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ball



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River City Jazz Ensemble and Rick Reuther ring in the Fourth of July in a classic style

by Gerald Browning
contributing reporter

On Thursday, July 4, Rick Reuther and the River City Jazz Ensemble brought classic jazz to Lowell. With an array of ballads, swing music and classic jazz, there was a light and even patriotic, vibe on the rainy day.

The band played familiar tunes from Frank Sinatra's songbook. Songs such as "Fly Me to the Moon," "Nice and Easy" and "New York, New York" payed homage to Old Blue Eyes. Quick-moving, classic tunes such as Duke Ellington's "It Don't Mean a Thing" really got the crowd to tapping their feet along with the music.

The crowd enjoyed the easy, laid back, relaxed environment that the music provided. Even though there was some rain, the umbrellas and the smiling audience appreciated the good tunes provided by the band. However, the rain was short-lived. A few songs in, "The Best is Yet to Come" began playing and as if on cue, the clouds parted and the sun came out.



Between songs, the band introduced songs and joked with the audience, adding to the relaxed atmosphere.

Since the concert was held on the Fourth of July, the band paid tribute to the armed forces with the theme song played for each of the military branches. The River City Jazz Ensemble requested that the veterans



in the audience stand for the song of the branch that they served under. That way, they could get the recognition that they deserved for their service in the military. Many of the men and women who served wore hats that showed their status as veterans. The crowd roared with applause to demonstrate

their appreciation for the sacrifices veterans made for our freedom. The love and gratitude that the audience had for their servicemen and servicewomen was overwhelming. The jazz group thanked the veterans for their service before taking a little break and starting back in with more jazz favorites.

Even though the concert began with some rain, it continued and ended with sunshine and even a rainbow. Thursday was definitely a day for jazz and fun in the park while honoring our servicemen and servicewomen.

Auto thefts and break-ins plague Lowell

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

A rash of vehicle thefts and break-ins took place in the city of Lowell beginning in June. The crimes turned out to be unrelated.

"We are still investigating reports of cars being broken into and taken from the city of Lowell," LPD detective Gordy Lauren tweeted on June 22. "If you see something suspicious please call us so we can come check it out."

The Lowell police department has arrested a juvenile who admitted to their involvement in the stolen vehicle crimes. The person has ties to both the cities of Lowell and Ionia. Police Chief Steve Bukula explained the

process of catching the juvenile.

"We had a first name and we had [an] electronic footprint from one of the stolen vehicles that led us to that person," Bukula said.

The individual is currently being held at Kent County Juvenile Detention Center on a \$50,000 bond specifically for the vehicle thefts. Through this arrest, the department determined the thefts and break-ins were perpetrated by unrelated parties.

Whereas a single individual has been arrested in involvement with the thefts, the police department believes a group made up of a 14, 17 and 18-year-old were involved in the break-ins. The 14 and 17-year-old

have been taken in.

"All but one is in custody," Bukula remarked. "A warrant has been issued for the 18-year-old, we just have not come across him yet."

The police department believes that the string of thefts and break-ins should be dealt with once they arrest the final suspect, but Bukula reminded citizens of the basic precautions to avoid theft.

"Meet us halfway," Bukula said. "Lock your vehicles, take your keys out of your vehicles and don't leave any valuables in an unlocked car. Theft is a crime of opportunity. If you don't give them an opportunity, it won't happen."

CD release show July 14

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

This weekend there will be a release concert for a new CD showcasing bands that have performed on 92.3 WRWW's "For the Record" music sessions show. The CD will feature cuts from Conrad Shock & The Noise, Emma Loo and Sam, Blaine and his Keyboard, Tommy Plural, Boy from School, Bet on Rats and others. The concert will take place at LowellArts on Sunday, July 14 from 3 pm until 9 pm and will include live performances by each of the bands named above.

"GTG Records out of Lansing is doing a compilation CD of all the people that have been on our radio show," said event organizer Ryne Clarke. "The CD is mainly new studio tracks from bands that were featured on the weekly Sunday show. The CD will be limited to just physical copies as some of these

tracks are unreleased, all the performers will have a track on it. All the performers at the event will be playing 45 minute sets. While the next band sets up we interview another, and about halfway through the event we will spin vinyl, as we do on the radio show. The whole event will be broadcast on 92.3 FM."

"For the Record" is hosted by Ryne Clarke and "Sleeping Timmy" Rodriguez and broadcast over WRWW on Sunday afternoons.

"I've been doing weekly radio on Sundays from noon until three called 'For the Record' with a musician friend of mine named 'Sleeping' Timmy Rodriguez," Clarke said. "He did a session at LowellArts last summer. I had him come on my show one week and

CD, continued, page 2

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The JetBeats bringing Beatlesque rock to Lowell

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

The JetBeats will be performing as part of the Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series on Thursday July 18th in downtown Lowell. The group is made up of Morgan May Moallemian on vocals and guitar, Ben Erhart on bass and vocals, AJ Dunning on guitar and vocals, and DJ McCoy on drums. Band members have previously played in a wide range of Grand Rapids-area bands including the Verve Pipe, Delilah DeWylde & the Lost Boys and the Deans, among others.

The band plays rock and roll songs from around the mid-1950s to the 1960s. The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce website describes the band's concerts as, "a rocket ride to the fabulous early 60s with a contemporary twist." They have released two EPs



including regularly at the Tip Top Deluxe bar in downtown Grand Rapids. They also go on tours intermittently, including an east coast tour a few months ago and a tour of England two years ago. The JetBeats have had the opportunity to play at the famous Cavern Club in Liverpool, which was the birthplace of the Beatles. The venue has been around since the 1950s and served as an incubator for many of the artists the band looks up to. The first time they played at the Cavern Club was unplanned.

of original music called "Sonic Boom Boom" and "March '64," and they play songs from these at their shows as well.

Morgan Moallemian, the lead vocalist and guitar player for the band, started the band over five years ago. Besides

the Beatles, the band is influenced by a variety of early 60s bands, along with some contemporary bands that have a similar sound. Moallemian said some of the band's biggest influences included the Beatles, the Kinks, the Searchers, Gerry and the Pacemakers, early Rolling Stones, and Swinging Blue Jeans. Moallemian also cited some more modern bands like the La's, Stone Roses, the Fratellis and Arctic Monkeys. A few local bands Moallemian enjoys are the Concussions, Diff & Dudley and Dalmatian Stone.

The band usually plays three to four times a month,

"Our first time actually playing at the Cavern Club was when we first went to just check it out as tourists," Moallemian explained. "A local Liverpool beat band was playing and they invited us up within minutes of us walking in to play a few tunes. It was surreal."

More information on the band can be found on their website, thejetbeats.com, or on social media. They can be seen on July 18 at the Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series in Lowell beginning at 7 pm.

CD, continued

he just never left. Now he's my co-host. [...] We have aired five episodes of the bedroom sessions and will be airing the other half of the series starting July 21st at 1 pm with the Skinny Limbs."

For more information, visit lowellartsmi.org

or lowellradio.org or RyneShyne.club.

"LowellArts is behind us once again, which is awesome," Clarke said. "They have been a huge help with doing shows like this. [...] I am excited for it, we're going to have a good time."

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Street Smarts: Do you enjoy setting off fireworks at home?



Rachel Kleinedler, Lowell

“I shot them off just last night! Whenever I have the chance to I shoot them off, no matter if it’s a holiday or not. I enjoy seeing the smiles they put on others’ faces when we use them. I still go to public displays just like the one in Grand Haven that I went to.”



Riley Conlan, Lowell

“We don’t set off fireworks because we have a small neighborhood. Usually, I don’t mind them as long as they’re the kind that put on a sparkly show. The loud fireworks are kind of scary, you don’t know if they’re fireworks or something else.”

From time to time our Ledger reporters will pose a question while out on the streets of Lowell. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SPEAK OUT. If you have a question you think would be an excellent conversation starter, feel free to suggest one. Send your Street Smarts questions to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com subject line - "Street Smarts"



Brady Conlan, Lowell

“I don’t think they are worth the money, they are expensive and there isn’t much of a payoff. Most are kind of annoying and loud. My money would be spent on something better.”



Tressa Huizinga, Lowell

“We don’t shoot our own fireworks, there’s really no reason why we should. I don’t mind others doing it unless it’s in the middle of the night. That’s pretty ridiculous when I’m trying to sleep.”

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

Fireworks have always been a large part of the celebrations and activities across the country on Independence Day. The legal sale and use of consumer grade fireworks in Michigan was very recently implemented, in 2011. Currently, state law allows fireworks until 11:45 pm on various dates throughout the year: from June 29 until July 4 or 5 (depending on what day of the week Independence Day falls on), Labor Day, Memorial Day and New Year’s eve (extended to 1 am). Additionally, Lowell allows fireworks during the Riverwalk Festival in mid-July. The fine for each violation of the fireworks ordinance is \$1,000.

We asked local citizens if they use these consumer-grade fireworks and what they think about others using said fireworks.



Brandon Singer, Kentwood

“My family doesn’t shoot them off. Usually, I’d rather see other people and bigger productions set them off. I don’t mind them at all, I sleep like a rock even if they are set off in the middle of the night.”



Nathan Vaneps, East Lansing

“We have not set off fireworks or anything like that, I guess because we’re old. I mean, as kids we shot them off but now not so much. It doesn’t bother me if others do it up to a certain time at night. People want to go to sleep, so stop maybe at 10.”



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Top 5 Frustrations Driving Cord Cutting⁶

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3. Being nickel and dimed with multiple fees and charges
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5. New customers get better deals than existing ones

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Justin Bronkema and the Fallassburgh Flats bring a vintage twist to an American pastime

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

Vintage base ball is a sport that most people haven't heard of. Even hardcore baseball fans may not be aware of that area of the sport, as it flies under the radar. That's why it may come as a surprise to many that Fallasburgh Park has its own team playing all summer long right here in the Lowell area and around the state.

