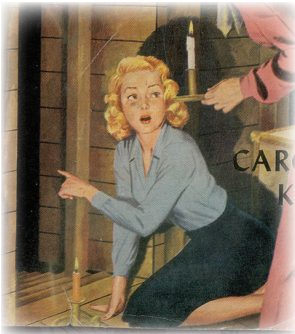




LHS sports featuring senior baseball & softball players

page 10

Nancy Drew ghostwriter Patricia Doll



starts on page 7

Lowell history



page 6

New hospice in Lowell



page 3

Local businessman helps raise well over \$20,000 for other Main Street businesses

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Concerned that the lack of revenue caused by the coronavirus lockdown could cause local businesses to fold, Canfield Plumbing & Heating owner Greg Canfield heard about a “gift card match” program in another town and decided to try it here in Lowell. The response to the offer was overwhelming and could help preserve some firms that were on the cusp of bankruptcy.

“I didn’t realize how well it would be received, we got probably at least double the response that we expected,” Canfield said. “It’s been really good I think and hopefully helps some businesses open up again. It’s a little shot of cash to get them going as things open up. The restaurants have to restock their refrigerators with fresh meat and produce,

so this could help them do that. I had one person tell us that they were actually not sure if they’d be able to open or not, and this made the difference for them, so that made us feel pretty good. Everybody has just been starving!”

The idea for a gift card matching program was originally conceived by a company in Missouri.

“I belong to a group called The Service Roundtable for plumbing and HVAC company business owners,” Canfield said. “We all share ideas, software, what’s working and what’s not working. A company in St. Louis, MO came up with this to help in their town, and they challenged the rest of us to do it. I thought about it for about 30 seconds and decided it was a great idea.”

The promotion was good

for gift cards from locally-owned restaurants, hair or nail salons and massage therapists.

“It’s been running about \$2,000 a day,” Canfield said. “The hair salons did very well and restaurants are in second place. Station Salon is in first place with total dollars. As of 5 pm yesterday [Wednesday, April 29], our contribution in gift cards was over \$20,000. The matching gift cards that other people purchased actually are between \$22,000 and \$23,000, so the benefit to the community has been about \$43,000. It’s probably an average of about \$5,000 per merchant.”

Company owner Greg Canfield is a 1975 alumni of Lowell High School and has lived in Lowell his entire life. Over the years, he has served the local community



on a variety of boards and commissions including the Planning Commission, Historic District Commission, Lowell Light & Power board, Downtown Development Authority, the Property Tax Board of Review, the Construction Board of Appeals, the Parks and Recreation Committee, the Lowell Area Recreational Authority and is currently seated on the Lowell city council. He also owns the Main Street Inn and a few other buildings around town, all of which he has worked to restore to their historic prime.

“We’re been really fortunate that we were considered essential, and last year we had our best year ever in 25 years, so our checkbook was in pretty good shape,” Canfield said. “We are still able to work and create revenue, so while there’s a limit to what we can contribute, we’re in a much better place than many of the other businesses out there, so we felt this was a way we could share our blessings with them.”

Michigan’s current stay-at-home order ends on May 15, but it could be extended.

“Main St. could look like a ghost town if this doesn’t end soon,” Canfield said. “Hopefully it’s on the decline and we’re on the downhill side of the slope so we can reopen and get Main St. back working again.”

LHS graduation rescheduled for June 11

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The 2019-2020 school year is nearly over, and it’s been a pretty weird year thanks to the pandemic. Students in the district have been doing their lessons at home for the past couple months, graduation and other rites of passage have been delayed, and school staffers have been doing as much of their work from home as they possibly can.

“It’s actually been a rather busy and engaging time,” said Lowell Area Schools superintendent Greg Pratt. “We have a skeleton crew in the office, and I’ve maybe missed a day here and there, but not much. The amount of time I spend doing online meetings now is fairly extensive. It’s a different way of doing work, and it can be difficult at times, but we’re doing what we can to get through this.”

The new date for LHS graduation ceremony is June 11, and Pratt said the district made speculative decisions about other planned events.

