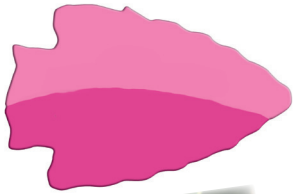


Stories of Perseverance



pages 9 - 11

Bumper-to-bumper traffic at Riverwalk Fest

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

Lowell experienced a rare traffic jam on Thursday evening, with cars bumper-to-bumper going into downtown for the start of the 2019 Riverwalk Festival.

The festival kicked off at 5 pm with a pig roast on Avery St. provided by Main St. BBQ. Brian Doyle, Cody Chambers, and Marty Chambers were among those serving food to the customers.

“All the meat, beans, sauce, everything came from [Main St. BBQ],” Chambers said.

The pig went quickly, as all the meat was gone by around 6:30 pm. Flat River Grill was also represented on Avery St. and made 10 inch wood-fired pizzas to order. There was also a henna tattoo station among the other regular vendors for the Thursday night concert.

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers tribute band the Insiders, headed by Earthwork Collective artist Max Lockwood, played to a crowded audience around the Riverwalk stage. Kayakers and people packed into pontoon boats were



also numerous in the water by the stage as the weather was great for both outdoor concerts and boat rides. See separate story for more details about Lockwood’s performance.

The good weather continued Friday evening with many events preceding the 7 pm performance of the band Magic Bus. The annual used book fair tent was set up, and many people

were browsing through the large selection. Typically, a craft show takes place at the festival. This year, many crafters had stations, but the Chamber of Commerce expanded the criteria, so a wider variety of vendors were at the festival. There was also a new event, “Flea on the Flat River.”

One returning event was the historic pontoon rides. Jim Hodges and Brian Doyle

were ushering people onto the boats.

“The pontoon boat rides have a person on the boat that gives a history of Lowell,” Hodges explained. “They are volunteers with the Lowell museum. They also accept donations, and all the money goes to the Lowell museum. The pontoon boats are volunteered by their owners, and they drive up and down the river for about a 20

minute tour. [They] give a history of Lowell and how it came to be, right back to the old days of making buttons out of clam shells, as well as the fur trading industry, the sawmill and how King Milling came to be.”

LowellArts was represented as one of the many groups to have a booth set up at the festival. They

Riverwalk, continued, page 19

Drowning at Pebble Beach

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

A 41 year old Lowellian named Roberto Ridriquez-Castellon drowned at Pebble Beach in Stoney Lakeside Park on Thursday, July 11.

The man was swimming to an island, something he apparently did often. Lowell police chief Steve Bukala said the man had health issues that probably contributed to his drowning. Bukala located Ridriquez-Castellon in the water and pulled his body to shore.

“I dove to the bottom and got him,” Bukala said. “It was a free dive – no mask, no snorkel, no flippers, nothing. Visibility was probably about a foot, a foot and a half. The lady said she lined him up with the picnic table and a rock, then some kayakers came over started circling the area. I said, ‘Look for something that’s out of the ordinary.’ They saw



Lowell police chief Steve Bukala.

some black soot coming from the bottom, weeds, a disturbance. I went down feet first. I felt him with my foot, came up and said, ‘He’s right below my feet.’ Myself and another good Samaritan went down and we were able to grab ahold of him and pull him to the surface. He was blue and cold to the touch, but we still worked on him as long as we could.”

According to his obituary, Ridriquez-Castellon was married and had many children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters.

Free backpacks available

by Gerald Browning
contributing reporter

With the new school year a little over a month away, the time is now to get school supplies. To support local families, Flat River Outreach Ministries will again be providing hundreds of free backpacks, as well as school supplies, to school age children in the Lowell community who are experiencing financial difficulties. Families who qualify must register at fromlowell.org/backpack before Aug. 2 in order to receive a backpack. The program fills quickly, so register soon.

“FROM feels it’s important to help children start their school year off right by having all the supplies they need,” said FROM executive director Dawn Broene said during last year’s backpack event. “When children have the supplies they need it helps everyone; teachers can focus on teaching instead of scrambling for supplies

for those who may not have it, students can focus on learning instead of feeling left out and families can focus their back to school funds on other necessities. We also know that a number of dedicated teachers and school personnel end up using their own money to purchase items for the classroom and for students and we want those teachers to feel less responsibility to do so. FROM feels backpacks and school supplies are a great way to help our whole community.”

According to the FROM website, kids will be able to select backpacks from a variety of colors and character options. The options for school supplies and backpacks will vary dependent upon the age and size of the student. The backpacks and supplies will be distributed over two days, Aug. 10 from 9 am to 2 pm and on Aug. 13 from 1 pm to 6 pm.

FROM is dedicated to giving back to the community. This organization helps so many in Lowell and beyond. FROM operates the Treasures Thrift Shop, the Hunger Walk that is done in the summer, and many other events that support families in the Lowell area. On the website, you can donate to the organization. As stated on their website, “When you donate to FROM, you help address financial issues, home repairs and weatherization, food insecurity and more. You help us provide HOPE to our neighbors in need. [...] They come with a smile, and they leave with new backpacks and school supplies.”

For more information about Flat River Outreach Ministries, call 616-897-8260 or visit fromlowell.org.



Local poet Kristin Brace



page 7

50¢



Riverwalk Festival parade

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

The 2019 Riverwalk parade was held at noon on Saturday in front of hundreds of festival-goers.

A nearly perfect day was in the cards as people lined the streets to see all the marchers and floats travel past. This included police cars and firetrucks carrying Lowell's finest police and firemen, various floats and multiple royal courts.

A Lowell police car led the parade down Main St., followed by an orange early 70s era Chevrolet Chevelle SS sponsored by Main Street BBQ.

The first float was seen right after. Holding true to the Riverwalk theme, the float was covered with stuffed plush ducklings along with blue and white balloons. The riders of the float were also dressed up to match their ride.

Soon after, a dozen young cheerleaders-in-training cheered their way down Main St.

Many other classic vehicles drove through town during the parade, such as a 1960s Pontiac GTO and a 1950s GMC truck. An old John Deere tractor also put on a show for fans, occasionally doing quick donuts to the delight of the crowd.

A few other floats were also seen cruising along during the parade. The most entertaining was the Luc James Music Studio, who had a band of young members performing various rock songs, most notably the song "Seven Nation Army" by the White Stripes.

Other floats included the Kent District Library, among others. The total float count was eight, for those keeping track at home.

Lowell's firetrucks made a ruckus as they drove past the crowd playing their sirens and honking their horns. They drew many 'oohs' and 'ahhs' from of the younger children.

Several royal courts were on display. The Clarksville Ox Roast royal court, the Kent County Youth Fair royal court and the Harvest Festival queen and court all waved to the crowd. The Harvest Festival court had their own pumpkin-shaped and pumpkin-themed float.

Last, but certainly not least, was the LowellArts crew. Dressed up in their ducky uniforms, they walked alongside their rubber ducky float. The old Sesame Street song "Rubber Ducky" was blasting out of the rubber ducky float as the crew danced away to wrap up the parade.



Band conjures spirit of Tom Petty at Riverwalk Fest

by Gerald Browning
contributing reporter

On Thursday, July 11, Max Lockwood and the Insiders performed on the Showboat stage during the first day of the Riverwalk Festival. With the draw of the festival and the love for Tom Petty, the area was packed with tons of Lowell residents.



Lawn chairs filled the grass in front of the library as people were eager to hear the band play some big hits and lesser-known pieces written and originally performed by Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

Lockwood and the Insiders jumped around to play songs from different points in Petty's career. They performed plenty of his popular hits from the 70s and 80s. Well-known tracks such as "The Waiting" got people standing up, singing with the beat and getting in front of the stage and dancing. One person even blew bubbles while children danced beneath them. "Change of Heart" was a crowd-pleaser that got people moving and mouthing the lyrics to the song. "Here Comes My Girl" was another familiar tune that got fans swaying to the beat. The band also played several tunes from Petty's solo albums, such as 'Wildflowers.'

Between songs, Lockwood would set up the next song by saying how much that particular Petty composition meant to him or the band. Lockwood would occasionally mention the "universal quality" of Tom Petty's music. That was what he attributed to the reason so many people from different ages, races and religions are attracted to Petty's songs. The story-like quality of Petty's music, Lockwood's interest in the songs and his points about what makes Petty's work so universal, created a great evening of storytelling and reminiscing.

Even though Max Lockwood sang most of the tunes, it was refreshing to see other members of the band lending their voices to the concert as well. Each voice evoked a different aspect of Tom Petty's signature style.

Walking through the park, one could hear many people talking about their favorite Tom Petty song. With the large crowd and great feel of Petty's works, whether about heartbreak, hope, or happiness, the feeling of good times with great people made for a wonderful way to start the Riverwalk Festival.

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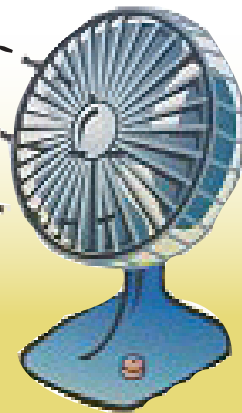
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City council discusses sidewalks, fire department

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting at city hall on Monday, July 15. Among the topics discussed by the council were sidewalks, management of the fire department and how to decrease truck traffic on Monroe St. The meeting lasted one hour and was attended by 12 local residents.

The council discussed either putting a traffic island at Main and Monroe, outlawing left turns onto Main from Monroe or making Monroe a one way street. Trucks are supposed to use Jefferson, but many do not. Lowell police chief Steve Bukala said most trucks use that road because they are following their GPS and they either don't notice or disregard the "no trucks" signs. Lowell city manager Michael Burns said that with only a single officer on duty at a time, Lowell police rarely enforce that ordinance anyway, but said they have recently increased their efforts in that direction. Whatever they decide to do, there is \$100,000 in this year's Downtown Development Authority budget allocated to it.

"A traffic island on Monroe at E. Main could resolve the issue of trucks going down Monroe," Burns said. "From our experience, we realize trucks don't like these, as it is difficult for them to maneuver around and something we might want to consider."

"Making just this last block or two [of Monroe] one way, that would allow us to have some angled parking," said councilor Cliff Yankovich.

"It would cost less than \$100,000, too," said councilor Greg Canfield.

The council discussed whether or not the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority should hire a consultant to perform a comprehensive audit that



Lowell city council in discussion at their meeting on Monday, July 15.

would find ways to maximize efficiency, improve services and address the potential need for full time staffing. Mayor Michael DeVore argued that consultants are not necessary because fire chief Ron van Overbeek already does these things. Depending on which of three vendors they choose, the consultant could cost up to \$30,000, split three ways between the city, Lowell Township and Vergennes Township.

"I think a lot of the stuff in the proposal is beyond the fire authority's scope as a board," DeVore said. "We are supposed to have a fire chief, and a lot of these proposals involve looking at the operating guidelines and the way the command structure is set up and staffing concerns. That is Ron's area. And it's just like with Mike [Burns, Lowell city manager]. If the staff has a problem, they go to him. If Ron's staff has a problem, they go to him. [...] Why are we going to go into their organization and pay someone to tell them how to run it when there's never been a problem the way they run it right now? Except, obviously, being

busy and burned out. [...] It's barely the middle of July and they're already at 500 calls. We were under 500 for the year when I started."

Burns said that city sidewalk repairs have been delayed because public works director Rich LaBombard resigned and because the city's sidewalk inspector suffered an injury and has been out of commission for many months.

"We will need to reestablish our sidewalk standards, most likely next spring," Burns said. "This fall, Groundhawk Excavating will be pouring sidewalks at parks throughout the city, as we've received that grant from the LCTV fund to do so. As for the sidewalk issues downtown, we have two issues of concern. One is over by Shell and Larkin's, where Groundhawk can just repour those in the fall. There [are] others on the bridge. If you've noticed, the concrete is sinking in some spots, and I have contacted MDOT to see what can be done, because they are responsible for those."

