



LHS sports
page 11

KB Makes



page 16

Lawnmower safety



page 2

Mariel Versluis profile



page 7

50¢



New Main St. business

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

YCD Electronics Inc. is a new business at 327 W. Main in downtown Lowell that specializes in nearly all things electronics.

YCD was founded by Andrew Mourer and is co-owned by Mourer and Brandon Woodhams. Mourer started the company in Flint in 2012 by offering prepaid cellular and tax services. Pretty quickly he expanded the business.

“A year later I bought out my partners and moved the business to Fenwick, where it operated mostly as an ecommerce, still offering Internet and prepaid services, out of the pole barn on my property,” Mourer explained. “As the business grew and I started to employ people, it was decided to incorporate the business. That was when it became YCD Inc. In February of 2017, YCD opened in Ionia, MI. This was the first retail location since it was moved

Electronics, continued, page 3



Co-owners Brandon Woodhams and Andrew Mourer in front of YCD Electronics Inc., 327 W. Main.

Racist charged with felony

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

After public outcry, the woman who allegedly verbally and physically assaulted a Betten Baker employee has now had a felony charge of ethnic intimidation added to her case.

“This office received a number of questions regarding charges which had been filed in an incident which occurred at a Lowell car dealership in April of this year,” Kent County prosecutor Chris Becker said in an email to the Ledger. “After looking at the report submitted by the Lowell Police Department, with additional follow up from that department, it was determined that a more serious charge was appropriate given what occurred. Yesterday, we filed a charge of ethnic intimidation against Shelly Hueckel. This is a felony charge punishable by two years and/or \$5,000. In addition, there remains the original count of assault and battery which is a misdemeanor punishable by 93 days and/or \$500. Ms. Hueckel is presumed innocent of these charges until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in court. We do not have any information regarding when she will be arraigned on these charges.”

The incident in question occurred at Betten Baker GMC, 749 W. Main, on Wednesday, April 24 when Hueckel is alleged to have struck an African-American employee in the face, knocking off his glasses but not breaking them, while repeatedly using racist words and phrases, all because she thought her trade in vehicle was worth more than the employee told her.

Unity School condo project discussed at planning commission meeting

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Lowell city planning commission had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, June 10. The meeting was 45 minutes long and was attended by six local residents.

The majority of the meeting was dedicated to a review of what the rules and guidelines will be for the recreational marijuana businesses that will operate in Lowell someday. Ultimately, the new rules must be approved by the Lowell city council, but nothing will happen until a licensing system is created for marijuana businesses. According to state law, the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs is required to accomplish this onerous task by December.

The “Riverview Flats” condo development was discussed during the portion of the meeting reserved for public comment. Steve Bratschie, who identified himself as the attorney for Unity School Investors LLC, said the city is holding the project up while they decide

what to do about a six foot wide area that contains power lines that were installed there without the proper easements. At the time the lines were installed, the property was owned either by the city or by Lowell Area Schools. Bratschie said the LLC would submit another PUD [planned unit development] application to have the matter added to next month’s planning commission meeting agenda.

“The PUD request does not request road vacation [of High St.],” Bratschie said. “At the suggestion of Richard Wendt, the Lowell city attorney, the city manager Mike Burns originally drew up plans to vacate High St. and then have my client grant an easement back to the city and to the public that would better align with the boat launch. But then the city pulled back from that plan. At no point were there discussions to impair the boat launch. That is important to my clients and to the city and the citizens of Lowell.”

The city is currently asserting eminent domain on the small portion of the Unity School property that contains the power lines.

“We are looking to seek eminent domain on the part of the property that they [Unity School Investors] own at 238 High St. where the power lines go,” Burns said in an interview after the meeting. “The way it works is, we have to make a good faith offer. We’ve done an appraisal on that piece of property and the entire property. We have presented that number to them. They have not responded to that and we are taking the proper judicial steps to move forward on that process. It’s a \$60,000 offer, not for the whole parcel, just [for] basically where the power lines are. It would be a payment from Light & Power, not the general fund. There is an escrow currently.”

The next planning commission meeting will be at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, July 8.



Steve Bratschie, the attorney for Unity School Investors LLC, said the new condos will not prevent access to the boat launch.

Lawnmowers are incredibly dangerous for children

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

It might be fun for the kids and create a cute photo for social media, but allowing small children to help mow the lawn is incredibly dangerous and could result in loss of limb or life. Lawn mowers are the most common cause of major limb loss for children under 10 years old.

According to the Amputee Coalition, over 800 children in the US are run over every year by riding mowers or small tractors. More than 600 of those incidents result in an amputation. Additionally, 75 people are killed and 20,000 injured this way annually. One in five of those deaths involves a child.

“In my line of work as a prosthetic/orthotic clinician, amputations are an unfortunate fact of life for a small portion of the pediatric population,” wrote Jillian Warden, a prosthetic/orthotic clinician at Cook Children’s Hospital, in a post on the Cook Children’s Hospital blog. “The saddest cases are those that are completely preventable, and these traumatic lawn mowing accidents are exactly that. If your child is lucky enough to avoid an amputation after a run in with a lawn mower, they are still going through a very scary and traumatic injury. And let’s not get started on what the driver of the lawn mower will have to contend with for the rest of his or her life.”



According to the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, most mower-related injuries are caused when children run behind a mower, slip under a mower while riding as a passenger, collide with mower blades when machines are steered in reverse, or are struck by a mower that has rolled over. In many cases, the adults involved did not realize that

children were anywhere near the mower when the injuries occurred.

Mowing safety guidelines from the Amputee Coalition:

SAFETYCHECKLIST:

1. First and foremost: Keep your children (and pets) indoors and do not allow children to play nearby when you are mowing. Besides the possibility of accidentally running over your child, there are risks for injury from projectiles like rocks, golf balls and small toys that can strike anyone nearby.

2. Never allow children to play on a lawn mower, even if it is turned off. They are curious creatures that could accidentally cut themselves

on non moving blades, in an instant.

3. Never allow a child to ride on a riding mower with you. In a split second, children can lose their balance and tumble to the ground in the direct path of the mower blades. Lawn mower blades can spin at up to 19,000 feet per second... or 150-200 miles per hour and it is not how fast your lawn mower moves across the yard, but how fast those blades are spinning when they make contact with the human body.

BEFORE YOU MOW

1. Make sure all children and pets are indoors safely before you mow.

2. Pick up debris, toys and rocks from the lawn

before you mow to prevent flying objects.

3. Wear shoes, not flip flops.

4. Use eye and hearing protection.

5. Only refuel the motor when it is turned off and cooled down.

WHILE YOU MOW

1. For push mowers: Only use mowers that have automatic shut-off abilities, such as those that stop all motion once the handle is released.

2. For riding lawn mowers: Make sure your mower includes an auto shut off when the rider is not in the seat.

3. Do not remove the grass catcher or unclog the discharge chute until the

mower is completely shut off.

4. Make sure you and your children stay away from the exhaust. A lawn mower can reach temperatures of up to 240 degrees Fahrenheit. Anyone who is near this exhaust could suffer a severe burn.

5. Be careful of hills and sharp cornering. Accidents can happen when a mower tips over.

AFTER YOU MOW

1. Turn off the lawn mower completely and make sure to put it out of reach of children while it cools off.



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Electronics, continued

out of Flint. At first we just offered the same services we did online, Internet and prepaid services, but we soon grew to an all-around electronics destination, branding ourselves YCD Electronics. Now we have opened our second location in Lowell and hope to offer all of our services to this thriving community.”

They have been thinking about opening a location in Lowell for some time because of its location near Grand Rapids. Attending the Lowell Expo and talking with local business people is what eventually convinced them to open the store.

“We also love historic

downtown type areas as we go for a historical modern type look and feel,” Mourer remarked. “We had attended the Lowell Expo last year, and the business owners we met were so warm and inviting. We told a few that we were thinking about Lowell, and in a week’s time we were flooded with emails and texts for available spaces, telling us Lowell needed a quality all around electronics destination. Seemed like a no-brainer after that.”

Although YCD began by only offering prepaid wireless and tax services, they have now expanded into providing hardware as

well as services for many different electronic and wireless needs. They said much of their work comes from business to business sales.

“It would be really difficult to just list all of the services we provide,” Mourer explained. “We are a one stop shop for everything electronics. We sell, buy and repair just about anything, including phones, tablets, PCs, Macs, laptops, smartwatches, game consoles, TVs, drones and more. We can not only replace parts, but we can also do board level soldering repairs as well. Furthermore, we offer all of the services

to connect those devices, like cable, satellite, all types of Internet options, postpaid and prepaid cellular options for various carriers, security options including both cameras and alarm systems and all things to make a connected home. We offer brands such as ATT, Verizon, T-Mobile, Tracfone, HughesNet, Viasat, Nest, Eero, Google Mesh, DirecTV, Xfinity, Spectrum... the list goes on.”