“We sent a note to parents last week indicating that we have postponed our graduation commencement that was scheduled for May 21,” Pratt said. “We plan to reschedule it for

June 11 - same time, same place. Obviously, we have to wait and see what social distancing restrictions there are. We could always push it back a little bit more if that’s what we need to do. We have already engaged in a dialogue with students and student leadership regarding activities like graduation. We have a senior honors night that will be an online event now. I don’t have the details yet, but we are trying to honor those seniors and make sure that they understand how much we appreciate their work and honor their successes. Hopefully we can get some of that done yet in the month of May if it’s going to be

online. Prom is another big event that happens, and we were able to work some avenues to make sure we could still have prom, which is currently scheduled for June 18. Of course, that is tentative, depending on what comes down from the health department and the governor’s office.”

The district will now be able to continue feeding students daily through the end of next month.

“We serve about 600 meals daily,” Pratt said. “There are two pickup points and they do it twice a week, so you get three lunches and three breakfasts at a time. That would typically stop right at the end of the school

year, which for us is usually around June 1, but this year, with what’s going on, the federal department that oversees the food service industry is allowing that to be extended. The current plan is to continue that through the end of June.”

Pratt said that Lowell students working from home are still maintaining an attendance rate between 90 and 94 percent.

“We’re engaging kids every day, so at home attendance has been really good,” Pratt said. “We’ve got great families and great kids to work with, so it’s been very positive. We’ve got our distance learning plan up and running, which we’ve been

working on with families for the past couple weeks. Students are now doing the vast majority of their work online. For kids that don’t have online access, we have arranged to have paper packets sent to their homes. It’s curriculum that we would have covered if they had been going to school, the same stuff. The materials are reviewed online and, using [various communication apps], they can interact with their teachers on a fairly regular basis. A lot of the work is independent, of course. It’s not a full day worth of work, but a high school student might spend somewhere around three or four hours doing it.”

Schools, continued, page 3



50¢



Futures for Frontliners to provide tuition-free college



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer

Last week Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced a new program called "Futures for Frontliners." The idea is to create something like the G.I. Bill for essential workers who have been employed during the

COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a statement on Michigan.gov, the program will be "a tuition-free pathway to college or a technical certificate to essential workers who don't have a college degree. This includes workers like the ones staffing our hospitals and nursing homes, stocking the shelves at grocery stores, providing child care to critical infrastructure workers, manufacturing PPE, protecting public safety, picking up trash, or delivering supplies."

Responding to a question from an unnamed reporter at her daily coronavirus update briefing on Wednesday, April 29, Gov. Whitmer said that Futures for Frontliners will be funded by "federal dollars" from the CARES Act and the Department of Education.

"The Futures for Frontliners program is our way of saying 'thank you' to those who have risked their lives on the front lines of this crisis," Gov. Whitmer said. "This program will ensure tuition-free college opportunities and give these dedicated Michiganders an opportunity to earn a technical certificate, associate degree or even a bachelor's degree. I want to assure all of our workers we will never forget those of you who stepped up and sacrificed their own health during this crisis. You're the reason we're going to get through this."

The "Futures for Frontliners" program is the first of its kind in the country and was inspired by the federal government's support of soldiers returning from World War II by providing

educational opportunities. Gov. Whitmer also announced that she is expanding the state's Workshare Program to allow employers to reduce employee hours to receive weekly unemployment insurance benefits as well as the additional \$600 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance weekly benefit. Both benefits will be funded through federal dollars. Through July, the program can act as supplemental pay for critical infrastructure workers by allowing them to collect the extra \$600 per week.

Gov. Whitmer also called on leaders in Congress to support Sen. Gary Peters' Heroes Fund to provide hazard pay for frontline workers putting their lives on the line to ensure access to life-saving care, food and other critical services

during the pandemic. It is estimated that more than three million of these essential workers are currently on the job in Michigan. The Heroes Fund proposal would provide these workers with an additional \$13 per hour, up to \$25,000, with an additional potential recruitment incentive of up to \$15,000 for essential medical workers.