The council discussed

their plans to educate the public about the city income tax that will be on November's ballot. The council voted to pay Grand Rapids-based Sabo PR \$12,000 for a "communication plan."

"Sabo PR handles our crisis communication through our city attorney and they are experienced developing these communication plans for other communities," Burns said. "The proposal will develop media information, develop content, update the website, there's also possible digital advertising that can be brought into this, also social media getting the information out."

Councilor Yankovich made a special plea to the public to fill the vacant seats on the Downtown Historic District Commission.

"The historic district actually had somebody trying to get a sign approved, and they don't have a quorum because they don't have enough members," Yankovich said. "They need two people. We have a new business in town that wants to put a nice sign on their business and they can't because there

wasn't a quorum. It's kind of important to have people on these boards, and I would urge someone to fill that gap, please."

According to the city's website, that board was created in 1996 "to safeguard the heritage of the city by preserving the downtown area which reflects elements of the cultural, social, economic, political and/or architectural history of the community." They meet the fourth Tuesday of every month. Interested parties should contact Lowell city hall at 616-897-8457.

Lowell city council's next regular meeting will be at 7 pm on Monday, Aug. 5. The council will meet with the public at a "Coffee with the Council" event at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce on the Riverwalk from 8 am until 10 am on Saturday, Aug. 3.

To watch various city council, board and commission meetings from the recent past, visit the "City of Lowell" channel on YouTube.

...
**People are strange.
They are constantly
angered by trivial things,
but on a major matter like
totally wasting their lives,
they hardly seem to notice.**

~ Charles Bukowski (1920-1994)

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by Ken Levine

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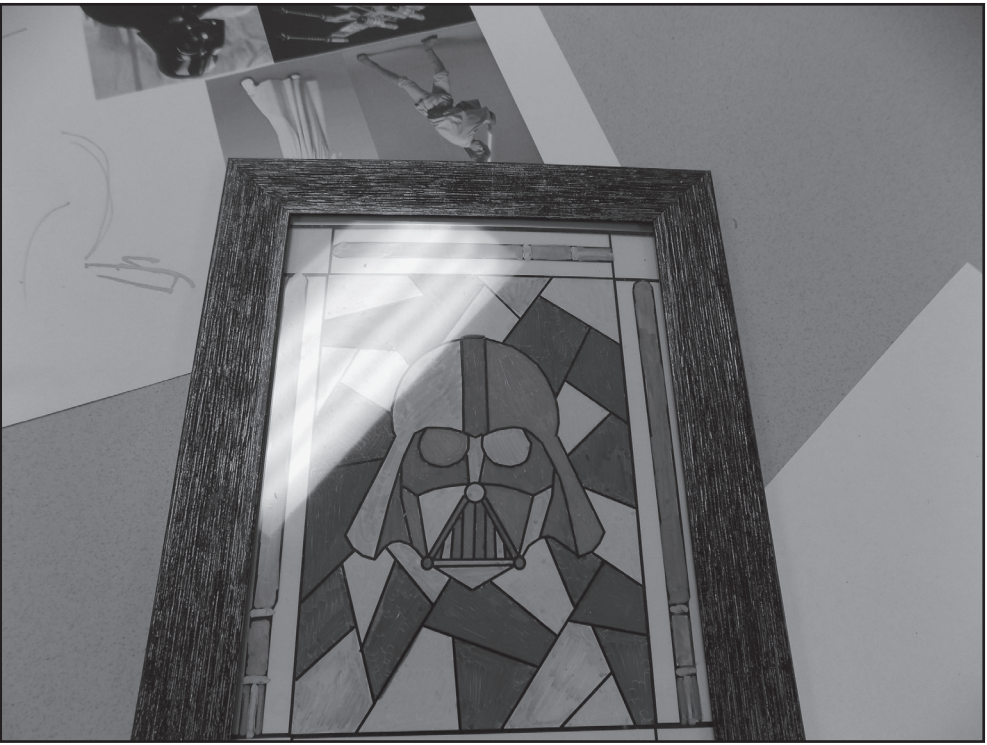
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Star Wars stained glass event for teens



by Gerald Browning contributing reporter

On Tuesday, July 9, at the KDL Englehardt Library in Lowell, teens were invited to explore their creativity and hone their artistic talent by creating stained glass images of classic Star Wars characters.

Kids and adults let their imaginations run wild within the Star Wars universe. Local kids could pick from stencils of Princess Leia, Luke Skywalker, Boba Fett, X-Wing fighter jets and others. However, the most popular of all seemed to be the Darth Vader stencil.

The stencils were given to the kids to color with markers, then they were placed within a glass frame to complete the stained glass look.

"The Cascade branch started this and this is where we got the stencils," said facilitator Chris Straw. "[The art project was] a staff-led rotating program. It comes in a delivery system."

The stencils, markers, frames and other miscellaneous items are all packaged in boxes. Those boxes are shipped from branch to branch in the Kent District Library system.

That way, the program can be shared within the entire library network.

Two of the most popular stencils were villain Darth Vader and the X-Wing fighter jet. The boys tended to use darker colors. Deep reds and dark shades of blue ringed the Sharpie-black color of Darth Vader. However, the girls tended to use lighter shades such as bright blue and lavender.

The environment was a positive and exploratory one. For example, one teen said "I'm not an artist" while working on their project. A facilitator replied with, "This makes you an artist."

Young artists Clive and Ruben proudly displayed their works. They talked

and worked quite diligently. When asked about his work, Ruben replied, "I'm just experimenting." Clive held up his stained glass image of the X-Wing fighter jet and replied with, "This one is my favorite."

Artist Brylee worked diligently, right up to the end of the hour, but was happy to display her work. She took care to work within the stenciled lines to create the stained glass effect.

Straw mentioned that the week before they had a candy-themed mosaic project and the following week they are scheduled to do a workshop on how to make comic strips.

"We like to keep our kids busy," Straw said.



Chris Straw

NEWSPAPERS Outperform Billboards in Michigan

the lowell ledger

Newspapers are more engaging than billboards.

16 minutes
 average time spent reading a newspaper each day¹

7 seconds
 average time spent viewing a billboard²

Newspaper ads result in more purchases than billboards.

79% Eight in ten newspaper readers took action as a result of reading a newspaper ad in the past 30 days³

2.3% 2.3% of adults made a purchase in the last 90 days as the result of a billboard ad⁴

Newspaper ads have more staying power

Saving the ad for future reference is one of the top-rated newspaper reader actions.³

The newspaper is often passed along to someone else who sees the ad. Daily/Sunday newspapers average 1.9 readers per copy.⁴

People simply scan billboards as they drive by.

Newspapers ads provide more flexibility

Based on the length and complexity of the advertising message, retailers can choose from a variety of newspaper ad sizes - from smaller units up to full-page and two-page spreads.

Billboard ads should contain only three basic elements - an image, a copy line, and a company name or logo. Copy should be kept to nine words.⁵

Newspaper ads can be placed, and changed when necessary, within a day or two. Billboard creative is often posted for 30 days.

Sources: ¹eMarketer; ²Lamar Advertising; ³Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; ⁴Pulse of America 2018; ⁵NAA

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viewpoint

to the editor



125 years ago Lowell Ledger July 25, 1894

The provisional government is no more and the republic of Hawaii holds the reins of power. But it is only a change of name; the same people are in power, and the avowed purpose of the government is the same—to obtain annexation to the United States. The new constitution, which was finished in the 3rd, was promulgated on the 4th of July from the front steps of the former palace. A large crowd was present and when President Dole appeared he was greeted by a mighty cheer.

Humane officer, S. F. Edmonds arrested a fellow Saturday for cruelty to animals. He was taken before Justice Hicks and paid \$5 and costs. The Journal suppresses names this time but will not be so careful of feelings in the future.

W. Johnson's hired men tipped over with a load of grain and then the team ran away, they tried to go into the stable and now the stable door looks as if it had been struck by lightning. One man was injured somewhat and the wagon was badly demoralized.

100 years The Lowell Ledger July 17, 1919

The Packard house owned by Orville Austin, and occupied by Earl Brown and family, was partially destroyed by a fire resulting from an exploding oil stove at 5 p.m., Saturday. Loss on household goods about \$1,400 with \$1,000 insurance, which does not cover loss.

George Druce, 22, of Ionia, jumped from the deck of the Major A. B. Watson into Reed's lake last night in an attempt to commit suicide. Passengers in the boat saw him leap to the railing and plunge into the lake. A boat was lowered and "Babe" Apsey rowed to where the man went down, rescuing Druce as he came to the top the third time.

As war-time prohibition took effect July 1, the department of justice announced that its agents throughout the country would not attempt to stop the sale of two and three quarters per cent beer. This eleventh hour development, a flat reversal of an earlier ruling by the department was due to the uncertainty as to how the federal district court of New York might rule on a pending claim by brewers that beer containing that much alcohol was not intoxicating.

75 years The Lowell Ledger July 20, 1944

After having been reported missing in action, the cheering news reached here last Friday, that Second Lieut. Allen Wisner, 24 son of Mr. And Mrs Otto Wisner, is a prisoner of the Germans. The news came Friday night in a telegram from the War Department, through and American Red Cross to his wife, the former Marian Reidesma of Grand Rapids.

Lowell Victory gardeners are advised by Mrs. N. E. Borgerson, president of the Garden Lore Club, that all gardens will be visited by the judges again, some time in July, and another time in August. Judges are told not to spend much time on gardens that are not properly taken care of.

We are sorry to report that "Chummy" Cooley met with an accident. Chummy, on his pony, went to pasture to drive up the cattle. The pony was attacked by a bull, throwing Chummy off. Pony stepped on his foot breaking it and the bull stepped on his chest, so he will be laid up for several weeks before he can venture out on crutches.

50 years The Lowell Ledger July 17, 1969

A soft-spoken dairy farmer with no prior or political or public office experience is the new supervisor for Lowell Township. "I was hesitant at first, but finally let them talk me into taking the job," declared Elmer E. Smith, 42, of Pratt Lake Road. "I'll tell you something, I've already learned a lot in a hurry."

When Captain Gordy Gould, who also serves as interlocutor, orders the Robert E. Lee XXXVII to cast off the next Monday, it will mark the 183rd time that the Lowell Showboat has started down the Flat river toward Cat-tail Bend.

Action by Sgt. James Hutson of the Lowell Police Department is helping to apprehend an auto thief seeking to elude police blockades today had brought official commendation from Kent County Sheriff Ronald H. Parsons.

25 years The Lowell Ledger July 20, 1994

John and Chris Clore aren't ready to ride off the cliff yet. But that's what they would have to do if they were to back out of their driveway. The concept for the original design for the reservoir site access road project was to provide an acceptable slope for the construction traffic.

Students attending the new, state-of-the-art high school in the fall will be getting more than just new classrooms, they'll also be getting a newly revised student handbook. According to Scott Vashaw, assistant high school principal, the handbook is reviewed every year, but with the moving of the high school, this was a good year to update and clarify student policy.

The First Amendment guarantees an individual the freedom of speech, among other things. The battle over what that exactly entails has been fought over the years by some very influential people in many courts across the country. That argument has now made its way into Lowell Township. Currently Lowell Township and Lowell resident G. M. Ross have a court date set in Kent County to discuss the legalities of the First Amendment as it pertains to a township ordinance.

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed reading the article by Tim McAllister about Glendon Swarthout. I have an original copy of his book Welcome To Thebes, passed down to me by my mother, Jane Runciman Mapes.