The Fallassburgh Flats Vintage Base Ball Club was established in 2003 and has been playing around the state for over 15 years. The team has been run by multiple managers, the most recent being Justin Bronkema, who has brought the team to new heights.

"I've been playing for eight years, and I believe this is my third year as the manager," said Bronkema.

Playing sports is something that Bronkema has been doing for a long time, it took just a little push for Bronkema to catch on to the world of vintage base ball.

"One of our old managers, that actually still plays on the team, who I had known for a long time, invited me one weekend to play," Bronkema said. "At the time I wasn't doing anything on the weekends, and I love sports. He invited me to play and the first time I played was at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids. They used to have a big tournament there. The first time I played I fell in love, I knew I had to play this."

One of the biggest challenges for the team is finding teams to compete against that are close to home.

"There is no league, we're kind of like a group of three or four teams here on the west side," Bronkema said. "Really, if you want to play more teams, you really have to travel east. That's part of the fun of it, though. If you want to play this game, you have to be willing to travel. That's part of the history of the game too. A lot of the teams back in the 1860s traveled to the other team's field and played by their rules, and there are a lot of variations in the rules."

According to Bronkema, it is relatively easy to get into the sport.

"It doesn't take much to be part of the team," Bronkema said. "You sign up, you pay dues, which are \$20 to \$30 every year, and you've got to become part of the historical

society in Fallasburgh Park, which is like ten bucks a year or something. Some guys bring their own bats, some guys make their own bats, some guys buy them. Every once in a while you have to buy a new hat or a new shirt."

It also doesn't matter what age you are, as long as you can swing a bat you can play vintage base ball.

"I'm probably like one of the middle-aged guys on the team, but we have a diverse age group," Bronkema said. "We've got a guy who's been playing since he was 17 or 18. My dad plays still, he might actually be the oldest player on the team and he's like 58. Some teams have guys in their late 70s and even 80s playing for them."

Ultimately, vintage base ball is well-suited for fans of all ages because it generates a family-friendly atmosphere.

"A vintage base ball game is a family-oriented thing—no swearing, nothing like that," Bronkema said. "We're very friendly, especially on the west side. We all know each other, so we're joking around with the other team. This game is all about having fun."

While vintage base ball isn't mainstream yet, the following it has plays into the 1860 lifestyle.

"Our biggest fans really get into it," Bronkema said. "They dress up in the garb and some of the ladies wear the old-time dresses and even make their own. We play a tournament in Greenfield Village and it gets pretty crazy. We've played in front of a couple of hundred people."

Vintage base ball is all about sportsmanship. The umpire is almost non-existent, forcing the players to make their own judgment calls and adhere to their own rules.

"It's a gentleman's game," Bronkema said. "Back then there was technically no umpire, only someone who called foul balls. The two players involved in a play would decide what the outcome of the play was. If the two fielders couldn't figure it out, then they would ask for a judgment from an arbitrator. Back then base ball was all about honesty."

Bronkema loves the sport for multiple reasons, not just because he is a sports fanatic but because of his love of history.

"I'm sort of a history guy myself," Bronkema said.

"I love history so the two go hand in hand. You get the best of both worlds. Sometimes you get to play in these historic villages where it's all about being period correct. We get into Greenfield Village for free, and that's pretty awesome to me."

There are moments while playing on this vintage base ball team that Bronkema holds near and dear to his heart.

"We got to play on the old Detroit Tigers field," Bronkema said. "The field is in the same exact spot where it used to be when the stadium was still there, so when you're standing in the batter's box, you're standing where Mickey Mantle, Ty Cobb and all the greats played. I was playing shortstop, so I was standing where Alan Trammell and Ozzie Smith and all the old-time shortstops used to play. It got emotional for me because I'm such a baseball buff. We've played in some spots where I know that, if I didn't play base ball, then I wouldn't be able to visit. To me, going to these places is the best part."

Setting up games requires one to be a little social. Because there is no league, the only way to schedule games is to get to know the other team before setting up a game. It requires connections.

"That's what's cool with the Frankenmuth tournament we just went to," Bronkema said. "There were 36 teams from across the country playing there. We got to know teams from Colorado, Ohio, Wisconsin and Indiana. We got to make new friends. You can't be afraid to talk to people, otherwise you're not going to be able to get a lot of games."

If you are interested in playing for the Fallassburgh Flats, email Justin Bronkema at fallassburghflats@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page, called "Fallassburgh Flats Vintage Base Ball Club."

"We're open to new guys playing all the time," Bronkema said. "We need guys every weekend. I have 15 guys on the roster and seven are going up to Ludington with me next weekend."

If you would like to see the Flats play, they are in Ludington this weekend, while their next home game is on Saturday, September 7.

viewpoint

to the editor

To The Editor,

A short homage to the importance, joy and yes, power of the press.

At this writing I'm sailing up the west coast of Lake Michigan stopping as I go along and staying a night or two in one of the many marinas along the way. (A nod here to Michigan's better-than-average safe harbor system.)

Having been away from the printing business for about a year now, I have been remiss when it comes to reading newspapers. While visiting each lakeside town along our route I have once again started picking up local papers.

My sailing partner and I both remarked at breakfast this morning how much we enjoyed reading

and learning about each one of these towns and surrounding areas. They all seem to have snippets of international news, but more importantly, these physical newspapers give you a sense of the particular community they represent through their writing styles and design.

I've said it before but, somehow I have developed an even deeper appreciation for the printed local news.

We can all look online for national and international news. There are also many "local" sites but, most of

those do not seem to be quite as professional and/or objective. They may have their place but they are usually quite slanted and are more akin to an advertisement for the local government or chamber of commerce.

The local papers must abide by a higher standard and, for the most part, they do. You read the good and the bad as well as opinions on both.

There's a special nostalgia produced when holding a newspaper in one hand and a cup of coffee in

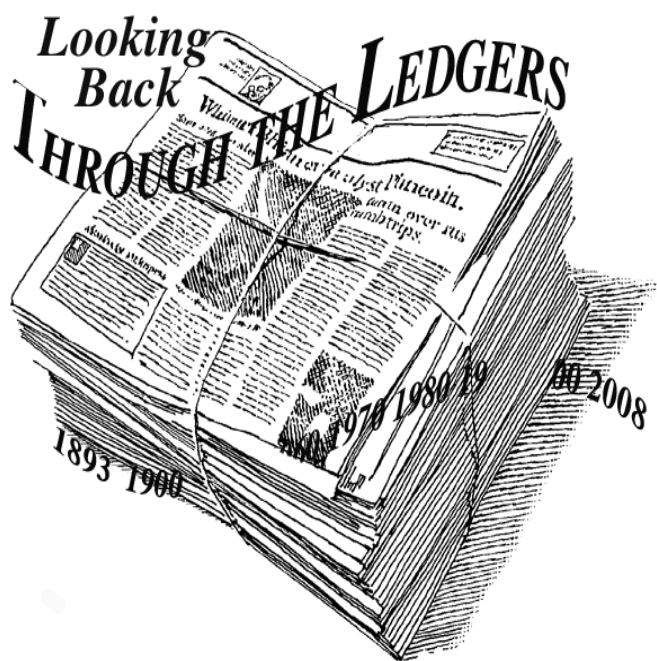
the other as you experience a town through the written word.

With the climate in today's government and the current resident of the Oval Office calling the press "the enemy of the people," it is more important than ever to support your local paper. For all of those spouting constitutional rights remember that the First Amendment states that it, "... prevents the government from making laws which respect an establishment of religion, prohibit the free exercise of religion,

or abridge the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the right to peaceably assemble, or the right to petition the government for redress of grievances...

I happen to know Lowell has a pretty good local paper and to that end, a shout out to the folks in town and everyone at the Ledger.

Jeanne L.S. Boss
Rockford



125 years ago Lowell Ledger July 18, 1894

With the present stagnation of business more soup houses will be needed next winter than last winter, to a large extent the labor organizations will be to blame. The leaders ought to be hung.

David Layer and Deb Draper under took to haul a load of damaged hay and after tipping over and reloading five times, they set fire to it and burned it up.

Returns from the state census, the taking of which has just been completed, are being received at the office of the secretary of state. A remarkable fact in connection with the census is that the returns from the first eighteen counties received show a decrease since 1890 in population outside of thirteen cities of about 10,000. The population of the thirteen cities increased 79,000 during the past four years.

100 years The Lowell Ledger July 10, 1919

Fire which was started when someone threw a lighted match into the grass at the side of the road west and south of Grattan destroyed a huckleberry swamp, together with its crop of berries, which was worth more than \$500. The fire also quickly spread to several nearby wheat fields and it was only by the hard work of a large force of volunteer fighters that the fire was confined to the swamp, where it finally burned itself out. A group of Belding Boy Scouts Camping at Bostwick lake fought a fire which started south of the lake, the boys, after fighting for more than a day put the fire out.

William McLoughlin, of Cedar Springs is one of the expert mechanics engaged on the King Milling company alterations. He is said to be "around 80," but you wouldn't think it to see him work. He "Delivers the goods" with any of the boys yet, and he pulls down a real man's wage, too.

There was a large crowd in town last night in spite of the 5 o'clock shower that made out-door dancing doubtful. The pavement dance was "pulled off" in front of Waverly hotel and the dancers and spectators seemed to be enjoying themselves. Hale's Belding orchestra furnished music.

