliger; of Alto, Maria Patrice Chase, Riley Grace DeWitt, Rachael Erin Gorton, Garrett Andrew Nurenberg, and Karli Ann Wormmeester; of Lowell, Isabelle Candice Fleszar, Kamryn Renee Gaines, Haley Godbold, Corah Kaufman, Kyle James Mankel, Alyssa Nicole McIntire, Chase Edward Miller, Riley Elijah Nethercott, and Tessa Pattison.

Central Michigan University has announced their spring 2018 graduation list. Local students with their degree are, of Ada, Wade Ansara, BSBA; Jessica Belsito, BS; Natalie Carrington, BSBA; Gabrielle Collins, BS; Jenna Neuman, BSED; Jacob Voss, BAA; and David Weston, MA; of Alto, Isabel Hinton, BS, and Nicholas McCallum, BSBA; of Lowell, Delainey Ferguson, BSBA.

Makenzie Smit was named to the Albion College dean's list for the spring 2018 semester.

The dean's list is reserved for students who earn a grade point average above 3.5 with a full course load.

Smit graduated this semester, receiving a degree in accounting-CPA emphasis

health

With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Wayne A. Chritenson III, John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie

- vitamin D and your infant child

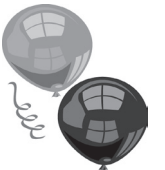
Vitamin D plays an important role in many functions throughout the body, including the development of bones. Infants need an adequate supply of vitamin D on a daily basis, to grow properly and maintain strong bones. It is recommended that infants receive 400 international units (I.U.) per day of vitamin D. Vitamin D is not only obtained through diet, but is also made in the skin when exposed to sunlight. Having adequate exposure to sunlight would, in theory, provide infants with enough vitamin D. However, the risks of sun exposure, including sunburn and skin cancer, outweigh

the benefits. Therefore, adequate dietary intake of vitamin D is important, especially for infants.

Most processed (store bought) breads, cereals, cow's milk and formulas are fortified with vitamin D. Infants who are raised on formula and infant cereals and then transition to whole cow's milk, should receive plenty of vitamin D.

Breast milk, despite all of its beneficial advantages over formula, does not contain adequate vitamin D. Therefore, breastfed infants should receive supplemental vitamin D. One readily available over-the-counter preparation is Poly-Vi-Sol oral infant drops.

happy birthday



JULY 18

Dianne Scanlon, Bette Phillips Haybarker, Emily Borton.

JULY 19

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

JULY 20

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

JULY 21

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

JULY 22

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

JULY 23

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

JULY 24

Nathan Bush, Mike Lally.



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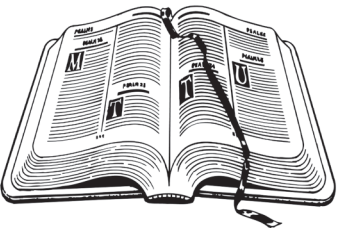
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A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To all that came to my 90th birthday - Wow! I received so many special wishes, gifts and Mac Cards and visited with friends I hadn't seen for years! What a wonderful birthday with families and great friends young and old. You're so special one and all!

Sincerely,
Velma Perry

My beautiful family: Ann, Ron, Bert, Karen and their families - love to each one of you! - Mom

perseverance



A community fighting cancer

Throughout July the Lowell Ledger and the Buyer's Guide & News will once again highlight the stories of area cancer survivors and those who are dealing with grief. Each writer will convey, in their own words, their experiences as they walk through the many phases of their personal journey.

~ All photos courtesy of Heather Eveland Photography

Sandy Stauffer

My first cancer journey began in October of 2007 when my husband, Dave, was diagnosed with lung cancer. He died only three weeks after being diagnosed. Dave was a wonderful husband and father. Myself and my children were devastated. Little did I ever imagine that I would have to face cancer myself, 10 years later.

My journey began in December of 2017. I was sitting at Spectrum Blodgett waiting for a friend to come back up to her room after undergoing knee replacement surgery. I developed chest pain and called my friend, Maureen Pawloski, at work. She is a cardiology nurse practitioner at Mercy Health. She told me that it did not sound cardiac in nature, but since I was already at the hospital [that] I should go down to the emergency room. My daughters met me there.

A cardiac diagnosis was quickly ruled out. They told me it was musculoskeletal in nature and that I could be discharged to home. We were waiting for the discharge papers when Maureen walked in. She suggested that they do a CT scan just to be sure it was not an aneurysm since my dad and uncle both had aneurysms. They did the CT



Photo provided by Sandy Stauffer

was told that my odds of lung cancer were very low since I have never smoked. I was seen in January at the pulmonary nodule clinic at Spectrum. I had an upper respiratory infection and was placed on an antibiotic. I then underwent a PET scan a few

surgical biopsy, the doctor called telling me that it was cancer but that it was very curable. I would need to have a lobe of my lung removed, but no chemo or radiation.

On March 1, I was seen by Dr. Shabahang from Mercy Health. He had seen my husband for a bronchoscopy 10 years before. He told me that I would need the left lower lobe of my lung removed, but no chemo or radiation as it was a very slow growing cancer based on the pathology of the biopsy. I had surgery on March 12. Three days later, Dr. Shabahang came in the room and told us that the biopsy had misdiagnosed the type of cancer. The biopsy done at the time of surgery determined that it was a very aggressive cancer. I would need chemo and radiation at the same time. He told me it would be hard, but

it would be life-saving.

I have now completed radiation and my last chemotherapy will be July 5. I have been very sick and hospitalized twice. I have needed IV support with taking in enough fluids. It has been harder than I ever thought it would be but I am doing it. I am doing it for my kids. They lost their dad and I do not want them to lose their mom. I am doing it for my grandkids. I want to see them grow up, graduate and get married.

It has been a tough fight but my children and their spouses and two of my best friends, Maureen Pawloski and Dru Rooker, have been with me every step of the way. I have the thoughts, prayers and support from my family and friends. I am blessed that the mass was found incidentally. For all of this I am blessed.

It has been a tough fight but my children and their spouses and two of my best friends, Maureen Pawloski and Dru Rooker, have been with me every step of the way.

~ Sandy Stauffer

and they did not find an aneurysm, but a mass was detected in my left lung. The pain was musculoskeletal, but luckily the mass was found incidentally.

This led to a referral to the Spectrum pulmonary nodule clinic. I

weeks later. The mass was still there. I was then scheduled for a biopsy. The biopsy was done. I returned to the clinic and was told that they were not able to obtain an adequate sample and I was scheduled for a surgical biopsy. Three days after the

**LOWELL COMMUNITY WELLNESS
PINK ARROW HEALTH FAIR
RIVERWALK LOCATION**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2018

08.16.18

perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Karin Jelsma

Challenging circumstances come and go, but I am continually reminded that my Lord, family, Ada Bible Church small group, friends and Pink Arrow community are cheering me on.