Although Mr. Swarthout was a year behind my mother at Lowell High School, they went on some dates together. I may even have some memorabilia from those days, but the reason I am writing is to tell a little story about Glendon Swarthout and Jane Runciman.

Back in the late 1970's, my grandmother (Gladys Runciman) sold her house of 48 years on Riverside Drive. A year or so later, the new owners had a gathering at their renovated home, and my mother Jane

and I were invited to attend. While everyone was in a different area of the house, my mother said to me "I have a secret to show you". She took me to the banister of the steep stairway, and proceeded to twist off the cap. Carved on the bottom was "G.S. + J.R.". Mr Swarthout had carved those initials into the banister cap in the early 1930's, and there it remained for decades. No one else ever knew, and my mother finally "fessed up" around 45 years later. She started to panic a bit when she couldn't twist the cap back on securely, but finally got it back in place before anyone else came into the room. She never told the new owners of this, and I kept her secret to myself until after she passed.

J. Joseph Mapes
Paw Paw, Michigan



We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

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

HEALTH

With Drs.
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- plantar warts

Plantar warts are warts that occur on the bottom of the feet. It is caused by a virus, HPV virus. It enters the skin through small breaks or cuts in the skin. It appears as a hard area of skin with black pinpoint. People commonly think these black spots are "seeds" of the wart. They are actually the ends of clotted blood vessels.

Most of the time these warts don't cause symptoms and no treatment

is needed. They will eventually go away on their own. Sometimes they cause pain due to thickness and pressure points. Salicylic acid can be used topically. Cryotherapy (freezing) can also be used. Typically though, these are not effective due to the depth of the wart. Surgical excision is more successful but involves numbing medicine injected into the area which is painful.

college news

Kathleen Chovanec, of Ada, and Chelsey Miller, of Lowell, are local residents who have earned a degree from Western Governors University (WGU). The online, nonprofit university held its 70th (Orlando, Florida); 71st (Cincinnati, Ohio); and 72nd (Anaheim, California) commencement ceremonies this year to celebrate the graduation of more than 22,000 students from across the country.

Chovanec has earned her Master of Arts, English Language Learning (PreK-12) and Miller has earned her Bachelor of Science, Nursing.

Emily Jacobs, of Alto, was among the students who qualified for the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh spring 2019 Honor Roll.

To qualify for the honor roll on the UW Oshkosh campus, a student must take at least 12 credits and earn a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.3 (out of a possible 4.0). Those with a GPA of 3.75 or better qualify for the Dean's List.

Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois announced that Alexis Suwyn, of Ada, was named to the spring 2019 Dean's List in recognition of outstanding academic achievement.

The dean's list is Trinity Christian College's highest academic honor. Traditional undergraduate students who attend Trinity full-time and earned a 3.5 grade point average earn this honor.

Goshen College recently recognized 202 undergraduate students for excellence in academics on the spring 2019 Dean's List.

Benjamin Fox, a senior Molecular biology/Biochemistry major from Ada, was recognized for academic excellence on the fall semester Dean's List at Goshen College. Fox is a graduate of Forest Hills Central High School.

The Dean's List includes students earning at least a 3.75 GPA, while completing at least 12 hours of coursework for a letter grade. Only grades from the designated semester are included in the Dean's List selection process.

Social Security's definition of disability

This month marks the 29th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990. Disability affects millions of Americans. It can inhibit peoples' quality of life and their ability earn a living. Social Security is here to help you and

required by law to review the current medical condition of people receiving disability benefits to make sure they continue to have a qualifying disability. Generally, if someone's health hasn't improved, or if their disability still keeps them from working, they will continue to receive benefits.



your family, but there are strict criteria for meeting the definition of disability. The definition of disability under Social Security is also different than it is for other programs. We do not pay benefits for partial or short-term disability.

Social Security has a strict definition of disability. Social Security program rules assume that working families have access to other resources to provide support during periods of short-term disabilities, including workers' compensation, insurance, savings, and investments.

Social Security is also

Social Security is a support system for people who cannot work because of a disability. You can learn more about Social Security's disability program at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability and also by accessing our starter kits and checklists at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/disability/.

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

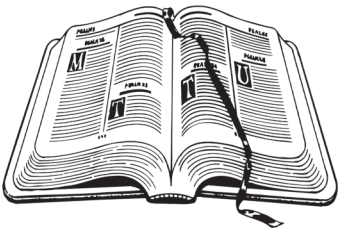
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area churches



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Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM
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happy birthday

JULY 17
Vicki VanDerWarf,
Ken Willmarth, Tom Karp.

JULY 18
Dianne Scanlon, Bette Phillips Haybarker, Emily Borton.

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

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

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

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

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

Local poet has a new book of verse on the shelves

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

Creative writing is an art form that many people can take part in but very few can master. Writing a story or poem is one thing, but having your work published for all to see is a whole different animal that few people have the skill or nerve to handle.

Local author Kristin Brace is one of the few who have been able to see their work published for the world to lay their eyes upon.

Having published two chapbooks, along with her poetry collection “Toward the Wild Abundance,” which was selected for the 2018 Wheelbarrow Books Poetry Prize, Brace has already accomplished more than most authors dream of.

A graduate of Hope College, Brace earned a degree in English with a focus on creative writing, as well as a Master of Fine Arts in writing from Spaulding University in Louisville, KY.

“Since I was a kid, I’ve wanted to be a writer and publish my writing in books,” Brace said. “I write poetry, along with fiction and some stories for children that haven’t been published yet. I think that I’m drawn to subjects that are close to me personally, or just things that I have observed or thought about a lot. Those things tend to come out a lot in my writing.”

Stories can come together in different ways. Some can be written in literally minutes while others can take much, much longer.

“It can vary from project to project quite considerably,” Brace said. “Sometimes a poem will take years to complete while others can take just a few moments.”

For a creative writer to get the best out of their abilities, one has to get into their creative headspace. Each writer has different ways to

focus on their writing. Many prefer to be alone to focus on their work. Brace is no different.

“For me being alone is very important when it comes to my writing,” Brace said. “I’m very social, on one hand, but I also need a lot of time in solitude to just be in nature. I take a lot of walks, spend a lot of time reading and thinking. Sometimes I’m not in the creative headspace so I have to just sit down and do the work. Writing takes patience for me. I tried putting together a poetry collection every few years starting in 2009, and didn’t come up with what I felt was THE full collection until 2017. That’s when I started polishing it up and sending it out.”

The easiest way to read Brace’s work is by going to your local KDL branch, where her first chapbook, “Fence, Patio, Blessed Virgin,” is on the shelves.

“My first chapbook called ‘Fence, Patio, Blessed Virgin’ came from a trip that me, my mom and sister took to visit my grandmother a couple of years before she passed away,” Brace said on writing her first book. “I just realized how special that time was and wanted to record it all for myself more than anything. As I kept writing about it and kept filling it in with more memories, I realized that this could be something that is publishable and can be touching to others.”

Brace said her style of poetry varies.

“Fence, Patio, Blessed Virgin’ was sort of narrative in style, very personal,” Brace said. “I think all writing is personal in some way because it is coming from the writer’s experiences and thoughts, but other poetry I’ve written, and my second chapbook, my latest collection that was



Kristin Brace

just published, some of that is narrative, but other parts are lyrical in style, often just focusing on a single emotion or image.”

Brace’s second chapbook, “Each Darkness Inside,” was released in June, and Brace gave details on what it was all about.

“It collects poems that I’ve written over the last several years that seem to speak toward a similar theme,” Brace said. “Some of the poems deal with illness or solitude, others deal with family and other things. The more you write, the more you see your own little obsessions in things, so a lot of similar messages and images that come up in my writing make it more cohesive. The poems vary, each poem is its own thing.”

Brace was happy to give advice on how writers can get their work published.

“There are a number of different ways, so do a lot of research because no two publishing paths are the same,” Brace said. “As for single poems or short

stories, every few months I’ll send out a whole bunch of pieces to different literary journals. That can help in publishing a full collection, as publishing firms see that other people in the literary community think that these poems were good enough to be published. So it gives you a little clout in that way.”

Other than her two chapbooks being published, Brace’s biggest accomplishment was having her poetry collection “Toward the Wild Abundance” selected for the 2018 Wheelbarrow Books Poetry Prize, which was then made available by MSU Press.

“I had to read the email a few times to make sure I was actually reading it

correctly,” Brace said. “It was just really exciting. That was the first time I had sent it out, which is pretty unheard of. As a writer you get used to being rejected a lot. It’s just a numbers game, so to have sent it out once and have it accepted, then to have such friendly and cordial correspondence from MSU Press was just thrilling for me.”

Brace has big plans for her future writing.

“I’m hoping this year and into the future to revisit a story collection I set aside a while ago to work on other things,” Brace said. “I write a lot of character-driven fiction, less plot-driven and more focused on the psychological and emotional experiences of the character.”

As the interview wrapped up, Brace had one last bit of advice for future writers.

“I would just say that anyone who is interested in writing and becoming a writer to read really widely, talk to other writers and most importantly sit down and write,” Brace said.

Readers can find her poetry collection “Toward the Wild Abundance” at LaFontsee Gallery and Schuler Books in Grand Rapids, at Hope-Geneva Bookstore in Holland, at This is a Bookstore and Bookbug in Kalamazoo or at most Kent District Library locations.


Upcoming author events can be found on her website, kristinbrace.com.

Yep we cover Home



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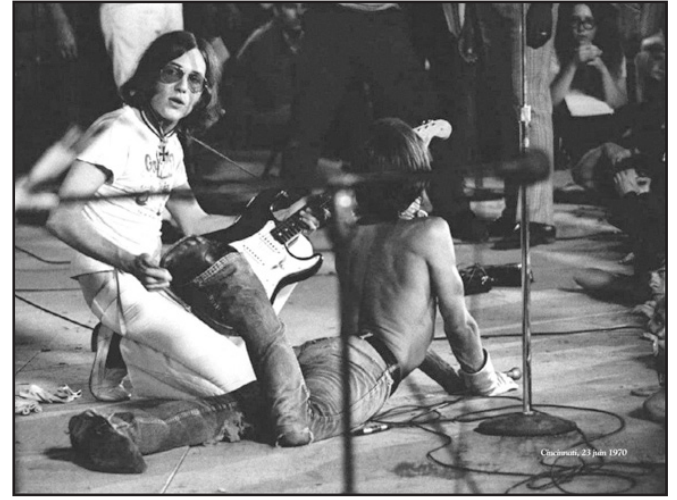
Today on July 17

July 17 is the 198th day of the year; 167 more days remain in 2019.

Historical Events

- 1048: Pope Damasus II is elected.
- 1203: Constantinople is captured during the Fourth Crusade. Byzantine emperor Alexios III Angelos flees into exile.
- 1429: Charles VII is crowned King of France in the Reims Cathedral.
- 1453: Battle of Castillon in Gascony, the last battle of Hundred Years' War. The French defeat the English, the Earl of Shrewsbury is killed.
- 1717: Premiere of George Frideric Handel's "Water Music" in a concert on the River Thames with King George I in attendance.
- 1762: Peter III, czar of Russia, is murdered. Catherine II becomes czar.

- 1902: Willis Carrier of Buffalo, NY invents the air conditioner.
- 1918: Czar Nicholas II of Russia is executed, along with his family and retainers.
- 1945: Allied leaders Harry Truman, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin meet in Potsdam, Germany to decide how to handle the defeated Nazis.
- 1955: Walt Disney leads the dedication and opening of Disneyland in Anaheim, CA.
- 1962: "Little Feller" nuclear weapon test at secret location in Nevada.
- 1976: Opening of the Summer Olympics in Montreal. 25 African teams boycott because New Zealand participated in sporting events in South Africa during apartheid.
- 1984: The drinking age in the US changes from 18 to 21 nationwide.
- 1989: First flight of the top secret stealth bomber.
- 1996: 230 are killed near Long Island, NY on TWA Flight 800.
- 2014: 298 are killed when Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 is shot down.