75 years The Lowell Ledger July 13, 1944

Dr. Wm. De Kleine, State Commissioner of Health, states that smallpox has broken out in two widely separated counties in the state. Because of a large number of unvaccinated persons, vaccination is urgently recommended for protection against this disease.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Wisner received a telegram Saturday from the War Department, stating that their son, Lieutenant Allen Wisner, was reported missing in action June 26. Pilot of a P-38, he has been in Italy two months and had completed 12 missions.

Five overseas battle casualties and three training camp casualties, convalescent patients from the Percy Jones government hospital at Battle Creek, sat on the floor of a partially filled railroad baggage car. The Pennsylvania train, jammed with vacation-bound civilians was leaving Grand Rapids enroute to Mackinaw City with intervening west-coast resort cities. No accommodations were available in the coaches. It was the 1944 Fourth of July week-end, our third national holiday since Pearl Harbor. And this happened in Michigan.

50 years The Lowell Ledger July 10, 1969

Efforts of a Lowell policeman in assisting with the apprehension of a car thief drew the ire of two council members in a stormy wind-up to the bi-monthly meeting of the city solons Monday night. During the incident of June 29, Sgt. James Hutson succeeded in stopping the thief after a high-speed chase on I-96 during which the suspect attempted to elude police by driving on the wrong side of the freeway.

New left-turn lanes were created at the intersection of Main Street and Hudson in Lowell by Michigan State Highway Department officials this week.

A growth of \$300,000 in total assets during the fiscal year ended June 30 was noted by Lowell Savings

and Loan. Founded in March, 1888, the 81-year-old association is one of Lowell's oldest business firms.

25 years The Lowell Ledger July 13, 1994

It has been a struggle, but Cumberland Market has finally won out. The market had been battling Lowell Township about getting a license to sell carry out beer and wine at the store. The township had balked at the idea because the driveway entering the establishment was not within their ordinance standards.

Laurie VanOtteren became the second Lowell resident in 16 years to be named Belding Miss Macker. The daughter of David and Betti VanOtteren was dressed in a floor-length, blue sequin, spaghetti strap formal gown, as she was crowned Belding Miss Macker Wednesday evening at the Belding City Hall.

The possible maintenance of the new water tower has caused Lowell township to search for a containment pond. The township has looked at two sites for the pond and chose to place it next to the tower, which is located on the north side of Foreman Street.

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.

anniversaries

DeYoung



Lorema and Martin DeYoung

Seventy-one years of marriage will be celebrated on July 17, 2019, by Martin and Lorema (DeLoof) DeYoung of Ada. The DeYongs owned DeYoung's Orchard on Bailey for many years. The couple has two children, Martin (Cheryl) DeYoung of Saranac and Chris (Craig) Yeiter of Ada. Their son Roger died in 1971. They have six grandchildren: Tammy (Brad) Janowiak, Karrie DeYoung, Shanda (Rich) Weed, Sheila Yeiter, Martin DeYoung and Tasha (Rich) Brand; and six great-granddaughters: Hayleigh Borton, Kennedy, Addison and Harper Weed, Calihan Janowiak and Emerson Brand.

Nugent



Mary and Dennis Nugent

Dennis and Mary (Schrauben) Nugent are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They were united in marriage on July 11, 1969 at St. Joseph Church in Belding. Denny and Mary made their home in Lowell where they raised four children, Pat Nugent, Betsy (Todd) Wieland, Kerry (Kyle) Gargaro, and Kevin (Loie) Nugent. Their family also includes grand children Ben Gargaro, Joey Gargaro, Brooke (Caden) Francisco, and Nic (Aly) Wieland and their children Jake, Beau and Rhyn. A family celebration will be held along with an anniversary mass at St. Patrick Church, Parnell.

HEALTH



With Drs.
Wayne A. Christenson III,
Tracy Lixie & John G. Meier

- pelvic organ prolapse

Prolapse is when organs in your pelvis, such as the uterus, bladder, or rectum, bulge into or past the opening of your vagina. It may feel like a bulge or a pouch. Most women who have prolapse do not know they have it. Others may feel pressure or a bulge coming through the opening of the vagina. Prolapse can be looked for while examining the pelvis while lying down or standing up. It can be more pronounced when straining (pushing down as if you are trying to pass urine or stool).

There are many factors that can make prolapse happen. Childbirth may damage the pelvic muscles and ligaments and cause prolapse many years later. Coughing a lot, being constipated, being overweight, or having had a hysterectomy can also be

risk factors for prolapse. To try to prevent it, you can stay at healthy weight and try to avoid chronic constipation.

If the prolapse is not bothersome or is not causing any problems with passing urine or stool, then treatment is not needed. If you have problems going to the bathroom or if the prolapse is severe, a pessary may help. A pessary is a device that is placed inside the vagina to keep your pelvic organs in place. In severe cases of prolapse, surgery is also an option.

Kegels are exercises that strengthen the muscles of the pelvis. You can do these exercises anywhere or anytime. It is recommended to do these three times a day, in sets of 15 to 20. These exercises can sometimes help with incontinence and can help people avoid surgery.

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business matters

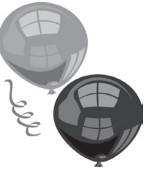


Greenridge Realty announced that Lisa Gilbert received Sales Person of the Month in June.

This award recognizes Gilbert for her outstanding success and achievements.



happy birthday



JULY 10

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

JULY 14

Ernestine Bundy, Katie Stouffer, Richard Ellison, Mindy Tykocki, Bethany Kaczanowski.

JULY 11

Dina DeCator, Jodi Hutchinson, Savannah Rice.

JULY 15

Mari Stone, Joyce VanDyke, Keenan Hacker.

JULY 12

Cole Burdette, Samantha Bellah, Jill Taylor, Hayley Fritz, Gorgan Watrous.

JULY 16

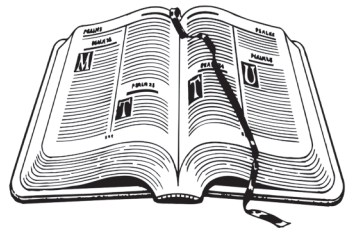
James Stanley Smith, Caleb Rinard.

JULY 13

Travis Thomet, Cheryl Doyle, Justin Craig, Janet Burns, Esther Newell, John Jones, Izzy Tackmann, Sharon Landman.



area churches



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Kid's Crew 11:15 AM
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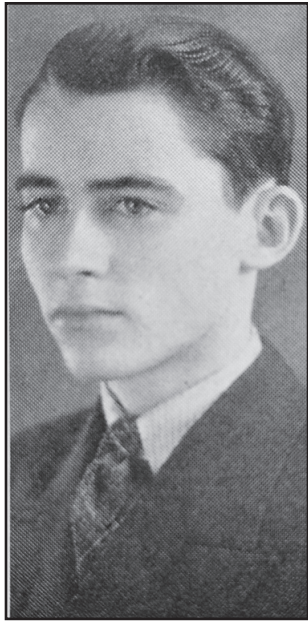


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Lowellian Glendon Swarthout was notable novelist

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Novelist Glendon Swarthout, Lowell High School class of 1935, published 16 novels and one short story collection during his 40 year career as an author. Swarthout won the O. Henry Prize in 1960, a gold medal from the National Society of Arts and Letters in 1972, the Owen Wister Lifetime Achievement Award from the Western Writers of America in 1991 and was inducted into the Western Writers Hall of Fame in 2008. Seven of Swarthout's novels were turned into films with many big name actors, such as Gary Cooper, Rita Hayworth, John Wayne, Lauren Bacall, Ron Howard, James Stewart, Tommy Lee Jones, Hilary Swank and Meryl Streep.



Swarthout's senior picture from the 1935 LHS yearbook. (courtesy Lowell Area Historical Museum)

Swarthout was notable for tackling many different subjects, genres and time periods in his fiction. He wrote westerns, books set during World War I and World War II, books set during the Great Depression and books set during his present time. Some of his stories depicted idyllic scenes based on Lowell-area life in the early 20th century, but his fourth novel "Welcome to Thebes," published in 1961, was allegedly inspired by a scandalous story out of Lowell's deep, dark past. It was the source of much consternation and gossip around town at the time.

Glendon Fred Swarthout was born in an unincorporated area near Pinkney, MI on April 8, 1918. His father, Fred Swarthout, was the head cashier of the Lowell Savings Bank. His mother,

Lila Chubb Swarthout, was a homemaker. They lived at 403 N. Washington in downtown Lowell. The house is still there, it was fully restored by a former resident in the 1980s. Swarthout was a whiz in his English classes at LHS, but the math teacher had to pass him with a very generous D so he could graduate with the rest of his class. Tall, skinny and awkward as a youth, he didn't play any sports in high school, but he was deeply involved in theater, oration and music. He played accordion, was the leader of a dance band that headlined the Pantlind Hotel ballroom in Grand Rapids three summers in a row and performed as an actor in live plays over WOOD radio. According to that year's LHS yearbook, the class of 1935 voted him "most likely to become famous"

and predicted that after high school he would become the "accordion player in [Eddy] Duchin's orchestra." Eddy Duchin (1909-1951) was a New York City-based pianist and bandleader who was popular during that period.

After high school, Swarthout attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, majoring in English. He graduated in 1939 and took a job at an advertising agency in Detroit writing ad copy for clients such as Cadillac and Dow Chemical.

On a trip to Duck Lake, near Albion, MI, when he was 13 years old, Swarthout met 12-year-old Kathryn Vaughn, who was on vacation with her family at their cottage on the lake. The pair remained close friends, began dating when they got older and were eventually married on Dec. 28, 1940.