"No Michigander should have to worry about how to feed their family or pay rent during a crisis," Gov. Whitmer said. "And no Michigander should be scared to go to work. From the beginning, my team and I have been working around the clock to solve those problems for working families. And I will continue to fight for our working people long after this crisis is over."

MI's weekly unemployment rate nation's highest; expected to hit 25%-30%

Michigan reported the nation's highest insured unemployment rate for the week ending April 4 with 17.4 percent, according to US Department of Labor statistics released Thursday. That puts Michigan ahead of Rhode Island (15 percent), Nevada (13.7 percent), Georgia (13.6 percent) and Washington (13.2 percent).

Michigan also reported the second-largest decrease in initial claims for the week ending April 11 behind California (263,342) with 166,347. Michigan went from 382,585 claims to 222,207, according to federal numbers.

The sharp spike is

because a large percentage of Michigan's workforce - advanced manufacturing and skilled trades, for example - were deemed non-essential and shut down in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, according to the Workforce Intelligence Network of Southeast Michigan. Michigan's streamlined filing system also may be contributed to the rapid rise in reported claims, WIN reported.

WIN said the state can expect unemployment to hover around 25 percent to 30 percent for the month of April.

WIN is a partnership of community colleges and workforce development boards known locally

as Michigan Works! Agencies in greater southeast Michigan.

The news comes as the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency reported Thursday that it has paid out \$1.37 billion in benefits to 820,000 unemployed workers affected by COVID-19.

Overall, the US Department of Labor released numbers showing that 1,178,021 Michiganders have filed for unemployment since March 15.

The vast majority of workers who have yet to receive benefits will receive payments shortly after they complete the federal requirement to certify their claim two weeks after filing.

"We're working around the clock to add capacity to the system so that we can continue to process all claims during this historic demand for benefits," said Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity director Jeff Donofrio.

More than 600 UIA

employees are now answering questions over the phone and through the website. The equivalent of 300 full-time staff will also be added to the agency soon.

In the weeks before the pandemic, the UIA received around 5,000 new weekly unemployment claims. During the Great Recession, the weekly high was around 77,000 in 2009. For the last five weeks, claims have ranged between 128,806 to 388,554.

Still, Senate Appropriations Committee chair Jim Stamas (R-Midland) is giving Gov. Gretchen Whitmer a "D" on her response to Michigan's historic unemployment situation.

Stamas pointed to a Sinclair Broadcast Group report that the state's unemployment website crashed for nearly six hours on April 13, and a recent poll published by Bridge Magazine that said over half of all laid-off or

furloughed workers are unsure how they'll feed their families.

"Michigan workers are increasingly feeling frustrated and desperate," Stamas said. "First the virus threatened their lives, then the governor's lockdown threatened their livelihoods, and now the failure of the governor to fix the UIA problems threatens their ability to make ends meet"

He said he's talked to Donofrio about his concerns about people not being able to get benefits and if the problem is largely a result of the Governor's actions.

In related news, jobless rates rose in 14 of

Michigan's 17 major labor market areas in March, according to data released Thursday by the state. The data was collected during the week of March 8-14, prior to the full impact of COVID-19 on the state labor market.

However, "the data did show some payroll job reductions in the leisure and hospitality sector, likely due to some early layoffs in the restaurant industry," said Jason Palmer, director of the state's Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, in a press release issued by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

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New home hospice agency just opened in Lowell



West Michigan HOSPICE

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Aaron and Susie Leetsma have recently opened a new home hospice service in Lowell that will service patients who live in the entire area. West Michigan Hospice can be found in Suite F at 318 E. Main, upstairs in the offices inside the Big Boiler Brewing building.

Aaron Leetsma said he has spent about 20 years working for a home health agency in Newaygo, but they were ready for something closer to their home in Alto.

“My background has been extensively in in-home health care,” Aaron Leetsma said. “I ran a home health agency up in Newaygo [Community Home Health Care] with about 250 active patients, and I did that for about 20 years. Then, for that same employer, I started what’s called a PACE program [Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly]. That is a really phenomenal program and it grew like crazy.”

Leetsma said he left that company because their refusal to update from an all-paper record keeping system was frustrating and because of the exhausting trip to and from work every day.