Ron Asheton (left) and Iggy Pop of the Stooges in Cincinnati on June 23, 1970. [photo by Tom Copi]

Birthdays

- 1763: John Jacob Astor, businessman, philanthropist
- 1889: Erle Stanley Gardner, lawyer, author
- 1899: James Cagney, actor, singer, dancer
- 1912: Art Linkletter, radio and television host
- 1917: Lou Boudreau, baseball player, manager
- 1917: Phyllis Diller, actress, comedian
- 1918: Red Sovine, singer/songwriter, guitarist
- 1920: Gordon Gould, physicist, invented the laser
- 1928: Vince Guaraldi, singer/songwriter, pianist
- 1935: Diahann Carroll, actress, singer
- 1935: Donald Sutherland, actor, producer
- 1939: Spencer Davis, singer/songwriter, guitarist
- 1942: Don Kessinger, baseball player, manager
- 1942: Zoot Money, singer/songwriter, keyboard player
- 1947: Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall
- 1948: Ron Asheton, guitarist, Iggy and the Stooges
- 1949: Geezer Butler, bass player, Black Sabbath
- 1950: Phoebe Snow, singer/songwriter, guitarist
- 1952: David Hasselhoff, actor, singer
- 1952: Nicolette Larson, singer/songwriter
- 1954: Angela Merkel, chemist, Chancellor of Germany
- 1960: Mark Burnett, screenwriter, producer
- 1966: Lou Barlow, guitarist, songwriter, Sebadoh
- 1976: Luke Bryan, singer/songwriter, guitarist

NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENT CAMEL LAKE COUNTY DRAIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on Thursday, the 22nd day of August, 2019, at the Kent County Drain Commissioner's Office, 1500 Scribner Ave NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49504, County of Kent, or such place and time, I, Kenneth J Yonker, Kent County Drain Commissioner, may adjourn, the apportionment for benefits and the lands comprised within the Camel Lake County Drain Drainage District, and the tentative apportionments against parcels and municipalities in the Drainage District, will be subject to review on the above specified date only, from 8:30am until 4:30pm. Also on this date, the computation of cost for said drain will be open for inspection by any interested parties. You may also review your apportionments by phone at (616) 632-7910.

WHEREAS, you are further advised that, pursuant to Section 154 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, drain assessments against land will be collected in the same manner as property taxes. In addition, if drain assessments against land are collected by installment, the land owner may pay the assessments in full, with any interest to date, at any time and thereby avoid further interest charges.

WHEREAS, you are further advised that, pursuant to Section 155 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, any owner of land within the Camel Lake County Drain Drainage District or any city, village, township, district or county, feeling aggrieved by the apportionment of benefits made by the Drain Commissioner, may appeal the apportionment within ten (10) days after the "Day of Review of Apportionment" by making an application to the Kent County Probate Court for the appointment of a Board of Review. If there is no appeal, the roll will be confirmed ten (10) days after the "Day of Review

of Apportionment". The confirmed roll may be slightly different from the roll presented at the Day of Review, due to arguments made at the Day of Review.

AS A PROPERTY OWNER WITHIN THE DISTRICT, YOU ARE SUBJECT TO A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR A PORTION OF THE COST OF THIS PROJECT.

The government units and permanent parcel numbers of the parcels of land within the Special Assessment District of said drain being assessed are located on the reverse side of this notice.

NOW, THEREFORE, all unknown and non-resident persons, owners and persons interested in the above described lands, and you: Randy Wilcox (Bowne Township Supervisor), Bryan Harrison (Caledonia Charter Township Supervisor), Lisa Posthumus Lyons (Kent County Clerk), and Steve Warren (Managing Director of the Kent County Road Commission) that at such time and place, as stated above, the apportionment for benefits and the lands comprised within the Camel Lake County Drain Special Assessment District will be subject to review.

AND EACH OF YOU, owners and persons interested in the above referenced parcels of land, are hereby given the opportunity to appear, at the time and place noted above, to review the apportionments and be heard with respect to such special assessments and your interests in relation to them, if you so desire.

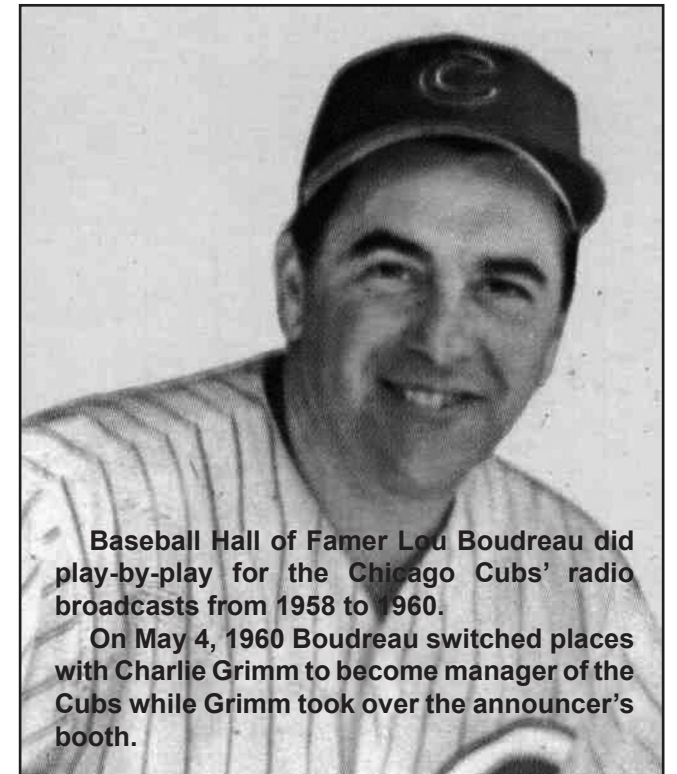
Dated this 26th day of July, 2019.

Kenneth J Yonker,

Government units and Parcel Numbers of land being assessed:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 412313400-004 | 412324400-003 thru 005 | 412418351-019 thru 024 | 412419101-023 |
| 412313400-022 | 412324400-014 | 412418352-005 thru 008 | 412419102-006 thru 007 |
| 412313400-019 | 412324400-024 thru 025 | 412418390-001 thru 004 | 412419102-011 thru 012 |
| 412324100-009 | 412324400-019 | 412418390-007 | 412419176-003 |
| 412324100-039 | 412324400-009 thru 010 | 412418390-009 | 412419200-004 |
| 412324100-042 thru 044 | 412417300-004 | 412418400-004 | 412419200-007 thru 008 |
| 412324100-067 thru 070 | 412417300-009 | 412418400-007 | 412419200-010 thru 011 |
| 412324201-001 | 412417300-017 | 412418400-010 thru 011 | 412419300-002 |
| 412324226-001 thru 008 | 412418100-009 | 412418400-015 | 412419300-004 |
| 412324276-004 thru 005 | 412418326-015 | 412418400-019 | 412419300-006 |
| 412324276-016 thru 018 | 412418326-018 | 412418400-017 | 412419300-008 thru 011 |
| 412324276-007 thru 009 | 412418351-012 | 412418400-022 thru 023 | 412420100-035 |
| 412324276-012 thru 014 | 412418351-015 | 412419101-001 thru 008 | |
| 412324300-003 | 412418351-004 thru 006 | 412419101-017 thru 021 | |

The Township of Bowne and the Charter Township of Caledonia at large and the County of Kent on account of roads.



Baseball Hall of Famer Lou Boudreau did play-by-play for the Chicago Cubs' radio broadcasts from 1958 to 1960.

On May 4, 1960 Boudreau switched places with Charlie Grimm to become manager of the Cubs while Grimm took over the announcer's booth.

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A community fighting cancer

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

~ All photos courtesy of Heather Eveland Photography

Denese Chrouch

I think my cancer story is probably like a lot of other people. I went for a normal mammogram in January of 2018 and they found something abnormal, which they thought was just a lymph node that was inflamed, but didn't think it was anything to worry about but something to watch. I went back in June and it was still there and the doctor said she didn't want to get three years down the road and find a problem, so they scheduled me for a biopsy. Two days later I got the call saying that it was cancer.

I really don't remember all of the call, I know a lot of information was given to me and I did ask questions, but the fact that I had cancer was all that I recall. I was scheduled to meet with a team of doctors at Lemmon-Holton Cancer Center. My husband and I went for the appointment, which lasted most of the day. My team of doctors met together in a room to look at my test results and come up with a plan of treatment. They then met with me individually to examine me and to talk about what their treatment would look like. It was a very tiring and very emotionally draining day. The plan was that I would have surgery to remove the lump, which I ended up having two surgeries because the margins were not clear, then to have 16 radiation treatments and be done. My tumor was very small and was located very close to my chest wall, so that I could not feel it when doing self-breast exams. The mammogram was the only way it would have been found until it grew larger. So I feel that a mammogram saved my life.



The doctors had told me that they thought I would probably just have radiation, but they sent the tumor for a specialized test called oncotyping, and my score came back on the higher side, which means my chance for recurrence was higher, but my

score was still in a gray area where you could opt for chemotherapy or just go with radiation. After much prayer, talking to my family and friends in the medical field, I opted for chemo. That was one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make, and I tried to talk

myself out of doing chemo every day. Even though chemo is not something you ever want to do, I feel like I made the right decision for me so that if it ever comes back I know that I did everything I could possibly do to try to

Denese's story, continued, page 12

This Week's Stories of Perseverance Brought To You By:



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perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Roger Royer

One enters the Gilda's Club housed in the Lowell Senior Center with some in trepidation. Oh, its not a place of exclusivity, but one of inclusivity. It is not particularly an environment that you might seek to be a 'member' of, although we all will eventually experience the situations that make the Gilda's Clubs across the nation so valuable.

The clubs are an outgrowth of the relationship, no better said, love, that the actor Gene Wilder had for his wife Gilda Radner. Gilda, an original cast member of the long running NBC Saturday Night Live was taken by ovarian cancer at the age of 43 and Wilder co-founded the Gilda's Club concept to provide support for those who had lost a loved one. He found a void and viewed the idea of the Club as a means for comfort. As clubs around the country celebrated Gilda's life on what would have been her 73rd birthday this week, I thought it might be helpful and perhaps informative to share my experience as a way to encourage others to embrace the opportunities and resources available from the Club in the Victorian House on the south end of town.

First off, it must be said that programs and support provided by Gilda's Club are without cost, so that removes one impediment that might deter one from seeking assistance. Our Lowell club is affiliated with its 'big sister' in Grand Rapids and benefits from resources shared with it. Volunteers provide immeasurable support in the operation of the club. Upon entering the club you're greeted by welcoming smiles, a clear representation of the environment that you'll experience. Remember the circumstances of all members



Lowell Program

**In This Together...
Learn. Share. Laugh.**



Heather Eveland
PHOTOGRAPHY

are shared. Yes, each has its own uniqueness, but there is the common theme of the loss of a loved one or the challenge of traumatic health issues to oneself or those close to you.

In my particular instance, and those of many others, the loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling or other loved one is a once in a lifetime experience and not something I would wish on anyone. The empty chair at the dinner table, next to you in the car, or on the couch watching the latest edition of Jeopardy is truly painful and cannot be shared. Yes, friends, relatives, neighbors, and other colleagues express their condolences with all sincerity, but unless you have experienced the trauma for yourself and until that day arrives, one can never fully understand the nature of the feeling of emptiness that envelops a person. The club provides a venue for attendees to share their challenges

and hopefully to grow physically, spiritually, and emotionally, not to forget the past, but to help them approach the future. New attendees demonstrate their courage with attendance and frankly the first time it can be uncomfortable, sharing your innermost feelings can be difficult for any of us. As you look around into the eyes of the other members, there is a feeling of connectivity with

tears. They are quickly followed by smiles of support and sympathy by others who know the feelings. Each member sets his or her own pace for growth as they use the meetings for the respite they seek.