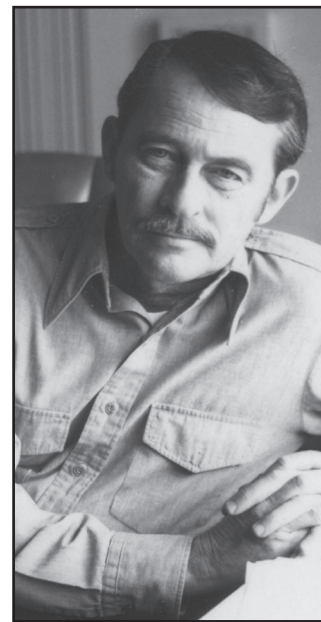
Kathryn Swarthout earned her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Michigan and her master's degree in education from Michigan State University. She taught second grade for five years until Glendon started bringing in Hollywood money. Kathryn was also an author. She wrote six children's books, some in collaboration with Glendon, and for over 20 years she had a popular column called "Lifesavors" in Woman's Day magazine.

Swarthout attempted to join the military after Pearl Harbor, but he did not qualify for the service so instead he took a job as a riveter on B-24s at the Willow Run plant in Ann Arbor. His experiences working and

living in the dormitories at the plant inspired his first novel, "Willow Run," published in 1943. The novel was not successful. One reviewer described the characters as "unreal people who talk all wrong and act like idiot children." Swarthout would have to wait 15 years before he'd see another book in print.

Sporadically throughout 1941 and 1942, Glendon and Kathryn Swarthout together wrote a column for the Ledger called "A Letter to Lowell" detailing the pair's adventures on ships in South America. They went missing for a few weeks but finally resurfaced in Trinidad with a vivid tale of a Nazi attack and its aftermath.

"Around midnight we were suddenly awakened by the dull sounds of explosions near us, the rushing thud of feet on the upper deck," read their column in the March 26, 1942 edition of the Lowell Ledger. "We don our robes and dash upstairs. Two ships lying near us have been torpedoed. The sky is bright and flaming with parachute flares dropped from military and naval aircraft. The excitement is terrific. The Nazi has had the unutterable gall to come right into the harbor, past American and British bases, and torpedo two ships. And then he has the unutterable impertinence to get away safely. Next morning, the two ships, a British tanker and an American freighter, are still afloat, although their hulls are badly torn. It is more or less a miracle [that] no lives have been lost. The following night



A dust jacket photo of Swarthout from the 1980s. (courtesy Lowell Area Historical Museum)

Port-of-Spain has a real blackout. The harbor is alive with patrol vessels scurrying excitedly about. Above, a swarm of aircraft buzzes like a swarm of bees. It is too late. The barn door is shut. But the horse is gone. We lay in Port-of-Spain harbor a few more days. Every precaution was taken. An American warship appeared upon the scene. Aircraft reconnaissance was ceaseless. Aboard, the main light switch was pulled at eight o'clock each night. The fans were silent and it became impossibly hot and fetid. Every bit of glass or porcelain on our boat was crisscrossed with strips of paper, that there might be no splinters."

Swarthout was finally accepted into the Army in Sept. 1942. He reported for induction at Fort Custer in southeastern Michigan. He

wrote a story for the Ledger about his experiences serving with the 5th Army during the Allied liberation of France.

"We bivouac on the lawns of vast and beautiful châteaux, in yards of farmhouses and often, as now, in the city parks of good-sized towns or cities," Swarthout wrote in a story published in the Oct. 12, 1944 edition of the Lowell Ledger. "When we came into the city two days ago, machine guns and rifles were sputtering away in the streets down below, but all is peaceful now. The war has left this lovely city and moved on. The people cannot get enough of us. We are like a circus come to town which has thrown up its tents in the city park. Throngs of people pass along the park roads by our tents, all smiling and wanting to shake hands and talk. Kids come into our tents and sit on our laps and watch us work by the hour. [...] I guess I've been kissed by several hundred women in France so far, old and young, handsome and ugly. But don't be jealous, it's the French kiss on one cheek then on the other. One old lady as old and small as my grandmother ripped my shirt sleeve as I rode up in a jeep, simply because she didn't want to let me go. When you stand among them, tears come in their eyes sometimes as they tell you, 'We have waited so long for you to come! Five years we have waited! First we heard you had landed, then you were at Aix-en-Provence, then Avignon, then Montellmar, then we heard they're only



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Swarthout, continued



Glendon and Kathryn Swarthout in the 50s. (photo courtesy Lowell Area Historical Museum)

forty kilometers, then thirty, then we heard your big guns and oh, then-then you came.' It is hard to keep back the tears yourself sometimes. I have slept some nights sharing my blankets with men as old as your dad and mine, men with graying hair, who have taken rifles from the Germans and now fight as Maquis alongside the Americans. And young women too. And boys of 14 and 15."

Swarthout ended up seeing combat for six days in France, then had the task of gathering eyewitness accounts for posthumous Medals of Honor. When his division was on the verge of invading Germany, Swarthout ruptured a spinal disc while unloading a truck, thus ending his personal involvement in the war. He went back to the U of M, got his master's degree and began life as a college professor. He taught literature at MSU and the University of Maryland. While at MSU, he earned his PhD in Victorian literature. Swarthout's favorite authors were W. Somerset Maugham, Joseph Conrad, Sinclair Lewis, Joyce Cary, but his biggest influence by far was Ernest Hemingway. Swarthout's most prized possession was a signed first edition of Hemingway's "Death in the Afternoon," a 1932 non-fiction book about bullfighting. The two men were acquaintances. At one point, Hemingway allowed Swarthout to go over the original manuscripts of "A

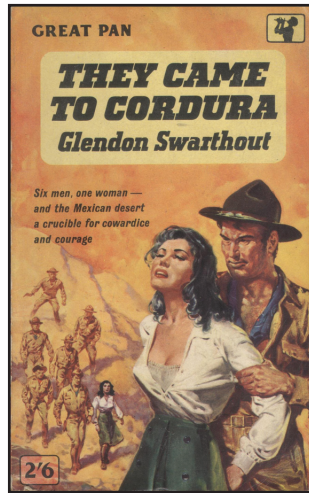
Farewell to Arms" and "For Whom the Bell Tolls" to glean composition tips and tricks from Hemingway's revisions.

Meanwhile, he continued writing short fiction and working on novels. He had short stories published in Cosmopolitan, the Saturday Evening Post, Esquire and many other magazines. His play "O'Daniel," about a WWII GI who becomes a dictator himself, had five performances at the Princess Theater early in 1947, but it closed after bad reviews. Eventually, Hollywood noticed Swarthout's talents when he sold a story called "A Horse for Mrs. Custer," about a mission to retrieve the bodies of dead American officers after the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876, to Columbia Pictures for \$2,500. They turned it into the 1956 movie "7th Cavalry" starring Randolph Scott, Barbara Hale and Denver Pyle.

His novel "They Came to Cordura" was published by Random House in 1958. It was very well-reviewed and became a bestseller. The Chicago Tribune said it had a "gripping story" and was "an ironic and revealing study of courage and cowardice." The Toronto Sun said it was "intensely dramatic." Columbia Pictures bought the rights to "They Came to Cordura" for \$250,000, payable in ten annual installments. This allowed the Swarthouts to move from East Lansing to Arizona, where he would spend the

rest of his life working on novels and teaching English at Arizona State University in Phoenix.

"We were afraid the checks would bounce," Kathryn Swarthout said in an Aug. 14, 1988 interview with the Los Angeles Times. "We had never seen that much money."

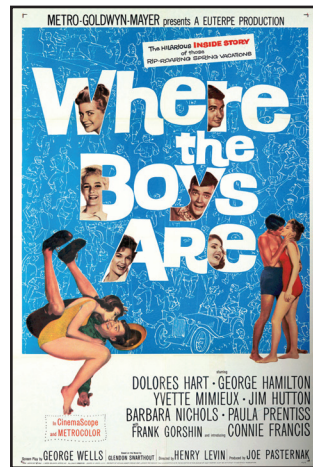


"They Came to Cordura" was a big budget CinemaScope production starring Gary Cooper, Rita Hayworth, Tab Hunter, Van Heflin and Dick York. According to the June 3, 1959 edition of "Motion Picture Exhibitor" magazine, the movie was the subject of a \$750,000 marketing campaign, including a 16-page special section in the Sunday, May 24, 1959 New York Times. The setting was 1916, Mexico and the war with Pancho Villa. After the success of the film, Swarthout said Columbia asked him to write the script for a sequel to be called "Crisis in Cordura," but he was unable to come up with a storyline he considered good enough and abandoned the project. It was the only time he would ever attempt to write a movie script.

Actor Dick York blamed a back injury he suffered during the production of "They Came to Cordura" for the severe pain and drug addiction that crippled him and curtailed his once-promising career.

"It was the last shot of the day, and tomorrow we would wrap 'Cordura,'" York said in a 1991 interview with

John Douglas, published on the website bewitched.net. "In the scene, Cooper and I were propelling a handcar carrying several wounded men down an abandoned railroad track. As we passed the camera I was on the bottom stroke of this sort of teeter-totter mechanism that made the handcar run. I was just lifting the handle up as the director yelled 'cut!' and one of the wounded cast members reached up and grabbed the handle. Now, instead of lifting the expected weight, I was suddenly, jarringly, lifting his entire weight off the flatbed, 180 pounds or so. The muscles along the right side of my back tore. They just snapped and let loose. And that was the start of it all, the pain, the painkillers, the addiction, the lost career."



Swarthout's next novel, "Where the Boys Are," came out in 1960 and so did the movie based on it. The initial inspiration for the book came when he asked some of his students why so many of them went to Fort Lauderdale on spring break every year.

"Because that's where the boys are," a girl quipped.

The novel was set at MSU and Florida and followed three college students who travel to Fort Lauderdale for spring break. The main character becomes involved with three very different young men. She takes her time and does a lot of intense research as she chooses her favorite.