As a mother of two grown children and a first-time grandma-to-be in six months, my cup was overflowing with joy getting ready for grandbaby no. 1. It was early May 2017 when I was having some unusual pain. I went to my doctor and some tests and ultrasounds were set up for June and July. Both appointments led to more visits to other doctors and more failed tests.

In August, I missed my first Pink Arrow football game, ever, as I was waiting for biopsy results and I was not wanting any reminders that cancer was knocking on my back door. I did go and pick up a Pink Arrow shirt but didn't want to go to the game. I just needed some "me time" with God, because I knew he already was carrying me through His "game plan."

A week later, I was starting to work on Christmas through Lowell projects when I received that dreaded phone call with my cancer diagnosis. My doctor said I had endometrioid adenocarcinoma, which in short is endometrial cancer. It was one of the most shocking phone calls I have ever had. She asked me to write down my oncologist's lead doctor and phone numbers and I could hardly write. Very seldom am I lost



he knew by my face the news wasn't good. He called in family and our church small group that evening and we shared the news.

After meeting with my oncologist team at Lemmen Holton, my surgery was set up for the first of November. It was a real emotional day finding out the day of my surgery because November first was my daughter's due date with my first grandbaby. I

After surgery my oncologist said the cancer had not reached lymph nodes and was contained within the uterine walls. My surgery was a robotic surgery and I was placed on many restrictions for almost three months. One restriction was no lifting over eight pounds.

Well I knew God was in control and he really showed me several times on my journey. Exactly two weeks after my surgery my little grandson was born. Our little Caiden weighed in at 6 lbs., 6 oz. so even grandma got to hold her little bundle of joy.

A few weeks later was Christmas through Lowell and my team did an amazing job. I really felt like my Christmas through Lowell team, family, Ada Bible Church family, friends and neighbors were some of God's angels with helping hands and praying me through. I have been so blessed with each of them.

Early in January 2018, most [of] my restrictions have been removed and follow up appointments have gone pretty good...until this May.

Exactly one year later a couple more biopsies were done because of suspicious new growth, but they were benign. I have been learning to depend on the one who knows my body best (my maker).

I have pledged to strive to live more fully in the present, refusing to worry about tomorrow and not dwell in the past.

After all, my grandson needs his grandma's "snuggles" not "struggles."

In closing, I would like to thank each prayer warrior and every person that puts on a pink arrow shirt each year and supports the Pink Arrow Pride.

I would like to thank each prayer warrior and every person that puts on a pink arrow shirt each year and supports the Pink Arrow Pride.

~ Karin Jelsma

for words, but that afternoon I was in shock and numb all over.

When my husband got home from work (two hours after my phone call)

remember saying "can I please be put on the cancellation surgery list?" Two days later the oncologist had a cancellation for that week and I was in surgery three days later, on October 6th.

PINK ARROW PRIDE 2018

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, August 30, 2018

Lowell hosts Rockford High School

perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Jodi Alexander

My name is Jodi Alexander. I am a breast cancer survivor and this is my perseverance story.

My reason for telling my story is to give women some comfort. Just because you are diagnosed with cancer doesn't necessarily mean chemo or radiation. It doesn't mean your world has to stop. Or that you're doomed. It just means you have some choices to make.

A little background about me. My life is pretty simple, I have been married to my husband Tom for 16 years. We have a 13-year-old son, Brady. I work part-time at an insurance company in Ada. My mom and dad live across the street and I have a sister who lives in Wayland. We live on the Flat River, so our lives mostly consist of pontooning and fishing.

I was 39 when I got my first mammogram. My aunt was diagnosed with breast cancer in her late fifties. With having a family history of it, I wanted to make sure I was doing all I could to take care of myself. On Thursday, May 11, 2017, I had my routine mammogram at the mobile unit in Cascade. I came home afterwards and literally as I was walking in the door, my phone was ringing. It was the hospital.

Always remember you are braver than you think, stronger than you seem and loved more than you know.

~ Jodi Alexander

They read my mammogram and saw a spot that looked suspicious on my left breast. Of course, they tell you it's probably nothing, but [they] wanted me to set up a time to go to the hospital and have another one. This was my fourth mammogram and I had never had any issues before, so I was a little nervous. I scheduled it on Friday, the 12th. I kept telling my husband he didn't need to go; it was a mammogram and I would be fine. Needless to say, he did end up taking the day off from work and we went together. Once there, I had two more mammograms, an ultrasound and after that I ended up having a biopsy. We were there for five hours. I was so glad Tom was there, trying to keep me calm. Looking back and knowing what I know now, the way nurses, doctors and [the] radiologist talked to me, they knew it was cancer. Of course, they can't tell you that until the biopsy comes back, which takes 24 to 48 hours. Being Friday, I would



not hear anything until the following week. I remember, it was Mother's Day weekend. I spent that Sunday with my mom and sister, filling them in on my Friday visit to the hospital. I didn't want to worry them, but I didn't want them to be caught off guard either.

On Tuesday, May 16, 2017, my

world was turned upside down. I was home alone and the phone rang. It was one of the nurses I met with on Friday. She said, "I'm sorry to inform you, but the biopsy came back and you have Stage 1 breast cancer. We caught it early, which is a positive thing." After that I went numb. I couldn't believe what I had just heard, I was only 42 years old. I don't really remember how the conversation went or how it ended. I just remember her saying - I know you're not really hearing what I'm saying, so let's set up an appointment and go over my options and what this all means.

I got off the phone and started crying. My mind was racing. I'm a planner and this isn't part of any of my plans. There is no way this is happening to me, this only happens to other people. I called my husband and told him the results. It took three times before I could get the words to come out of my mouth - I have cancer. He said we would get

through this together and that he loved me. I next called my sister, Andrea. She ended up leaving work immediately and coming over. I then called my mom and then my best friend, Kelley. Within a half hour of me hearing I had cancer, my mom and sister were at my house. Of course, there's not much to say because I zoned out when I was talking to the nurse. We just cried and the support from my family and friends started immediately. Next, I had to tell my son. Wow, that was horrible. My primary doctor offered some great advice - he said, "If you're telling him everything is going to be ok, you can't cry. It will send him mixed signals." I didn't cry, I couldn't believe it, but I truly didn't want him to worry. He was quiet for a little bit trying to digest the news, then gave me a big hug and told me he loved me.