Perhaps the most interesting and telling concept of the Gilda's Club in Lowell are the members themselves, young and old, men and women, survivors and grievers, all are in

We are indeed privileged to be gifted a resource such as the Gilda's Club and I would encourage you, if the need arises, to stop and explore its benefits.

~ Roger Royer

those who too, have experienced similar circumstances. It may take several gatherings to reach a comfort level where one can 'let their protective guard' down and emotions are frequently demonstrated with

search of some comfort as they look to build on their tomorrows. We are indeed privileged to be gifted a resource such as the Gilda's Club and I would encourage you, if the need arises, to stop and explore its benefits.

perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Peter Schmidt

I'm Peter Schmidt. I grew up in the U.P., on a farm in the town of Pickford. I attended Calvin College for a couple years (88-90) then spent the next four and a half years in mission work, first overseas, then the last three years here in the states with a drama ministry. I met my wife Peggy through that group. She is from Upstate New York. We lived in Petoskey for a short time. Our oldest was born there prematurely. He spent five months at Butterworth Neonatal unit. After living at Ronald McDonald house for four months we moved to Grand Rapids. I have four children, Sam 23, Ramona 22, Chloe 19 and Ben 17. I've been divorced since 2010. I work in manufacturing running production lines. I came out in 2011 but have yet to find the right man for a husband.

Nearly 13 years ago, in October 2006, I was first diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, a bone marrow cancer. It was a shocking experience. My dad had been diagnosed with the same cancer in 1999 and passed away in 2002. I was 36, married and my four kids were between the ages of five and 10. I was very sick at that time. My kidneys were in failure from the broken cancer proteins causing damage. I spent 17 days at Blodgett. On Halloween, the kids visited the hospital in their costumes.

During the next three years I went in and out of remission and in and out of my work. I cycled through three chemo regimens and then a stem cell transplant in May 2009.

Thanks again to this community for showing your love and support of those of us dealing with cancer battles.

~ Peter Schmidt

That meant trips back and forth to Karmanos Cancer Center in Detroit. Transplants were not yet being done in Grand Rapids. They used my own stem cells for the transplant. We combined my harvest with a mini "Spring Break" for the kids. Hotel with a pool and a dinner out in Greektown. In 2007, we moved to Lowell. The



Heather Ereland
PHOTOGRAPHY

following year was the first Pink Arrow Pride game. I don't remember when we were first fully aware of the event or contacted with an offer of a monetary gift. We were very grateful. I will never forget my first survivor walk through the stadium. Feeling all that support from the community

is amazing. When asked, I took the opportunity to speak at elementary school Pink Arrow assemblies. My youngest went around with me.

Last summer, after nine years in remission my cancer came back. Multiple Myeloma is not yet a curable disease. Perhaps one of the fifth graders I challenged to study science will find a cure. I was not at all happy

to face the process of fighting this disease again. After 16 years in the same department at work I had transferred to a different one near the end of August. I was diagnosed Sept 12, 2018.

Part of the reoccurrence included a mass on my sacrum. I had radiation treatment first. Ten rounds, two per week. By early October, the side effects caught up with me and I went off work on disability. My daughter Ramona moved back from Chicago to live with me.

I had five monthly rounds of treatment. I went in for liquid chemo twice a week for three weeks then a week off. I took a chemo pill for 21 days of the cycle and was on a steroid as well. Fatigue from chemo was the operative word. Some days I spent mostly on the couch and took lots of naps. The regimen worked well and we planned a stem cell transplant. In 2009 they harvested enough cells

for two transplants. The extra had been in Detroit, frozen since then. Those were brought over to Grand Rapids and tested. They were good to use. No harvest needed this time. Whew, one less thing to go through. March 20 I had my second stem cell transplant. I was in the hospital for 19 days.

Once home with zero immunity I had to avoid places like Meijer and playing in the dirt for about three months. I love flower gardening so that was very disappointing. I am at the end of that recovery period and will return to work July 8. I recently began my own shopping again and it's great to see my favorite workers at Heidi's Farmstand and Meijer. Thanks again to this community for showing your love and support of those of us dealing with cancer battles.

LOWELL COMMUNITY WELLNESS

PINK ARROW HEALTH FAIR

WEST END REVEAL - IMPACT CHURCH LOCATION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2019

08.23.19

perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Denese's story, continued

prevent that. But the day came and I started my chemo treatments, six treatments, one every three weeks starting in October and ending in January. That really doesn't sound like a long time, but when you are in the middle of it it feels like an eternity. After that my time was taken up with extreme fatigue, hair loss, nausea, white and red blood cell counts, being germaphobic so that I didn't get sick, doctor visits and just the ever present unknown.

Everyone's cancer journey is similar and everyone's cancer journey is unique. Even though I was getting chemo and feeling rotten, I was also seeing people at Lemmon-Holton who were having a much more difficult time than I was and even though I didn't know most of their names they went on my prayer list and I prayed for them daily.

I always heard people say that cancer is a journey but didn't really know what they meant. But it is a journey to places and doing things that you didn't know anything about and never want to visit again. Along

the journey you learn things about yourself that you didn't know: How will I react to the possibility a life-threatening illness? Will I be sad to lose my hair? How will my family and friends react? Will my faith get weaker or stronger? I come from a long line of worriers in my family, and through this process I learned to replace my worry with fully relying on

God and I felt a great deal of peace. This was all out of my control and I could sit and cry and worry or just get on with what I needed to do and make the best of a bad situation. So I made the decision, with God's help, that cancer was a part of my life but it wasn't going to control my life. When the time came that my hair started to fall out in clumps I told my daughter to get the clippers and give me a

mohawk, because I would never have the opportunity to see what I looked like with one again. So she gave me a mohawk and used mousse to make it kind of stand up and we took pictures. It was a time of laughter in a situation that didn't give you a lot of opportunity to laugh. I started out wearing the hats and scarves, but I have never really been a hat person,

so after a while I ditched the scarves, bought a t-shirt that said, "Does this shirt make my head look bald," and went out with my head bald and shiny. To me hair didn't define me and I didn't want to be constantly pulling at my scarf to keep it from slipping off. I got a lot of double takes, but mostly a lot of smiles from other people when I went out. Everyone has to do what is right for them, wigs, hats, scarves,

which are great, but it felt freeing for me. My family was so supportive, taking over the daily chores and taking me to my appointments; and my neighbors and friends brought meals, sent cards and just generally made me feel loved.

Seeing this on paper makes it sound benign and clinical and it was anything but. I had times of sadness, despair and worry, but I have great faith in God and I just tried to put everything in His hands and know that no matter the outcome He was with me. This allowed me to be able to sleep at night and accept the things that came with cancer as something I needed to get through and get to the other side of, knowing God was in control. My tests and examinations say that I am now cancer free and I am so grateful for that. Even though I'm not on a cancer journey any longer, I'm on a life journey and trying to make the best of every day, grateful to be here and putting cancer in the rearview mirror. On my last day of radiation my doctor said to me, "now go have a great life," and that's

I always heard people say that cancer is a journey but didn't really know what they meant. But it is a journey to places and doing things that you didn't know anything about and never want to visit again

~ Denese Chrouch



This Week's Stories of Perseverance Brought To You By:

The Gerst Family and Staff

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Lowell, MI 49331
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O'Brien-Eggebeen-Gerst Funeral Home
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Grand Rapids, MI 49546
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Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward **Jones**

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Estate Plans Can Help You Answer Questions About the Future

The word “estate” conjures images of great wealth, which may be one of the reasons so many people don’t develop estate plans – after all, they’re not rich, so why make the effort? In reality, though, if you have a family, you can probably benefit from estate planning, whatever your asset level. And you may well find that a comprehensive estate plan can help you answer some questions you may find unsettling – or even worrisome.

Here are a few of these questions:

What will happen to my children? With luck, you (and your co-parent, if you have one) will be alive and well at least until your children reach the age of majority (either 18 or 21, depending on where you live). Nonetheless, you don’t want to take any chances, so, as part of your estate

plans, you may want to name a guardian to take care of your children if you are not around. You also might want to name a conservator – sometimes called a “guardian of the estate” – to manage any assets your minor children might inherit.

Will there be a fight over my assets? Without a solid estate plan in place, your assets could be subject to the time-consuming, expensive – and very public – probate process. During probate, your relatives and creditors can gain access to your records, and possibly even challenge your will. But with proper planning, you can maintain your privacy. As one possible element of an estate plan, a living trust allows your property to avoid probate and pass quickly to the beneficiaries you’ve named.

Who will oversee my finances and my living situation if I become incapacitated? You can build various forms of protection into your estate planning, such as a durable power of attorney, which allows you to designate someone to manage your financial affairs if you become physically or mentally incapacitated. You could also create a medical power of attorney, which allows someone to handle health care decisions on your behalf if you become unable to do so yourself.

Will I shortchange my family if I leave significant assets to charities? Unless you have unlimited resources, you’ll have to make some choices about charitable gifts and money for your family. But as part of your estate plans, you do have some appealing options. For example, you could establish a charitable lead trust, which provides financial support to your chosen charities for a period of time, with the remaining assets eventually going to your family members. A charitable remainder trust, by contrast, can provide a stream of income for your family members for the term of the trust, before the remaining assets are transferred to one or more charitable organizations.

As you can see, careful estate planning can help you answer many of the questions that may be worrying you. Be aware, though, that certain aspects of estate planning, especially those related to living trusts and charitable trusts, can be complex, so you should consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor about your situation. But once you’ve got your plans in place, you should be able to face the future with greater clarity and confidence.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice.



Support the Local Businesses Who Help Support Our Community!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

APPLICANT: 10451 Cascade Road SE, LLC

REQUEST: Rezone approximately 61 acres from the AG-1, Prime Agricultural Preservation zoning district to the AG-2, Rural Agricultural zoning district.

LOCATION: 10451 Cascade Road SE which is on the north side of Cascade Road approximately 500 feet east of Morse Lake Avenue SE. This property is vacant.

PARCEL NUMBER: 41-20-20-300-001

The public is invited to attend this hearing which will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI 49331

The application materials pertaining to this project are available for review at the Lowell Charter Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, Michigan, 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday or by calling 897-7600.

Tim Clements, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township
Planning Commission

NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES CAMEL LAKE COUNTY DRAIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on Thursday, the 22nd day of August, 2019, at the Kent County Drain Commissioner’s Office, 1500 Scribner Ave NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49504, the Kent County Drain Commissioner will hold a Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries, from 8:30am until 4:30pm, to hear the proofs and allegations, and to carefully reconsider and review the description of lands comprising the Camel Lake County Drain Drainage District. The Drain Commissioner shall determine whether the addition and/or deletion of lands will more accurately define the boundaries of the land benefitted by the Drain, located and established in the Township of Bowne and the Charter Township of Caledonia, County of Kent, and whether such addition and/or deletion of lands is just and equitable pursuant to Section 197 of Act No 40, PA 1956, as amended.

