

Stories of Perseverance



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Golf outing



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New business



page 3

50¢



Meet Fuller Septic's new owner Burl Adkins

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Burl Adkins, an entrepreneur, author, motivational speaker and politician, purchased Lowell business Fuller Septic Services, 2051 Bowes Rd., on Thursday, July 18. Adkins said he plans to make no immediate changes and will not change the name, but does have some long term plans for the business.

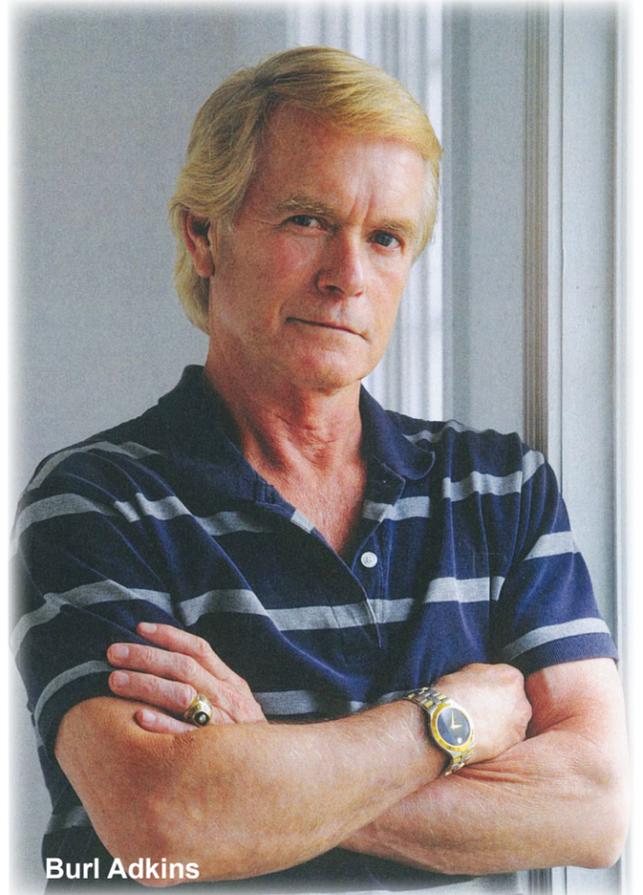
"We just finalized this last Thursday, so I'll be going through a learning curve," Adkins said. "I need to get my feet wet in this business and get acclimated. But you know what, everything is here. The staff has been here, on average, 15 years. It's not a big staff or anything, but it's a good nucleus and we're going to work together as a team. One of the main things I liked about this was the quality of the personnel here, the dedication and the commitment. It's a seasoned staff, and they're great people. They are committed to quality. I see it from everyone who works here, so we're going to work well

together as a team. We have a great nucleus, and I think that we're going to do well. I'm convinced. We have the capability to expand and grow organically, so I plan on growing and expanding the business. Hopefully in the next year or two we're going to add a couple drivers. This is a big-time investment for me, and I want it to grow. I want all these people to be able to send their kids to college if they want to."

Adkins started a company called GTA Professional Staffing in 1988. GTA placed professional employees such as engineers with positions in the auto industry. Last year he sold that company to two former employees, Denise Everett and Ron Peace.

"I started my own business from my kitchen table in my little \$35,000 home in Southgate, MI," Adkins said. "It wasn't easy, I worked two or three jobs sometimes. I sort of go to the beat of my own drummer, basically. I don't have a college degree, I got fired from every job I

had, and I'll be honest with you, at one time in my life I was homeless for a couple years. I pulled myself up by my bootstraps and didn't even have a beer for 20 years. I know, boring boring boring, but it's all worked out. Originally, for the first 15 years, we did program development, rented buildings and everything. We had whole programs in there and we managed them. I tried to keep my overhead low and still incentivize the people. I paid the best in the Detroit area. My philosophy was, I'll pay my people, and the people will work with me, not for me. There's a difference. After [the economy crashed], the Big Three pulled all their work back in-house. If you check back, that was a bad one. For example, at one time I had 300 people working at General Motors. It went down to like 37. That was terrible. They cut all the credit lines to all the suppliers. I didn't miss a covenant for 30 years,



Burl Adkins

not one, and they still cut me. Nobody ever missed a paycheck, a vacation check or a holiday paycheck. Never, not one. I'm very proud of that. Fortunately, my dad taught me to prepare for something to go wrong.

Adkins, continued, page 4

LowellArts 'Going Going Gone' gone soon

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

There are only two more chances to check out the LowellArts Players production of "Going Going Gone" by Ken Levine. Performances were well-attended opening weekend, and tickets remain for next weekend. The play is a comedy about four sports journalists whose lives change drastically over the course of a baseball game that refuses to end. The cast - Brent Alles, Allison Kavanaugh, Chris Marsh and Ricardo R. Tavàres - has excellent chemistry together, and audiences will be thoroughly entertained by the farce.

"We had been wanting to do that play for the past two years now, but we had some trouble with casting," said 'Going Going Gone' director Rob Freund. "The unfortunate reality is that West Michigan is not a very diverse theater community, and we had a hard time filling the role of Mason. When we choose plays, we look at the character descriptions and think of who, realistically, we could cast. But good things come to those who wait, and



The cast of "Going Going Gone" - Ricardo R. Tavàres, Allison Kavanaugh, Chris Marsh and Brent Alles - during the performance on Saturday, July 27.

Ricardo was able to nail that role. There are shows where it is not necessary for an individual to be of a certain demographic. This one, it needed to be. Once we had the cast set, the biggest

challenge was constructing our set. Because we are in an art gallery, we are limited as to what we can and cannot do. Fortunately, I was able to get the expertise of Ron Wood to help build the set.

We couldn't have done this without him. Once we got over that hurdle, we were good to go." The play was written by Ken Levine, an Emmy winner who has written,

produced and/or directed dozens of episodes of TV sitcoms like "Frasier," "The Simpsons," "M*A*S*H," "Cheers," "Everybody LowellArts, continued, page 11

Lowell museum summer party is Friday, Aug. 16

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

With its history being a huge part of Lowell, the Lowell Area Historical Museum always provides a look back at what Lowell used to be. Exhibits show important features and events in Lowell's history. Permanent exhibits give a look into Native American history, early settlers, industries in Lowell, among many other things. With this many exhibits, the museum uses events to raise money. One of the major events is the Lowell Museum Summer Fest, on Friday, Aug. 16 from 6 pm to 9 pm.

With the event entering its fifth year, the Summer

Fest will feature food, beer and wine from local restaurants, caterers, breweries, and wineries.

The event has become one of the main fundraisers for the museum, drawing in many to enjoy the museum grounds and the food and drinks on the inside

Summer Fest-goers can stroll the galleries and garden of the Lowell Area Historical Museum while enjoying local foods prepared by Lowell restaurants and caterers. Sample beer, cider and wine from some of West Michigan's premier microbreweries,

including local Lowell area breweries. Food will be provided by local restaurants and caterers, including Miss P's Catering, Heidi's Farmstand, Sneakers, Larkin's, Big Boiler Brewing and B.C. Pizza. There will be local craft beer from breweries including New Union and Big Boiler Brewing, and Michigan wines will also be served

The Easy Idle String Band will be playing in the garden. They are a local band who blend bluegrass, gospel, and old country music together.

Tickets for the event are \$40 per person. Tickets include admission, souvenir glass and all food and beverages. Proceeds benefit the programs of the museum. Tickets can be purchased at the museum, 325 W. Main, during business hours, by calling 616-897-7688 or at brownpapertickets.com.



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Local couple brings new Kona Ice business to town



Look for Kim and Don Martin in their new Kona Ice van at upcoming events.