They officially opened the Lowell store at the end of May, and they said they have had more business here compared to when they opened their store in Ionia. Still, they expect

business to grow as more people learn about the store. YCD Electronics is located where Taphouse Boutique and Kaleidoscope Laser were previously. Taphouse Boutique moved just down the street and will share a space with Mi Hometown Furnishings. Kaleidoscope Laser is still taking custom orders as they work on a new showroom. YCD Electronics will have a grand opening party all day on Thursday, June 13.

“We will be offering some pretty great sales all day on June 13,” Mourer said. “Then from 5 pm until 9 pm we will be offering free drinks, food and door

prizes with one lucky person winning a Lenovo Google Home Hub. Some of our sales are as follows: three months of free antivirus with Internet signup, 50 percent off install cost for nest security camera install, free phone activation up to four lines and 20 percent off one accessory purchase.”

More information about the store can be found on their website, ycdelectronics.com, or by calling 616-987-0304. Their website also offers discounts for becoming a YCD member. Their Lowell store hours are 9 am until 8 pm Monday through Saturday and 10 am until 5 pm on Sunday.

Blue Soul Express coming to Lowell Showboat

by Gerald Browning
contributing reporter

On Thursday, June 20, the blues, soul and funk band Blue Soul Express will be performing at the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin’ Summer Concert.

Keyboardist, vocalist and Lowell resident Mike “The Rev” Phelps sat down with the Ledger to explain who Blue Soul Express is and what to expect from them on Thursday when they play at the Lowell Showboat for the first time.

The West Michigan-based group performs a dynamic selection of blues, soul and funk. The group is comprised of Brenda “Sookie” Harris (vocals), Darryl “Sweet D” Matthews (lead guitar), Mark Hicks (bass guitar), and Mark Jilbert (drums). Phelps said they were professionals who were “very strong into the gospel music, all ties in.” Phelps was a church kid who played the drums, bass guitar, and learned keyboards.

“I actually went to seminary and was in the ministry for several years,” Phelps said. “While I was in the seminary, I really started to learn the piano.”

During his time in the ministry, Phelps led a lot of choirs. When Phelps left the



ministry, he worked as an engineer full time.

“For several years, I didn’t play, and back in 2011, I started really getting the itch,” Phelps said, so he bought a keyboard to sharpen his skills again and advertised his skills as a keyboardist. He became part of a band called Back Alley Blues, and they played quite often. In 2014, his work took him back to Michigan and he decided to take

his name off of a musician’s website.

“When I changed my contact information on this musician’s website it automatically started broadcasting me to the local area,” Phelps said.

Brenda Harris contacted him and asked him to audition.

“So I went over one night and jammed with them and I had chill bumps it was so good,” Phelps said.

Phelps attributes that immediate chemistry to the fact

that they all grew up in and around church.

“We all have that same chemistry... that soul,” Phelps said.

In 2013, Blue Soul Express was formed. Harris, Matthews and Hicks formed it with Phelps and Jilbert coming on a little later. By 2015, the band was busy.

“We do the kind of music that people in their 40s and 50s really love,” Phelps said.

In 2016, they put out a CD of original work. It was nominated for best new CD at the Jammie awards.

“We all kind of dabble in other projects, so we cut back our appearances,” Phelps said. “We do festivals, we do the Showboat, we play in Kentwood and Wyoming, at private parties and we focus on a lot of weddings. We don’t play as much now, but we feel like the quality of what we do is much better.”

They strive to apply high quality to their performances and have had to turn down a few gigs in the past. For example, if a potential client wanted just an 80s style of music, Phelps said, “we are

not your band, we don’t want to give you false promises.”

So what will we expect to hear from the Blue Soul Express at the concert on June 20?

“The style of our music is what we call blues, soul and funk with some classic rock mixed in there,” Phelps said. “But we funk up anything that we do. Expect to hear work from Motown, but also a little Fleetwood Mac. We do stuff that people can dance to, but we do it in a way that even if you don’t know the song, you are going to move to it.”

During the interview, Phelps would periodically lapse into a few lines from a song to show that, at times, words didn’t demonstrate enough. It did not take long to see Phelps’, and by proxy Blue Soul Express’, passion for music. As a Lowell resident who has been to these summer concerts several times, he knows what the audience wants.

“We don’t want to do anything just for the money,” Phelps said. “We only want to do gigs that will bring value, happiness and fulfillment to that group of people.”



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Media Type	Percentage
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Radio	16%
Television	29%

VISITED MEDIA-BRANDED SOCIAL MEDIA (past 30 days)

Media Type	Percentage
Magazines	17%
Newspapers	32%
Radio	15%
Television	21%

Sources: (1) Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved, (2) Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; (3) NAA; (4) AMG/Parade Local Knowledge Survey

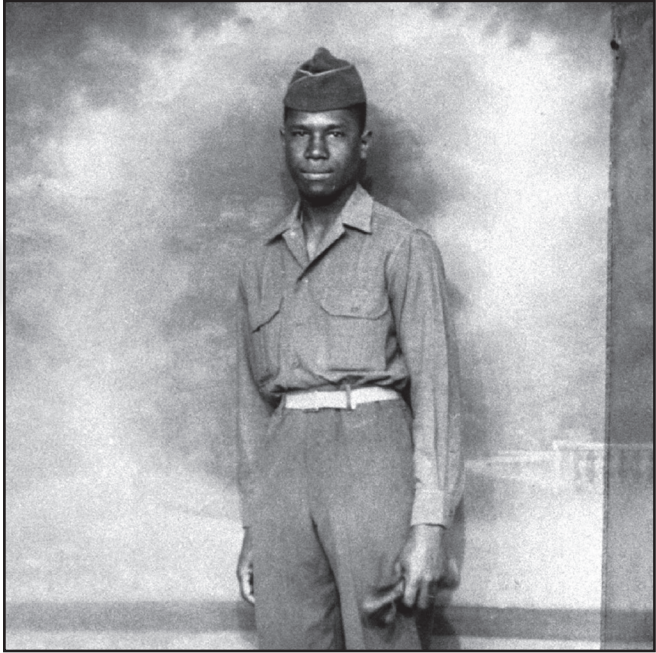
Today: June 12, 2019



President Ronald Reagan saying, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" in Germany on June 12, 1987. [Washington Post photo]

Wednesday, June 12 is the 163rd day of the year. 202 days still remain until the end of 2019.

- TODAY IN WORLD HISTORY: 1429:** On the second day of the Battle of Jargeau during the Hundred Years' War, Joan of Arc led the French army in their capture of that city from the British.
- 1550:** The city of Helsinki, Finland was founded by King Gustav I of Sweden.
- 1665:** Thomas Willett was appointed first mayor of New York City.
- 1775:** British general Thomas Gage declared martial law in Massachusetts and offered a pardon to all colonists who laid down their arms, with the exceptions of Samuel Adams and John Hancock who were to be hanged if captured.
- 1817:** The dandy horse, the earliest type of bicycle, was driven by Karl von Drais.
- 1898:** The Philippines declared their independence from Spain.



World War II veteran and Civil Rights activist Medgar Evers was murdered by the Ku Klux Klan on this date in 1963. [Life Images photo]

- 1899:** The eighth deadliest tornado in US history killed 117 people and injured around 200 in New Richmond, WI.
- 1939:** The Baseball Hall of Fame opened in Cooperstown, NY.
- 1942:** Anne Frank received a diary for her thirteenth birthday.
- 1963:** NAACP field secretary Medgar Evers was murdered in front of his home in Jackson, MS by Ku Klux Klan member Byron De La Beckwith.
- 1964:** In South Africa, Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life in prison.
- 1967:** Loving v. Virginia: the US Supreme Court ruled that all state laws

prohibiting interracial marriage are unconstitutional.

1987: President Ronald Reagan publicly challenged Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall.

- 1994:** Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman were murdered.
- 2016:** Pulse Nighclub massacre in Orlando, FL, 49 killed and 58 injured.



Anne Frank at age 11 in 1940. [Wikipedia photo]

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Egon Schiele (1890-1918), painter; Weegee (1899-1968), photographer and journalist; Samuel Z. Arkoff (1918-2001), film producer; Uta Hagen (1919-2004), actress; George H.W. Bush (1924-2018), 41st President of the United States; Vic Damone (1928-2018), singer, songwriter and actor; Anne Frank (1929-1945), diarist and Holocaust victim; Jim Nabors (1930-2017), actor and singer; Rona Jaffe (1931-2005), novelist; Chips Moman (1937-2016), record producer and musician; Marv Albert (1941-), sportscaster; Chick Corea (1941-), pianist and composer; Timothy Busfield (1957-), actor; Scott Thompson (1959-), "Kids in the Hall" comedian; Jason Mewes (1974-), actor; Kenny Wayne Shepherd (1977-), musician; Robyn (1979-), musician, songwriter and producer; Adriana Lima (1981-), model and actress.

viewpoint

outdoors

slow down Dave Stegehuis

Osprey are a majestic raptor that prefer a fish diet and raise young in elevated nests. Such a nest is built on a platform on top of a fifty-foot tall pole in a field near the shoreline of Little Bay De Noc in the central U.P. For years a pair of osprey have occupied the large nest made of sticks. Every spring we visit the field to see if the osprey came back again. The pair have returned and the binocular reveals the

female sitting resolutely on the nest as she scans the countryside. The male was probably out hunting as he was not perched high in a nearby dead tree keeping watch.