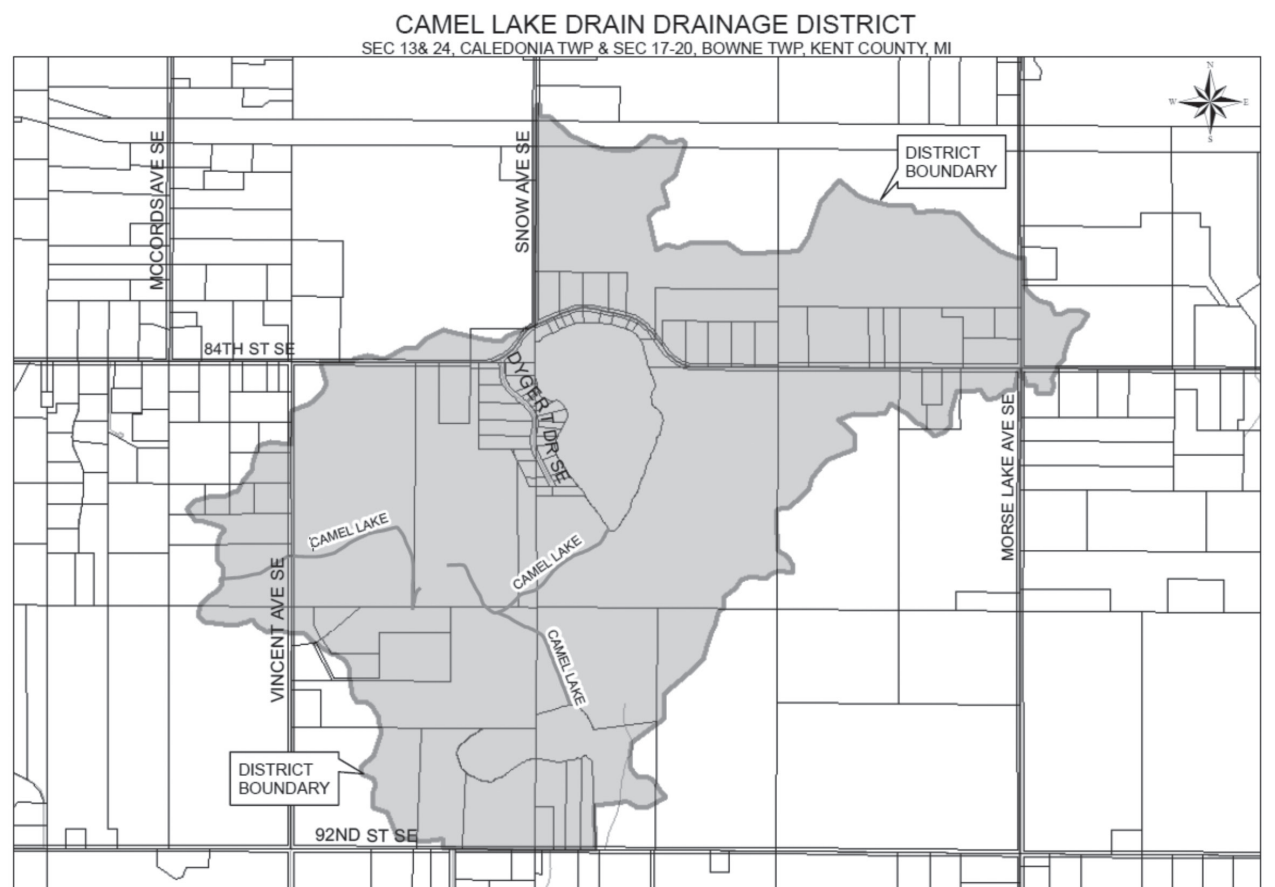
the meeting should contact the County Drain Commissioner at (616) 632-7910, or through the Michigan Relay Center at 1-800-649-3777 (TDD), at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

A map depicting the proposed revisions to the Camel Lake County Drain Drainage District, as recommended by a licensed professional engineer or surveyor, is enclosed with this Notice.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED, that persons aggrieved by the decision of the Drain Commissioner may seek judicial review in the Circuit Court, for the County of Kent, within ten (10) days of the determination.

Dated this 26th day of July, 2019.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in Kenneth J Yonker,
Kent County Drain Commissioner



Office of the Kent County Drain Commissioner,
Kenneth Yonker

3/27/2019 - AEL



Kent County, MI makes no warranty, expressed or implied, regarding the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of information presented. Users of this information assume all liability for its fitness for a particular use.

obituaries

GNASS

Michael Roy Gnass, 63, of Lowell, went to be with his Lord & Savior on June 28, 2019. He was born in Cadillac to Mervyn and Marceline Gnass on November 3, 1955. Surviving are his mother and siblings, David and Diane Gnass, Gale Fonger, Deborah and Brent Warren and many nieces and nephews. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date. Donations in memory of Michael may be made to the American Lung Association or the charity of your choice.

MERRIFIELD

Daniel Ray Merrifield, age 53 of Alto, passed away Monday, July 8, 2019. He was preceded in death by his father, Daryl Merrifield Sr.; and love of his life, Brenda Quick. Daniel is survived by his daughter, Kalyn (Matt Reynolds) Merrifield; mother, Elaine Marshall; brothers, Daryl (Brenda) Merrifield Jr., Steve (Tami) Quick; sister, Deb Merrifield; brother-in-laws; Matthew (Tonda) Cole, Mark Cole; grandson, Mason Wilson; several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews; and pets, Molly, Rosco, and Pico. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, outdoorsman, and motorcycle enthusiast, a real man's man, as well as the best dad and grandpa in the whole world. Daniel will be greatly missed by many, and loved by all. Visitation will be Tuesday, July 16, 2019 from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI 49331. Funeral services will be Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 12:00 PM with visitation one hour prior. Reverend Ken Harger officiating.



ROTH GERST
www.gerstfuneralhomes.com

PETERS

Carl F. Peters, age 73 of Ada, Michigan, passed away Friday, July 12, 2019. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Patricia Peters; daughters, April (Doug) DeWeerd, Andria (Tony) Peckham; sister, Gloria (Tom) Harrall; grandchildren, Brandon, Heather (Dan), Britny, Ariel (Trevor), Eleni, Christopher; ten great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. Carl retired from Ada Post Office after working there 36 years. He was a highly respected man who loved his family, pets, and toy trains. Mass of Christian burial will be Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 10:30 AM with visitation one hour prior at St. Robert of Newminster, 6477 Ada Dr SE, Ada, MI 49301. Reverend Leonard Sudlik, presiding. Interment at Oakwood Cemetery, Lowell, Michigan. In lieu of flowers the family would like memorial contributions sent to Paws With A Cause, 646 Division Ave S, Wayland, MI 49348.



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Study: MI Department of Corrections employees more likely to experience PTSD, depression and anxiety

Study results to guide department's ongoing efforts to improve staff wellness

Michigan Department of Corrections employees face a higher likelihood of symptoms related to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, suicidal ideation, major depressive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, and alcohol abuse compared to the general public, according to a study conducted by Desert Waters Correctional Outreach.

The study was conducted in partnership with the MDOC and was based on an anonymous survey that was available to all department employees between Dec. 5, 2018 and Jan. 12, 2019. The survey was launched with the goal to guide the MDOC's ongoing efforts to improve staff wellness and reduce incidents of employee suicide.

About 3,500 employees, including corrections officers, field agents and administrative staff, ultimately completed the survey, which assessed overall well-being and key factors related to stress.

Survey respondents identified a number of stressors, including exposure to traumatic events, lack of adequate work life balance, insufficient communication, staff discipline, staffing levels, and inadequate benefits for staff, such as mental health support, among others.

The study reinforces existing literature that correctional staff in Michigan face the same challenges and dangers as correctional staff in other states where the prevalence of symptoms associated with PTSD, generalized anxiety disorder, alcohol abuse, and suicidal ideation far exceed those of the general public.

"While we cannot entirely remove the challenges associated with working in a correctional

environment, we can, and will, work to establish a culture of wellness that seeks to reduce stress," MDOC Director Heidi Washington said. "This study underscores the importance of steps we have taken to improve staff wellness and we will continue to build upon those efforts to become a healthier organization."

The department recently created an Employee Wellness Unit, which will provide confidential mental health supports and referrals to staff and is developing a peer support and chaplaincy program for staff. The MDOC also created a multidisciplinary team to review the department's current staff discipline process, and is hiring hundreds of new staff members to reduce the use of mandatory overtime.

In 2016, the department partnered with the Michigan Corrections Organization and Desert Waters to conduct a similar study of corrections officers and forensic security assistants.

The study found corrections officers and forensic security assistants are exposed to high levels of violence, injury, and death events in their workplaces. They also grapple with high levels of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression symptoms, and as their exposure to traumatic events increases, mental health decreases.

"The men and women of the Michigan Department of Corrections are dedicated to protecting the citizens of this state," Washington said. "The MDOC and its partners, including the legislature, labor organizations and our communities must make it a priority to protect these brave men and women too by offering them the support they need."

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3116 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! www.VFW8303.org. All Vets Coffee Hour the 3rd Thursday of each month at Keiser's. Bring a friend. Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303. ^{TFN EDW}

help wanted

LOOKING FOR FEMALE AIDE - for elderly woman. Evenings 5 pm - 8 pm & Saturdays 8 am - 4 pm. Call 616-250-0575.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ONE MORE PERSON - to join our team! We have an opening for someone to stuff inserts into the Buyers Guide, Friday 3 pm - 8ish pm. Additional hours possible. You must be 18 for this position. Standing for long periods of time & some heavy lifting (25 lbs) would be required. Please stop by the Buyer's Guide & News office at 105 N. Broadway to fill out an application.

LOOKING FOR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS - to deliver the Grand Rapids Press, 3 days per week, must have reliable transportation, Michigan drivers license and car insurance. Please call John at 616-222-9060.

Night Linehaul Dedicated Run Grand Rapids, MI - Des Plaines, IL & Return 100% Drop & Hook \$60,000+/year - \$1200/week Hazmat Required - Reimbursement if obtained Double J Transport - 262-674-1901 (MICH)

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services

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

WAY-JAY TREE SERVICE LLC - Clearing your way to a brighter future! Professional tree service. Tree removal, stump grinding, chipper service, locally owned, fully insured. Call or e-mail for a free quote: jt@wayjayconstruction.com or call Dan at 616-970-3832 or office at 616-723-0446.

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

services

FULTON ST. GARDEN & YARD CARE - Raised beds, mulching, & yard care specialists. Free estimates. Call (616) 201-4030, email: fultongardenpros@gmail.com or visit fultonyardgarden.com.

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

SCANNING SERVICE - Do you need something scanned & emailed? The Buyers Guide/Lowell Ledger now offers this service! Mon. - Thurs., 8 - 5 p.m. & Fri., 8-noon. Ph. 897-9555 with any questions.

services

DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED? - Don't get sucked into \$100-\$300 evaluation fees...I NEVER charge for your record evaluation & consultation! Driver's license RESTORATION: \$3500 incl. all filing fees AND FREE consultation & evaluation of your case. Have a question? Call Attorney Martin Mead (616) 235-0330.

sales

SALES - One driveway, 2 garages full of stuff! July 26, 9-5 & July 27, 9-1. Canoe, kayak, mini bike, tools, tires, antiques, women's, men's, children's clothes. Tons of household items, books, kid's stuff, many brand new items. 2650/2660 Bewell Ave SE.

Community Calendar
July

AND ONGOING EVENTS

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

ATTENTION SENIORS - Every Friday evening seniors get together for conversation, food, dancing and music. Cunningham Acre, 4980 W. Pepper Lake Rd. on route M-50, 1 1/4 miles W. of Lake Odessa. For more information contact Betty at 616-374-7512.

PARK PARTY - July 25 from 1-3 pm. Celebrate the end of summer reading at the library lawn. Clarksville Area Library, 165 N. Main, Clarksville, 616-693-1001.