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

Last October, married couple Don and Kim Martin were looking for a change. They had moved to Lowell in 2010 and were working in the corporate world. After doing some research, they began looking into running a Kona Ice franchise in the Lowell area.

Kona Ice is a company founded in 2007 by Tony Lamb in Kentucky. It has become one of the fastest-growing franchises in the United States. The Kona Ice website explains what inspired Lamb to start the company. It says, “An ice cream truck drove up to Tony’s house. You know the kind. It was creepy, dirty and off-putting. So much so that his youngest daughter was hesitant to even approach it. This got his wheels turning. What if the truck was clean? What if the driver was warm, friendly, and presentable? What if the product was actually really good? What if they actually cared about the community they served?”

These questions informed the creation of the Kona Ice brand. The company creates a tropical environment with brightly colored characters

painted on the trucks, steel drum calypso music and an open kitchen concept. They sell Hawaiian-inspired shaved ice with hundreds of flavor combination options including “monster mango,” “strawberry’d treasure,” and “island rush.”

The Martins make sure to point out that they do not sell snow cones.

“The difference between a Kona Ice and a snow cone is that a snow cone is an ice cube,” said Kim Martin. “It is really just solid ice, and when you eat it, you have to bite it, and you don’t really have the flavor because it is so frozen. With Kona Ice, it is very fine, it is almost like snow. The flavors go through the entire ice, so there is never a spoon of Kona Ice without flavor.”

The company serves the community by donating part of proceeds to local organizations and teaming up for fundraisers. Their franchises have donated over \$42 million to local communities all around the country. This is part of what initially attracted the Martins to the franchise.

“Well, we started looking

into it, and one of the big things we all focus on is to give back, to be able to support community events, non-profits and schools,” Don Martin explained. “That is one of the things Kim and I have always felt were lacking. But with Kona Ice, we actually get to give back and be involved with the community and with kids in schools and things of that sort. We’ll go into schools and have a Kona day, and not only are the kids having fun for a reward for good behavior or good academics, but it is also a fundraiser for the school.”

The strong community camaraderie played a role in attracting the Martins to Lowell in the first place. They were both born and raised on the east side of the state. After getting transferred to the area for work, they decided to live in Lowell based on Kim’s previous experiences working with people in town. They mentioned the Riverwalk Festival, the Summer Concert Series, Pink Arrow Pride and the Farmer’s Market as events they enjoy.

a limited capacity.

“The true focus is really the events and the fundraising,” said Don Martin. “Hopefully we can get hooked up with the schools real quick. We’ve been starting to reach out. We were waiting for the process of the health department and then the municipalities to get the permits to operate. We waited until we got all of that in place before we actually started wanting to talk to people.”

One of the Martins’ hobbies before starting Kona Ice was RVing. Their previous jobs allowed them to travel

in the winter, so they would often spend the cold weather months in warm places near the beach. They plan to run the Kona Ice franchise in the summers and RV down south during the winters.

“We really are warm weather, beach type people, so this tropical scene [of Kona Ice] fits us perfectly,” remarked the Martins. “Whether it’s Lake Michigan beach in the summer or some beach down south in the winter, we really enjoy beaches and the camping and RVing.”

The Kona Ice van can go to church socials, farmer’s markets, craft shows and other similar events. They have a Facebook page where customers can find out where the van will be next. They can be contacted by phone at 616-897-8505, by email at dkmartin@kona-ice.com, or on Facebook.

The Martins have only been doing events with their truck for a couple weeks, but they have already been very busy.

“We’ve had some back-to-school bashes where they’re just having us come in a doing catering for a party,” remarked the Martins. “We’ve done [a] Little League all star party [and] we have done some soccer events. We’ve been all over the place just kind of getting our name out there.”

The geographic area they cover is going to be focused in Lowell, but they will also work in Ada, Kentwood and the surrounding areas. They plan on most of their sales coming through specific scheduled events, rather than having an ice cream truck-type route. They have not done this yet, but plan to in

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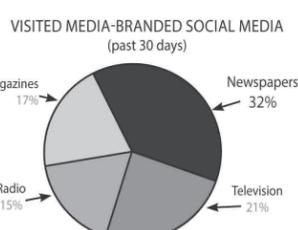
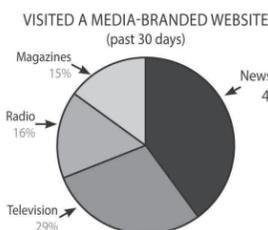
the lowell ledger

79% Eight in 10 newspaper readers took action as a result of reading a newspaper ad in the past 30 days³

40.9% Only 40.9% of U.S. adults purchased or sought out information about a product as the result of a radio ad.⁶

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

Digital media users rely on newspaper-branded websites and social media, over radio-branded properties, for local market news.⁴



Sources: ¹2017 Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved; ²Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; ³Morning Consult; ⁴AMG/Parade Local Knowledge Survey; ⁵NAA; ⁶Pulse of America 2018

Adkins, continued

so that's exactly what I did. I saved money."

Fuller Septic's former owner, Jane Tschannen, started the business with her husband Tom over 30 years ago. Adkins is also a veteran entrepreneur. He was named Michigan Entrepreneur of the Year by London, England-based accounting firm Ernst & Young in 2000 and was inducted into their hall of fame in 2009. Adkins has also dabbled in politics, he worked on presidential campaigns for Ross Perot and Pat Buchanan and ran for office a few times himself. He's such an outspoken critic of NAFTA he wrote and self-published a book

& Reviving the American Dream."

"There were some things I thought needed to be said, so I ran for Congress four times and I ran for state representative twice," Adkins said. "I'm 0 for six. I'm a worker, and I worked hard. I ran the whole state for Pat Buchanan in 1996. I rode around all over Michigan with him, and I'd do the warm-up speech."

Adkins said he is a "health nut" who enjoys spending time with family, music and dancing.

"I have three children: two daughters and a son," Adkins said. "I have three grandsons, a granddaughter and two

at my high school weight! I work out every day and, on average, I walk about eight miles a day. I want to stay strong and I want to stay healthy. That's what I like to do. I'm not a runner, I'm not going to kid myself and try to play basketball and all that stuff anymore. It takes a long time to walk that far, and it clears my head. I don't eat fried foods, I don't eat red meat, I won't eat any dairy."

Adkins said he chose Fuller Septic to invest in because he feels that any business involved with recycling will become lucrative as it becomes less and less possible to ignore climate change.



about it called "Common Sense Part 2: Restoring our Manufacturing Sector

great-granddaughters. I'm 68 years old, but I'm healthy, I'm still strong. I'm

"I'm looking at this for the long term and I'm excited," Adkins said. "I think that, in the future, anything to do with the environment has huge potential. Huge potential. And we have a unique processing plant. It's a very exciting business, actually. I want to become involved in the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. I'm excited about the opportunity here. I'm excited about the future. I think, more and more, this is going to be where the action is. I think that in the next five or 10 years there is going to be legislation in states, and maybe even nationally, on how to handle waste. I think we're on the forefront."

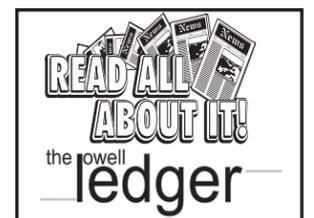
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viewpoint



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones

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Can Your Family Benefit From a Special Needs Trust?

If you have a child or another family member with disabilities, you obviously have concerns and questions. How can you help your loved one achieve the greatest quality of life possible? Can you arrange

for adequate services? What's the best way to pay for them? Can you get some financial help?