“Susie and I talked about it quite a bit,” Leetsma said. “We decided I’d been doing this for 20 years for somebody else, maybe it’s time to do something for myself and for my family. And I fundamentally disagreed with the direction that the organization was going in. It was no longer a small, 20-40 patient operation, this was a \$10 million operation and they were still operating it as though it was just a small operation. This way, I would be able to run it and operate it in the way that I believe it needs to be run. So about eight or nine months ago, I started out on the initiative of West Michigan Hospice. I’ve lived in Alto for the past eight years, and I have begun to believe in the power of rurality. Everything that

I’ve done in the past has been in rural communities, and I just really like rural. So we submitted all of our requirements, all the applications, and we received a provisional approval to start seeing patients back around the first of the year.”

West Michigan Hospice was one of the few organizations able to benefit from the coronavirus pandemic because Medicare stopped doing routine audits in order to focus their attention on brand new agencies. Otherwise they would have had to treat patients for free.

“We requested our accreditation audit in early March,” Leetsma said. “That was before the whole COVID-19 thing really ramped up. Our expectation was that we’d be put on the schedule and they’d come out in three or four months. It’s definitely a very weird and difficult time to do a healthcare startup! But what happened was, Medicare said they

are not doing any standard or routine audits, the only audits they are going to do are initial hospice startups. So that was pretty lucky! Instead of having to wait three or four months and continue to carry those patients pro bono, they came out in about two weeks. It was April 8, the auditors came out and they gave us the green light to start seeing patients, which is really, really fantastic. So that was kind of a silver lining in all of this.”

Elder care is Leetsma’s passion, particularly in rural areas where there isn’t much public support and the closest neighbor might live more than a mile away.

“I love being able to help people, especially in rural communities where individuals are often isolated and people are just in greater need,” Leetsma said. “In hospice care, you’re dealing with individuals in a very vulnerable stage of life. It is an impactful thing to be able to go in and provide

a benefit to somebody. I know it sounds like an oversimplification, but I’ve just got a heart for people and I like to be able to help. I just like to be able to go into a patient’s home and provide an impactful visit, provide care that the person benefits from. It’s just fun for me. And, unfortunately, a lot of home health and hospice organizations base their operations in Grand Rapids. Which is fine, but not for me.”

For more information, visit westmichiganhospice.com, call 616-258-2680 or send a message to aleestma@westmichiganhospice.com.

“It’s really as simple as a phone call,” Leetsma said. “My normal practice is that I will do the initial contact with the family, go out to the patient’s home and find out what their needs are. I just kind of ask them what’s going on, how can I help, and I just let them tell their story.”



Aaron and Susie Leetsma, owners of West Michigan Hospice, recently opened in downtown Lowell.

Schools, continued

Pratt said that the most important advice he gives to parents of bored kids is to encourage reading, reading and reading.

“Parents want to make sure their students are ready to move forward to the next grade,” Pratt said. “So I get this question a lot: ‘How can I make sure my student is not falling behind?’ I remind parents that the number one thing that our students can do is take time to read, even reading with mom and dad or having mom and dad

read the student a book. Older students have a wide variety of online materials, we have a number of online books through Lowell Area Schools, or they could go through the Kent District Library and get online books that way. And the Internet is just filled with material to read. Hopefully students are taking time each and every day to read, to practice that skill. It’s a skill that impacts pretty much everything we do later in life.”

At this point, it has not

yet been determined how this will effect next year’s budget, but the effect will probably not be positive.

“We’re starting to look at next year’s budget, and there will be impacts due to the loss of revenue from the state,” Pratt said. “What that will look like, we’re not sure yet, but we’ll be keeping everyone posted on how that impacts our budget for the upcoming school year. We hope there’s not, but we’re expecting to see some sort of reduction of our current

funding. It just depends on how much. There are so many unknowns.”

All of these decisions could change, and probably will, as the situation develops. Pratt said the district sincerely appreciates the patience and understanding of people in the community.