PARK PARTY - July 25 from 10 am - noon. Celebrate the end of summer reading at Scheid Park in Saranac. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

SUMMER READING AT KDL - Through Aug. 10. Englehardt Branch, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell and Alto Branch Library, 6051 Linfield Ave., Alto. Join the fun at the library. There is a summer reading program for all ages - babies, kids, teens and adults. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information call 616-784-2007 or visit www.kdl.org

MAHJONGG AT THE LIBRARY - Through - Aug. 30, every Friday, 1 pm. American Mahjongg: a game of skill, strategy and calculation. All skill levels welcome. Bring your own mahjongg set or borrow ours. Seating is limited. For adults. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. 616-784-2007, www.kdl.org

RUFF READERS - Now - July 24, Every Wednesday, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. A unique read-aloud program in partnership with West Michigan Therapy Dogs, Inc that pairs kids with a trained therapy dog and their handler. Kids read their favorite book and the pooches curl up, listen and enjoy. Arrive 15 minutes early to sign in and secure a time slot. First come, first served. For ages 6 and up. No Ruff Readers on July 3. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. 616-784-2007, www.kdl.org

FAMILY YOGA SATURDAYS - Now - Aug. 24, Every Saturday, 11 am. Family yoga is an all-ages activity with a focus on the benefits of mindfulness. Together we will engage in fun poses, learn how to breathe, be creative with yoga activities/games and relax. For ages 6 and up with a caregiver. Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 30 minutes before the program begins. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell. 616-784-2007, www.kdl.org

TECH SESSIONS - 3-5 pm by appointment. One-on-one assistance with basic computer skills, tablets, smart phones, downloadable material using the free library platforms, etc. Please inform library staff with detailed information on what assistance is needed when scheduling the appointment at 616-633-1001. Clarksville Area Library, 165 N. Main, Clarksville.

WOMEN FOR SOBRIETY - meets every Monday, 7-8 p.m. at Bowne Center United Methodist Church, fellowship hall, 12051 84th St., corner of Alden Nash. Call Sue at 868-6219 or www.womenforsobriety.org

CELEBRATE RECOVERY - a Christ-centered, Biblically-based 12 step program for people with hurts, hang-ups and habits. Meets every Thursday from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Impact, 11840 Fulton St., Lowell. Open to all who are 18 years or older. Fourth Thursday of each month is Chip Night when we celebrate a meal together starting at 6 pm.

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

NEEDLERS - Meet the second & fourth Tuesday of the month from 5 to 8 pm at Franciscan Life Processing Center, 11650 Downes St. NE, Lowell.

WOMEN OF THE MOOSE - third Monday at 7:30 p.m. for business meeting.

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

V.F.W. POST #8303 - meets the first Monday at 7 p.m. at 3116 Alden Nash S.E.

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

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

AMERICAN LEGION #152 MEETING - fourth Monday of the month, 7pm. Lowell Veteran's Center, 3116 Alden Nash SE, Lowell.

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

TECH SESSIONS - 9 am - 1 pm by appointment on Wednesdays. One-on-one assistance with basic computer skills, tablets, smart phones, downloadable material using the free library platforms, etc. Please inform library staff with detailed information on what assistance is needed when scheduling the appointment. Saranac Public Library, 61 Bridge St., Saranac. 616-642-9146.

CUB SCOUT PACK 3188 - meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main.

QUA-KE-ZIK SPORTSMANS CLUB - meets second and third Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at 8731 West Riverside Dr. Go to www.qua-ke-zik.org for information. New members welcome.

MINECRAFT - 1st Monday of the month at 4:30 pm. Get your Minecraft fix & show off your world-building skills. The library has a limited number of computers & licenses for Minecraft. First come, first served. No registration required. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

TECH SAVY SENIORS - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 1-2 pm. For older people in a digital world, it's easy to become overwhelmed or feel intimidated by all the new technology around us. Join us to discuss current tech topics & gain the skills and confidence to access information & services online. No registration required. Englehardt Branch Library, 200 N. Monroe St., Lowell, 784-2007, www.kdl.org

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

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES TREASURE'S THRIFT SHOP HOURS - Tues - Fri. 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 - 2 p.m. at 11535 Fulton St. E. Thrift Shop, 897-8260; Resource Center, 897-8260.

ALPHA FAMILY CENTER OF LOWELL - 519 E. Main. Hours: Mon. & Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Diapers, formula, clothing & free ultrasounds & pregnancy testing available. www.afclowell.org

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



Going Going Gone play opening at LowellArts

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

The LowellArts Players will be performing the Ken Levine play "Going Going Gone" beginning at the end of July. Ken Levine is an Emmy-award winning writer with a pedigree that includes writing for "M*A*S*H", "Cheers", "The Simpsons", and other popular television shows as well as his radio show "Dodger Talk". The press release says the play, "depicts four sports journalists who have life changing experiences during the course of one [baseball] game."

The play will be Rob Freund's directing debut for the LowellArts players, and he will also be running lights and sounds during the performances. Long-time

last summer, and we had been planning about a year prior to that," Freund explained. "We held open auditions last summer for it. Allison Kavanaugh who was cast to play Shana, she showed up to open auditions a year ago, she still wanted to be a part of this show, which is exciting, so she's been on board with this since the beginning. Brent Alles, cast as Big Jim, this has kind of been a brain child between him and I, so it was kind of a natural fit to put him in that part... And then Ricardo... we were able to find him, and he has just been absolutely amazing, and Chris Marsh, it is his acting debut, which we are excited about, and he has come in since day one... and he has just

production of "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," these experiences motivated him to try directing. "I had spent so much time on stage, I felt that it would be a new and challenging experience, which it has been. And I can lean on my experience on-stage when I am trying to tell the other actors on-stage how to convey their emotions, how to move, what is going to be the best for the audience. It was for a new experience; I wanted to be on the other side of it for once, and it has been fun," Freund remarked.

Freund initially fell in love with acting all the way back in elementary school and acted throughout high school.

"In the third grade, we had a grandparents day performance, and I played the Boogey-Woogey Bugle Boy of Company B, and that got a great reaction from the crowd, and I was hooked ever since," Freund said. "And then in high school... they did two shows a year, and I did that my entire high school career."

He attended Grand Valley State University where he got a degree in history. Initially, he was not acting after high school, but he ended up finding an ad for auditions for the LowellArts players in a local newspaper and has been performing with the group ever since. He also acts in an improv group with Brent Alles from the cast.

As the title suggests, the setting of the show is a baseball game, and even though this does work its way into the show, it is not necessary to know much about the game or to even enjoy baseball in order to enjoy the play. In fact, Freund is more of a football, specifically the Green Bay



Going, Going Gone will be Rob Freund's directing debut for the LowellArts players.

"I honestly think it is laugh out loud funny, but I am really hoping the audience is going to leave with something to think about because these four characters, through their humor... by the end they have a new perspective on life."

Director, Rob Freund

LowellArts collaborator Laurie Kuna is the stage manager for the show, and she also does the voice for the PA announcer. The other four people in the cast are Brent Alles as Big Jim, Allison Kavanaugh as Shana, Chris Marsh as Dennis, and Ricardo Tavárez as Mason.

The genesis for the production began about two years ago.

"We wanted to do this

knocked it out of the park if you don't mind the pun."

In fact, Freund and Marsh are coworkers and Freund recruited him for the part. He thought he fit the role well, and Marsh had had previous experience working with productions.

Freund is trying something new as well by working as the director of the play. He has been acting with the LowellArts Players since 2005 in their

Packers, fan. The show is funny, but Freund thinks the message of the play is about something deeper than something deeper than baseball or the jokes.

"To me it's a real special play because it's funny," Freund commented. "I honestly think it is laugh out loud funny, but I am really hoping the audience is going to leave with something to think about because these four characters, through their humor... by the end they have a new perspective on life. And without giving out too much of what happens in the show, I am really hoping the audience will be laughing in the moment, and when they leave, maybe they will have something to think about in the next couple of weeks... the meat of the story is their interactions with each other, and how they are handling their daily lives."

Freund warned that the play deals with adult themes and uses some adult language, so this is not a play for parents to bring

their children. He thought that if the play were a movie it would be rated at least PG-13 and would probably have close to an R rating.

The cast began rehearsals together near the end of June, and since then they have been practicing three times a week and will start practicing every night in the week in mid-July until their first performance on July 26th.

"It's great, the actors are ahead of schedule learning their lines, tomorrow is going to be our first off-book rehearsal where they don't have the scripts in their hands, and our rehearsals last week, they were hardly relying on them so that is really encouraging," Freund said. "Once we're off-book, we're going to be able to fine tune it because you can move a little bit better without the script in front of you, so these next two weeks are going to be really exciting to finalize our show."

Freund does paralegal work professionally, and

besides theater, his other hobbies include reading, golfing with his wife, and following football. He likes reading both fiction like authors John Grisham and Stephen King as well as non-fiction. He has a particular interest in European history focusing on the time between World War I and II.

Although he lives in the Comstock Park area, he thinks he has found his theater home with the LowellArts players.

"I love the people here, I love the town, it's a great community, and it's a very talented core group of actors here," Freund said.

Performances of "Going Going Gone" will take place at the LowellArts Gallery on Main St. on July 26th, 27th, 28th, and August 2nd and 3rd. The shows on Fridays and Saturdays take place at 7:00 pm and the show on Sunday takes place at 2 pm. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$14 at the door. Tickets can be purchased either at lowellartsmi.org or by calling 616-897-8545.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

FILE NO. 19-205747-DE

Estate of BETTIE
LOUISE COBB. Date of
birth: Feb. 13, 1936.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS: The
decendent, Bettie Louise
Cobb, died July 1, 2019.

Creditors of the
decendent are notified
that all claims against
the estate will be
forever barred unless

presented to Victoria
Pratt, personal
representative, or
to both the probate
court at 180 Ottawa
Avenue NW, Suite
2500, Grand Rapids, MI
49503 and the personal
representative within 4
months after the date
of publication of this
notice.

July 9, 2019

Mary L. Benedict
(P45285)
4519 Cascade Road SE
Ste. 14
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-942-0020

Victoria E. Pratt
5588 Snow Ave. SE
Alto, MI 49302
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FUN PAGE

GAMES & PUZZLES WORD SEARCH

SUDOKO

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

Level: Advanced

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!

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 12

GAMES & PUZZLES WORD SEARCH

CHECKERS CHESS

GAMES JUMBLE

PUZZLE RULES

CROSSWORD

LOGIC

SKILLS

CRYPTOGRAM

MAZES

SUDOKU

ACTION

DEAL

MECHANICAL

TEASER

BOARD

DECODE

MEMORY

WORD SEARCH

CHANCE

FUN

PLAYERS

Guess Who?

I am a singer/songwriter born in Las Vegas on July 14, 1987. I am one of nine children in my family, and I once worked as a Mormon missionary. My career has been anything but radioactive, with many chart-topping hits with my band.

Answer: Dan Reynolds

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fireworks.

A P S K R

□	□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---	---

Answer: Spark

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

CLUES ACROSS

- Partner to "oohed"
- Frying dishes
- Turncoats
- Tropical fruit
- Combinations of ideas
- Sick
- Consumed
- Is in possession of
- Zodiac sign
- Hem and ___
- Small country along the Arabian Peninsula
- Petty quarrel
- Scold
- Volcanic crater
- Present
- TV network
- "Rule Britannia" composer
- Some hold lunches
- Spring harvest in South Asia
- Feline
- Precipitation
- In addition
- Using as a foundation
- Without
- Ancient Roman garment
- Political action committee
- A way to excite
- Swiss river
- A place to relax

CLUES DOWN

- NE Ohio ballplayer
- Rocky bodies orbiting the sun
- Horse-drawn vehicle
- Soaks
- Cunning
- The underworld
- Hindu cymbals
- ___ and flows
- Personal computer
- Semite
- "Star Wars" hero Solo
- Data executive
- Hybrid fruits
- Capital of Latvia
- Moved swiftly
- Troublemaker
- Averts
- Garment worn by S. Asian women
- It cools your house
- Homes to bachelors
- Besides
- Cowboys great Leon
- Griffith or Rooney
- Province of Pakistan
- Part of a book
- Gasteyer and Ivanovic are two
- Automobile
- Afflict
- To the ___ degree
- Arrived extinct



Michigan to join \$700 million multi-state settlement with Opioid drug manufacturer

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel announced that Michigan and 32 other states have reached an agreement in principle to settle allegations that pharmaceutical manufacturer Reckitt Benckiser Group (Reckitt) improperly marketed and promoted the drug Suboxone, resulting in improper expenditures of state Medicaid funds. Suboxone contains a combination of buprenorphine (an opioid) and naloxone (blocks the effects of opioid medication, including pain relief and feelings of well-being that can lead to opioid abuse). The drug was approved to suppress opioid withdrawal symptoms as part of a complete withdrawal treatment plan that would include counseling and psychosocial support.