Fortunately, you are not alone. Your disabled family member may well be eligible for several

government programs. But these programs won't cover everything, so you may want to help close the gaps. Yet, some government benefits impose eligibility restrictions based on the level of assets or resources available to the recipient, which means the financial help you're willing to provide could backfire – unless you establish a special needs trust.

A special needs trust allows the beneficiary – your family member – to receive government benefits while still receiving funds from the trust. You, as the donor, supply these funds, while a trustee holds and

administers them according to your wishes. Generally speaking, the beneficiary can't use the trust for basic support – food, clothing and shelter – or to receive benefits that can be provided by the government. Instead, the trust can be used to provide specialized therapy, special equipment, recreational outings and other items.

When considering a special needs trust, you'll need to explore several issues, but it's especially important to focus on these two:

Naming a trustee – You could name a trusted family member or friend as

a trustee. This choice works well for many people, but it does have the potential to cause familial conflicts. Another possibility is to name a trust company, which can provide professional management, expertise and continuity of administration. You can even name an individual and a trust company as trustees, combining the personal touch of a family member with the technical and administrative skills of a professional trustee.

Funding the trust – You can fund the trust during your lifetime or have it activated upon your

passing. You don't have to be the sole donor, either – you can structure the trust so other family members can contribute to it. And a trust can be funded with many types of assets – securities (stocks and bonds), IRA proceeds, insurance death benefits and more.

While it's important you understand the fundamentals of a special needs trust, it's not a do-it-yourself endeavor. In fact, creating this trust can be complex. For one thing, there are a few different types of special needs trust, so you'll

Financial Focus, continued, page 12



125 years ago Lowell Ledger August 8, 1894

James Laughlin, whose future expectations are for priesthood in the Catholic Church, was hit by a ball at the play last Friday just above the heart, then by a second ball, but a much lighter blow, which caused him to raise blood and stopped the play for him that day.

The Tamarack Mining Company's No. 3 shaft reached the Calumet and Heckla conglomerate vein at a depth of over 4,200 feet, the deepest point sunk by any mine in the world. The extent and richness of the vein will be known in a few days. Indications now are that it will be very rich.

Boys smoking cigarettes set fire to cattle, sheep and horse sheds on the fair grounds at Ionia. They were destroyed. Loss, about \$1,000.

100 years The Lowell Ledger July 31, 1919

Grand River claimed another victim Sunday in the person of Cecil Hawley, son of Alice Hawley, of Keene, who was drowned while swimming near the Kerekes place east of Lowell that morning.

Kent County is making rapid strides with her good roads, and they are roads of which any community might well be proud. Kent County Good Roads Engineer

Whiting is authority for the following interesting facts: "It is only four years since the first mile of concrete road was laid in this county. That was the mile south of Burton Street on the south Division avenue road. Since that time not a minute has been lost, and with the exception of a few of the less important roads in the northern part of the country, practically all the trunk lines are in first class shape at the present time.

Etta Allen, 26, and Stuart Allen, 37, giving their addresses as Portland, Mich., were arrested in Detroit, on a charge of shoplifting, and were found to have in their possession \$3,000 worth of opium.

75 years The Lowell Ledger August 3, 1944

Plenty of publicity has been given to the new insecticide known as D. D. T. The extension has a number of calls in regard to getting this material. It is all allotted to the army except some for many destructive insects but it also kills beneficial ones. The college is using some of this material in a local orchard for control of Oriental Peach Moth. Potato growers have a small amount for use. Folks shouldn't get it into their heads this is going to be a cureall insecticide. It will kill honey bees as well as codling moth.

The Washington authorities report that the shortage of waste paper is still acute. Waste paper is called the nation's number one critical war material. The shortage is so great that the army is now preparing to salvage what little it can in the North African and South Pacific war zones.

The mumps epidemic is on the decline. In all, some 30 odd cases have been reported to the local health office.

50 years The Lowell Ledger July 31, 1969

Lowell police are working with law enforcement agencies in the Midwest in a effort to capture a man sought in a check forgery warrant.

A rural Alto youth was accidentally killed Sunday while hitchhiking near Fredonia, Kansas. Dear in the mishap was Sidney B. Temple, 17, son of Mrs. Burton Temple of Route No. 2, Alto. He was a student at Caledonia High School.

Mrs. Liguori (Lucille) Nugent has been named to fill the unexpired term of her late husband as Grattan Township treasurer. Mr. Nugent was killed in an automobile accident near Sparta on June 17.

25 years The Lowell Ledger August 3, 1994

Jennifer V. Den Houter, daughter of Mr. and Dr. Leonard H. Den Houter of Lowell, has been selected as a finalist in the 1994 Pre-Teen Michigan Scholarship and Recognition Program to be held August 5-7 at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in Flint.

The three-months worth of renovation work has been completed at Lowell Lanes, and Jack Thomet and Tom Koewers are ready to show off their new look at 11550 E. Fulton.

The Robert E. Lee, also known as the Lowell Showboat, is set to make its annual voyage up the Flat River and dock at the Showboat Amphitheatre stage to present its yearly show. The tradition has been going on in Lowell for over 50 years. Organizers say they hope that this years move to August 12 and 13 will take away some of the possible rain problems that have plagued them in the past few years.

We love to hear from you!

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

The requirements are:

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

anniversaries

Klap



Norman and Marla Klap

Norman and Marla Klap are celebrating 45 years of marriage on August 10. They have one daughter, Marlene; one grandson, Dallas; and one granddaughter, Faith.

HEALTH

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



- gastritis

Gastritis is a condition where the lining of the stomach is inflamed. It may occur suddenly (acute) or appear slowly over time (chronic). It can progress to gastric ulcers and also increase the risk for gastric cancer.

Symptoms include a burning sensation in the upper abdomen, nausea, vomiting, and a fullness in the upper abdomen after eating.

Regular use of aspirin, ibuprofen, and naproxen can cause gastritis. Excessive alcohol also can erode the lining of the

stomach. Stress can cause gastritis. Some autoimmune disorders can also cause it.

Diagnosis is made through a history and physical exam. Sometimes an endoscopy is ordered to evaluate the esophagus and stomach.

Treatment includes medications to decrease acid like omeprazole, zantac, or pepcid. Antacids can also be used. Eating smaller more frequent meals and avoiding spicy acidic foods also helps. Changing pain relievers to Tylenol can also help.

area births

Dudley



Grayson Jay Dudley

Proud grandparents, Kim and Cheryl Foster of Belding announce the birth of grandbaby number seven. Grayson Jay Dudley was born on April 14, 2019 at 12:21 pm and weighed 8 lbs. 10oz. Proud parents are Jay P Dudley and Krista (Foster) Dudley of White Pigeon, MI. Grayson joins big sister, Sawyer Marie at home. Additional grandparents include Dan and Shari Ebidon of Frankenmuth and Jay and Patti Dudley of Holt. Great-grandparents are Dolly Bailey of Ionia, Ken and Carole Dudley of Grand Ledge and Irene Ebidon of Kingsford.

college news

Hannah C Briggs, of Lowell, was named to the 2019 spring semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

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



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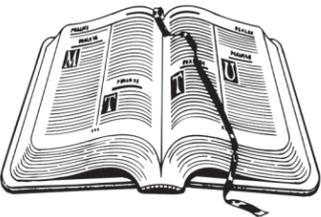