Heavy rain has been steadily falling for days with a cold north east wind blowing across the exposed nest. Yet I trust the remarkable birds will survive to return another

year from who knows where they spent the winter to live and raise young.

The wonder of nature is played out in many ways by hundreds of species from birds to bugs to butterflies and big game animals. Observing or somehow participating in natural plant and animal associations brings one closer to the earth and reality. Finding the time and patience to experience

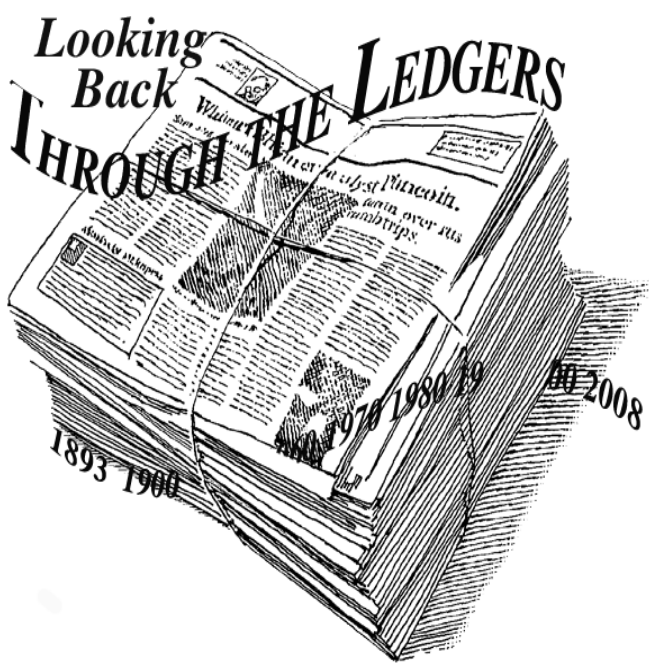
nature close up is difficult for many people because of our fast paced life style packed with concerns and distractions.

Maybe it's time to hang up the headphones and turn off the phone. Technology can be convenient and sometimes a necessary part of modern life, but it seems that for some it has taken over their life to the point where they are letting

life fulfilling experiences slip away while their attention is focused elsewhere. Spending time outdoors allows one to disconnect, relax, and get a new perspective on life in general while getting healthy fresh air, and exercise.

Hunting, fishing, hiking, photography, bird watching, or just quietly sitting against a gnarly old

tree in the quiet forest are reasons to get outdoors. It is time to slow down and appreciate the blessings of nature and claim your place in the natural world. We do have a valid place and just need to take advantage of opportunities to become actively involved in what is going on in that part of our world that was created for us and not by us.



125 years ago Lowell Ledger June 16, 1894

On their return from Clarksville, Tuesday night, the band boys were dumped out by the overturning of the carryall while turning the Ira Jones corner and instruments and bodies were somewhat mixed and jumbled. All escaped serious injury however, and the damage to the carryall was slight.

A party of young men went down the river Sunday on a steam yacht. The current was swift, and there appears to have been a miscalculation as to the amount of fuel required to make the return trip. They ran out of coal when they were still four or five miles from home, and had to tie up the craft and send one of the party for a carriage.

Mr. Asahal Fairchild's house was burned last Saturday morning. Almost all the furniture was saved, but their clothes were all burned. The house was insured for a small amount.

100 years The Lowell Ledger June 12, 1919

The spacious auditorium of the Lowell High School was packed to the doors Wednesday evening in honor of the class of 1919 whose commencement day it was and in spite of the warmth of the evening the creditable program was much enjoyed, all of the participants acquitting themselves finely.

M. N. Henry went to Greenville Sunday to inspect

the Michigan Motor Garment company's factory at that place and to notify the officary that enough help had been secured to operate factory No. 3 at Lowell.

Lowell is again in the field for state honors in the base ball world, with a new team of old players in new uniforms and a new zeal for the good old American game which went into the discard during the great war.

75 years The Lowell Ledger June 15, 1944

Home grown strawberries began making their appearance on the local market the past week-end. It's really shortcake time when the home grown varieties appear—but the long price almost spoils our appetite. Later—the price dropped to 30¢ Tuesday.

The Victory Garden acreage, donated by C.H. Runciman, is now ready for planting. There is no charge or red tape for anyone to have the use of this ground. The plots measure 25 x 35 feet, and a dollar's worth of seed will fill one. That particular kind of soil will hold the moisture, and therefore will withstand a lot of heat.

In common with the rest of the country the Fifth War Loan in Kent County is off to a flying start. Personal calls on every household in Kent county will carry the message of the Fifth War Loan campaign and its importance in the current phases of the war, according to plans announced by R. H. Krause of Rockford, drive chairman in Kent county outside Grand Rapids.

50 years The Lowell Ledger June 12, 1969

Ray Rittenger, who has served as Lowell Township supervisor for 12 years, is leaving his position and the area. Friends and relatives gathered Sunday at an open house held for Ray and his wife Bertha, who will make their new home near Baldwin Lake in Greenville.

Three young Boy Scouts suffered minor injuries in a three-car crash in Lowell last week. They were passengers in a van-type delivery truck which was struck by a car driven by Michael F. Hecht, 21, of Saranac on Main Street. Lowell Police reported that Dennis Sharp, 13, suffered a broken nose and Dennis Nowak, 14, Philip Gerard, 12, lesser injuries. Four other scouts in the truck were not hurt.

Thomas V. (Tom) Ford has been appointed to serve as acting city manager by the Lowell city council. Ford, a city employee since 1963, is superintendent of the street department. The interim appointment

was required by city charter and came as the result of former city manager bernard C. Olson's resignation, effective June 15.

25 years The Lowell Ledger June 15, 1994

Following his tour of the new high school, Lowell's Mark Lessens, a 1980 Lowell High School graduate, had just one concern. "Can I come back?" he mused.

Tina Philips, co-coordinator of the Creekside Kingdom Playground committee, asked City Council at it's June 6 meeting for permission to set up another concession stand to be located at Stoney Lakeside Park.

For the second consecutive year, a Lowell business will be the recipient of an economic job training grant. The grant, which will total approximately \$43,763, will be used by the Attwood Corporation to increase workforce skill levels and teamwork participation in order to keep pace with new product introductions and acquisitions due to decline in marine industry, severe pricing from domestic and overseas competitors, and a need to better utilize production capacity.

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger welcomes letters to the editor from readers, but there are a few conditions that must be met before they will be published.

The requirements are:

- All letters must be signed by the writer, with address and phone number provided for verification. All that will be printed is the writer's name and community of residence. We do not publish anonymous letters, and names will be withheld at the editor's discretion for compelling reasons only.
- Letters that contain statements that are libelous or slanderous will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing for style, grammar and sense.
- Letters that serve as testimonials for or criticisms of businesses will not be accepted.
- Letters serving the function of "cards of thanks" will not be accepted unless there is a compelling public interest, which will be determined by the editor.
- Letters that include attacks of a personal nature will not be published or will be edited heavily.
- "Crossfire" letters between the same two people on one issue will be limited to one for each writer.
- In an effort to keep opinions varied, there is a limit of one letter per person per month.
- We prefer letters to be printed legibly or typed, double-spaced.

HEALTH

With Drs.
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- sunburn

Sunburns are caused by too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light, UVA and UVB are the two types of radiation that are most responsible for sunburns.

Sunburn appears as pink/red skin, pain/tenderness, swelling, blistering, and headaches, fevers or chills if severe. Symptoms typically appear several hours after exposure, but may take a full day.

A "suntan" is your body's way of blocking UV rays. This is done by melanin in your skin. Everyone produces different amounts of melanin, (it's determined genetically), and most people do not produce enough to protect them.

Repeated sunburns can cause premature aging of the skin, precancerous skin lesions, skin cancer, and eye damage.

Treatment of sunburn is aimed at reducing pain and swelling. Ibuprofen, soothing skin gels, and cortisone cream all will help. Applying cold compresses and aloe vera also help. If blisters form, do not rupture them, as this can lead to skin infections. One should also increase fluid intake.