The Chicago Tribune described the novel as "very

funny and very grim," but "amoral." The review in the Milwaukee Sentinel said it was "an amusing and sometimes appalling novel" and continued, "admirers of Jack Kerouac and the other sensation seekers will find this story in the best beatnik tradition, full of casual sex and serious conversation. It's wildly satirical but rather sad." The Sarasota Herald Tribune said it was "required reading for the Fort Lauderdale police force."

Swarthout's book, the movie starring Connie Francis, Dolores Hart, Paula Prentiss, Yvette Mimieux, George Hamilton and Frank Gorshin, and the title song by Connie Francis were all massive hits. Of course, the story was sanitized for the big screen. The novel had a lot more racy content than the movie, which also cut a subplot about raising money to benefit Fidel Castro.

"There isn't a gun, knife or marijuana cigarette in

the whole thing," producer Joe Pasternak said in an interview printed in the July 3, 1959 Chicago Tribune. "These are good students." Another article in the Jan. 15, 1961 Chicago Tribune said, "the picture has retained little of the original book but the title."

"Where the Boys Are" is credited with popularizing the debauched Florida spring break parties that continue to this day. The movie was remade in 1984, but that version was not nearly as successful.

Swarthout's next novel was his most controversial, at least here in Lowell: "Welcome to Thebes," published in 1961. He worked on the book for a long time, but apparently found no joy in the task. An article in the Aug. 1, 1957 edition of the Lowell Ledger described Swarthout visiting the Ledger office, where he "delved through a few volumes of our old paper

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Swarthout, continued

files, searching for material for his new book.”

“The book took a heavy toll of me,” Swarthout wrote in an undated personal letter on file at the Lowell Area Historical Museum. “I intended it to be a melodrama, and so affected, foolishly, a melodramatic style difficult to read and even more difficult to write. Add to the pesky prose the fact that the events and people of the story were so embedded in my adolescence that I couldn’t distance myself from them, couldn’t keep perspective; it was as though I wrote about myself, that I was participant rather than spectator. [...] Of all my books, Thebes was the most personal, hence the most harrowing. I slept badly. I developed such severe skin problems that only dermatology kept me from tearing myself to pieces.”

“Welcome to Thebes” is the story of an alcoholic author who loses his publishing deal. Broke, desperate and angry, he returns to his childhood hometown and begins dredging up skeletons, specifically the rape years earlier of an eighth grade girl by several “town oligarchs.” The novel is a work of fiction, but Swarthout definitely used Lowell as a template for the setting and parts of the book were clearly based on real incidents, businesses and people. For example, there is a heavily exaggerated version of the 1932 murder of Lowell police officer Charles A. Knapp, a description of a flour mill on a river that sounds an awful lot like King Milling and a character obviously based on Remick G. Jefferies, the blind Lowell Ledger publisher from the early 20th century. Swarthout heavily fictionalized all of these situations, businesses and people, but not enough for local residents, who were insulted by the town’s portrayal and offended by his prolific use of profanity.

“Once I wanted to live there all my life,” the main character of “Welcome to Thebes” says near the beginning of the novel. “Now I hate it. A small town like that is the bunghole of the country.”

“The book, according to Swarthout’s report to friends, uses Lowell as its background,” read an article in the April 12, 1962 edition of the Lowell Ledger. “Its characters, while not representing anyone in this community, may draw a certain similarity to those who wish to fill in the blank spaces. As the story is going around now, half the town hopes they can find themselves portrayed in the story and the other half are afraid they will be. Thebes,

so the history goes, was a town in ancient Egypt on the Nile which worshiped the god of reproduction. The simile he has drawn in his book will be of great interest to all the citizens of the community.”

“Rumor has it that his old home town will never be quite the same again,” read the ‘Stiff Lip’ column by Gary Stiff in the May 3, 1962 edition of the Lowell Ledger. “Lowell, it is reported, is the small town whose gossip served as the model for Swarthout’s new book. [...] Any way you slice it, the title is provocative, and Lowellites who anticipate seeing themselves described will be justified in feeling a wee bit apprehensive when they open Swarthout’s novel.”

describing it as “a tarnished book from a tarnished mind.”

Nationwide, “Thebes” was not a success and got mediocre reviews. The novel was most often described by reviewers as a weaker, Midwestern version of “Peyton Place,” another notorious, racy novel of that era. The review in Newsweek magazine said Swarthout was “suffering from a kind of diarrhea of the creative process” and “a lack of imaginative and verbal discipline.” The Phoenix Gazette said the main character was a “revolting young author” and concluded “it is not a pretty book.” The Oct. 7, 1992 edition of the Lowell Ledger described it as “an autobiographical catharsis with a touch of revenge.” The New York

million copies. The 1971 movie version starred Billy Mumy, was directed by Stanley Kramer and contained a hit title song by the Carpenters. The novel was set in the present time, and it was the story of a group of misfit kids at a summer camp who attempt to liberate a herd of buffalo from some very unsportsmanlike hunters. According to an interview with Swarthout in the Aug. 14, 1988 Los Angeles Times, soon after the novel was published he got a call from then-Arizona governor Jack Williams asking if the part about “hunters” paying to shoot buffalo penned in a cage was true.

in more than 140 movies. It was directed by Don Siegel and also starred Lauren Bacall, Ron Howard, James Stewart, Harry Morgan, John Carradine, Scatman Crothers and Richard Boone. The screenplay was written by Scott Hale and Miles Hood Swarthout, son of Glendon and Kathryn.

It was a passion project for John Wayne, who loved Swarthout’s novel and thought the lead role would be perfect for him. The studio was not so sure that Wayne was healthy enough and offered the part to Paul Newman, George C. Scott, Charles Bronson, Gene Hackman and Clint Eastwood, all of whom

from writing after his last novel, “The Homesman,” was published in 1988.

“It took longer to evolve than any of my other books,” Swarthout said in an Aug. 14, 1988 interview with the Los Angeles Times. “About 15 years ago, I read a historical account of wagon trains of pioneers heading east. They were losers. They couldn’t make it in the west. In some years there were about as many defeated settlers heading home as emigrants heading west. In the 1850s, all over the Great Plains the winters were so awful, dangers so numerous, life so dreadful, about two percent of the women went mad. Years after I read that, I was sitting at my desk ruminating, and the curiosity washed over me. ‘What the hell did they do with them?’ Homicidal, runaway, suicidal, no place to put them. Probably I read another 40 books in researching the story.”

A cigarette smoker since childhood, Swarthout passed away at home from emphysema on Sept. 23, 1992, age 74. Kathryn Swarthout died in 2015 and their son Miles died in 2016.

“The Homesman” was the most recent one of Swarthout’s novels to be adapted into a film, in 2014. Paul Newman was a fan of the book and purchased the film rights immediately upon publication, but he never ended up making the movie. It was eventually picked up by Tommy Lee Jones, who starred in it, directed it and co-wrote the screenplay. Hilary Swank, Meryl Streep, John Lithgow and James Spader were also in the film.

Later this year, Arizona State University will give out the 57th annual Glendon and Kathryn Swarthout Awards in Writing. First place winners in fiction and poetry will each get \$2,000, second prizes will receive \$1,500, third prizes \$1,000 and the honorable mentions will get \$500. The awards are given to ASU students under age 26. Since they created the awards in 1962, the Swarthout family has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars to promising young writers.

“I do not write for the movies,” Swarthout told the Los Angeles Times on Aug. 14, 1988. “I’ve been accused of it, and I deny it. I do plead guilty to writing stories with a beginning, middle and end. I actually see these things happening in my mind, and I report upon them, and I suppose they naturally can be converted back into images.”



U of M professor Howard Peckham, a fellow Lowellian, said in an interview printed in the June 21, 1962 edition of the Lowell Ledger that “Glendon is still somewhat inclined to rely on violence and sensationalism, it seems to me, to hold his readers.”

“Maybe I do not have the education to appreciate this type of literary art, if it is such, but I can only keep asking myself ‘is this what we call famous?’” read a letter from Mrs. C.J. Christoff printed in the Dec. 12, 1963 edition of the Lowell Ledger. “Is the foul language used in this book a credit to our national heritage of literature? Other books and magazines of this nature have been removed from the newsstands. Are we proud of this kind of former citizen? Truth or fiction, what value does it carry? Certainly he has talent and I wish it could have been put to better use.”

A letter by Wyn Wood in the Dec. 24, 1964 edition of the Lowell Ledger continued the public discussion,

Times review by David Dempsey vacillated between praise and condemnation: “The book throbs with a blistering vitality, but there are moments when he seems to be writing a parody... [It] is a tour de force of a high order, endowed with a literary dimension which the material really doesn’t deserve.”

He wrote about Lowell again a few years later in his 1968 novel “Loveland.” This time the settings were Lowell and Charlevoix during the 1930s and the subject was young romance and its many complications. His final Michigan-related story was “The Melodeon,” published in 1977 and set on a Howell farm during the Great Depression. In 1978, that novel was turned into the made-for-TV movie “A Christmas to Remember” starring Jason Robards, Eva Marie Saint and Joanne Woodward.

Swarthout’s 1970 novel “Bless the Beasts and Children” sold over two

“Yes, governor, every damned word of it,” Swarthout is reported to have said.

“Then rest assured, before the sun sets, there will be changes,” the governor replied, and the practice was made illegal in the state not long after.