“I really appreciate our community,” Pratt said. “As difficult as this has been, I think our community has done a very nice job of handling the difficult situation, the changes in

scheduling, the move to online learning, the events that have been postponed or changed, the loss of the athletic season. Our community has done a very good job of understanding.

These are very unique circumstances, and I appreciate working with such a fine community.”

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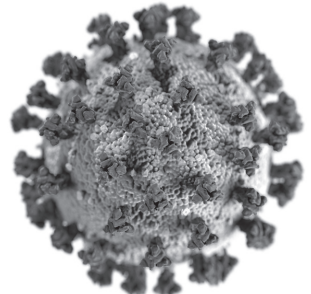
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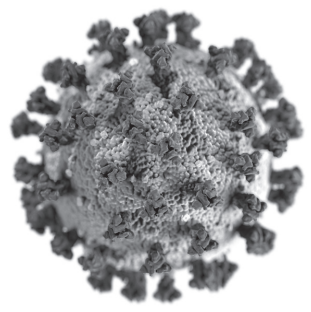


Cancer and COVID-19



The COVID-19 outbreak of 2020 caught many people, particularly those in the western hemisphere, off guard. As the virus spread, the lives of hundreds of millions of people throughout North America and Europe changed dramatically, and seemingly overnight, prompting many to wonder if they or their loved ones were going to get sick.

No one was thought to be immune to COVID-19, though many people were unfortunately believed to be more vulnerable to the disease than others. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, older adults and people with serious chronic medical conditions are at the greatest risk of getting sick from COVID-19.

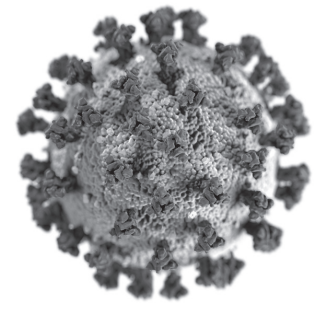


The American Cancer Society notes that cancer patients, like groups with an elevated risk of getting sick from COVID-19, must do all they can to avoid being exposed to the virus. That's because the immune systems of cancer patients, particularly those in active chemotherapy and bone marrow transplant patients, can be severely weakened. In fact, in March 2020 officials with the Fred

Hutchinson Cancer Research Center warned that early data from China and Italy, two countries which experienced early and widespread outbreaks of the disease, indicated that cancer patients would be at increased risk of getting the virus.

Are all cancer patients at risk?

Dr. Steve Pergram, the medical director of infection prevention at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, said that patients with blood

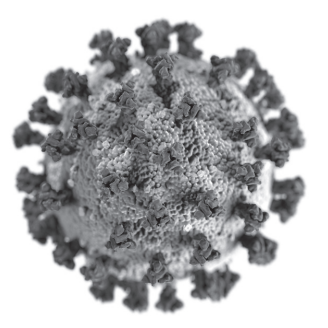


malignancies are most at risk for COVID-19. Blood malignancies include non-Hodgkin lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, acute myeloid leukemia, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and multiple myeloma. While people with these forms of cancer may be most at risk of getting COVID-19, it's important to note that all cancer patients, including those who recently concluded treatment, are vulnerable. Those who concluded treatment should know that the aftereffects of treatment can linger long after treatment programs have ended, and those aftereffects may continue to compromise patients' immune systems.

What can cancer patients do to protect themselves from COVID-19?

Cancer patients should embrace the safety protocols recommended

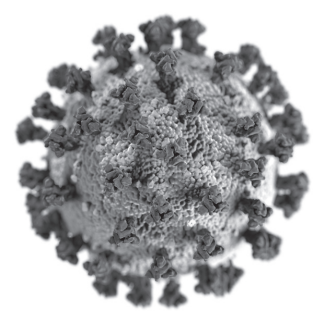
by the CDC, including social distancing measures and limiting direct contact with other people. Seniors in cancer treatment should take advantages of opportunities to limit their



exposure to COVID-19, such as visiting grocery stores during seniors-only hours and opting to participate in digital religious services instead of in-person services. In addition, patients can work with their cancer care teams to devise ways to continue receiving treatment without elevating their risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Cancer patients also may need to adjust their expectations in regard to visits with their physicians. Dr. Len Lichtenfeld of the ACS noted that cancer patients may need to book virtual follow-up visits with their physicians or even delay preventative procedures aimed at reducing the likelihood of recurrence.