Prevent sunburn by covering your skin, wearing a hat, and sunglasses. Use sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher. Apply 30 minutes prior to exposure and reapply every two hours.

college news

Michigan Technological University, in Houghton, Michigan, has released the Dean's List for the 2019 spring semester. Nearly 1,700 students were named to the Dean's List this spring.

To be included, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. A pound sign indicates a student who earned University Honors, finishing in the top 2 percent of their College or School. Asterisks indicate those earning straight-A averages of 4.0.

Among the honorees are the following from the local area: of Ada: Joseph F. Chen, Computer Engineering; Erin E. Doran, Computer Science; Alex F. Flory*, Mechanical Engineering; Clara M. Mosentine, General Engineering; Seth A. Mosentine, Finance; Zoe K. Reep*, General Engineering; and Maisy F. Snyder*, Geological Engineering; of Lowell: Tanner M. Barnes*, Wildlife Ecology & Mgmt; Kat A. Miller, Biomedical Engineering; Cameron M. Philo, Electrical

Engineering; and Nathan A. Prangley*, Wildlife Ecology & Mgmt.

Local students were among more than 850 graduates honored at Michigan Technological University's Spring Commencement held on the Houghton, Michigan campus May 4.

Former astronaut and combat fighter pilot Gregory H. Johnson, who lives part time in Traverse, City Michigan, was the commencement speaker. The student address was delivered by Monica Brechting of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Among the graduates are the following from Ada: Joseph F. Chen, Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering; Alex F. Flory, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering; and Maisy F. Snyder, Bachelor of Science in Geological Engineering; of Lowell: Emily E. Anible, Bachelor of Science in Mathematics; and Kelsey M. Stickney, Master of Business Administration in Business Administration.



At Your Local Library

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

Foam Relief Painting

Foam relief printing is a forgiving printmaking technique perfect for the beginner. Participants can expect to learn a new craft skill and take home their own work of art. No registration; however seating is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 30 minutes before the program begins. For adults. Monday, June 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Teens! Candy Mosaic

Teens! Bring your friends and artful hunger and create Mosaic designs using candy, frosting and graham crackers. For tweens and teens grades 5-12. Tuesday, June 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Juggling Funny Stories

Award-winning family entertainer Chris Fascione brings literature to life with boundless energy and humor, receiving rave reviews from children, parents and librarians alike. For all ages. Wednesday, June 19 at 1:00 p.m.

Englehardt Cookbook Club

Join us for an informal discussion about cookbooks and sample delectable examples, potluck style. Call or stop by the branch for more details. Monday, June 24 at 6:30 p.m. For adults. "Cooking for Jeffrey-A Barefoot Contessa Cookbook" by Ina Garten.

Happy Henna

Professional henna artists from Happy Henna will bring homemade, organic, lavender infused henna paste that is safe for the skin for you to experience the intricate art of henna tattooing. No registration; however seating is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 30 minutes before the program begins. For tweens and teens grades 5-12. Tuesday, June 25 at 1:00 p.m.

Outdoor Discovery:

Animal Communication

Have you ever wondered how ants follow what seem to be invisible trails leading to food? Or why beavers slap their tail? And why are skunks black and white? If so, you're in the right place! In this program we will learn about some types of critter communication. For ages 6 and up. Wednesday, June 26 at 1:00 p.m.

Yep we cover Life



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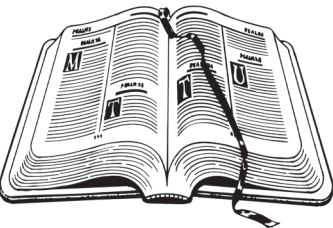
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area churches



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JUNE 12

Benjamin Zoodsma,
Jenny Engle, Noah Green.

JUNE 13

Holly Fetterhoff,
Vivian Hoskins.

JUNE 14

Kyle Manszewski.

JUNE 15

Joey Hunt Jr., Courtney Kriebil, Caran Schalow, Rachel Heinicki, Katlin Manszewski, Alice Monks, Sam Richmond.

JUNE 16

Roger Raymor, Michael Pretzel, Orin Comdure, Jean Bishop, Mike Kenney.

JUNE 17

David Ryder, Cody Kastanek, Tricia McGovern, Cyndi Dalga, Doug Green, Logan Wilcox.

JUNE 18

Jessica Vezino, Lindsay Anderson, Whitney Patnode, Elizabeth Mol.

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LOCAL

Michigan artist Mariel Versluis in LowellArts gallery

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

Mariel Versluis is one of the artists currently featured in LowellArts' "Livin' is Easy" exhibition that runs through August 17.

Versluis is the chair of the printmaking department at the Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University in Grand Rapids, where she has been working since 2004. Versluis was initially hired as the coordinator of the printmaking program, which became an official degree at Kendall in 2013.

Her work often uses the printmaking medium and depicts nature in creative ways. Much of her work is intuitive, and she often finds meaning after it's completed.

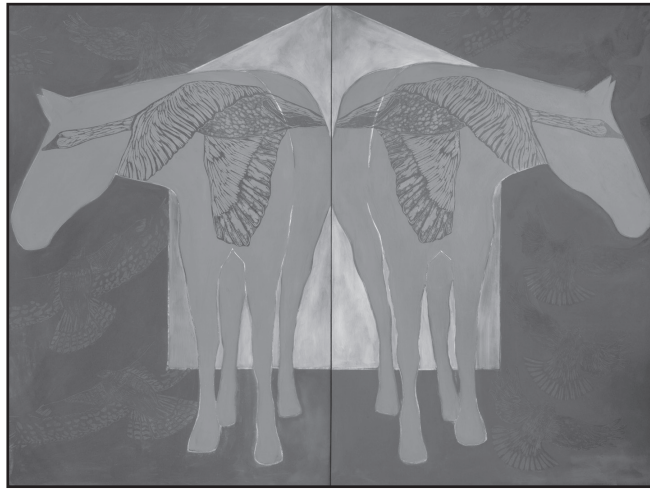
"It's funny, I had an exhibit of my work a couple of years ago in Louisiana," Versluis explained. "I delivered the work many months ahead of the exhibit and honestly had kind of forgotten all of the work that I dropped off there. So when I went to the opening, I walked in the museum and thought, 'Holy cow! Look at all of that work that is so colorful and large, and look at all of those animals!' When I make work, it is kind of like an out-of-body experience. When I return to my studio every morning, I am sometimes startled by what I did the day before. The experience is like, 'Huh, who did that?' And if I like what I did, I'll keep it. If not, I'll mull it over for a while and cover it up with gesso and start again."

Two recurrent images in many of her works are tundra swans and horses. Her fascination with tundra swans goes back many years although it does not stem from much experience seeing the birds in person.

"Tundra swans migrate from Chesapeake Bay to the Arctic each spring and can be faintly heard overhead as they fly as high as 20,000 feet above us," Versluis said. "Their journey can be completed in about a week as they catch the jet stream's strong wind currents. In the fall, they reverse the voyage."

Her fascination with horses, on the other hand, is directly related to her earliest childhood memories, as well as her current experiences of riding and taking care of horses.

"I love animals, I grew up with horses and have ridden my entire life," Versluis said. "My parents met because of their shared love of horses. When my mom was pregnant with me, she rode until she could no longer get on a horse. My very first memory is hanging onto my mom as we went riding together. I started out riding in front of my mom so she could balance me in her arms. I remember pretty clearly when I graduated to being able to hang onto my mom so I could ride behind her on the saddle. So horses have always been an integral part of my life. I cannot imagine life without them. I started riding on my own when I was three or four, and I got



my own pony when I was six. Before age six I shared a pony with my sister."

Versluis sees printmaking as a way of using many different artistic processes to help create a final product, and she is inspired by the creative versatility of the medium and its history.

"Printmaking can be this odd mix of art and science," Versluis remarked. "The variation in techniques and the methods that must be employed for successful results are captivating. It's astonishing to me that Alois Senefelder developed lithography around 1790. Who on earth would think of drawing with a greasy crayon on a piece of limestone, then etching it with nitric acid and using the premise of water and oil not mixing to create multiple images? It's crazy, but it works! I also LOVE how multi-faceted printmaking is [as] a medium. There are so many options - lithography, intaglio, screen printing, digital processes - that can be

integrated with techniques that are hundreds of years old. It's fascinating!"

She is now the chair of a printmaking department, but did not really learn about printmaking until her own time at college.

"Like a lot of people, I had never heard about printmaking until I went to college," Versluis said. "I was advised to take a printmaking class, so [I] did. It was definitely NOT love at first sight. I didn't have the drawing skills at the time to really be able to apply a lot of the techniques in a meaningful way. But I persevered. I was initially attracted to the idea of creating multiple images. When I started to focus on woodcuts everything clicked. I am engaged by the sheer physicality of making woodcuts. I grew up on a vegetable and fruit farm where literally everything was picked by hand. My sister and cousins and I all worked together on the family farm from very early ages. For me, that was five years old. I think working with my hands for long periods of time, typically doing the same thing over

and over, set the stage for what has become a lifetime of making prints. It certainly has a lot of that same thing, doing something over and over and over. I enjoy repetition."