By far the most well-known Swarthout novel-turned-movie was “The Shootist,” published in 1975. It was set in El Paso, TX in 1901, when a feisty old gunslinger is diagnosed with terminal cancer. He decides he wants to die as comfortably as possible, so he brings a great big bottle of laudanum to a comfortable rooming house owned by an attractive middle-aged widow and her impressionable teenage son. It doesn’t go as planned. The 1976 film adaptation turned out to be cowboy movie legend John Wayne’s final acting job after appearances

passed on it, so he got the job. Wayne personally requested the services of Stewart, Bacall, Boone and Carradine. Stewart had retired from acting by then because he was almost completely deaf and only agreed to take a small role as a personal favor.

Wayne was cancer-free at the time of filming, but passed away from the disease in 1979. A quote usually attributed to him was actually taken directly from Swarthout’s novel: “I will not be laid a hand on. I will not be wronged. I will not stand for an insult. I don’t do these things to others. I require the same from them.”

Swarthout was considered a major author by the 70s, and his novels sold millions of copies. Titles included “The Cadillac Cowboys,” “The Eagle and the Iron Cross,” “The Tin Lizzie Troop,” “Skeletons” and “The Old Colts.” Swarthout retired





pig ear products before feeding them to their pets. As an added precaution, pet owners should wash their hands after handling pig ears,” said Jeffrey Zimmer, acting director of MDARD’s Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division.

Pets with Salmonella infections may be lethargic and have diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, fever, and vomiting. Some pets will have decreased appetite, fever and abdominal pain. Pets exposed to contaminated food can be infected without showing symptoms. If your pet has consumed this product and has these symptoms, please contact your veterinarian. Infected animals can also shed Salmonella through their feces and saliva, spreading pathogens into the home environment and to humans and other animals in the household.



For more information on the CDC and FDA investigations, please visit their websites.

MDARD’s Animal Feed Safety Program staff routinely inspects the manufacturers and distributors of commercial feeds and feed ingredients sold in Michigan to help protect animal health. For more information, visit the MDARD website.

Michigan experiencing increase in legionellosis cases

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is coordinating with local health departments across the state to investigate cases of legionellosis this summer. To date in 2019, there have been 140 confirmed cases of legionellosis reported in 38 counties compared to 135 confirmed cases during the same timeframe in 2018.

Confirmed cases include 19 in Oakland County, 16 in Wayne County, 13 in Macomb County, 11 in Genesee County and 10 cases each in the City of Detroit and Kent County.

This increase corresponds with national increases in legionellosis. Legionellosis is most common in the summer and early fall when warming, stagnant waters present the best environment for bacterial growth in water systems.

MDHHS and local health departments are working to inform healthcare providers of the increase in cases and share information regarding testing and treatment. Legionellosis is a respiratory infection caused by Legionella bacteria. Legionnaires’ disease is an infection with symptoms that include fever, cough and pneumonia. A milder form of legionellosis, Pontiac fever, is an influenza-like illness without pneumonia that resolves on its own.

“With warmer days now here, we want everyone to be aware of Legionnaire’s disease, especially if they may be at higher risk for illness,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health. “We also want all healthcare providers to remain vigilant and test and treat appropriately.”

Legionella bacteria are found naturally in fresh water lakes and streams but can also be found in man-made water systems. Potable water systems, cooling towers, whirlpool spas and decorative fountains offer common environments for bacterial growth and transmission if they are not cleaned and maintained properly. Warm water, stagnation and low disinfectant levels are conditions that support growth in these water systems.

Transmission to people occurs when mist or vapor containing the bacteria is inhaled. Legionellosis does not spread person to person. Risk factors for exposure to Legionellabacteria include:

- Recent travel with an overnight stay.
- Recent stay in a healthcare facility.
- Exposure to hot tubs.
- Exposure to settings where the plumbing has had recent repairs or maintenance work.

Most healthy individuals do not become infected after exposure to Legionella. Individuals at a higher risk of getting sick include the following:

- People over age 50.
- Current or former smokers.
- People with chronic lung disease.
- People with weakened immune systems from diseases, such as cancer, diabetes or liver or kidney failure.
- People who take immunosuppressant drugs.

Individuals with any concerns about Legionnaires’ disease or exposure to the Legionella bacteria should talk to their healthcare provider. MDHHS and local health departments will continue to monitor cases and provide updates to the public. More information on Legionella and Legionnaires’ disease can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.

Consumer Advisory: Pig ear pet treats sold in bulk distributed in Michigan potentially contaminated with Salmonella

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) today issued a consumer advisory for pig ears sold in bulk at retailers statewide because the pet treats have the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella. Consumers who have purchased bulk pig ear products may wish to avoid giving them to their pets and consider discarding them.

MDARD is working cooperatively with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on an investigation of Salmonella possibly linked to pig ears.

Samples of bulk pig ears were collected by MDARD feed inspectors from two retailers and tested positive for Salmonella at MDARD’s Geagley Laboratory. Both retailers have voluntarily removed these bulk pig ear products from sale.

MDARD inspectors also collected samples of other brands of individually wrapped or bagged pig ears being sold at multiple retail locations. These samples tested negative for Salmonella.

“It’s not clear why some brands of pig ears have tested positive for Salmonella and others have not. Pet owners should consider the possibility of Salmonella contaminating

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<p>US Sen. Gary C. Peters Senate Office Building 724 Hart Washington, DC 20510 202-224-6221 peters.senate.gov</p>	<p>Mich. Sen. Winnie Brinks PO Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909 517-373-1801 senwbrinks@senate.michigan.gov senatedems.com/brinks</p>	

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Self employment and Social Security

Many people enjoy the independence of owning and operating their own small business. If you're a small business owner, you know that you have additional financial responsibilities when reporting your taxes. A part of this is paying into Social Security.

We use all your earnings covered by Social Security to figure your Social Security benefit, so, report all earnings up to the maximum, as required by law.

Family members may operate a business together. For example, a husband



Most people who pay into Social Security work for an employer. Their employer deducts Social Security taxes from their paycheck, adds a matching contribution, then sends those taxes to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and reports the wages to Social Security. Self-employed people must do all these actions and pay their taxes directly to the IRS.

You're self-employed if you operate a trade, business or profession, either by yourself or as a partner. You report your earnings for Social Security when you file your federal income tax return. If your net earnings are \$400 or more in a year, you must report your earnings on Schedule SE, in addition to the other tax forms you must file.

You must have worked and paid Social Security taxes for a certain length of time to get Social Security benefits. The amount of time you need to work depends on your date of birth, but no one needs more than 10 years of work (40 credits).

In 2019, if your net earnings are \$5,440 or more, you earn the yearly maximum of four credits — one credit for each \$1,360 of earnings during the year. If your net earnings are less than \$5,440, you still may earn credit by using an optional method described below.

and a wife may be partners or run a joint venture. If you operate a business together as partners, you should each report your share of the business profits as net earnings on separate self-employment returns (Schedule SE), even if you file a joint income tax return. The partners must decide the amount of net earnings each should report (for example 50 percent and 50 percent).

You can read more about being self-employed and how that affects your Social Security benefits including optional methods of reporting at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10022.pdf.

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 vantil@ssa.gov.



At Your Local Library

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

Teens! Comic Strip Commandos

Comic Book Illustrating with Wade Gugino. This is a one hour, high-intensity cartoon creation and layout boot camp. Paper and pencils provided. For tweens and teens grades 5-12. Tuesday, July 16 at 1:00 p.m.

How to Draw Your Dragon

Learn how to draw dragons and characters from How to Train Your Dragon along with creating your own distinct dragon or creature. Parents or guardians are strongly encouraged to attend and assist their children. For ages 6 and up. Wednesday, July 17 at 1:00 p.m.

Bujo with Mo: Using a Bullet Journal

Learn the basics of using a bullet journal to achieve goals and organize your daily, monthly and yearly tasks. Tackle your To-Do lists with confidence. All supplies provided. For adults. Monday, July 22 at 6:00 p.m.

Out of This World Cup Stacking

Children will build their own space station, towering rockets and more using colorful and fun SpeedStack® cups! For ages 6 and up with an adult. Tuesday, July 23 at 1:00 p.m.

Tom Plunkard's Amazing Adventures!

Family-friendly hilarious magic show filled with live animals, audience participation and amazing magic! For all ages. Wednesday, July 24 at 1:00 p.m.

Sing a Song! Storytime Special

Featuring songs from all five of Laura's Parents' Choice award-winning CDs, including her newest, titled High Five! Laura gets kids engaged from the first strum of her acoustic guitar. Laura's puppet friends "Jazzasaurus" and "Domingo the Flamingo" often makes an appearance as well. For ages 6 and under with a caregiver. Thursday, July 25 at 10:00 a.m.

outdoors

be surprised

Dave Stegehuis

Camping has become a very popular summertime activity. Observe the recreational vehicles parked in yards and storage facilities as you travel around the state. There seems to be a resurgence of tent camping so there is more out of sight equipment in basements and garages.

With all of this equipment there is more to camping than spending time in neat places having fun. There is a fair amount of maintenance required to correct occasional functional problems as well as routine maintenance. Some tasks should be performed by professionals at a R.V. service facility, but most R.V. owners do most of their own work. There is obviously a cost savings here, but personally dealing with equipment is part of the overall experience for campers. This same hands on attention to equipment is practiced by the majority of outdoor recreation fans who use everything from bikes to boats.

Another often unexpected consequence of camping is meeting and getting to know new people. Campers are quick

to start conversations with strangers because of an obvious common interest which starts the conversation and leads to more in depth and personal exchanges. Campers freely share camping tips and are eager to help others. We have developed friendships while camping which have lasted for years.

Camping occurs in places where one can become familiar with the land, wildlife, and people. It gets one off the concrete and in the grass. The slower pace allows time to relax and be more aware of natural surroundings.