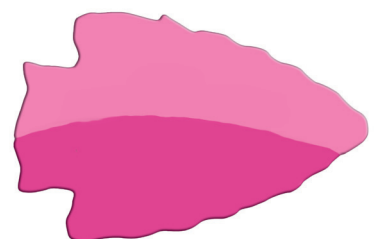
When you're diagnosed with cancer, in the beginning all you think about is what in the world would my family and friends do without me. Not that the world revolves around me, but I'm very close to them. Your mind goes to the worst-case scenario spot. I think I was ok with the thought of dying (a little dramatic, but I didn't know), but the thought of leaving my son without a mother was heartbreaking. I was not going to do that to him. And so, the fight began. Bring it on!

Now, the doctor appointments start. Tom's work was extremely flexible, so he was able to go to all my appointments with me. The first appointment was with the oncologist

(surgeon). This was when I was told what my options were as far as treating my cancer. I could do radiation, a partial mastectomy or a double mastectomy. Chemo was not necessary at this point. After my husband and I left that appointment we sat in the car and just looked at each other. Holy #*&@. What is happening to us?!? Again, this doesn't happen to us, this happens to other people. Neither of us could believe what was happening. It felt like everything was moving at whirlwind speed. It's so overwhelming, so much information to obtain.

After talking to my family and friends, I decided to get a double mastectomy. This procedure gave me the best odds at never getting breast cancer again. One month after my diagnosis I had the surgery. I was in the hospital for three days. It was the most horrible pain I could have ever imagined. The surgery to remove my breasts and put in expanders took six hours and two surgeons. Tom, my mom, my sister and best friend waited patiently through the whole thing and were in my room waiting when I was finished. After the surgery comes the reconstruction of my breasts. Dr. Martin was my plastic surgeon. I absolutely adore him and

Jodi's story, continued, page 10



perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Jodi's story, continued

his nurse, Courtney. Each week following surgery I had to go get an injection into the expanders so that my skin and body would respond to the implants when that time came. They were so kind and so easy to talk to. I always felt comfortable asking them questions or getting their opinion. It sounds weird, but I miss them now that it's over. I really did enjoy seeing them each week. I had two more surgeries after my mastectomy, one [on] December 1, 2017 and another [on] May 4, 2018, to get my permanent silicone implants.

From the first mammogram on May 11, I had some sort of doctor appointment every week for three months. It was exhausting for my family and friends. I couldn't drive which meant I needed someone to change their schedule around to help take care of me. And I never ever heard a "no" or "I can't do it."

In July, I met with my oncologist. This appointment was to determine the best way to prevent the cancer from coming back. I could do chemo or I could take Tamoxifen for five years. I asked my doctor what she thought. She said if I was her sister, she would pick the Tamoxifen. I started that in August.

So many people helped me in so many ways through this journey. At the time of my diagnosis, my employer did not offer short-term disability benefits to part-time employees. Which meant my medical leave would be without pay. Recovery time was estimated to be about three months. Shortly after I told the owner of my company about my diagnosis, he changed the disability benefit to include part-time employees. I couldn't believe it. What a great gift. What a great guy. The Pink Arrow Pride has been with me along the way. Helping any way they can and keeping tabs on me. Teresa Beachum is amazing and the community is very lucky to have her.

My family was unbelievable. My husband and son were so helpful and so sweet during the whole ordeal. When I got home from the hospital, Brady had bought me balloons and all my favorite candy bars and put them next to my bed. My husband set his alarm and got up every four hours to make sure I stayed current on my pain meds. Tom always made sure our house was clean, because we seemed to always have a flow of visitors. My mom checked on me every day. My mom and sister would bathe me since the use of my upper

body was minimal and if my sister couldn't help, my best friend stepped in.

Don't get me wrong, I had some bad days. I would look at myself in the mirror and cry. I had my regrets, but I always seem to have someone there to remind me that I made the right decision. [On] one of [the] dark days my sister-in-law, Lisa, happened to stop over. She gave me the boost I needed to get my mind back on the positive track. She is one of those people who always knows what to say. She always makes me feel loved, that I'm a good mother and most importantly, pretty at a time when I needed it most. She has a way about her that makes you want to smile and laugh.

One thing I learned along the way - I had no idea of how much I was loved by my family, friends, neighbors and coworkers. The outpouring of support was amazing. I'm big on sending 'Thank you's' out. Knowing this, Kelley, my best friend, bought me a box of 'Thank You' cards. I'm happy to say, I sent out every one of them. I received so many cards and letters of support. My friends and neighbors brought food over. I received many bouquets and plants. I got the greatest bracelets.

My coworkers gave me several gift cards to restaurants around town.

I just celebrated my one-year being cancer-free and I'm done with my surgeries. I only have follow-ups with my oncologist every six months. People ask me if cancer changed my life. I always say, absolutely. It's made me a better person. It has changed how I look at life and the people around me. I rekindled old friendships and strengthened the ones I have. Tom and I are closer than ever and I could not have made it without him. He was by my side the whole way and never let me forget how much he loved me and that I am beautiful. Sounds corny, but I have a new outlook on life. I feel like it's my second chance. I hug more; I say 'I love you' more. I want to spend more time with my family and friends. It really puts things in perspective. I try not to sweat the small stuff. Yes, cancer changed me and for that oddly enough I am grateful.

Always remember you are braver than you think, stronger than you seem and loved more than you know.

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5K RUN & FAMILY WALK
SEPTEMBER 8 IN DOWNTOWN LOWELL

Jake Kershaw will belt out the blues this Thursday

by Kathryn Atwood
contributing reporter

Kicking off the Riverwalk Festival last Thursday evening the Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series featured a decade hopping tour of R&B. The Soul Syndicate, last appearing in 2016, returned to the stage for their second performance.

Presented by LowellArts and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce the free summer concert series kicks off each Thursday at 7 pm offering two hours of musical entertainment. Utilizing the lawn and bleacher seating provided the seasons largest crowd to date gathered for the event filling up nearly the entire front portion of Riverwalk Plaza. With a upbeat set that spanned from Sam and Dave's 1967 hit "Soul

Man" to Salt & Pepa's 1994 smash "Whatta Man," The Soul Syndicate was well-received by concert guests who could be heard singing along to the R&B standards.

The Soul Syndicate, primarily inspired by the look and sound of the late 60s and early 70s, covered artists like Stevie Wonder, Otis Redding, The Temptations, Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin.

Featuring charismatic lead singer Diego Morales, the Michigan born band also boasts Matt Fouts on bass, Tom Taylor on drums, John Neil on keys, Mike Coon on guitar, trumpeters Tim DenBesten and Dennis Baker, saxophonists Nate Hansen, Austin Peters and Steve Boersma, as well as the additional angelic vocals of Aubrey Nusbaum and Kecia Deroly. Dressed in dapper black suits and

slinky black dresses the group paid respect to their genre.