105 N. Broadway, Lowell • 897-9555

happy birthday

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>JULY 31
Nancy Raymor, Sandy Roth, Rochelle Bieri, Morris Robert Young.</p> <p>AUGUST 1
Barbara Callihan, Bailee Emelander.</p> <p>AUGUST 2
Carolynn Kline.</p> <p>AUGUST 3
Rebecca Heinicke, Kelsey Brenk, Hillary Smith, Becky Lamberson.</p> | <p>AUGUST 4
Irene Willmarth, Scott VanDyke, Cody Bieri, Nick TyKocki, Thomas H. Mahalic, Joann Childs, Kayleigh VanKeulen.</p> <p>AUGUST 5
Robin Abel, Stephen Martin Jr.</p> <p>AUGUST 6
Jessie King, Kim Foster, Steven Vickers.</p> |
|---|---|

area churches



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
103 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
www.goodshepherdlowell.org

Worship Service Sunday - 10:30 AM
Sunday School..... 9:15 AM

Joseph Fremer, Pastor **897-8307**
All facilities are wheelchair accessible

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL
897-7060
Pastor Ryan Landt
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI

Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM
Sunday School..... 11:20 AM
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM
Nursery available at both services
Barrier-Free

St. Mary Catholic Church
402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com

Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm

Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
865 Lincoln Lake SE • lowellucc.org

Pastor Jon Propper
Pastor Alyssa Anten
Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
Open Table (No-cost meal) - Thursdays 5 - 7 PM

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CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES

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Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
Pastor Andrew Bolkom • Pastor of Discipleship
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries

SUNDAY WORSHIP..... 9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
LIFE GROUPS..... 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) **Wednesday, 6:15 PM**

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WORSHIP
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Kid's Crew 11:15 AM
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

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perseverance



A community fighting cancer

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

~ All photos courtesy of Heather Eveland Photography

Mary Kimble

"...it doesn't make you less of a woman..."

"...your breasts don't define you..."

"...get rid of them mom, you can't trust them..."

These are all words that were spoken to me as encouragement, and spoken by people I love. I try to remember them every day. I consider myself a survivor, but I'm not sure that the journey ever really ends.

My name is Mary Kimble, I grew up on a farm in Greenville, MI. We have called Lowell home since 1979. I have been a graphic designer for over 30 years, starting out at the Lowell Ledger and Buyers Guide. My three children attended Lowell Schools, and my husband, Bryan, was a professional firefighter for 37 years serving with Lowell Fire and Rescue for 25 years.

My story starts with a routine mammogram on Friday, July 21, 2017. I always had my yearly exam. The following Monday, I got a phone call from the hospital asking me to come in and have another mammogram, and possibly a biopsy. I wasn't very alarmed, as I have always had very thick breast tissue and I had been called back many other times.

This time was different. They did, indeed, do a biopsy that day. The mammogram had seen a mass on my right breast. On August 1, I received a call no one wants to receive. My doctor's office called me, and the nurse simply said, "I'm sorry, but you have breast cancer." She told me I



Photo provided by the Kimble family

would be hearing from the hospital that afternoon with more tests results. I picked up the phone and called my husband, who was helping a friend at the time. He came right home. I remember being pretty calm about it, and as I look back, I realize it was mostly shock. That afternoon I got the call from the hospital confirming what I didn't want to believe. I had invasive ductal carcinoma in my right breast. Wow, invasive, that sounds scary. They asked me if I could come back in Thursday and have another biopsy on my lymph nodes.

I was introduced to my "Nurse Navigator," who would help me work

through the whole hospital process. She gave me a book to read, a video to watch, gave me a brief explanation of what to expect next and told me my appointment with the surgeon was next Wednesday. This was real, and moving fast.

My appointment with my surgeon was next. My husband, my sister and I sat and listened to the surgeon explain that there was a mass that was approximately 5 cm., making my cancer stage 2A as far as they could tell. There was a question as to if the tumor was one large tumor, or two connected tumors. A lumpectomy was not an option, because of the

location of the tumor. My family and I had talked about this, and there really wasn't any question, in their minds, or mine. I chose to take no chances. I would have the whole breast removed.

Of all the advice I was given at the beginning, one of my friends, who had experienced cancer herself, told me, "...get an MRI." I suggested that to my surgeon, and he scheduled it for the next day. I was surprised to hear so quickly that the MRI showed that I had another mass about 8 cm. on the left breast. The decision was now out of my hands.

Mary's story, continued, page 10

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



Todd Schaal, CCIM 616-822-6477

Upscale Waterfront Living in Charming Lowell
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A real estate opportunity that offers urban style living on the Flat River.

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perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Brenda Paul

Written by Amanda Schrauben

Retired bus driver Brenda Paul did not anticipate having to walk her own cancer journey. But in June 2018, her diagnosis was the beginning of her story as a cancer patient.

Brenda went in for a routine mammogram. The following day she received a call to tell her she needed to come in for more images. This led to having a biopsy performed and being told she had breast cancer. Originally told she was a stage I, that diagnosis was changed to stage II when more tumors were found than originally expected during surgery to remove the cancer.

While cancer was found in only one breast, Brenda opted to have a double mastectomy last August to remove tumors as well as lymph nodes. During this surgery, expanders were also put in. Over the period of a few weeks they were filled with saline to expand the skin in preparation for implants. It takes several months after radiation to heal enough to be ready for implant surgery. However, in May of this year Brenda had the expanders removed, deciding that having implants was not what she really wanted.

In November 2018 treatments of radiation began for 25 consecutive days. Brenda had a good, local network system including her brother and younger sister who provided much help. "My sister also put together a 'prayer posse' for me, who spent many hours holding me up in prayer for my entire journey, and beyond," she says of the support she received. Her husband of 11 years, four children, 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren were supportive during treatment and recovery. She felt kind, caring, and compassionate feelings from those close to her as well as those she did not know well. She felt comfortable sitting in the waiting room before radiation, sometimes talking to others about their journey and treatment.



Heather Evesland
PHOTOGRAPHY

In January of this year, Brenda was declared cancer free. She had a photo of her taken with a survivor sign and made sure it was spread as far and wide as possible. She'll also be attending the Pink Arrow game this year and would like to thank her sponsor, Carol Hamilton. While deemed free of cancer, she'll still have to have regular check ups with her surgeon and oncologist to

ensure she remains cancer-free.

While working, Brenda was a bus driver for Lowell Area Schools from 1980-2002 for mostly special education students. In retirement she keeps busy with various women's groups in the community. She also is the instructor for an exercise class for Senior Neighbors which takes place at Schneider Manor where she resides.

Brenda has been thankful for the support she has received from Gilda's Club groups as a means to connect with others and learn a little about what to expect during her treatment. She's also appreciative of Pink Arrow and those who stepped up to help with appointments when it was needed. She feels like those around her went above and beyond.

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



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perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Robin Cahoon, Scott Hewitt and Kristen Delnick

Written by Amanda Schrauben

Mary Robidoux, Robin Cahoon, Scott Hewitt, and Kristen Delnick are family. They have also shared in each other's journey with four different types of cancer. Through support, understanding, and a family bond, they have been able to fight together and individually to battle cancer. Robin and Scott are siblings and Kristen is Robin's daughter. Mary is Robin and Scott's aunt and great aunt, also like a grandmother to Kristen.

The family's journey with cancer started in 2015 when Aunt Mary Robidoux was coughing and having trouble swallowing for a few months. Doctors ended up finding throat cancer. She struggled and had a feeding tube and tracheostomy. Through it all, she had her ups and downs, but she kept fighting. After several complications, she passed away in June 2016. Shortly before her passing, Scott found out he had lung cancer.

Scott has a history of heart issues and sought medical care when he thought he was having a heart attack. Scans revealed his heart was fine but showed a spot on his right lung. Following a PET scan a biopsy was performed. While on vacation in May 2016, he received the call that he had cancer. He continued on with his vacation not wanting to ruin the time with his sister and her husband but was prepared to face cancer when he returned.

Diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer, surgery took place in June 2016. The lower lobe of his right lung was



Photo provided by the family

Radiation and chemotherapy were performed at the same time. Chemo was three treatments eight weeks apart while radiation took place every day for three months. Scott's radiation was complete in December 2018.

One of the side effects he has had to deal with is back pain. Five weeks ago a spinal cord stimulator was inserted under his skin to help control the chronic issue. A mild electric current is sent to the spinal cord and masks pain signals before they go to the brain. Scott has been able to better manage pain and improve his quality of life with the stimulator.

As Scott was going through treatment for his lung cancer, in October 2016 his sister, Robin got a phone call that she needed to see an oncologist the day after bloodwork showed her white cell count was very high. The oncologist did more bloodwork and a bone marrow biopsy which confirmed PH+CML, a type of leukemia. Her first day of chemo treatments started the same day.

Robin has now been on daily chemo pills for two and a half years with breaks for a few short days here and there. She has bloodwork done monthly and sees an oncologist every three months to monitor other BCR-ABL numbers for cancer.

Robin's daughter, Kristen began her journey as a cancer patient in October 2018 when she was diagnosed with papillary thyroid cancer. The cancer was discovered after a variety of symptoms led her to an endocrinologist after a lump on the right side of her neck. The

lump turned out to be on the left side. Kristen was told it never would have been found if she didn't keep pushing for tests. Finally a nodule biopsy was done on the left side of her thyroid to determine the cause of swelling in the area and cancer was found. Surgery was done to remove the cancer and she was told she'd be just fine.

Although the cancer has been removed, she will remain on thyroid medication the rest of her life and has had to deal with various side effects which have caused her to quit driving a school bus. It is not uncommon with thyroid cancer for growth to return. Monitoring every six months will track any additional growth. After being told she would be fine post surgery, Kristen didn't anticipate the side effects she faced. She looked to online support groups for thyroid cancer to get information from those who had personally experienced this type of cancer.

These three individuals have had to face different kinds of cancer. Already a close family, the three, alongside other members of the family have battled together. The trio are thankful to those who have walked beside them, especially spouses who have seen good and bad times during treatment and in recovery.

Scott says being true to himself without hiding feelings is what has helped him through his journey. Robin has found the support and love of her husband, family and friends in addition to her faith helps her throughout her journey. Kristen has found support from

her dad, mom, bonus dad, husband, kids, in-laws, and friends. She and Robin have a very special bond and friendship. Her husband, Casey was there during biopsies and stood by her side while she was terrified of what was to come. And he remained by her side for surgery and after to help do all he could to care for her and the kids, offering ice packs, pain meds, and hugs. Kristen's two best friends have also been by her side, helping her and her family. One even flew to Michigan from Florida when she had surgery. And the people she worked with at the bus garage brought meals and treats for her kids.

Scott, Robin, and Kristen recognize that while they're dealing with cancer it also affects their immediate family as well. Scott and Robin have spouses who have gone out of their way to help and show support. Robin's husband, Jim, made a quilt from some of his shirts so that his wife could use it if she were home alone. Scott's wife, Kathy worked extra hours when he couldn't work as much in order to help with finances. Kristen had to explain cancer and care to her three girls who have seen others in the family become sick and even pass away. Through the emotional toll, each has remained faithful. Strong wills and a dash or two of stubbornness, which runs in the family, get them through. They are also thankful for what Pink Arrow does for the community and how the organization has helped them personally.



removed. It was to be performed by a robot, but during surgery a conventional method ended up being used. Lung cancer is often not diagnosed until it is in late stages. Scott believes he is fortunate doctors found something on his lung during the heart scan.

perseverance

A community fighting cancer

Mary's story, continued

So, exactly one month since I had my routine mammogram done, my breasts were surgically removed, a bilateral mastectomy. There was no cancer found in the lymph nodes and I only had to stay one night.

The first three weeks home from the hospital, friends and neighbors brought us a meal each night. That was a so helpful and thoughtful. The healing went pretty well, not too much pain, and I went back to work in about eight weeks.

My oncologist told me that I would not need chemotherapy or radiation. That was very good news. I had made a pretty big sacrifice, but would not have to endure chemo, as so many others. I would be taking an estrogen blocker for the next five years at least, as my cancer was estrogen driven.

Nothing can prepare you for the first time you see yourself in the mirror, after the bandages are removed. Although, I never felt that my breasts defined me, it is still a very hard pill to swallow. I was left with pretty good size balls of loose skin under both arms that were very uncomfortable and unattractive, hopefully I could have those removed in a few months.

There were some wonderful people in the Ionia area, where I worked at

the time, which held a benefit for a cancer survivor every year, and this year they chose me. There were silent auctions, raffles, food, prizes, and they raised a lot of money toward my medical bills. A month later, some very close friends held another small benefit for me, and between the two, enough money was raised to pay my medical bills. I will be forever grateful

I try to surround myself with positive people, less drama, and just enjoy what I have, and try not to think so much of what I have lost. One day at a time, right?

~ Mary Kimble

for all my friends, relatives, and total strangers who helped me out.

I would be lying if I said everything was fine from then on in. The emotional toll that this takes on a person is extremely hard to describe. It feels like you have a whole new reality, and you have no choice but to adapt to all the changes. Your clothes fit differently, there is intermittent nerve pain, side effects from the cancer medicine, not to mention an endless array of emotions.

After my surgery, my sister did some research and told me I needed to look into Gilda's Club in Lowell. I worked up the courage to make the call. I didn't know what to expect. What I found was a group of people that were willing to listen, offer advice, and share their own experiences. They really cared about me, and my journey. I have made some wonderful friends, and we have become very close. So comforting to have a place to go, where you are understood.

I had some revision surgery in late July 2017, to fix the excess skin under my arms. I was so happy with the results, and felt maybe I could finally get used to my new "normal," and get on with my life. I spoke too soon, I guess.

In June of 2018, I had discovered a small lump on the left side of my face. After ultrasounds and a biopsy, it could not be determined for sure

that the lump was not cancer. As anyone who has had cancer can tell you, once you've had it, it always raises its ugly head when anything questionable comes up. So we decided to just remove it in a routine surgery.

I was scheduled for a parotidectomy (the parotid gland is on the side of your face), to remove it. The surgery

took about 90 minutes. While I was in recovery, my surgeon came in and said "Mary, we need to talk." Nothing could have prepared me for what he would say next.

He told me that he could not identify my facial nerve during surgery and somehow it was damaged and he had paralyzed the left side of my face. My eye would not close, and nothing on the left side functioned. He didn't know how it happened, but he had set me up with a specialist in Novi to see if anything could be done.

I went home in disbelief and broke the news to my family. They, of course, were furious with the surgeon, as was I. (I have since forgiven him.) In less than a week, I found myself in Novi, meeting with a neurosurgeon who told me the only thing he could do was surgery to try to find both halves of my facial nerve and reattach them.

The very next day, I found myself in surgery again. The beginning of the nerve was at the base of my ear and he had to micro-dissect through the face to find the other half. It took him three hours to find the other half of the nerve. It took another three hours to reconnect the nerve and put a gold weight in my eyelid so I could close it.

The main facial nerve is like a tube, which contains many tiny nerves. It turns out that the nerve was not severed evenly, but, rather, torn in two by some kind of instrument. So,

the only way to reconnect it was to put a little connector between the two pieces. I was told that he thought the eye would function again, but he wasn't real optimistic about my chances of regaining movement of anything else. He told me any spontaneous regeneration should occur in a year's time. That year is up on August 8 of this year, and I do have some use of my eye, but nothing else functions on that side.