When trying new experiences, we sometimes have unrealistic expectations and are disappointed when we find our vision was overly optimistic. Camping may have drawbacks for some, but usually one will experience more positive consequences than imagined. You won't know until you have the experience. Rent a unit or join family or friends on their outings and see if the camping life fits your style. Be surprised.



What is the most valuable agricultural product in the state?

A: Milk



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ANNUAL REPORT OF PRIVATE FOUNDATION NOTICE

The annual report of the Lowell Area Housing, Inc. Foundation for the year ended December 31, 2019 is available for inspection at its principal office, 725 Bowes Road, Lowell, Michigan during regular business hours by any citizen who requests within 180 days after date of this notice.

Date: July 9, 2019

Marcia Roth
President

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obituaries

ELLIOTT

Tracey Lynn Elliott, age 61 of Lowell, passed away Monday, June 24, 2019. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bruce Elliott; and parents, Marvin and Norma May. Tracey is survived by her daughter, Lisa Marie Murray; brother, Jay (Oranda) May; nieces and nephews; and great nieces and nephews. She enjoyed the simpler things in life. Tracey loved nothing more than to spend the afternoon visiting with friends and enjoying her pets. She loved phone calls and long visits with her daughter, Lisa. She enjoyed dinners out with her husband Bruce, her brother Jay and family at Larkin's in Lowell. During her last years at the Laurels of Kent nursing home she was known as a social butterfly. Tracey was always reaching out a helping hand to others, and inviting them in for late-night snacks in her room. She made friends where ever she went. She will be missed by all.



GELDERSMA

Ronald Jay Geldersma, age 61 of Lowell, passed away Tuesday, July 2, 2019 after a courageous battle with cancer. Ron was surrounded by his family and friends in the final moments. He's preceded in death by his father, brother, and step dad. Ronald is survived by his wife, Diane of 27 years; children, Eva (Derek) Jones, Samantha (Corey) Tart, and Amber



Geldersma; grandchildren, Liam and Ellie Jones, and Harper Tart; his mother, Mary Ann Geldersma; sister, Karen (Dave) Wenzler; brother, Paul Geldersma; and several nieces and nephews. In his younger years he enjoyed fishing and hunting with his step dad and brothers, he also loved camping and traveling north with family and friends. Ronald was known for his hard work and dedication working for Stedfast Construction for 36 years. His commentary will be missed by many. Per Ron's wishes cremation has taken place and a celebration of life is scheduled for August 4th, 2019 at Fallasburg Park Section C-3 by the covered bridge, Lowell, MI 49331 from 3-7pm. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Ron's name to Faith Hospice.



JOHNSON

Vivian Louise Johnson (née Bieri), 93, daughter of Lawrence Bieri and Olive Lee Bieri, traveled to her longed-for Heavenly Home on June 29, 2019. Vivian passed away in the cherished home she built with her husband, Bill, on the Flat River in Lowell, MI; she left this world in a perfect reflection of the quiet and peaceful way she lived her life. Vivian Louise lived a full and triumphant life. She was born in Lowell, MI and graduated from Lowell High School. She completed nursing training and worked as an RN for Blodgett Hospital. Following the Second World War, she married her high school sweetheart, Bill Johnson and soon began their family, having five precious children over the course of their marriage. They built their first home, lovingly christened "Knotty Pine," in Lowell. After the tragic loss of their children Larry and Cindy, they relocated to Ada, MI on the Thornapple River and enjoyed many happy memories there. They eventually moved back to Lowell, settling on the Flat River. Vivian's many grandchildren and great-grandchildren were a blessing to her in her later years. Vivian was dedicated to honoring and preserving the legacy of her family; she painstakingly documented the events and stories of her ancestors using pictures, letters, and dictated accounts, lovingly sharing them with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She believed in the importance of leaving a legacy of faith, integrity, and intentional living; she left just that for her many loved ones. Her stories always directed others to the faithfulness of God throughout the journey of life. Vivian was always learning and teaching. She enjoyed many hobbies and the thing she enjoyed most about each hobby was the opportunity to share it with others. Whether it was gardening, sewing, or photography, she used her talents and creativity to teach others and add to their lives. Her ability to create made small things like a pet costume contest or a church play into life events and cherished memories. Ever humble and gentle, Vivian was a true force to be reckoned with, a truly exceptional woman whose kindness and strength of character touched the lives of so many around



her. In her life, she experienced many blessings and many hardships, meeting both with steadfast faith and courage. She leaves behind her loving children: Carol (Gary) Carpenter, Bill (Dolly) Johnson III, and Mark (Renée) Johnson; as well as her grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Teresa (Steve) Kiser, Christopher Carpenter, Bill (Emily) Johnson IV, Allie (Phil) Johnson-Giles, Abby (Matthew) Johnson-Bouwense, Andy (Emily) Johnson, Alicia Johnson, Bryce Johnson, Anna Johnson, Graham Johnson, Audra Johnson, Adrienne Johnson, Elijah Kiser, Eliana Kiser, Lenora Johnson, Hudson Johnson, and Will Johnson V. In the presence of her Savior, she is at long-last reunited with her husband Bill Johnson, Jr.; her children William Lawrence and Cinda Lucille; her siblings Merle, Vonnie, and Art; and her dear parents, Lawrence and Olive. A celebration of Vivian's wonderful life will be held at First Baptist Church of Lowell (2275 W. Main, Lowell, MI 49331) on Saturday, July 13, 2019 at 11:00 am, with a luncheon immediately to follow. Contributions in her memory may be made to First Baptist Church of Lowell, MI.

MILLER

Roger Lee Miller, 72 of Lowell, completed his earthly duties on July 1, 2019. Roger was born Sept. 7, 1947. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jacob Miller and Hazel Peckham Nummer and stepdad, Nelson Nummer; two brothers, Lester Miller (Florida) and Wayne Miller (Washington); and the love of his life, Linda Allen (Lowell). He is survived by his son, Joseph Merklinger (Battle Creek); and daughter, Carol Lee Yurkinas (Ionia); grandchildren, Misti Yurkinas (Jeremy Van Deusen), Michael Yurkinas and Madison Yurkinas Lombardo; great-grandchildren, Aubrey Hazel VanDeusen and Gracie Kay Ernst-Yurkinas; brothers, Bill Miller (Florida), Larry Miller (Florida); and sister, Mary Strauss (Lowell). Please join the family for a Celebration of Life at the covered shelter at Fallasburg Park on Covered Bridge Road on July 12 at 2:00. Lunch will be served.

VOS

John K. Vos, born on December 4, 1925 in Lowell, passed away at age 93 on June 24, 2019 in St. Petersburg, FL. He was a long time resident of Lowell employed at Lowell Area Schools as a bus supervisor/driver/custodian until retiring in 1975. John was married to the late Barbara (Heilman) Vos. He was preceded in death by his son, Kenneth Vos; and grandchild, Shannon Vos Goggins. John is survived by his daughter, Deborah (Jack) Young; daughter-in-law, Linda Vos; and daughter, Sandra (James Schutt-Bower; sister, Dorothy (Granstra) Folkema; grandchildren, Tera (Mike) Brown, Colleen (Richard) Boyd, Heidi (Patrick) Guenther, S. Erin Massey, Bethany (Sid) Miner, Kristian Magro, Chris Goggins, Mary Beth Schutt and Mike (Jodi) Wood. He has 21 great-grandchildren, 11 great- great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. A graveside gathering will take place on Sunday, July 14 from 12:00 to 12:30 at Bailey Cemetery, 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell. Following will be a "Coming Home Open House" from 1-4 p.m. at Lowell VFW, 3124 Alden Nash Ave. SE, Lowell.



PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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The state of Michigan has more "what" than any other state?

Lowell museum summer camp begins soon

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Every year, the Lowell Area Historical Museum offers a summer camp that explores different historical topics. This year they're doing an English pioneer life summer camp at Fallasburg Historical Village on Tuesday, July 16 from 9 am until 2:15 pm. The camp is designed for ages seven through 14 and will include crafts, special tours and a chance to try some activities from that era.

"Kids love the pioneer camps at Fallasburg Village," said Lowell Area Historical Museum executive director Lisa Plank. "The village enables them to picture themselves in a different time. They get to choose from some fun activities that are designed to be hands-on and fun while exploring parts of the past. They also love eating lunch



at the one room school house and exploring the village. We will be serving the kids tea with tasty baked goods to give them the experience of having an English tea. Fallasburg Village is the perfect place for a pioneer summer camp. Many of the early buildings built by settlers to the area still stand today. The campers will be able to take a step back in time and get a sense of what early villages in our area felt like. Campers will get a chance to participate in activities in the one room

school house, the Fallasburg house and the Misner house. In addition, Fallasburg Historical Society president Ken Tamke will lead the campers on a history hike exploring the village and covered bridge."

Campers can choose one of four pioneer activities: making a folk toy, making a candle, making a model wooden bridge or "literature

to life," which involves wearing costumes and putting on a play.

"One of the options this year for an activity at the camp is making a folk craft," Plank said. "Folk crafts are handmade decorative objects or toys. Other activities to choose from this year include candle making, model bridge building and putting on a play using our costumes."

For even more authenticity beyond the pioneer setting at Fallasburg Village, campers are encouraged to dress like pioneers and bring a 'pioneer lunch.'

"Campers are welcome to wear a pioneer outfit but it is not required," Plank said. "There are many patterns available for pioneer clothes. They can also be purchased online through historic clothing merchants or pieced together from clothes they already have. Pioneer children would have brought lunches that included things like apples, bread, baked goods, baked potatoes, anything seasonally available at home. There would not have been refrigeration or pre-packaged food available and food would be wrapped up in cloth or paper."