After a bonus Friday evening concert featuring local favorites, The Adams Family and Alive & Well as part of the annual Riverwalk Festival, the Thursday night concert series returns to the stage this Thursday evening with up-and-coming blues artist Jake Kershaw. Making a name for himself on the Michigan music scene belting out the blues with a rock edge and masterful guitar skills, the talented 17-year-old will take the stage for his Lowell debut at 7 pm.

The event is handicap accessible. Local food and beverage offerings along with adult spirits are available for purchase on site.



The Soul Syndicate's kicking brass lineup on the showboat stage.

...

Music is to the soul what words are to the mind.
— Modest Mouse

The Lowell Women's Club announces their 2017-18 Year in Review

Our year began with nine new student members who worked with their sponsors on all of our fundraising projects. Those projects included the 2017 Fallasburg Fall Festival booth where they served sandwiches, pizza and homemade pumpkin pies; selling "Enjoy the City Books," the Christmas Through Lowell luncheon and craft sales; as hostesses for the Parade of Homes, the Lowell EXPO and volunteer hours at many local non-profit organizations.

Eighty percent of the dollars raised from these activities is designated to student scholarships

and 20 percent to Lowell organizations selected by the LWC membership. This year's selectees included FROM's Food Fight, Gilda's Club, Pink Arrow Pride, Lowell Education Foundation, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), CLAY (Constructing Lowell Area Students), Barn for Equine Learning, Lowell YMCA, Friends of the Lowell Library, Ability Weavers, Senior Neighbors, Lowell Baby Pantry, Alpha Family Center, Lowell Open Table, Lowell Farm and Wildlife Center and the Lowell Area Historical Museum. Our volunteer hours for student members and membership

for 2017-18 totaled 8,010 hours, a record for which we are very proud.

The student members this year were outstanding academically and in sports, with Brianna Roest serving as the LHS class of 2018's valedictorian!

We are now beginning the 2018-19 year with nine new student members, Halaina Bladey, Anneke Breuker, Ella Dougherty, Mia Munger, Sydney Riffle, Haley Sobie, Maggie Spoelstra, Kylee Stephens and Irene Trieweiler. When you see

us volunteering, say hello and consider joining our ever growing group of 65.

The LWC would like to also announce their new officers, president - Teresa Hoffman, president elect - Chris Piper, secretary - Leah Vredenburg, treasurer - Jackie Tousley, deputy treasurer - Marj Harding, immediate past president - Lori Ingraham and board members - Holly Fehlig, Lynette Salzwedel, Diane Sherlock, Ellen Lietzke and Jan Thompson.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following request from Forest Hills Homes:

To rezone 7.4 acres from C, General Commercial to the Open Space Planned Unit Development (OS-PUD) Zoning District in order to construct an 80 unit multi-family development consisting of four buildings each containing 20 dwelling units. The project would be known as Fulton Place.

ADDRESS AND GENERAL LOCATION:
11519 Boulder Drive which is the vacant parcel on the north side of Boulder Drive between Meijer and Stone Ridge Apartments.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI. 49331

Information on the proposed request is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

LEGAL NOTICE

**PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE OF HEARING
STATE OF MICHIGAN
The Probate Court for
the County of Kent**

**In the matter of
NATHAN POSTLE
Guardianship File No.
18-203,661-DD**

**TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS including
his sister, Tasha Postle,
and any other siblings,
whose address(es)
is/are unknown and
whose interest in the
matter may be barred
or affected by the
following:**

**TAKE NOTICE: A
hearing will be held on
September 05, 2018,
at 8:45 a.m. at Kent
Co. Probate Court,**

**180 Ottawa NW, Grand
Rapids, MI 49503
before Judge David M.
Murkowski (P35026) for
the following purpose:
Appointment of a
Guardian for a person
with a developmental
disability.**

**Dated: July 11, 2018
Adult Protective
Services, DHHS,
Petitioner
121 Franklin St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 260-5649**

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

Noreen K. Myers Attorney at Law



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Employment Discrimination**

307 East Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331

616-897-5460

First load of wheat for 2018



The first load of new crop wheat for 2018 arrived at the King Milling Company on July 9. The load was good quality Soft Red Winter Wheat with a 59 test-weight and a moisture of 13.0 percent. This wheat was grown by Larry Cole (right) of Sunfield for Michigan Agricultural Commodities. The wheat was unloaded by King Milling Company employee Grant Peterson (left). The first load of wheat arrived only one day later than last year's first load on July 8, 2017.

Fallasburg Festival seeking memorabilia

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

This Sept. 15 and 16 will be the 50th anniversary of the first Fallasburg Arts Festival, held annually in Fallasburg Park. The Fallasburg Historical Society is looking for stories, anecdotes, photos and memorabilia from past festivals for a historic

presentation they are working on. In particular, they are looking for either the original artwork for the festival logo or vintage signage with the logo.

If you have something interesting lying around or if you have a story you'd like to share, contact them at info@fallasburg.org



Civil War reenacted this weekend

Historic Charlton Park in Hastings will host its annual Civil War Muster on July 21 and 22.

Interpreters and craftsmen will be stationed in the historic village, with special scenarios planned for the Sixberry House, barber shop, carpenter shop, jail and Bristol Inn.

On Saturday night, visitors may join in on a lantern tour of the village, enjoy live music and dancing at the Gas and Steam Barn and view cannons firing over the Thornapple River. At 10:30 am Sunday, the Carlton Center Church will host a traditional worship service.

Spectators are invited to view battle activities throughout the weekend. Battles will take place at High Meadow at 1:45 pm Saturday and in the historic village on Sunday at 2 pm. Infantry, cavalry, medical and artillery demonstrations will also take place.

Food vendors will be available to satisfy hungry patrons.

Guests are encouraged to visit Sutlers Row vendors, offering reproduction and handmade Civil War-era merchandise for purchase, including clothing, household goods and toys.

Daily general admission to the event is \$6

for anyone age 13 and up; \$4 for children 5-12 years old; and free for children 4 and under.

Charlton Park is located between Hastings and

Nashville, north of M-79, at 2545 S. Charlton Park Road. A complete event schedule can be downloaded at charltonpark.org



At Your Local Library

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

Pop 'n' Paint: THE REMIX - We will paint and etch rockin' art onto recycled CDs. Two discs provided. You may bring up to two additional discs. Pre-registration required. For teens. Tues., July 24 at 1 pm.

Gears of Nerf - You and your team are given 30 minutes to build a free standing structure that will protect your medic. Nerf blasters are provided, please do not bring your own. For teens. Tues., July 31 at 1 pm.