COVID-19 does not discriminate, but cancer patients may be among the



most vulnerable to getting the virus. Learn more about cancer and COVID-19 at cancer.org.

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viewpoint

to the editor

Dear Editor:

This letter is about going back to work during the pandemic. I believe that there are many businesses in Michigan that could be reopened but only if there is a mandatory wearing of masks for all employees and the public they come in contact with. I believe all employees of businesses like grocery stores should be wearing masks and businesses would fail in keeping their employees and customers safe if they allow customers to enter their business without masks. There's been way too many lives sacrificed already, not one life should be sacrificed so social gathering businesses like dine-in restaurants, bars theaters and other places where crowds gather can be allowed to reopen prematurely. I believe the

reopening of places of social gatherings without doing distancing and mandatory wearing of masks would more than likely spell disaster for Michigan.

*James Howard
Lowell Township*

Dear Editor:

The letter to the editor (April 22, 2020) from Michelle Kendall is spot on. As the letter to Governor Whitmer from Fred Jacobs on the back pages of this same issue states "Your aggressive isolation strategy is saving lives." A strategy I can live with.

*S. Mark Bogdanik
Gowen*

Dear Editor:

CHOICES!

A call to my brother prompted a question from him, "Have you driven through the cemetery lately?" "No, why?" He suggested I do so.

The next morning, May Day, I drove by my lot in Oakwood cemetery and to my delight there were daffodils blooming in front of the headstone. I hadn't planted them. Evidently, last fall a person, known to this community, planted them. My lot wasn't the only recipient of his generosity.

During this time of "sheltering in place", I'm glad I took a drive through the cemetery. I took time

to reflect on loved ones no longer here.

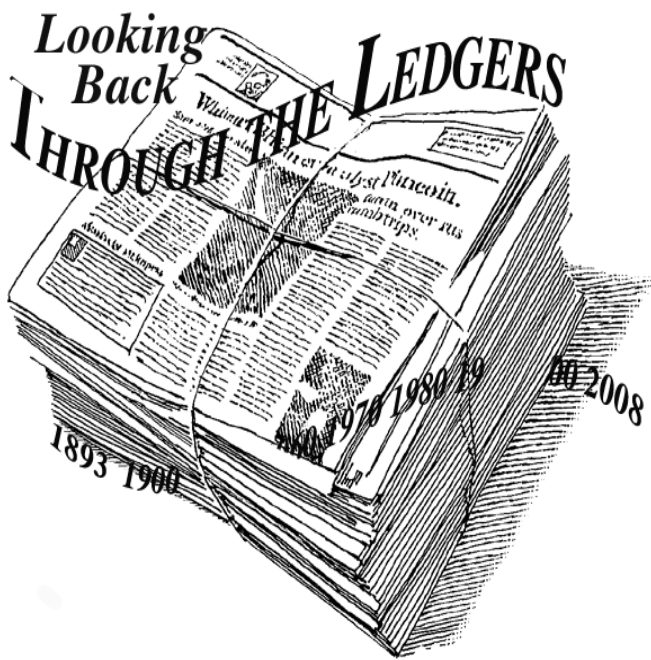
I wonder how many of us have been bitter about the restrictions placed on us during this pandemic. We can choose to be 'bitter' or 'better' or choose fear vs. hope. I trust you choose hope for better days ahead. It's all about choices. I experienced a special May Day when I realized someone chose to make my world a better place by planting a bit of sunshine in my life with a row of daffodils by the headstone of my loved one.

As I slowly drove through the cemetery, I had a vision of daffodils by each

headstone. Can you imagine a sea of yellow daffodils gracing the cemetery next Spring? Perhaps together we could make this happen. What a statement it would make; there is life after death. We see it every spring when the flowers bloom.

Lowell is my hometown and we can all make it "the best place to be". Blessings to all and stay well.