Reckitt will pay a total of \$700 million dollars in resolution of various civil fraud allegations impacting Medicaid and other government health care programs, of which over \$400 million will go to the Medicaid program. Reckitt will also enter into a separate non-prosecution agreement with the United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Virginia and the United States Department of Justice’s Consumer Protection Branch.

The federal and state civil settlements will resolve the following allegations:

That Reckitt directly or through its subsidiaries knowingly promoted the sale and use of Suboxone to physicians who were writing prescriptions (1) to patients without any counseling or psychosocial support, such that the prescriptions were not for a medically accepted indication;



and (2) for uses that were unsafe, ineffective and medically unnecessary and that were often diverted for uses that lacked a legitimate medical purpose. Such prescriptions lacking a legitimate medical purpose are also not for a medically accepted indication.

That Reckitt directly or through its subsidiaries knowingly promoted the sale or use of Suboxone Sublingual Film based on false and misleading claims that Suboxone Sublingual Film was less subject to diversion and abuse than other buprenorphine products and that Suboxone Sublingual Film was less susceptible to accidental pediatric exposure than Suboxone Sublingual Tablets. Physicians relied on these false and misleading claims in prescribing Suboxone Sublingual Film, and state Medicaid agencies relied on these false and misleading claims to their detriment in making formulary and prior authorization decisions.

That Reckitt directly or through its subsidiaries knowingly submitted a petition to the Food and Drug Administration on September 25, 2012, fraudulently claiming that Suboxone Sublingual Tablets had been discontinued “due to safety concerns” about the tablet formulation of the drug and took other steps to fraudulently delay the entry of generic competition for various forms of Suboxone in order

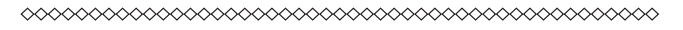
to improperly control pricing of Suboxone, including pricing to federal health care programs.

The investigation resulted from a number of Medicare and Medicaid fraud actions, three of which were originally filed in the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia.

“My office has continued to prioritize combatting the opioid crises and stopping its devastating impact in our communities,” said Nessel. “That work includes teaming with the United States and other state Attorneys General in cases like this to hold drug manufacturers responsible for their role in the crisis.”

The proposed settlement has not yet been approved by any of the states and Michigan’s specific recovery amount under the proposed settlement has not yet been determined.

A National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units (NAMFCU) Team participated in the investigation and is working with Reckitt on behalf of the states regarding the settlement in principle.



Residents reminded to stay safe in summer heat as temperatures rise

With temperatures across the state expected to remain in the 80s and above through this week, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reminding all residents to stay cool to beat the heat.

MDHHS routinely reviews emergency department (ED) data for heat-related illness. Since July 1, more than 600 ED visits due to complaints including sunburn and sun poisoning, heat exhaustion and heat stroke and dehydration were reported. Daily temperatures this week are anticipated to again rise above 80 degrees, which generally correlates with an increase in emergency department visits for heat-related illness.

“It’s important Michiganders stay hydrated and out of the sun as much possible to avoid serious health complications during this hot weather,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health. “Young children, older adults and those who have medical conditions are at increased risk for heat-related illness, so be sure to check frequently on them and others in your community who may need additional assistance.”

To prevent complications from the heat, residents are encouraged to:

Drink more fluids and avoid liquids with large amounts of sugar and alcohol.

Limit outdoor activities to when it’s coolest in the morning and evening.

Spend time indoors in air conditioning.

Wear lightweight, light-colored and loose-fitting clothing.

Wear sunscreen, as sunburn affects a body’s ability to cool down.

Check on elderly neighbors and relatives to determine if they need assistance.

For those without access to air conditioning, contact your local health department to find out if there is a cooling center nearby.

In addition to staying hydrated and out of the sun, residents are reminded to never leave children or pets alone in a car even with the windows cracked. Temperatures inside a car can easily be double the temperature outside, and because a child’s body heats up three to five times faster than an adult’s they are more susceptible to heatstroke.

Heat exhaustion and heatstroke are both forms of heat-related illness. Signs of heat-related illness vary but may include: heavy sweating, muscle cramps, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, fainting, an extremely high body temperature (above 103°F) and tiredness. Heatstroke occurs when the body is unable to regulate its temperature and can result in death if not treated promptly.

For more information about how to protect yourself and your loved ones from heat-related illness, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s website.

Michigan AG joins effort to protect consumers from unsolicited overdraft fees

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel joined 24 attorneys general earlier this month in a comment letter saying she opposes any action by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to limit or withdraw its Overdraft Rule. As written, the Rule prohibits financial institutions from automatically enrolling customers in costly overdraft services.

The 2010 Rule ensures customers have an opportunity to make more informed decisions on whether to opt in to overdraft services for ATM and signature debit transactions by requiring financial institutions to provide details on its overdraft services, including applicable fees that often exceed the total amount customers withdraw.

The CFPB’s data shows that only about 16 percent of consumers opt into services under the Rule. As a result, the Rule has benefited millions of Americans, significantly reducing the total number of overdraft fees.

“To even consider amending or removing the Overdraft Rule – which is specifically designed to provide consumers with more information to make better financial decisions – shows precisely whose side our federal administration is on,” Nessel said. “It is abhorrent to me that at every turn the Trump administration continues to side with Wall Street over the American people.”

As the chief consumer protection officers of their respective states, the attorneys general understand the importance of encouraging and facilitating fully informed consumer choice about the costs, benefits and risks of financial products. For nearly 10 years, the Overdraft Rule has enabled consumers to make more and better-informed choices about overdraft services.

In the letter, the attorneys general also encourage expanding the Rule to cover other transactions, including checks and automated clearinghouse (ACH) transactions, and requiring all overdraft fees be proportional to the amount paid by a bank to cover the overdrawn transaction.

Nessel co-signed the letter with the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington, as well as the Executive Director of the Hawaii Office of Consumer Protection.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES

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Senate Office Building
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Washington, DC 20510
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stabenow.senate.gov

US Rep. Justin Amash
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Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3831
amash.house.gov

Mich. Rep. Thomas A. Albert
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thomas@votealbert.com
gophouse.org/representatives/westmi/albert

US Sen. Gary C. Peters
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Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6221
peters.senate.gov

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

Riverwalk, continued



haven't done that before," Smalligan said. "That's kind of a different thing we are doing this summer that is only running through the summer. The drawing will be at the Aug. 29 concert. People can actually go

Concert-goers listened to a variety of popular tunes dating from 1967 to 1969. Magic Bus performed in Lowell about seven years ago, and it was a memorable performance for the band.

me, John and Chris stepped up, and here we are. It's gone well."

Chris Bieri, the owner of Bieri Auto Body, helps run the car show as well.

"As a matter of fact our bass player actually had a heart attack in Lowell on this stage that night, and the people of this community basically saved his life," Magic Bus singer and guitarist Mark Harrington commented. "It was an incredibly terrible night, but it's a credit to the people here in Lowell. Like I said, they ended up saving his life. He'll be here tonight, he's playing tonight, he's fine now and going at it again. It's kind of a bittersweet

"I've been helping out probably for the last 15 years," Bieri remarked. "We usually have about 160-170 cars, and it depends on the weather. This year we've added Ducky Derby, which is a pinewood derby tournament. This is our first year of it, but we're trying to get the word out on that. We have an adult division, a child division for those 16 and under and a business division. We're trying to get all of the businesses to compete against each other for bragging rights. Springrove Variety and Ace Hardware sell the little kits."

online and they can order tickets through Paypal for the 50/50, so they don't have to come to the concert necessarily to support that. It supports programs and events at LowellArts."

memory, but we're hoping today's going to be a little bit better show. We're all going to be okay. We're excited!"

A 5K race took place on Saturday, as well as many other activities and events throughout the day. Bruce Matthews performed at the Riverwalk stage a little after noon, and the Adams Family Band performed at 2 pm. Flea market vendors were also out from 10 am until 4 pm.

Smalligan was also excited about a new initiative to rent out the gallery for special events.

Saturday kicked off with a classic car show run by Chris Bieri, Dale Dawson and John Sterly. The car show has been part of the Riverwalk Festival for around 20 years. Dale Dawson, owner of LA Trim in Lowell, was one of the individuals who helped get it started.

Seasons of Whimsy and Nature's Serenity were among the flea market vendors set up throughout the weekend. Seasons of Whimsy is run by Cal and Toni Coristine. They sell antiques and handmade sun-catcher crafts. This was their first year at the festival. The couple hunts down antiques across the country to sell at craft fairs.

"We just launched a facility rental program," Smalligan remarked. "People can rent the gallery space for an event of their own, a private party, as long as it's when we're not open to the public. And then we have a really beautiful classroom meeting room that people can rent at any time. We just launched that a week ago."

"There was a man that came to town that wanted to put on a car show," Dawson explained. "About the same time, the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce came to me and said, 'Hey, we want to add a car show to the Riverwalk Festival.' So I put the two of them together and it took off. The gentleman really wanted to build it up and make it a real big show, and in the process of organizing it the second year, he passed away. And so

"We've gone from here all the way down to Florida, the Virginias and the Carolinas, and all the way to Southern

were providing information about the gallery as well as selling two different sets of raffle tickets. One of these is a recurring raffle they do each year that is drawn at the Fallsburg

Festival in September, and the other is a new raffle they just started this year. They started selling tickets at the first of the Sizzlin' Summer Concerts and will draw the winner at the last concert.

The executive director of LowellArts, Lorain Smalligan, and volunteer Shirley Willis were at the tent selling tickets.

"We're doing a 50/50 raffle, which is new, we

Riverwalk, continued

Utah to find things,” Cal Coristine said. “We’ve been doing this for four years now. It’s a combination of things. We make and refinish a combination of pure antiques. We sent an application to find out about the Christmas show and then [the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce] contacted us, said to send pictures, and asked us if we’d like to be in this show. We decided to do it.”

Linda Kropf-Phillips makes slab wood paintings of various nature scenes and sells them at craft shows. Although she is from Lowell, this was the first time her booth, Nature’s Serenity, was part of the festival. Linda’s husband, Scott Phillips, was found tending to the booth while she took a short break on Saturday.

“For some of these pictures, the 3-D effect will be modeling paste, and then she’ll paint it and finish it off with epoxy,” Scott Phillips said. “Linda probably does seven or eight [craft shows] a year. This is the first time she participated here in Lowell.”



After the 4 pm duck raffle ticket drawing, the festival started winding down. There was a community worship service on the Riverwalk stage from 7 until 8:15 pm and the fireworks were scheduled to begin at 10:15 pm.

“We always participate [in the Riverwalk Festival] because it’s a great venue for us to show people what LowellArts provides the community,” Smalligan said. “I think a lot of people that come to the Riverwalk Festival don’t know that we exist, and we’ve been around for 40 years. But unless you’ve really been engaged with our programs, whether or not you’ve been in our gallery, many people don’t know about us.”

“Hats off to Liz Baker and all of the volunteers,” Hodges said. “It’s been just a terrific weekend in downtown Lowell.”

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