Versluis has to wear many hats as an artist, and educator, and an administrator at Kendall. Learning to balance the creative and administrative sides of what she does is a challenge, but ultimately she enjoys the challenge. Working with students also drives her to be a better artist.

"I am continually inspired by my students. I love watching them learn," Versluis remarked. "I love watching their work evolve as they figure out what makes them tick as a developing artist/designer."

Outside of working at the college and her own artistic work, she lives on a fruit farm and still loves riding horses. She has also taken up the uncommon hobby of skijoring.

"Skijoring originated in Scandinavia," Versluis explained. "It is a sport based on teamwork between a cross country skier and their dogs. The dogs, no more than two if you are sane, wear specialized harnesses, and the skier wears a specific kind of padded belt, kind of like a climbing harness. The dogs are attached to the skier with a long line that has integrated bungees so that it has give to it. The skier uses the Nordic skate skiing technique, as opposed to in-line classic skiing. The dogs are trained to turn left or right on command and also should know 'slow down,' 'over,' 'on by' for passing,

and 'whoa.' Some people use other commands, but these are the commands that my dogs understand."

Versluis said she "competes for fun" at various skijoring events with her two German Shorthaired Pointers around Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Canada. She says her dogs average about 20 miles per hour, but can max out at 30 mph. Although very different from printmaking, she sees a connection between skijoring, horse riding and teaching.

"I became interested in skijoring because I love working with animals," Versluis said. "I love teamwork with my horses and teamwork with my dogs. I suppose my interests are all related. I love collaborating with my dogs with skijoring, I love collaborating with my horses by trail riding and I love collaborating with my students through the process of teaching and learning printmaking. It is collaborative in nature due to the use of shared facilities at the college. The printmaking studio has large presses that students must share, unlike other disciplines that can be solitary in nature such as drawing or painting. Printmaking is about a shared community."

More information about Versluis can be found on her website, marielversluis.com. Her artwork is currently on display and for sale at LowellArts in downtown Lowell through August 17. The gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 am until 6 pm and Saturday from 10 am until 5 pm.

Michigan artwork on display at LowellArts starting June 1

A new summertime collection of artwork will be featured at the LowellArts gallery beginning on Saturday, June 1 entitled "Livin' is Easy."

The subject of the pieces range from depictions of beautifully weathered objects, local Michigan waterways, animal and aquatic life forms to whimsical figurative work.

The six artists with work in the collection all currently live in Michigan, but their styles and backgrounds are distinct. Two of the artists, Mariel Versluis and Olivia Timmons, are currently professors at Kendall College in Grand Rapids where they teach printmaking.

Versluis lives on a

farm, which is reflected in her art that often features horses and other wildlife.

Timmons' formal education took place on the West Coast and in the Southwest. Much of her artwork features creative depictions of sea wildlife, including fish and birds.

Justin Bernhardt, originally from Kalamazoo, attended the Art Institute of Chicago where he received his BFA, and he later earned his MFA from Goddard College in Plainfield, VT.

Craig Cossey is from Michigan, but his work is inspired by the time he spent living in Colorado. He had entries in ArtPrize in 2015 and 2016.

Lisa Mull is a clinical psychologist by training and uses this background in her artwork, which will also be at LowellArts beginning on

June 1. She is originally from Grand Rapids, graduated from Pacific University in Oregon, and is a veteran of the United States Air Force. These varied experiences all influence her work.

Kerry Rolewicz is another artist whose work will be featured in the collection. In the summer of 2016, her family relocated to Michigan and she currently resides in Rockford with her husband and four boys.

The collection can be viewed during regular gallery hours, which are Tuesday through Friday from 10 am to 6 pm and Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm. More information can be found by calling LowellArts at 616-897-8545 or by visiting their website, lowellartsmi.org.



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Celebrating the heritage of area farms

A centennial farm - a love for the land and tradition

Railside Orchards still going strong after over 120 years in Lowell

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

Farming has been part of Lowell's history since the beginning. Centennial farms have been led by

is the Kropf farm, now known as Railside Orchards. The farm has been handed down

Kropf emigrated from Switzerland to the United States, chasing the American Dream.

would continue for five generations.

Christian Kropf picked each apple himself by

the market.

The Kropf centennial farm was passed down from Christian and Jenny

started one of the more beloved businesses in the Murray Lake area, the Red Barn Market.



Carl Kropf was the second family member to run the farm.



Christian Kropf came to the Lowell area and started the farm in 1896.

families who have passed down their lifestyle from generation to generation.

One such local farm

through four generations and is about to be given to a fifth.

In 1896, Christian

He purchased his farm in Lowell, planted apple trees and started a family tradition that

hand, carefully wrapped them up in crates, loaded them into his horse-drawn carriage and sold them at

Kropf to Carl Kropf and his wife Emma Kropf.

In 1993, Carl Kropf passed away leaving the farm to his children Roger and Ken. Ken also sadly passed away in 2001, leaving the farm solely to Roger Kropf. Roger downsized the farm from 2,500 acres to 180 acres.

One thing that has always been a constant at the Railside Orchard are the apples. Christian Kropf began growing apples when he moved to Lowell in the 1800s and the tradition has never changed.

"Apples have always been our main crop," Roger Kropf said. "Yes, we've grown other fruits in our history. When I was a kid, we grew all sorts of tree fruits such as peaches, plums, pears and tart cherries along with apples."

In the spring of 2014, Roger Kropf and his daughter Barb Roth

Selling an assortment of products, they also run a café that sells various foods, sandwiches and ice cream.

Today, the farm is run by Aaron and Barb Roth, who bought the farm from Barb's father in 2017. They are continuing the dream that Barb's great-grandfather had over 120 years ago. It is their hope that one day their grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren, will continue growing Michigan apples.

"Our son, Noah, is 22, and he's working the farm as well," Barb Roth said. "We're excited that he'll be taking over the farm in the future, making it five generations in the family."

Red Barn Market is located at 3550 Alden Nash Avenue and is open Monday through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 9 pm, Saturdays 9 a.m. to 9 pm, and Sundays 12 pm to 9 pm




The Roth family today: Diana, Noah, Aaron, Barb and Jonah Roth and Becca Payauys.



The third generation: Roger and Ken Kropf.



The fourth generation: Aaron Roth and Barb Kropf-Roth.



Shawn Keasey

<p>Occupation:</p> <p>Birthplace:</p> <p>Residence:</p> <p>Family:</p> <p>Pets:</p> <p>Hobbies:</p> <p>Movie:</p>	<p>Head kitchen manager at Main Street BBQ Pennsylvania</p> <p>Ionia</p> <p>Parents and brother live in Florida. Married with six children and 17 grandchildren.</p> <p>One cat and two dogs</p> <p>Collecting comic books, hunting, professional wrestling</p> <p>'Avengers Endgame,' 'It is awesome!'</p>
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Main Street BBQ's head chef loves Lowell

by Gerald Browning
contributing reporter

Head kitchen manager Shawn Keasey has been working at Main Street BBQ for three years, but has been cooking for over thirty years.

"I am from Pennsylvania," Keasey said. "I graduated high school in Pennsylvania and then went into the Air Force. I got stationed right in Oscoda, Michigan, and [Michigan] is where I've been since."

Keasey says that cooking is a passion.

"I love cooking. I took a break from cooking to do construction for about ten years, but then I came back to cooking again," Keasey said.

Many in Lowell are happy that he returned to cooking, but so is Keasey.

"I like the customers. The customers are very friendly, very nice," Keasey said. "The staff here is great to work with."

Main Street BBQ is expanding to another location in Hastings, and a lot of people are quite excited about the new restaurant, but Keasey will remain cooking here in Lowell.

"I will probably go down there and train people, but I will not be down there working," Keasey said. "This is my main location. I am very happy with my job right here, and this town is great. It is always busy."

When asked what the most popular food item that is ordered at the restaurant,



Keasey quickly replied with "French dips."

"We sell a ton of French dips," Keasey said. "Brisket sandwiches, too. Those two items, I'd say, are our main sellers. Unsurprisingly, a lot of people like the ribs. We run out of ribs quite often."

The favorite for many is the Main Street Diner Burger, but Keasey was quick to recommend the quesadilla burger.

"Take two tortilla shells and we put queso cheese on it then cook a burger and put it between it," Keasey said. "Then we cut it in half."

When not working, Keasey loves hunting and collecting comic books. He currently has about

2,500 comic books in his collection. Keasey said he is more interested in collecting Marvel comic books than DC, but he collects some of those as well.