*Glad Fletcher
Lowell*



125 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 10, 1895

Arthur Waterman, Proprietor of the Davis hotel at Lowell, was the victim last night of one of those bicycle fiends who think they own the whole street and that no one else has any right upon it. While walking along North Division street, at Park street, he was run into by a wheelman who was riding at rapid rate of speed. Mr. Waterman, who is 47 years of age, was knocked down with such violence that his left side and arm were badly bruised. At first his arm was thought to have been fractured. The ambulance was summoned and he was taken to the Union Benevolent Association hospital. The careless wheelman escaped injury and dashed away in the darkness without stopping to find out what injury he had done. He was undoubtedly riding faster than the ordinance allows on business thoroughfares—six miles an hour—and if his identity can be established an example may be made of him.

Last Saturday Mr. McNaughton, an old gentleman of 67 years was engaged in land rolling for his son, on the "Bisby" farm in Vergennes. In some manner he fell and the roller passed over him, and when found life was extinct. Funeral services were held at Ada on Tuesday and the remains were interred in the Egypt cemetery.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 13, 1920

An Illinois man who bought a Muskegon sand farm "unsight and unseen," found out that it was "no good," and hung himself three weeks after the purchase. The real estate man who worked the deal, committed a crime against the state of Michigan, in which thousands of good farms are for sale at fair prices.

A new form of encephalitis lethargics, caused by the germ of influenza and attacking the brain of its victim, is exacting almost unhindered toll among the children of Vienna, according to reports from the Red Cross missions at Vienna to national headquarters here. The disease, which has thus far defied the power of medical science, leaves its victim stupefied and terribly emaciated. One child aged seven years, according to the Red Cross reports, weighed only 29 pounds when it died a victim of the disease.

Miss Ella Perrin, whose name was mentioned in connection with the Ellis bank robbery, was also a niece of Mrs. John Kellog, with whom she had lived since early childhood, until leaving Lowell.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 10, 1945

VE-day, the triumphant day long looked forward to by allied people all over the world, was proclaimed officially Tuesday morning, May 8, by President Harry S. Truman, in a radio broadcast in which he declared that he had set next Sunday, Mothers Day, as a day of prayer in which he wanted all to join. For in rejoicing over victory he asked the nation not to forget that "sorrow and heartache" abide in the homes of thousands of Americans, and that there is work and more work, still to be done before the Japanese menace to civilization is erased by their unconditional surrender.

The closing of Willow Run, giant bomber plant, which has served its purpose of turning out destruction for our now defeated enemy, has sent thousands of workers back to the communities from whence they came. A number of these have now returned to their homes in Lowell and vicinity.

A telegram from the War Department Wednesday morning informed relatives that Howard Acheson was reported missing over Austria on April 24. Lowell

friends all join in hoping that favorable news will soon be forthcoming.

50 years ago The Lowell Ledger May 14, 1970

Negotiations have been completed to bring the famed husband-wife team of Steve Allen and Jane Meadows to Lowell for he final three performances of Lowell Showboat '70.

Full military honors will be accorded PFC Jack Alden Noon during services Saturday at 2 pm at Roth Funeral Home for the 20-year-old Lowell area soldier killed May 1 in Vietnam.

Though both parties report they are "trying to work something out," it became apparent at Monday night's meeting of the Lowell Area School Board of Education that Jack Kemper will not return as varsity basketball coach next season.

Looking back, continued, page 14

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



METRO HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

Johnathan G. Meier, D.O.
Wayne A. Christenson, D.O.
Tracy L. Lixie, D.O.

Laura E. Kass, PA-C
Kaili M. Walker, PA-C
Alexandria Clum, PA-C
Catherine S. Smith, NP-C

- seasonal allergies

Spring is arriving and this is a common time for people to experience allergy symptoms.

Allergies occur due to an immune response your body mounts to a foreign substance. Allergies can develop to pollens, molds, foods, drugs, and insect bites.

Seasonal allergies are commonly caused by pollen and mold which become airborne. When you are exposed to the allergen, your body releases something called histamine which causes your symptoms.

Symptoms include sneezing, itchy/watery eyes, nasal congestion and runny noses, and itching of the nose/eyes, or even the roof of your mouth.