Koombah Rain Sticks! - Koo-oom-bah means creativity in Swahili. Join us and get creative using your imagination and a few craft supplies to create your own rain stick. For ages 6 and older. Wed., Aug. 1 at 1 pm.

Dot Mandala Painting Workshop - Create and take home a dot mandala painted rock or artist board. Learn how to paint in color tints and patterns. You will apply dots using special tools and learn to layer paint dots for a 3D effect. Pre-registration required. For adults. Wed., Aug. 15 at 6 pm.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following amendments to the Township Zoning Ordinance:

1. An amendment to Section 14.07(a) to increase the maximum average density for multi-family uses in the Open Space Planned Unit Development zoning district from eight dwelling units per acre to 11 dwelling units per acre.
2. An amendment to Table 23-1, being Minimum Standards for Size of Parking Aisles and Driveways, to reduce the required minimum width of a parking space from 10 feet to 9 feet.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI. 49331

Information on the proposed request is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

C	L	E	A	T		O	F		S	I	T	E			
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(844) 474-0037

Bill Gordon & Associates, a nationwide practice, represents clients before the Social Security Administration. Member of the TX & NM Bar Associations. Mail: 1420 NW St. Washington D.C. Office: Broward County, FL. Services may be provided by associated attorneys licensed in other states. *The process for determining each applicant's disability benefits varies greatly, and can take upwards of two years.

Yep

we cover Home



FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

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



office hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - noon
closed Sat. & Sun.

classifieds

for sale

AQUATIC PLANTS - Lotus, Water Lilies, KOI & GOLDFISH plus all pond supplies. APOL'S WATER GARDENS, 9340 Kalamazoo, Caledonia, 698-1030. Wed.- Fri. 9 am-5:30 pm, Sat., 9 am-2 pm.^{TFN}

EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND VALUE - Requires less wood & provides more heat. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today! 616-554-8669. SOS Property Maintenance LLC, 6950 Hammond Ave, Caledonia. We are your local sales, service & parts dealer!^{TFN}

KITTENS - 8 to 10 weeks old. 1 female, black and white and 1 male, black with white paws. They were spayed and neutered on June 25. They have been inside since May 25. Asking \$20 rehoming charge. 517-526-0279.

QUEEN PILLOWTOP MATTRESS SET - (new), \$248/set. Thick & plush. Hammond Wholesale, 320 W. Main St., Carson City, 989-584-1600. See us on Facebook.^{TFN}

USED TIRES - Call with size, 616-292-7649/616-295-8820. Rob's Auto - thanks.^{TFN}

REACH OVER 100,000 AREA HOMES - with our Marketplace! One call & one payment, only \$40! Includes 20 words & 1 black & white photo. Only items for sale please. Perfect place to advertise a vehicle or camper for sale! The ad runs in the Lowell Buyer's Guide & News, Hastings Reminder, Marshall Advisor/Chronicle & Battle Creek Shopper News. Call 897-9555, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com or stop by 105 N. Broadway for more info.

PIONEER POLE BUILDINGS - Free Estimates - Licensed and insured - 2x6 Trusses - 45 Year Warranty Galvalume Steel - 19 Colors - Since 1976 - #1 in Michigan - Call Today 1-800-292-0679. (MICH)

NEWSPAPER ENDS ROLLS AVAILABLE - Many uses. Usually \$3-\$5 each. Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway.

wanted

I WANT TO BUY - Refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer & furniture in good shape. Have cash. 989-584-6818.^{TFN}

FREON R12 WANTED: CERTIFIED BUYER will PAY CASH for R12 cylinders or cases of cans. (312) 291-9169; www.refrigerantfinders.com (MICH)

GUITAR WANTED! Local musician will pay up to \$12,500 for pre-1975 Gibson, Fender, Martin and Gretsch guitars. Fender amplifiers also. Call toll free! 1-800-995-1217. (MICH)

for rent

WE DO BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAW - Equal Housing Opportunity. It is illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin in the sale or rental of housing or residential lots; in the advertising the sale or rental of housing, in the financing of housing. Anyone who feels he or she has been discriminated against may file a complaint of housing discrimination: 1-800-669-9777 (toll free) 1-800-927-9275 (TTY).

PRICELESS STORAGE - Indoor/outdoor. New Units on Alden Nash, 1 mile South of I96. Call for specials 558-2900.^{TFN}

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. FREE All Vets Coffee Hour at the center the 3rd Thursday of each month. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.^{TFN EOW}

help wanted

GENERAL LABORERS/TRUCK DRIVERS - Immediate opening, good pay, flexible schedule. Call Lacey today for more information, 616-691-7368.

NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS - for a walking route carrier to deliver the Buyers Guide on Saturdays. Must be dependable! Work less than 1 day a week! Get paid weekly, pickup papers at Buyers Guide office. Must be at least 16 for this position. Apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

NOAH'S PET CEMETERY & PET CREMATORY INC. - is looking for an outgoing, compassionate & reliable person to assist in the crematory & occasional driving for pickup & deliveries. Must be able to lift heavy items, must have an excellent driving record. Apply in person, M - Th., 8-5; F 8-4 at 2727 Orange Ave, Cascade.

SPORTS ADDIX - in Lowell is hiring General Labor positions for full time, part time, 1st and 2nd shifts. All positions are Monday-Friday. Schedule and duties may change due to business demands. Call 616-987-3364 and ask for Bart Dempsey.

LEDGER OFFICE HOURS:
MON. - THURS. 8-5
FRI. 8-12
 Closed Sat. & Sun.
 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.
 Phone 897-9261
 Fax 897-4809

sales

ESTATE MOVING SALE - LOWELL. Women's clothing (sizes 14-20), household goods, garage/lawn items, dog crates, dishes, pots/pans, walkie talkies, electronics, Christmas decor, CDs, DVDs & much more! Sat., July 21, 8:30 - 6 pm. 3100 Natures Place Dr. (crossroads Pratt & 28th).

MOVING SALE - July 20 & 21 at 3431 Fallasburg Park. Furniture, tools & more goodies. Open 9-4 pm.

misc.

EASTSIDE ARTISAN MARKET - Every 2nd & 4th Tues., 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm at Balls Softee Cream, Lowell.