I now need to use a straw whenever I drink anything, food needs to be cut into small pieces, as I can only chew on one side of my mouth, my eye does not open all the way, because the lid doesn't move, and I have lost my smile for the most part. I was forced to retire from my graphic design job, as my eye doesn't work well enough to use the computer for any length of time. Another "new normal."

My friends at Gilda's Club have been a tremendous help through this process as well, and they definitely support me and push me to keep going.

There have been so many supporters in my life. My husband, Bryan, is my rock. Overcoming his own fear, (he lost his own mother to breast cancer) he was there every minute, letting me cry, scream, or just feel sorry for myself. I can never thank my children, my sister, and my best friend, enough for all their support, in helping me to take one day at a time, and not hide from the world.

So, the journey, for me, continues. I am gradually accepting what cannot be changed, and I am truly grateful for each and every day. I try to surround myself with positive people, less drama, and just enjoy what I have, and try not to think so much of what I have lost. One day at a time, right?

Love what you have,
Before life teaches you
To love what you lost.



Lowell Program

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PINK ARROW PRIDE 2019

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, September 13, 2019

Lowell hosts Greenville High School

Golf scramble to benefit Blough scholarship

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

The annual golf scramble to benefit the Ivan K Blough scholarship is coming up soon.

On Friday, Aug. 9 at Candlestone Golf and Resort, a golf outing will be held for anyone to join to help raise money for the Ivan K Blough Vocational Scholarship Fund.

The Ivan K Blough Vocational Scholarship Fund's goal is to encourage career skills and educational opportunities for high school seniors and graduates within the Lowell Area Schools district. It is also to promote and foster volunteering and pride in the greater Lowell community and demonstrate community service before self. The scholarship is for

his community, something that his scholarship fund hopes to continue fostering as it has for nearly the past decade. A requirement for the scholarship is to have at or above 15 hours of community service.

The annual golf outing is the main fundraiser for the Ivan K Blough scholarship endowment.

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce will also be holding a silent and live auction, event hole prizes, a chance to win a Traeger Pro 20 grill, and the ever-popular ducky pool challenge.

The cost to participate in the annual golf outing is \$75 per person. This includes 18 holes of golf



along with a cart and lunch, while just lunch is \$20.

All donations benefit the Ivan K Blough Vocational Scholarship Fund and are tax-deductible. For more information visit discoverlowell.org or contact Liz Baker at info@lowellchamber.org.

individuals destined for trade schools, agri-science studies/business, local commercial business entrepreneurial endeavors, and so forth. A scholarship is also awarded to local area business members.

Ivan K Blough played an instrumental part in the Lowell community, most notably for his part in rebuilding the showboat in 1979 after a tornado destroyed the previous boat. His handiwork on the Flat River lasted for over 40 years.

Blough spent much of his life volunteering for



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LowellArts, continued

Loves Raymond," "The Jeffersons," "Becker," "Dharma and Greg" and "Wings." He also wrote the movies "Critical Condition" starring Richard Pryor and "Volunteers" starring Tom Hanks and John Candy.

"Ken Levine, the playwright, writes such snappy dialogue," Freund said. "You can tell he used to write for television. We had a lot of fun putting it together. These actors meshed together so well so quickly. They had a lot of fun just bouncing off each other, and I enjoyed watching them have fun with their dialogue back and forth."

In recent years Levine has been writing for the stage, presumably so he can make jokes, use language and touch on subject matter that would never make it past network censors.

"Brent Alles, who plays Big Jim, had been in contact with Ken for some time now," Freund said. "Ken is just getting into the world of theater after he did TV for so many years. This play was penned in 2016, so it's fairly new. He likes having his plays done at community theaters. Brent expressed interest in this play last year, but we couldn't get the right casting so we did another one of Ken's shows last summer, 'Our Time.' That was a lot of fun too."



"Going Going Gone" playwright Ken Levine during a visit to LowellArts last summer.

The remaining Saturday, Aug. 3. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$14 at the door and can be purchased at lowellartsmi.org or by calling 616-897-8545.

LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

To be considered, all proposals must be submitted online by August 16, 2019.

Visit www.grfoundation.org/lowell to submit your application.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell Area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

obituaries

HOWARD

Steven James Howard, age 54 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, July 21, 2019. He is survived by his parents, Bonnie (Gary) Denman, James Howard; siblings, Luann (Roger) Palcowski, Marc (Molly) Denman, Micky (Jim) Arnette, Mindy Dicks; and nieces and nephews. A celebration of life luncheon will be held August 3rd, 2019 at the Lowell Moose Lodge, 1320 E. Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 at 1pm, family and friends welcome.



HUNTER

Wesley Harold Hunter, age 80, of Lowell passed away peacefully at home Sunday, July 21st, 2019. He was born on March 14th, 1939 in Royal Oak, MI, to the late Ernest and Norma (Haley) Hunter. Hunting and fishing was a hobby Wes enjoyed throughout his life and shared with all of his children. He was an avid Nascar fan and could be found on the weekends watching the next big race. Wes was adventurous in his attempts to fix anything. With a little luck and duct tape he was always successful. Wes dedicated 34 years at Wittenbach Service in Lowell. He took on any project from detailing cars, maintenance, part runs and snow plowing. He took pride in his work and his vehicles were always in immaculate shape. Wes is survived by Joan, his wife of 51 years; sons, Chris (Sandy) Hunter, Randy (Justina) Hunter, James Hunter; daughter, Dawn (Tom) Ward; grandchildren, Megan Hunter, Storm Hunter, Corbin Hunter, Jesse Ward, Jade Hunter; one great grandchild, Riley; brother, Doug (Joyce) Hunter; and sister, Sharon (Vic) Larsen; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Wes was preceded in death by his brothers, Ernest, David (Joyce) Hunter, and Don (Mary) Hunter. In celebration of his life and memory, a memorial service will be held on August 10th, 2019 at the Lowell United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main St, Lowell MI, 49331 (Wesley Hall). We ask that friends and family gather at 11am and a service will be conducted at 11:30am. A luncheon will take place immediately after the service. The family welcomes visitors to join them any time until



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3pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Lowell Senior Neighbors, 314 S. Hudson, Lowell MI, 49331 or Safe Haven Humane Society, PO Box 55, Ionia MI, 48846.



INTRAIN

Richard Intrain; Golf Professional, went home peacefully on the morning of July 20, 2019. He is preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Mary Sperstra Intrain; and his parents, Louis and Severa Intrain. Richard is survived by his son, Gregg Intrain (Golf Professional), and daughter-in-law Emily Intrain (accomplished golfer by marriage); brother, John Intrain; nieces, Andrea (Intrain) Gravley, Sara (Intrain) Chilelli, Emily (Intrain) Chilelli, and Laura (Intrain) Filar. Dick turned pro in 1959 after his stint in the US Air Force. He worked at a number of golf clubs in Florida and Michigan including Tequesta, Battle Creek Country Club, Lake Doster, Deer Run and Ionia Country Club. His final club affiliation was Silver Springs Shores Country Club where his best friend Val Johnson is head Professional. Dick was an exceptionally long hitter and possessed a world class bunker game. His playing credits include numerous PGA tour and Senior PGA tour events. He was a gifted teacher of the game and loved being on the range. If he saw someone struggling, he would always stop and offer some help. Next to his family and pets, he simply loved the game of golf. He was also a life-long Chicago Cubs and Bears fan. His perfect day was 2-3 hours of range time, a late morning round, a Cubs win in the afternoon and then one of mom's roast beef, potatoes and gravy dinners. Through the grace of God, we are sure he is enjoying that right now. A celebration of life and mass of Christian burial will take place on August 9, 2019 at St. Patrick's Parish, Parnell, MI at 2pm with visitation one hour prior. A luncheon will follow in the Parish Center. In lieu of flowers please donate to Humane Society of West Michigan or St. Jude Children's Hospital.