"I love collecting variants [alternative covers to comic books]," Keasey said. "I collect a lot of first issues. That about takes up my time because I work about sixty hours a week here."

"I love your business, please keep coming back and I hope you really enjoy the food," Keasey said.

He probably doesn't have to worry much about that.



Car show cruises into Charlton Park this Sunday

Staff members at Charlton Park in Hastings are excited to kick off the summer season when it hosts the largest one-day car show in the Midwest, the 38th annual Father's Day Car Show, Sunday, June 16. The show will be 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; rain or shine, and vehicle awards will

be presented at 3 p.m. Guests are invited to tour the park's historic village while admiring hundreds of vintage show cars covering more than 45 acres. Adding to the celebration, a DJ will be playing music from the 1950s and 1960s, and plenty of vendors will be on hand with festival food.

A wide array of swap meet vendors and crafters will be selling products. Complimentary pony rides for kids will be available and a nondenominational church service in the Carlton Center Church at the park will begin at 11:30 a.m. The annual event is coordinated by the Southern

Michigan Street Rod Association and park staff. Dash plaques will be given to the first 200 show cars. Exhibitors also will be eligible for door prizes, cash prizes and numerous awards, including peoples' choice. A poker run is planned and commemorative T-shirts

will be available for purchase. Spectator general admission is \$6 for anyone 13 and up, \$4 for children

will be open to northbound traffic only from 5:30 to 10 a.m. Show cars must access Charlton Park from M-79. All spectator parking



5 to 12. Children 4 and under are admitted for free. Vendor spaces are available the day of the show from 6 to 10 a.m. for \$25 each. Show car registration is \$20 and includes all passengers; all cars must be 1994 or older and driven in under their own power. No trailered vehicles or motor homes will be allowed. During the event, South Charlton Park Road, from M-79 to River Road

is free and available at a grassy lot off of River Road. Spectator access is easiest using southbound Charlton Park Road to River Road. Shuttle service from parking areas will be provided by Barry County Transit, and the Barry County Sheriff's Posse will assist with parking. Additional information can be found at charltonpark.org or by following the park on Facebook.



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LMS Students of the Third Trimester



Lowell Middle School has announced the Students of the Third Trimester for the 2018-2019 school year. Teachers chose the following students who have been outstanding in the categories of academics, citizenship and attitude:

First row: Natalie VanLaan, Lena Clark, Braxcynn Baker, Jacquelyn Landman, Jady FrancisScotty, Katie Hofman, Kaylee Bogoski, Caleb Velting, and Carter Cichocki; second row: Maria Soto-Gomez, Oliver Jones, Hiyori Eldred, Keara Crawford, Liam Tenharmesl, and Parker Salgat; third row: Ayden Pellerito, Gavin Mazarka, Caleb Yomtoob, Jeffrey Drayton, Brady Swift, Eli Hawk, and Austin Parcheta; fourth row: Ilana Rhodes, Haylie Beers, Hunter Strpanovich, Jack Meier, Dawson Huhn, Landon Burgess, Eliana Tucker, and Julia Meier. Not pictured: Gage Dutkiewicz, Dawson Douma, and Kaylee Meyer.

Red Arrow

- SOFTBALL

SPORTS

Softball wins first ever regional title

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

Beating Caledonia on Saturday was a huge victory for the Lowell Softball program as LHS took home the regional title. The Lowell varsity softball team claimed the regional championship on Saturday after defeating defending state champions Caledonia by a score of 2-0. The Red Arrows lost a close playoff game last year to the Fighting Scots and in an earlier game this season, Caledonia defeated Lowell 12-2, but took advantage of the rematch.

Lowell had to get through Muskegon Reeths-Puffer in the regional semi-final and were able to defeat the Rockets by a score of 7-0.

In the game against Caledonia, Lowell jumped out to an early 2-0 lead thanks to RBIs by Emily Depew and Kenzie Jordan. From there the Red Arrows were aided by the strong pitching performance of Depew and an excellent defensive performance to

shut the Caledonia offense down.

The first Lowell softball team to advance to a regional final was the 1980-1981 team. That team who went 22-4, also played against a Bay City school in their tournament run. They did not compete against Bay City Western (this year's quarterfinal opponent), but rather Bay City Handy, which was converted to a middle school in the 1990-1991 school year. Lowell beat Handy that year 11-8 in the regional semi-final before losing a close game to Cadillac in the regional final.

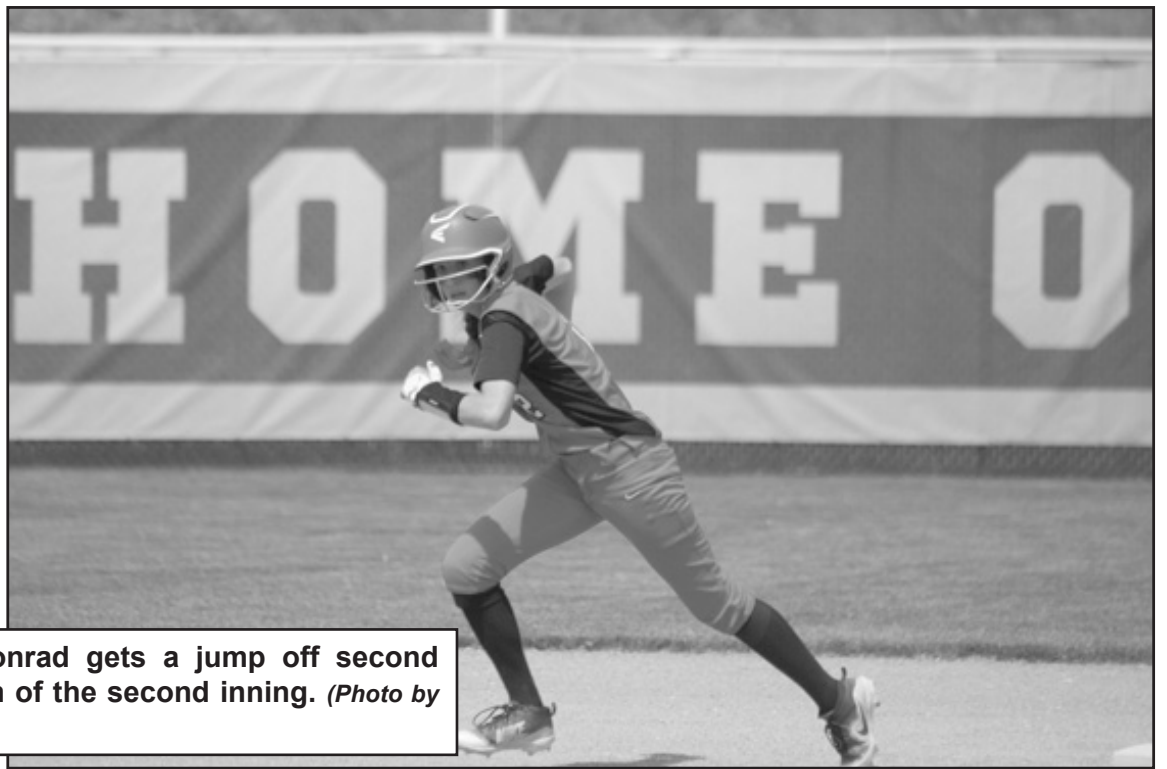
This year's lady Arrows advance to Tuesday's division 1 state quarterfinal matchup against Bay City Western. The Warriors were ranked 7th in the latest state rankings. The game took place at Central Michigan University's Margo Jonker Stadium on Tuesday. The results of the game were not available for this week's publication schedule.



Lowell softball poses with their regional championship trophy. (Photo by LHS Softball)



Above: Emily Depew pitches for the Red Arrows during their 2-0 victory over Caledonia in the Division 1 Regional Final hosted by Hudsonville Saturday. Depew no-hit Muskegon Reeths-Puffer in a 7-0 Lowell victory in the regional semifinal before shutting out the defending state champion Fighting Scots in the regional final. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



Audrey Conrad gets a jump off second in the bottom of the second inning. (Photo by Brett Bremer)



Shortstop Kylee Stephens spins to tag out Caledonia's Mackenzie Moore to thwart a steal of second during the top of the first inning of the Division 1 Regional Final in Hudsonville Saturday. (Photo by Brett Bremer)

obituaries

DUNN

George William Dunn, age 92 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, June 9, 2019. He was preceded in death by his children, Frances Dunn, William Dunn and Susie Dunn. George is survived by his sister, Deloris Schoen; children, Carla Marion, George Dunn Jr., Ray Dunn, Brian Dunn and Harold Dunn; Nieces and Nephews, Peggy Lee (Randy) Seaman, Tim (Sally) Schoen, Mary Lou Schoen, Brenda (Andy Stiles) Schoen, Melinda (Steve) Heydenburg, Dorie (Dennis) Vincent, Joe (Mindy) Schoen and Alice (Paul Matlenga) Koster. He was valedictorian at Wyoming Park High School in 1944. George was an auto mechanic his whole life in Lowell and Grand Rapids. Later in life he loved his crossword puzzles and word searches. Visitation will be Wednesday, June 12 from 10:00-11:00 am at Vergennes United Methodist Church, 10411 Bailey Dr. NE, Lowell MI 49331 with service following at 11:00 am, Rev. Tom Fifer officiating. Interment will be held at Bailey Cemetery. Memorial Contributions can be made to Vergennes United Methodist Church, 10411 Bailey Dr. NE, Lowell MI 49331.