LOWELL AREA FARMERS' MARKET - every Thursday noon to 5 pm downtown Lowell in the Veteran's Memorial Parking lot across from the Riverwalk Plaza. Cinnamin Piggott, Market Master, 616-916-9193 / www.discoverlowell.org

GOT LAND? Our Hunters will Pay Top \$\$\$ to hunt your land. Call for a FREE info packet & Quote. 1-866-309-1507 www.BaseCampLeasing.com (MICH)

LEDGER OFFICE
 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.
 Accepts Federal Express & UPS prepaid packages.

memorials

In memory of Jim Farni July 23 - April Only the Best
 God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be, so He put His arms around you, and whispered "Come to Me." With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away. Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.
 Miss you buddy,
 Tom

In loving memory of our son & brother MARK TAYLOR KROPP July 21, 1965 - June 18, 1970
 He shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not worry him, nor the years condemn, At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember him.
 Your family

services

FENCING - wood, chain link, vinyl. Free estimates. Revised Home Improvement. See our Facebook page for pictures & references. 269-953-5065.

HANDY REPAIR SERVICE - All kinds of service work: locks rekeyed, deadbolts installed, screen & window repair. Call Bob Ford, 299-3198.^{TFN}

RETIRED ELECTRICIAN - Reasonable, any size job. Discount for retirees & vets. Call 616-401-6547.

BUSINESS CARDS - Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

services

WORK WANTED - Double D's Bucket Van & Handyman Service. 40' bucket, tree trimming & removal, gutters, window washing, power washing, buildings, barns, homes, decks, etc. Insured. Call Dave Delinsky, 616-212-3008. Free estimates.

NEED A DUMPSTER? - Dumpster rental, 10-20 yards. Mention this ad for \$10 to \$20 off. Call or text Doug for estimates at 616-295-6640.^{TFN}

LEDGER OFFICE
 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.
 Accepts Federal Express & UPS prepaid packages.
 Daily pickup at 3 p.m.

services

NOREEN K. MYERS, ATTORNEY AT LAW - Compassionate, experienced, effective legal representation. Specialties include: wills & trusts, work related injuries, employment discrimination. 307 E. Main, Lowell, 897-5460.

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555, fax 897-4809 or email to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, Lowell. Ph. 897-9261.

POWER WASHING - Dirt, mildew washed away. Call Jim today, 915-1745.

Community Calendar

July

AND ONGOING EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE - Coming Events are for non-profit organizations. If you are charging admission for an event - it is considered an advertisement. Coming events are on a space available basis & **ARE NOT GUARANTEED.** If you would like to make sure your event is placed in the paper, please call our office & place it as a classified ad. We will not accept ANY Garage or sales (including fundraisers) as a coming event. All Coming Events or changes to coming events should be submitted by fax: 897-4809, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com, by mail: PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or in person: 105 N. Broadway.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY - meets the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Historical Museum at 84th/ Alden Nash.

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

BOY SCOUT TROOP 102 - every Monday, 7-8:30 p.m. during school year in Scout Cabin at the end of N. Washington St. Ages 11 and up or completing 5th grade. Call Scoutmaster Clay VanderWarf, 616-485-3429 or Del Rockwell at 897-6814.

VERGENNES CLUB MEETS - at 1 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month March thru Nov. Meeting at Schneider Manor Community Room. Program & refreshments. Guests welcome.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY TOPS MI #372 - every Tuesday, weigh-ins at 5:45 p.m. in the activity room at Schneider Manor, Lowell.

QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - Open Radio Room Thursdays, 7 pm at Flat River Outreach Ministries, 11535 Fulton St. E. General meeting 3rd Thursday. www.w8lrc.org 145.27 MHz.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES TREASURE'S THRIFT SHOP HOURS - Tues - Fri. 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 - 4 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Resource Center, 897-8260.

ALPHA FAMILY CENTER OF LOWELL - 517 E. Main. Hours: Mon. & Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Diapers, formula, clothing & free ultrasounds & pregnancy testing available. www.afclowell.org

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Mon. & Sat., 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed., 12 - 8 p.m.; Thurs., 1-6 p.m.; Fri. 9:30-6 p.m. Info., call 784-2007.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS - Mon.-Wed., noon - 8 p.m.; Thurs., Fri. & Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. 784-2007.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM - open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday: 1-4 p.m. Families: \$10; individual \$3; ages 5-17 \$1.50; members free. 897-7688.

LEGOS AT THE LIBRARY - Second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. Kids ages 5-11 are invited to join. Bring your imagination & be ready to build! (The library will provide the LEGOs) No registration required. Alvah N. Belding Library, 302 E. Main, Belding, 616-794-1450.

THE LOWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION - second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 300 High St., Lowell.

FLAT RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL - Meets 3rd Monday of each month at the Main Street Inn in Lowell at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit our web page at flatriverwatershed.org

BABY PANTRY OF LOWELL - (formerly St. Mary's Pregnancy Center) is now located inside Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) at 11535 Fulton St. E. We are open Monday **5:30-7:30 p.m.** & Thursday **2-4:30 p.m.** to serve pregnant woman & families of small children in need of diapers, wipes & other baby supplies. We are non-denominational & serve families in the Lowell area. For more information, call Michele at 616-322-5957.

NEW CLASSES FOR EVERYONE - children - adults at Christian Life Center, 3050 Alden Nash SE, Lowell. Every Wednesday 7-8 p.m. Bible-centered classes for children through 5th grade, youth group for 6th grade thru high school & adult prayer & Bible study. Everyone is invited to attend.

FREE ALL VETS COFFEE HOUR - Third Thurs. of each month. Bring a friend. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash, Lowell. Call 868-7426 or 897-8303 for more information.

FREE WILL

astrology

Copyright 2018 by Rob Breznsky

CANCER (June 21-
July 22):

Self-described skeptics sometimes say to me, “How can any intelligent person believe in astrology? You must be suffering from a brain dysfunction if you imagine that the movements of planets can reveal any useful clues about our lives.” If the “skeptic” is truly open-minded, as an authentic skeptic should be, I offer a mini-lecture to correct his misunderstandings. If he’s not (which is the usual case), I say that I don’t need to “believe” in astrology; I use astrology because it works. For instance, I have a working hypothesis that Cancerians like myself enjoy better-than-average insight and luck with money every year from late July through the month of August. It’s irrelevant whether there’s a “scientific” theory to explain why this might be. I simply undertake efforts to improve my financial situation at this time and I’m often successful.