How many counties are there in Michigan?

A: 83

Michigan was the first state in the Union to abolish what?

A: The death penalty.

SMITH
Kameron "Kam" Jon Smith, age 64 of Lowell, passed away Sunday, July 28, 2019 after a brief struggle with cancer. He's preceded in death by his parents, Art and Lyn Smith; and grandmother, Evelyn Fuller. Kam is survived by his wife, Jamie; children, Jennifer, Shelby, Jodi, Jason (Tanya), Justin; many grandchildren; one great grandson; as well as many special friends. He loved and lived for his family. Kam also loved fishing and always had a story to tell. He was a much loved husband, father, and grandpa (Pee-Paw). A memorial visitation will take place Thursday, August 1st, 2019 from 6-8pm at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell MI, 49331. Memorial Contributions can be made to charity of one's choice.



Financial Focus, continued

need to determine which is right for your needs. Also, it's important to be familiar with the requirements of various federal, state and local benefit programs for people with disabilities. For these and other reasons, it's essential to work with a local estate-planning professional who knows the regulations in your area. You may also need to bring in your financial professional, who can help with the funding elements of a special needs trust, and who can possibly recommend a trust company, if you choose to use one.

You'll do anything you can to make life better for a disabled child or family member – and one tool you have at your disposal is a special needs trust. Consider looking into one soon.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

In 1920 WWJ (AM) In Detroit, in 1920, WWJ, an AM radio station, became the first radio station in the US to regularly broadcast what?

A: Commercial programs.

In 1899, Michigan State Normal School, now Eastern Michigan University, became the first normal college in the nation to offer a what?

A: Four-year curriculum.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Synopsis of Minutes
July 8, 2019

Motions Approved:

- Approval to amend the 2018-2019 budget for the Sanitary Sewer System
- Approve two new pumps at the Grattan Vergennes Pump Station #17.

Our next Township Meeting will be **August 12 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

classifieds

for sale

2011 BUICK LUCERNE CXL PREMIUM - 117,262 miles, excellent condition, \$7,900 obo. Leather interior, satellite radio, heated & power seats, insulated cover, everything works. Very well maintained - all service records available. New snow & all weather radial tires. 987-3022.

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

OXYGEN - Anytime. Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: 866-376-8473 (MICH)

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

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

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

FREE AD! - Place & pay for a classified ad in the Buyers Guide & Lowell Ledger for 3 weeks & receive the 4th week FREE! You must mention the special in order to receive this offer. Valid only with new classified ads & must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555.

card of thanks

John and Phyllis Jones would like to thank their family and friends for helping them celebrate John's 100th birthday.

misc.

SAVE ON YOUR NEXT PRESCRIPTION! World Health Link. Price Match Guarantee! Prescriptions Required. CIPA Certified. Over 1500 medications available. CALL Today For A Free Price Quote. 1-855-972-1693 Call Now! (MICH)

for rent

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

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

HALL FOR RENT - Lowell Veteran's Center, 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

WHISTLE STOP MINI STORAGE - 12661 Vergennes, N. of Lowell. 5x10; 10x10; 10x20; 10x30; 12x40. Fenced lighted, key code entry. 897-8872.

help wanted

EXPERIENCED ASPHALT WORKERS NEEDED - Operators, rakers, roller operators, dump truck drivers, CDLA & B license. Pay based on experience. To apply, send an application to: glphotmix@sbcglobal.net or call Great Lakes Paving, 897-1999.

PART-TIME HELP WANTED - for general maintenance & yard work. Call 676-9257.

NEED EXTRACASH? - We are taking applications for carriers to deliver the Buyers Guide on Saturdays. Must be dependable! Work less than 1 day a week! Get paid weekly, pickup papers at Buyers Guide office. Apply in person, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

TRUCK DRIVER - 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)

wanted

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

WANTED FREON R12: We pay CA\$. R12 R500 R11 Convenient, Certified Professionals (312) 291-9169 RefrigerantFinders.com/ads (MICH)

services

TERRY RISNER ROOFING - Re-roofs & new construction. Free estimates, licensed & insured. Call 616-291-9250.

EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE - Lowell & surrounding areas. On road repairs. Rob's Towing & Auto Salvage. "CHEAP HOOKER" 616-292-7649 or 616-295-8820.

services

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

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

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

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

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.

INTHEMARKETFOR THE SERVICES OF A REAL ESTATE AGENT? - Check out Rogers Real Estate, Dale Rogers. Lifelong Lowell resident, works with buyers, sellers and new construction. Call 616-915-6327, email: dale@GoDale.com or check out the website at RogersRealEstateGroup.com

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

services

UPS SHIPPING COPY SERVICE, (black & white & color!) FAX SERVICE, LAMINATING PRINTING BANNERS POSTERS & MUCH MORE AVAILABLE AT THE LOWELL LEDGER BUYERS GUIDE 105 N. Broadway HOURS M-Th. 8-5 p.m. Fri. 8-noon Ph. 897-9261 email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Community Calendar August 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.

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

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, 7 pm. 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.

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

LOWELL ARTS GALLERY HOURS - Tues. - Fri., 10 - 6 p.m.; Sat., 10-5 p.m. 225 W. Main St., Lowell. Visit www.lowellartsmi.org or call 897-8545.

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

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

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

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



Desmond Jones to perform on Showboat stage

by Patrick Misner
contributing reporter

Desmond Jones will play the third-to-last Sizzlin' Summer Concert series on Thursday, Aug. 15 at 7 pm. Though the name can be deceiving, Desmond Jones is actually a band made up of five members, none of whom are named Desmond Jones. The band's name is actually a reference to a lyric in the Beatles song "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da."

The group is made up of Chis Bota on guitars and vocals, John Loria on bass guitar and vocals, John Nowak on drums, vocals and guitar, Isaac Berkowitz on guitar, vocals and drums, and George Falk on saxophone, vocals and keyboard.

"American rock" is how the group describes their sound. Discussing the band with Nowack, he said they arrived at their

Grand Rapids," Nowack said. "Together, we assembled a band called Dirty Mike and the Boys in East Lansing, while attending Michigan State University. The current lineup formed in 2012 in East Lansing and changed our name to Desmond Jones."

Although none of the members went to college for music, they all bring influences to the band that helps create their distinctive sound.

"Every member has a different musical background" Nowack commented. "Personally, I took piano lessons growing up and was in the band and drumline program at East Grand Rapids Public Schools. I taught myself the drum set and guitar in elementary and middle school. None of us went to school for

has become a favorite venue of ours, as well as the Fox's Lair in Augusta, GA. We are lucky to have

the opportunity to travel to so many different places and perform,"

Last year, the band

played a unique show in New York City.

"Last August we performed on a boat cruise

released in October of 2017, along with a variety of live and shorter albums. They just released their



that sailed down the New York City harbor, under the Brooklyn Bridge and circled around the Statue of Liberty as the sun set," Nowack explained. "It was a unique and incredible experience for us and our fans, and it was also very rocky. Everyone had to take power stances while playing to not fall over as the boat was moving. We got free pasta, too, which always helps."

The band has one self-titled studio album

brand new album, "Hello, Helou" on Friday, July 26. They have never played in Lowell, but they are looking forward to the opportunity.

"We have seen and read about the lineups and series for years and are excited and honored to take part," Nowack said. "We can't wait to bring our unique and fun music to Lowell."