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HEEMSTRA

Roger Alan Heemstra, age 64, passed away Friday, May 31, 2019 under the loving care of his family and Spectrum Health Hospice at his son's home in Lowell. The son of Robert and Margaret (Riemersma) Heemstra, he was born on February 11, 1955 in Grand Rapids and worked in the drywall and construction trades. Roger enjoyed hunting, fishing, golf, bowling, gardening, farming, foraging, playing cards, and music. A member of the NRA, DU, NWTF, and founding member of the FFFB. Anyone who knew him, knew that he was a strong, hard working individual, always lending a hand to those in need. He was well known for his big smile and a good conversation. Surviving are his children, Joshua Heemstra of Lowell and Melinda Heemstra of Grants Pass, Oregon; two step-sons, Daniel Seymour of Bear Lake, and Matthew (Carrie) Seymour of Rockford; grandson, Matthew Heemstra of Lowell; and sisters, Linda Brifnek of Kalamazoo, and Nancy (Jack) Kits of Byron Center. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Heemstra (1989) and Margaret (Riemersma) Heemstra (2018); and his brother, Gary Heemstra (2012). The family invites relatives and friends to join them on June 16, 2019 from 12 pm to 4 pm at Wabasis Lake Park in Greenville to celebrate Roger's life and share in a time of food and fellowship. In memory of Roger and his love for the great outdoors, donations can be made to the State of Michigan - Nongame Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund. To send a message of sympathy to the family, sign Roger's online guest book, or to share a favorite memory, please visit: www.ChristiansenCares.com Arrangements are entrusted to Christiansen Cremation & Funeral Care, Greenville.



Social Security helps people like you

Part of what makes our nation unique is our diversity. Social Security touches the lives of nearly all Americans; so, we're accustomed to serving a diverse population. Online, our People Like Me pages help inform the many different people we help. From people with disabilities to students and military veterans — Social Security is here for you.

These pages are easy to share with friends and family or on social media. Here are just a few that might speak to you or someone you love.

Do you know someone who is just starting their career? Now is the best time for them to start preparing for retirement. The sooner we begin to save, the more we'll have when we reach retirement age. Share this page with a young worker you know. www.socialsecurity.gov/people/earlycareer.

We proudly serve wounded warriors and veterans. They faced sacrifices to preserve the freedoms Americans treasure. Many of them do not know they might be entitled to benefits. Share our resources with them to make sure they are getting the benefits they deserve. www.socialsecurity.gov/people/veterans.

Social Security plays an

important role in providing economic security for women. Nearly 55 percent of the people receiving Social Security benefits are women. Women face greater economic challenges in retirement. First, women tend to live longer than men. A woman who is 65 years old today can expect to live, on average, until about 87, while a 65-year-old man can expect to live, on average, until about 84. Second, women often have lower lifetime earnings than men, which usually means lower benefits. And, third, women may reach retirement with smaller pensions and other assets than men. Share this page with someone who needs this information and may need help planning for their golden years. www.socialsecurity.gov/people/women.

These are just a few People Like Me pages that are tailored to a specific group's needs. If you didn't see your own, check out our home page at www.socialsecurity.gov/people.

Vonda VanTil is the Public Affairs Specialist for West Michigan. You can write her c/o Social Security Administration, 3045 Knapp NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525 or via email at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

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

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A large grid of letters with several words circled in white. The words include: S O P M O C T I D S Z D N M P E Z S, B P N T P F L P C K O D Z K O H O S A, A N U P E R N S G N I T T U C K C D K A R, K P U D L Z L R E F F C H C O C E F S O L, D G S A L Z K N P G P G F P T E U M T L, R I L K R G R R D E O A E T S T P B S F, B S O I L C O C Z F A D R P T F U G E I, S U R O H P S O H P H N T U O M S G P D, I B T N P D E M I E N U I C O U E N E N, G G S T E M Z G U D O B L T R I G I H A R, U N A F K C F K N F I I I E E S A T E R G, F F I M A M T I F A T R Z R R S T N S G, H C A T Z R T Z L C A O E U A A I A A B, C D S N A R P K P P G L R T B T R L E C, L I R O O G A N A R I F O A L O E P S R, U I U G Z L A T E T R E O I D P H S I O, M I E O I O G P I T R I A N M T O N D S, A N Z N I O I O O I T H I K H R A O K, A R E I H Z I E C R O G N M S A P R O T, K F D E N O Z C D Z P F U N G A L T A C

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Great Lakes research vessels collect valuable fish data

While at Great Lakes ports this summer or fall, you might see one of the DNR's large fisheries research vessels conducting annual fish population surveys. The vessels are based out of Alpena, Charlevoix, Harrison Township and Marquette harbors.

"The staff on these vessels are working on a variety of studies to better understand Great Lakes fish communities, population sizes and habitats," said Gary Whelan, DNR Fisheries Research Program manager. "Their work and the



information produced are essential to supporting current and future fisheries management."

The RV Tanner, launched in 2016, focuses on Lake Huron and the sunrise coast's lake trout, walleye and forage fish populations. It also spends time in Saginaw Bay and the St. Marys River to evaluate fish communities.

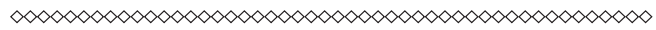
The RV Channel Cat, in service since 1968, works on lakes St. Clair and Erie. This crew studies walleye, yellow perch and lake sturgeon in these waters that support some of the highest fishing activity in Michigan.

The RV Lake Char launched in 2007. It assesses the status of Lake Superior's self-sustaining lake trout and whitefish populations, along with other members of the unique coldwater fish community found in that water.

The survey vessel Steelhead, on the water since 1967, focuses on yellow perch, whitefish, lake trout, chinook salmon and forage fish populations in Lake Michigan."

When the vessels are in port, the public is encouraged to visit and talk with crew about their work. Learn more at Michigan.gov/FishResearch.

Questions? Contact Gary Whelan, 517-284-5830 or Elyse Walter, 517-284-5839.



Secretary Benson announces steps to promote college-age voter participation, initiatives to resolve lawsuit

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson has announced steps to promote participation among college-age voters. The steps are part of a broader voter engagement initiative and will help bring a mutually agreeable resolution to a lawsuit brought on behalf of student voting groups last year.

"Going away to school shouldn't complicate a student's ability to vote," Benson said. "Michigan has made great strides recently in improving access for all voters, and this is just the beginning of our work to ensure college-age voters have the information and opportunities they need to vote as engaged citizens."

"Young voters are the future of our state and our democracy, and we need their voices at the table," Benson said. "I'm committed to removing barriers and also encouraging college-age voter participation with several additional initiatives that we will be announcing in the months and years ahead."

The Department of State and Bureau of Elections will be rolling out a broad voter engagement initiative prior to the 2020 election. The initial steps announced today are focused on student and college-age voters and include:

Creating a website dedicated to providing voting information and tools for college students and first-time voters and promoting the resource on social media.

Encouraging local clerks in communities with colleges and universities to engage in student outreach through voter registration drives and other activities.

Updating department manuals and training materials to reflect a new emphasis on college student voters.

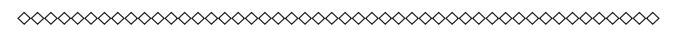
Sending letters each September to the Michigan

Association of State Universities and non-member colleges and universities with helpful information for students.

Deploying the Secretary of State's Mobile Office, as in past years but with greater frequency, to provide opportunities for voter registration on college and university campuses and encouraging friendly competition among institutions related to voter registration efforts.

These steps help resolve a lawsuit filed by College Democrats at the University of Michigan and other student organizations. The groups filed a lawsuit against the previous secretary of state in August 2018, challenging the requirement that a Michigan voter with a Michigan driver's license have the same address for both registration and licensing, and another requirement that first-time voters must vote in person if they registered through the mail or a third party registration drive.