LEO (July 23-Aug.
22):

Here are some of the

fine gifts you’re eligible for and even likely to receive during the next four weeks: a more constructive and fluid relationship with obsession; a panoramic look at what lies below the tip of the metaphorical iceberg; a tear-jerking joyride that cracks open your sleeping sense of wonder; erasure of at least 20 percent of your self-doubt; vivid demonstrations of the excitement available from slowing down and taking your sweet time; and a surprising and useful truth delivered to your soul by your body.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-
Sept. 22):

During the last three months of 2018, I suspect you will dismantle or outgrow a foundation. Why? So as to prepare the way for building or finding a new foundation in 2019. From next January onward, I predict you will re-imagine the meaning of home. You’ll grow fresh roots and come to novel conclusions about the influences that enable you to feel secure and stable. The reason I’m revealing these clues ahead of time is because now is a good time

to get a foreshadowing of how to proceed. You can glean insights on where to begin your work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-
Oct. 22):

A reader asked Libran blogger

Ana-Sofia Cardelle, “How does one become more sensual?” I’ll ask you to meditate on the same question. Why? Because it’s a good time to enrich and deepen your sensuality. For inspiration, here are some ideas that blend my words with Cardelle’s: “Laugh easily and freely. Tune in to the rhythm of your holy animal body as you walk. Sing songs that remind you why you’re here on earth. Give yourself the luxury of reading books that thrill your imagination and fill you with fresh questions. Eat food with your fingers. Allow sweet melancholy to snake through you. Listen innocently to people, being warm-hearted and slyly wild. Soak up colors with your eager eyes. Whisper grateful prayers to the sun as you exult in its gifts.”

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-
Nov. 21):

“If people aren’t laughing at your goals, your goals are too small.” So says bodybuilder Kai Greene. I don’t know if I would personally make such a brazen declaration, but I do think it’s worth considering -- especially for you right now. You’re entering into the Big Bold Vision time of your astrological cycle. It’s a phase when you’ll be wise to boost the intensity of your hopes for yourself and get closer to knowing the ultimate form of what you want and be daring enough to imagine the most sublime possible outcomes for your future. If you do all that with the proper chutzpah, some people may indeed laugh at your audacity. That’s OK!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov.
22-Dec. 21):

This mini-chapter in your epic life story is symbolically ruled by the fluttering flights of butterflies, the whirring hum of hummingbird wings, the soft cool light of fireflies and the dawn dances of seahorses. To take maximum advantage of the blessings life will tease you with in the coming weeks, I suggest you align yourself with phenomena like those. You will tend to be alert and receptive in just the right ways if you cultivate a love of fragile marvels, subtle beauty and amazing grace.

CAPRICORN (Dec.
22-Jan. 19):

I swear the astrological omens are telling me to tell you that you have license



to make the following requests: 1. People from your past who say they’d like to be part of your future have to prove their earnestness by forgiving your debts to them and asking your forgiveness for their debts to you. 2. People who are pushing for you to be influenced by them must agree to be influenced by you. 3. People who want to deepen their collaborations with you must promise to deepen their commitment to wrestling with their own darkness. 4. People who say they care for you must prove their love in a small but meaningful way.

AQUARIUS (Jan.
20-Feb. 18):

You will never find an advertisement for Nike or Apple within the sacred vessel of this horoscope column. But you may come across plugs for soul-nourishing commodities like creative freedom and playful generosity. Like everyone else, I’m a salesperson -- although I believe that the wares I peddle are unambiguously good for you. In this spirit, I invite you to hone your own sales pitch. It’s an excellent time to interest people in the fine products and ideas and services that you have to offer.

PISCES (Feb.
19-March 20):

Would you do me a favor, please? Would you do your friends and loved ones and the whole world a favor? Don’t pretend you’re less powerful and beautiful than you are. Don’t downplay or neglect the magic you have at your disposal. Don’t act as if your unique genius is nothing special. OK? Are you willing to grant us these small indulgences? Your specific talents, perspectives and gifts are indispensable right now. The rest of us need you to be bold and brazen about expressing them.

ARIES (March
21-April 19):

“Take a lover who looks at you like maybe you are magic.” Whenever that quote appears on the Internet, it’s

falsely attributed to painter Frida Kahlo. In fact, it was originally composed by poet Marty McConnell. In any case, I’ll recommend that you heed it in the coming weeks. You really do need to focus on associating with allies who see the mysterious and lyrical best in you. I will also suggest that you get inspired by a line that Frida Kahlo actually wrote: “Take a lover who looks at you like maybe you are a bourbon biscuit.” (If you don’t know what a bourbon biscuit is, I’ll tell you: chocolate buttercream stuffed between two thin rectangular chocolate biscuits.)

TAURUS (April 20-
May 20):

Here’s what author Franz Kafka wrote in his diary on August 2, 1914: “Germany has declared war on Russia. I went swimming in the afternoon.” We could possibly interpret his nonchalance about world events to be a sign of callous self-absorption. But I recommend that you cultivate a similar attitude in the coming weeks. In accordance with astrological omens, you have the right and the need to shelter yourself from the vulgar insanity of politics and the pathological mediocrity of mainstream culture. So feel free to spend extra time focusing on your own well-being. (P.S.: Kafka’s biographer says swimming served this role for him. It enabled him to access deep unconscious reserves of pleasurable power that renewed his spirit.)

GEMINI (May 21-
June 20):

Am I delusional to advise a perky, talkative Gemini like yourself to enhance your communication skills? How dare I even hint that you’re not quite perfect at a skill you were obviously born to excel at? But that’s exactly what I’m here to convey. The coming weeks will be a favorable time to take inventory of how you could more fully develop your natural ability to exchange information. You’ll be in robust alignment with cosmic rhythms if you take action to refine the way you express your own messages and receive and respond to other people’s messages.

NEWS OF THE

weird

Karma

Walt Dean King, 69, just wanted to take a look at a used car for sale on July 4. But when he approached the vehicle in the small California town of Tracy, about 60 miles east of San Francisco, he was suddenly knocked off his feet by a bull that had gotten loose. King felt the bull’s horn go through his side and crawled between a bush and a house as the bull stood over him snorting for about 20 minutes. FOX40 reported that King underwent three hours of surgery, after which doctors told him his belly fat had saved him from worse injury. King believes karma kept him alive: “Back in the ‘70s, I had pulled a lady out of a burning building, so now I think I’m being paid back, by not dying,” King said.

People With Too Much Time on Their
Hands

Silicon Valley entrepreneurs who have made their fortunes in tech-related fields have discovered a spiritually enriching new guru, Jess Magic, a ukulele player and singer who calls herself a “heartist.” At Magic’s intimate, invitation-only “Soul Salons” (and now on a 10-city national tour), participants share their energy and join in “songversations” -- philosophical rap and improvised music and dance -- a process Magic calls “a play date for your inner child.” Andrew Hewitt, creator of Game Changers 500, explains: “For people who live most of the time in their head, this feels like magic.” The New York Times reported that Magic believes her appeal is in response to the spiritual hollowness wealthy executives feel. “People forget that they are human beings rather than human doings,” she said.

Patriotism inspired Rain Wiggand, 22, and Zane Liles, 21, of Collins, Ohio, to construct an American flag using more than 2,000 Budweiser, Bud Light and Miller Lite beer cans.