More information on the band can be found on their website, desmondjonesband.com.



sound through an eclectic mix of influences. Some genres he mentioned were rock, funk, jazz fusion and country.

"Some of our biggest influences are Frank Zappa, the Beatles, the Band, Little Feat, Snarky Puppy, D'Angelo, Miles Davis, the Weather Report, the Grateful Dead, Phish and Willie Nelson," Nowack added.

The band has been playing consistently for about four years, but different members in the group have been playing together since middle school.

"John and Isaac started playing music together in middle school at East

music. We have two arts and humanities majors, one fine arts major, one Russian literature major and one finance major."

Desmond Jones tours regularly around the country, and they have been playing 125-150 shows each year for the past few years. They have become regulars at some local places and have started looking forward to certain tour stops.

"Some of our favorite places to perform in Michigan are the Tip Top Deluxe, Founders and the Intersection in Grand Rapids," Nowack said. "We also love playing at Otus Supply in Ferndale. The 8x10 in Baltimore





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

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

Whitney Lassini - Art. Glass. Jewelry.

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

Whitney Lassini is an artisan in the Lowell area who specializes in glass artwork and jewelry. While she is relatively new to the scene when it comes to her glasswork, she is already earning praise from her peers.

"I've always been into art, I've always been artistic," Lassini said. "I loved to draw as a kid, and then I wanted to go to art school really bad when it was time to go to college. We were in Savannah, GA and I wanted to go to Savannah College of Art and Design, but that was really expensive, so I went to Savannah Technical Institute. I learned casts, and I ended up doing that for many years. It was right up my alley because it was precise. It was still artistic, you got to design stuff and come up with stuff, but it was very precise."

Lassini didn't focus on her artistic abilities



as she grew up, instead working for Amway as a software developer for 15 years.

"I left that when the Internet started exploding," Lassini said. "I took some classes in programming and then I became a software developer and worked at Amway for 15 years. I did that for a long time and then I started getting into glass. I started with stained glass and then I realized you could melt glass at home in your garage, so I started melting glass. That's when I really started to become fascinated by the whole glass concept. I made glass beads for many years, and then I met my husband shortly

after I started doing the glass. He's Italian, and he always encouraged me to buy any tools and things like that. So then we started doing shows together and did the beads for a long time. That's kind of how that all started."

With her husband by her side, Lassini began focusing more and more on her craftsmanship, creating glass beads until the market got flooded with too many glass bead artisans.

"The market kind of got flooded," Lassini said. "There are a lot of people doing it. So I started looking for other artistic pursuits, I guess, if you will, but I still love glass and metal. Now I do what's called cloisonné enameling. It's kind of like wire with colored glass in it. And I just really love doing it so I've been doing that for the last two years."

Cloisonné, a French word meaning "enclosed", is an ancient technique for decorating metalwork objects. Cloisonné enamel objects are worked on with enamel powder made into a paste, which then is fired in a kiln.

Lassini sells most of her work at various shows across West Michigan, along with selling on her Etsy shop and at Chimara Design in downtown Lowell.

"I primarily sell at shows," Lassini said. "I'm probably doing four shows this year, and I did six shows last year, usually within the West Michigan area. We've done Ludington, we're going to Traverse City this weekend. We put up the tent and put out the displays and all that kind of stuff. It's really fun to get to interact with people and talk to them about your art, so it's really exciting. I do have an Etsy shop too, but I don't see a lot of business there. And then I have my stuff in the jewelry store when I'm not doing shows

in the summer. So as soon as I'm done, probably after Fallasburgh in September, I'll put my stuff back in the Chimera Design jewelry store. That's been a really good relationship there, they're really good people."

The process to make these pieces is very complicated. Not only that, but working with glass is very delicate work.

"For the cloisonné enameling pieces, I basically start with sheet silver," Lassini said. "Sometimes I buy it in sheet form, but I can also roll it. I'll also melt down my silver scrap and roll it into a flat sheet of silver. Then I cut out a shape, usually like a frame square or a teardrop or something. I then will take a very thin wire, I usually use 24-gauge silver wire, and I roll that into very flat wire. Then I bend those wires into different shapes and designs. I do all kinds of different things, some abstract. Then I take powdered enamel and mix it with a little water. I then very, very carefully fill the little spaces that I created with color. They're very thin layers, each layer gets fused in the kiln at 1450 degrees. They fuse for about two minutes, I do that about twenty times."

This is done at her house, with all her work being done in her basement.

"I do it all at home, in my basement," Lassini said. "I love it down there. I work there every single night. I have everything I need down there. I recently started getting into a lot more silversmithing. So, taking the pieces that I created and putting them into a silver setting or a gemstone setting, that kind of stuff, to accentuate the jewelry itself and the enamel pieces. It's all new and I'm having a great time with it."

Lassini's favorite pieces, such as her 'Alice in Wonderland' set, are being made right now.

"Well, I did want to do, and I will do, a set of 'Alice in Wonderland,'" Lassini said. "I want to do Alice, the Queen of Hearts



and the Cheshire Cat. I'm going to make a little earring that says 'eat me' and one that says 'drink me'. So, I'm working on that. So far I've completed Alice, she is by far my favorite."

Her craft is very tricky, one that is easy to make mistakes in. Even for veterans like Lassini, creating the perfect piece takes a lot of time and very delicate hands.

"Well, there are always challenges when stuff just doesn't work out right," Lassini stated. "Glass can be very finicky, especially glass and silver colors. The chemicals they use to color the glass can react to the silver and you end up with this gross brown color. Cracking is another issue. It's glass, so if I don't handle it correctly it cracks it almost ruins it, especially by putting it into a silver setting. Now, I can fix them, but then I have to tear the silver setting apart and put the enamel piece back in the kiln. I had to do that just last night, when I made the coolest piece of jewelry. I was so excited about it. As I was putting it into the setting, I pushed too hard on it and it cracked. I had spent hours on the silver setting, and I had to tear it all apart because the enamel piece is really

pretty. So that's definitely a challenge. And just learning. There are so many things to learn. The time that it takes to grind them and polish them in order to get them shiny like when they're finished. When they come out of the kiln, they are bumpy, so you have to shine them with different sorts of sandpaper. My hands always get sore. There are a lot of challenges, but you learn. If you try and put glass in a casting wrong and it breaks, you learn to not do that again."

All this work takes time. Lassini spends around five hours a night creating her pieces. That time varies, though, due to the responsibilities of everyday life.

"I'm used to working usually from about 9 'til about 2 in the morning, and then the next day do the grocery shopping and stuff," Lassini said. "But typically, that 9 to 2 period is when I work on my jewelry. Then there's a bunch of other stuff on the schedule, you have to keep up on your taxes, groceries. Like right now I'm writing a syllabus for a class, I want to start teaching classes. There's a gorgeous studio in Grand Haven named Studio JSD, I'm going to do a class with that. And then I

also have the Hot Spot in Grand Rapids. I've been talking to them about teaching a class there also."

Even when a piece of jewelry is all done, it may still be a struggle to get the right photos to sell the product online.

"Taking pictures is also tough, you have to have a lot of patience do that too," Lassini said. "I have spent hours trying to get the lighting right, getting the background right. And you can't have just one picture, you have to have multiple from different angles. Jewelry looks better with someone modeling it, so you have to have that too sometimes."

Through all the challenges, Lassini loves her work. She dedicates her time to it and creates some of the most beautiful pieces on the market.

"I don't do this for the money," Lassini said. "Yes, I have to figure out a way to make money from this, that's why I'm going to start teaching classes. I enjoy doing this."

Whitney Lassini can be found on Facebook at "Whitney Lassini Glass," on Instagram at "whitneylassini" or online at WhitneyLassini.com.