After the lawsuit was filed, Michigan voters adopted Proposal 3 in 2018. Among other changes, the proposal guaranteed all registered Michigan voters the right to vote absentee without giving a reason. Earlier this year, the secretary of state determined that the "must vote in person" requirement is no longer enforceable under the constitutional amendment. This change, in addition to other new voting options such as same-day registration, lessen the burden on student voters. The secretary of state will be emphasizing these new options as part of her efforts to promote student voting engagement.



Michigan Land Bank seeks proposals for redevelopment of former Ionia correctional facility

The Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority has released a Request for Interest and Qualifications (RFI-Q) for redevelopment of the former Deerfield Correctional Facility in Ionia.

"This property has sat vacant for many years and we hope redevelopment of this site will breathe new life into the Ionia community," Michigan Land Bank Interim Director Jeff Huntington said. "This request for qualifications and interest allows us to get a feel for what developers want to bring to the community – and allows local officials to consider what will work best for their community in the long run."

The Deerfield Correctional Facility is approximately 47 acres in size and has sat vacant since its closure in 2009. Redevelopment of this parcel would put the property back on the tax roll and depending on the project chosen, could bring new jobs or housing opportunities to the community.

Questions from potential bidders must be received via email no later than June 24, at landbank@michigan.gov with the subject "Deerfield RFI-Q Questions." Bidders must submit proposals electronically to landbank@michigan.gov by July 19 at noon.

To view the RFI-Q, visit www.michigan.gov/landbank.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES

US Sen. Debbie Stabenow
Senate Office Building
731 Hart
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4822
stabenow.senate.gov

US Sen. Gary C. Peters
Senate Office Building
724 Hart
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6221
peters.senate.gov

US Rep. Justin Amash
House Office Building
114 Cannon
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3831
amash.house.gov

Mich. Sen. Winnie Brinks
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1801
senwbrinks@senate.michigan.gov
senatedems.com/brinks

Mich. Rep. Thomas A. Albert
N-1190 House Office Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-0846
thomas@votealbert.com
gophouse.org/representatives/westmi/albert

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The Yskes Family Trust
Re: Carol A. Yskes, decedent, Date of Birth: 10/13/1932.
of 1525 Woodfield Dr., Zeeland, MI 49464 and Michael Yskes, of 1409 Elderwood Ct., N.W., Walker, MI 49504, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Carol A. Yskes, who lived at 3307 S. Ottawa, Grandville, MI 49418, died 05/21/2019.
John D. Mitus, Attorney (P-31244) 410 Bridge Street, N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49504 616-774-4001

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the deceased or the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Co-Trustees Joseph Yskes, Joseph Yskes 1525 Woodfield Dr. Zeeland, MI 49464 Michael Yskes 1409 Elderwood Ct. N.W. Walker, MI 49504

LEGAL NOTICE

TO ALL CREDITORS: Karen M. Wolters, Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

There is no Personal Representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.
Date: June 6, 2019
Jennifer M. Racine (P69709) 2905 Wilson Ave. SW Suite 214C Grandville, MI 49418 616-530-2332

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Emily Juhas Trust Agreement dated May 10, 1993, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to Karen M. Wolters 524 Buena Vista Drive Spring Lake, MI 49456 616-291-3715

FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

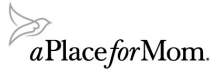
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

ROSE GARDEN WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Puzzle solutions on page 12

POISON WORD SEARCH

ACCIDENT
ALCOHOL
ASSESSMENT
ASSISTANCE
BATHROOM
BLEACH
BURN

CAUTION
CHEMICAL
CLEANSER
DEATH
EMERGENCY
FERTILIZER
GARAGE
GASOLINE
HARMFUL
HEALTH

HOME
INGESTION
INJURY
MEDICINE
PAINT
PETS
PHARMACEUTICAL
PLANTS
POISON
PREVENTION

SAFETY
SPRAYS
TOOTHPASTE
TOUCH
UNINTENTIONAL

CROSSWORD

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to safety.

R U D A G

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Guard

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 21. What a spooked horse does, with away | 61. Aquarium organism | 25. Change shoelace knot, e.g. |
| 22. *___ domain | 62. Electric guitar hookup | 26. Soda jerk's offering |
| 23. Post-graduate "journey" | 63. Greenwich time | 27. Boarding school dwellings |
| 26. *Military College of South Carolina, with The | 64. Tandoori bread | 28. Book on a NOOK |
| 30. *Beehive State native | | 29. Helping theorem |
| 31. Expect to be true | DOWN | 32. *U.S. has the world's largest reserves of this |
| 34. *RBG's garb | 1. Olden-day aerosol can propellant | 33. ___ Royale |
| 35. Tax of one tenth | 2. Julian Assange's announcement? | 36. *First to sign Declaration of Independence |
| 37. *Rockefeller's industry | 3. Other than what's implied | 38. Type of lily |
| 38. Type of digital storage | 4. Strip fat like a whaler | 40. Prefix for central |
| 39. Pelvic bones | 5. Impertinence | 41. Type of tunic |
| 40. Caribbean rattle | 6. Middle Eastern vodka, pl. | 44. Overly self-confident |
| 42. *Anna Jarvis' honoree | 7. Not a slob, adj. | 46. Thessaloniki sea |
| 43. Reusable pattern painting device | 8. Play charades | 48. Give new guns |
| 45. *State with longest coastline | 9. *George Herman Ruth's nickname | 49. Gold bar |
| 47. Popular white fish | 10. *Boxer and conscientious objector | 50. Panama part |
| 48. Winchester 30-30, e.g. | 12. Knight in training | 51. Pronounce s sound like th |
| 50. Country alliance | 13. Lace loop | 52. Arrogant snob |
| 52. *World's largest office building | 14. *First university in the U.S. | 53. Paella pot |
| 55. The Commodores' "___ House" | 19. "And Then ___ Were None" | 54. Half human, half cobra in Hinduism |
| 56. Indian music | 22. What Tom Collins and Gibson have in common | 55. Lingerie staple |
| 57. Enthusiasm | 23. Skin, anatomically speaking | 58. A Bobbsey twin |
| 59. "___ Business," movie | 24. Like Tower of Pisa | |
| 60. In Tiger's bag | | |

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THEME: U.S. TRIVIA

ACROSS

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. First notation on musical staff | 5. Took a load off | 15. FBI assignment |
| | 8. Wharton degree | 16. Campus hangout |
| | 11. *Skylab ___ to Earth in 1979 | 17. More than one iamb |
| | 12. Delhi wrap | 18. *Location of longest cave system in the world |
| | 13. Same as vial | 20. *First Nation nation |

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This is another installment in the Lowell Ledger's series of feature articles about the many different types of artisans who do business in the Lowell area. Some use the Internet as their storefront, others sell their wares out of a brick and mortar location. All of them are fascinating people and incredibly talented.

If you know of somebody who makes things and sells them, we want to do a story about it! Contact the Lowell Ledger at 616-897-9261 or send a message to ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

KB Makes

KB Makes memorable moments immortal

by Gerald Browning
contributing reporter

Kerri Brocker decided to buy her own vinyl cutting machine and started crafting four years ago. She has built her hobby into KB Makes, a business that personalizes items for customers. In a recent interview with the Ledger, Brocker spoke about her interest in crafting.

"I have always found an interest in being creative with

does not take up a lot of space, Brocker is able to turn her kitchen and dining room area into an efficient workshop. Many customers want customized decals and birthday shirts. Cups and wine glasses seem to be the top items that are in demand for KB Makes. Items can be personalized for weddings or bachelorette parties, to make the event even more special.

"I will [take orders] through messaging or texting," Brocker said.

As for the future, Brocker has aspirations of adding a workshop and/or storefront to the house.

"To have an area where I can meet with customers if they do want to have face to face contact," Brocker said.

With her schedule, as well as the schedules of her family, it has been



crafting," Brocker said. "I offer personalized and customized items."

As a stay-at-home parent, Brocker can work on her business from the comforts of her home. The initials of the first names of the members of the family make up the name of the business. This personalization also brings a family touch to the business.

"My kids like to help pick out stuff, they like to pick out animals for the seasons," Brocker said. "They help pick out Santa-type things and bunnies at Easter time."

Using a vinyl cutter and a heat press that

Orders are predominantly done online. The potential client will send the request to Brocker and she will respond with samples and options. The client pays for the product in advance.

"I think I've always, since I was little, been into crafting and making things," Brocker said. "Now I can do it at home and make money doing it."

Although you can find KB Makes on both Facebook and Instagram, Facebook Marketplace is where Brocker does most of her business.

difficult for Brocker to do craft shows.

"I definitely would like to get into Christmas Through Lowell or the Riverwalk Festival," Brocker said. "Hopefully next year. I definitely would like to bring my machine, and people could order on the spot."

With a passion for crafting and personalizing others' memorable moments, KB Makes has turned a creative dream into a reality. You can find KB Makes on social media at www.facebook.com/KBmakesMichigan or KBmakes@gmail.com.