The cost for the English pioneer life summer camp at Fallasburg Village is \$10 per person. Bottled water will be provided, but campers should bring their own lunches. The Lowell Area Historical Museum is at 325 W. Main. It's open to the public from 1 pm until 4 pm each Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. To register or obtain more information, call 616-897-7688 or visit lowellmuseum.org.

Gov. Whitmer signs House and Senate Bills

Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed House Bills 4060, 4225, 4227, 4234, and 4077 as well as Senate Bill 128.

Governor Whitmer signed HB 4060 which designates the portion of the M-10 freeway between Livernois and I-94 in Detroit as the "Aretha Franklin Memorial Highway." HB 4060 was introduced by Representative Leslie Love.

"Aretha Franklin was an American icon. She began her career here in the heart of Detroit. Her creativity and voice contributed to our musical and cultural history in Michigan," said Whitmer. "I'm honored to be able to dedicate a portion of the M-10 freeway to remember Aretha and all she did for our state."

Governor Whitmer also signed HB 4234 to provide funding for the qualified agricultural loan origination program to assist farmers during one of the wettest years on record.

"Michigan has a rich history in agriculture which is essential to our economy," said Whitmer, "This legislation works on behalf of our farmers and our economy to ensure our

agriculture industry recovers from the devastating rain and extreme weather we experienced earlier this year.

House Bill 4234 will provide \$15 million for the qualified agricultural loan origination program which alleviates financial distress caused by crop loss or damage and is designed to reduce origination costs to farmers seeking loans.

House Bill 4077 amends the Commercial Rehabilitation Act to modify the effective date of a commercial rehabilitation exemption under certain circumstances.

House Bill 4227 will create the Committee on Michigan's Mining Future, a 15-member committee housed within the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that will be tasked with coordinating Michigan mining development. The committee will make recommendations to foster a sustainable, diversified mining industry, evaluate and recommend public policy to enhance the growth of the mining and minerals industry, and advise on the development of stakeholder partnerships. Within two

years, the committee will deliver a report to the governor, legislature, and Michigan's congressional delegation. The bill is sponsored by Representative Sarah Cambensy, D-Marquette.

House Bill 4225 & Senate Bill 128 will enable hospice providers to easily adjust pain medication to address end-of-life patients' rapidly changing clinical needs without going through the Michigan Automated Prescription System (MAPS). These bills balance the need for seamless pain management with MAPS's goal of preventing addiction and tracking diversion of controlled substances.

When this legislation takes effect, prescribers who prescribe or dispense certain controlled substances to hospice patients will no longer need to obtain and review a MAPS report or establish "bona fide prescriber-patient relationship" before doing so. These bills are sponsored by Senator Curtis Hertel, D-East Lansing and Representative Bronna Kahle, R-Adrian, and are tie-barred.

CITY OF LOWELL KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE V, "FIREWORKS," OF CHAPTER 10, "FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION," OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LOWELL

The Lowell City Council adopted Ordinance No. 19-03 amending Article V, "Fireworks," of Chapter 10, "Fire Prevention and Protection," of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell on July 1, 2019. Ordinance No. 19-03 (a) deletes the definition of national holiday as it is no longer necessary; (b) modifies the days that consumer fireworks are allowed to be ignited, discharged or used pursuant to recently enacted state law to read that:

A person shall not ignite, discharge or use consumer fireworks except on the following days after 11 a.m.:

- (1) December 31 until 1 a.m. on January 1.
- (2) The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- (3) June 29 to July 4 until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- (4) July 5, if that date is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 p.m.
- (5) The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- (6) The second Saturday in July, unless the Lowell Riverwalk Festival Fireworks as recognized by the city falls on a different day, in which case, the day of the Lowell Riverwalk Festival Fireworks, until 11:45 p.m.

(c) clarifies when the prohibition of consumer fireworks on or near certain property is applicable; and (d) sets a new civil fine amount for violations relating to consumer fireworks as mandated by state law.

A copy of Ordinance No. 19-03 is available for inspection at City Hall, 301 East Main Street in the City during regular business hours of the City.

Ordinance No. 19-03 is effective 10 days after this publication.



Susan Ullery
City Clerk

FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

MOBILE PHONE WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 12

MOBILE PHONE WORD SEARCH

AREA CODE BANDWIDTH

CALLBACK CAMERA

MEMORY RANGE

AIRPLANE MODE

BASE

CELL

SIGNAL

ANDROID

BATTERY

DATA

SMART

APP

BITS

DOWNLOAD

SYNCHRONIZE

APPLE

BLUETOOTH

EMOJI

TOWER

BROWSER

HOT SPOT

Guess Who?

I am an animal rights promoter and television host born in Australia on July 24, 1998. I grew up in the spotlight thanks to my famous father, who had an over-the-top and infectious personality. I continue his legacy with my work with animals.

Answer: Bindi Irwin

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to phones.

U S N R M E B

□	□	□	□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answer: Numbers


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					34	35	36	37	38
39	40				41			42				
43				44					45			
46				47					48			
49										50		
	51										52	

CLUES ACROSS

- Doctors' group
- One millionth of a gram
- Contrary to
- Oohed and __
- Popular sandwiches
- Construction site machine
- Variety act
- Fall back
- An electrically charged atom
- Mountain lakes
- Japanese classical theater
- Pesky insect
- Natural wonders
- Design file extension
- Genus of grasses
- Container for shipping
- Theron film "___ Flux"
- Get older
- Chinese surname
- Edith Bunker actress
- Natives to Myanmar
- Soda comes in it
- Counting frames
- Where some get their mail (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- ___ and Costello
- Islamic teacher
- Clothing
- Disfigure
- Irons
- NW Italian seaport
- Play a role
- A reduction
- Short poem set to music
- Pain unit
- Get in form
- Junior's father
- To the ___ degree
- Wild or sweet cherry
- Content
- Earn a perfect score
- Korean surname
- Herb ___, San Francisco columnist
- Ottoman military commander
- Satisfaction
- Kids' TV channel (abbr.)
- Poke quickly
- Pouch
- City of Angels
- Dark olive black
- Nocturnal hoofed mammals
- Wild cat
- Fine detail
- Prevents harm to creatures
- A city in Louisiana
- Everyone has their own
- Basics



**Behind
The
Scenes**

Sue Ullery

Residence: Cannon Township
Education: Forest Hills Central High School, Davenport University, Central Michigan University for clerk's certification
Experience: Certified Michigan municipal clerk, working toward master municipal clerk recognition.
Family: Two daughters, one granddaughter
Pets: Dasher (dog)
Hobbies: Yard work, family time, cooking

Lowell city clerk Sue Ullery excited by local growth



by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

The Lowell city council publicly meets two Mondays a month at 7 pm at Lowell city hall to discuss city

government spending, introduce new projects, receive community input and feedback, along with many other tasks. It is Lowell

city clerk Susan Ullery's job to attend and hold the minutes of all the actions at the meetings. These minutes, along with videos of many of the meetings, are posted on the city of Lowell's website.

Ullery has been in the position of Lowell city clerk since 2015. She began working for the city in 1998 when she became then deputy clerk Betty Morlock's assistant, and the receptionist for city hall. She remained in this position for only a short time, as she was quickly promoted to Morlock's position as deputy clerk when Morlock became the city clerk.

"I began classes at Central Michigan University, where I earned my certified Michigan municipal clerk recognition by having satisfied the requirements proscribed by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks," Ullery said.

The certification allowed her to become the city clerk upon Morlock's retirement in August 2015. Besides taking the minutes at the city council meetings, the city clerk position has other official capacities at the meetings, as well as following through

on whatever actions were decided by the council at the meetings.

"I administer all oaths required by law and by the ordinances of the city," Ullery explained. "I am the custodian of the city seal and shall affix the same to documents required to be sealed. I am also the custodian of all papers, documents and records pertaining to the city. I certify all ordinances and resolutions adopted by the council. In addition to these day-to-day operations, the clerk's department administers all duties related to elections each year, with the help of its wonderful election workers."

Ullery also collaborates with different committees throughout the city, mostly dealing with planning and zoning.

"I work closely with our planning commission and planner and attend all planning commission meetings," Ullery remarked. "Similar to that of the city council, I hold all the minutes of all actions of the planning commission at its regular and special meetings. I provide clerical support in the bid process, downtown



Sue Ullery with her daughters and granddaughter.

development authority, fire authority, arbor board, Look committee and LCTV endowment board."

Right now the city has many projects in the works that she is working on in various ways. They recently implemented an update to the city's election equipment, and she is involved with new businesses, business expansions and signage throughout the city.

Ullery recently attended the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks' annual conference, which fulfills requirements to maintain her Michigan municipal clerk certification.

"This year's annual conference consisted of a great opening training session with motivational speaker Mimi Brown," Ullery said. "From there, we had several breakout sessions consisting of topics such as Michigan marijuana laws and the employer's impact, citizens' referendum rights, work/life balance, election audits and several other choices. It was certainly a great opportunity to network with other clerks and vendors."

Although Ullery has been working for the city of

Lowell for over 20 years, she is originally from Kentwood. Her family moved to the Ada/Cascade area in 1980, and she graduated from Forest Hills Central High School. Before getting the position as deputy clerk, she worked at an insurance company.

Ullery is excited about how Lowell has grown since she began working with the city in 1998.

"The store fronts are nearly full, rentals are turned around in no time and young couples are returning to their hometown to raise their families," Ullery commented.

"That is heartwarming. The Riverwalk Festival continues to grow every year, the summer concert series, farmer's market, Pink Arrow Pride and Christmas through Lowell. Our Chamber of Commerce and LowellArts are absolutely fantastic! I am so grateful for so many organizations that have evolved throughout our community making all of these events successful. There is such an excitement in the air and a continued commitment from the community in making Lowell the place to be!"

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