Wiggand posted pictures of the “beer flag” on Twitter on July 4. “It was a rough month of work for Zane and I,” Wiggand confessed, adding that they “averaged somewhere around 14 beers a night for 28 days straight.” Six other friends helped, he said, but they only drank on Thursdays to Sundays. Liles told BuzzFeed News, “It was a monthlong hangover that nothing could cure.” However, he said the project had not ruined beer for him. “I can still drink beer with the best of them.”

Cultural Diversity

In Ghana, the reaction of mourners at a funeral is a measure of the deceased’s position in the community. But for family members who are unable to express their emotions openly, professional mourners will cry on their behalf. A leader of one team of criers told BBC Africa in July that they charge based on the size of the funeral and the Kumasi Funeral Criers Association offers different styles of crying, such as crying with swagg, crying and rolling on the ground, and crying and vomiting. Ghanaian funerals also feature dancing pallbearers and giant billboards to announce the funeral arrangements.

It’s a Compulsion

In 1985, Tosya Garibyan of Arinj, in Armenia, asked her husband, Levon Arkelian, 44, to dig a pit under their home where she could store potatoes. But once he got started, Radio Free Europe reported, he just couldn’t stop. Twenty-three years later, the underground oasis Arkelian created is a tourist attraction. Working as many as 18 hours a day with only a hammer and chisel, Arkelian created seven rooms, stairwells

and passages running as deep as 65 feet and adorned them with carvings and decorations made from found objects. Arkelian passed away in 2008 and his widow welcomes tourists to her museum, which includes his shredded work boots and tools. But she says the couple argued about the project. “He ruined his health because of this hole,” she told RFE.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: LIFE UNDERGROUND

ACROSS

1. Baseball player's sole feature
6. Bug repellent
9. Surfer's stop
13. Wraparound house feature
14. "Back To The Future" actress
15. Hello in 50th state
16. Join forces
17. Banned insecticide
18. Reduce
19. *Mythological underground humanoids
21. *Rapid transit
23. King's title, abbr.
24. Top of the Capitol
25. 1960s altered state inducer
28. Bone-dry
30. Lumberjack's tool
35. At the apex
37. Accepted behavior
39. Samurai dagger
40. Of low density
41. Relish tastebuds' sensation
43. Embarkation location
44. Laundry room appliance
46. Make someone angry
47. Unsubscriber's focus
48. *Underground, adj.
50. Tarot card reader, e.g.
52. First responders' acronym
53. Victoria Beckham, formerly
55. Chill, with "out"
57. *Animal house
60. *Cold storage
63. Body trunk
64. ____-Wan Kenobi
66. Packers QB
68. Russians, e.g.
69. Benatar or Boone, e.g.
70. *"The ____,"

CROSSWORD														
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- by "Notes from the Underground" author
71. Explore by touch
72. Infection of the eye
73. *Six feet under preceder?
- DOWN**
1. PC "brain"
 2. Like a maxi skirt

3. Poetic name of Ireland
4. Cast member
5. Topic of discussion, pl.
6. One of auto pioneers
7. U.S. central bank
8. ____, Stinky and Stretch
9. Like Food movement
10. Home of the Hawkeyes
11. People in general
12. It's got an outer, middle and inner
15. Even though
20. Not odds
22. One behind the plate
24. Ascetic Muslim monk
25. Hog fat, pl.
26. Rubberneck
27. Not Ionic or Corinthian
29. Lion's warning
31. "Lights out" signal
32. Kind of wading bird
33. It included Mr. T
34. *Beneficial garden
- invertebrates
36. Jury colleague
38. *Contrary to popular belief, it's not blind
42. "Superman" Christopher
45. Copies, for short
49. Likewise
51. Put down again, past tense
54. Same as swaps
56. Clearing in the woods
57. Cowboy's necktie
58. Russia's ____ Mountains
59. Please get back to me
60. *Where you'll find 21 Across
61. Operatic solo
62. *Plant organ
63. Cough syrup amt.
65. *Cave flyer
67. Utmost degree


Puzzle solutions on page 12

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Online POLL QUESTION

Do you ever resist or back away from stating your true opinion about something on social media because you are afraid of what all your friends will think?



- Yes - It is not worth the consequences.
- No - It is important to have an open dialogue.

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LAST WEEK'S ONLINE POLL RESULTS

Our poll asked ...

On "Gilligan's Island," how did Ginger have so many different outfits when they were only on a three hour tour?

Ginger's outfits were painstakingly crafted by the castaways out of coconut shells, stones, leaves, vines and bamboo 67%

The Professor invented a machine that generated outfits out of coconut shells, stones, leaves, vines and bamboo. 33%

After a series of hijinks and misunderstandings that nearly results in their rescue by a special guest star, it's revealed that the massive weight of Ginger's luggage is what caused the Minnow to sink in the first place. Ginger flirts with Gilligan and the Skipper until they agree to dive to the bottom of the sea and salvage all 98 of her outfits from the wreckage, providing her with a vast wardrobe for the remainder of the series..... 0%

Don't overthink "Gilligan's Island." 0%

Festival, continued

featured it as the young adult read for the month of June 2017. The illustrations for the book were on display at both the Muskegon Art Museum and the Ludington Center for Arts.”

The biggest highlight of any Riverwalk Festival is the live music. This year they had rhythm and blues from the Soul Syndicate, folk and pop from the Addams Family and classic rock from Lowell legends Alive and Well.

“Riverwalk Festival is always a great time,” said Alive and Well keyboardist Roger MacNaughton. “We’re back in our hometown and we love it. We played a few times this summer already, so that helps. We’re just having fun.”

“We’re staying true to the artists and their music that we’re playing, but the one thing people will be able to do is dance,” said Kecia Deroly, backup singer for the Soul Syndicate. “They will be able to dance and sing along to a very exciting medley of blues, country, jazz and a whole lot of funk. I am a New York City transplant, so I did not think I would ever end up singing in Lowell, Michigan. It is very quaint, very cute and a very different pace for a New Yorker like myself, but I appreciate it. One thing I loved was when we recently played Frederick Meijer Gardens. I sing a Stevie Wonder song called “I Wish” and they really got into it. They loved the music as much as I love it. That’s beyond anything an artist can ask for, honestly.”



THE LAURELS OF KENT A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

The Laurels of Kent celebrated “Laurel Day” on Friday June 22nd. This celebration is held every year for the employees and their families to show appreciation. The staff here at the Laurels of Kent work hard each and every day to care for the patients we serve.



It is nice that the company has continued this each year to honor and acknowledge the passion and dedication that staff give each day. They look forward to this event each year and once again we had a great turnout! There was food, games, ice cream, gifts and prizes for all.

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