Having asthma or a family history of asthma or allergies, increases your risk of allergies.

Preventing the allergic reaction can be difficult with environmental allergens like pollens and molds. Staying indoors with windows and doors closed during high pollen count days can help.

Antihistamine medications which are available over the counter

are very helpful. These should be taken ideally prior to exposure to known allergens and continued for about four weeks. They will prevent further histamine from being released but will not help the histamine that's been released prior to taking the medication. Nasal steroids that are now available over the counter are also very helpful. These should be used daily for several weeks at a time, or until the known allergen is no longer circulating. There are also over-the-counter anti-allergy eye drops which are very helpful for people who experience significant eye symptoms. Nasal saline irrigation can also help.

For people with severe allergy symptoms, immunotherapy can be used. This is the commonly known "allergy shots" that people get. Patients need to see an allergist and have allergy testing done to determine what specific allergens they are reacting to prior to starting this type of therapy. There are also blood tests to help identify potential allergens, but these do not correlate well with actual triggers. Skin testing is better.

ABCs of Lowell history

The Lowell Area Historical Museum introduces a new weekly feature to explore local history. During this time of closed museums, we want to still be able to share our area's history with you.

F is for Floods

The Flat River runs through the center of downtown Lowell, running

under Main Street before flowing south into the Grand River. The close proximity of these two rivers to town has put Lowell repeatedly in the path of floods. This was a good thing for the Odawa that lived here, providing fertilizer for crops that were grown along the rivers. Later, as settlers began building permanent

buildings along the rivers it could lead to damage.

The flood of 1904 caused extensive damage to the city, turning streets into rivers. Another flood in 1905 resulted in flood waters rushing over seven dams including the one at Main Street. Main Street itself was washed out along with two retail buildings

and damage done to several other buildings.

After the 1904 and 1905 floods, flooding would not be significant again until 1948. That year flood waters rose to cover Main Street and many residential streets. Recently the flood of 2013 saw waters again rise up to Main Street flooding many basements.



Main Street looking northeast. The flood has washed out the road. A temporary wood bridge is being built already just two days after the flood. Photo courtesy of The Lowell Area Historical Museum.

...

Any idiot can face a crisis; it's this day-to-day living that wears you out.

- Anton Chekhov

business matters

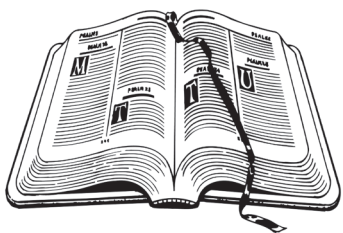


Greenridge Realty announced that Ryan Heschke received Sales Person of the Month in March.

This award recognizes Heschke for his outstanding success and achievements.



area churches

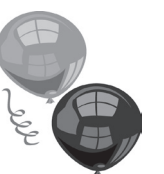


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happy birthday



May 6
Jace Bellah

May 10
Dee Korb, Rebecca Boruta, Jim Lindhout, Eric Swift

May 7
John Schalow, LeAnne VanDyke, Duane Rasch

May 11
Carol Briggs, Joel Uzarski, David Kaczanowski, Gary Hoag, Benjamin Hoag, Brad Janowiak

May 8
Rhoda Greenman-Batt, Rhonda Timmers, Mary Mooney, F.J. Johnson Jr., Emily Milstead

May 9
Tasha Brand, Ashley Reinbold, Hillary Briggs, Eric Witherell, Bobbie Clouser, Amy VanDuijn

May 12
Michele Lindhout-Barber, Jessica Covell, Carrie Kiczanski, Ian Duiven, Ryan Timmers, Christine Vickers

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KCYF VP's mother used to write Nancy Drew books

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

As vice president of the Kent County Youth Fair and a friendly, active fellow, if you don't personally know Bruce Doll, it's likely that you've seen him around town. What you might not know about Bruce is that his adoptive mother, Patricia Doll, spent over 10 years as a ghostwriter whose anonymous contributions to series such as Nancy Drew and The Hardy Boys have sold millions of copies and are still in print today.

Now in his early 60s, Bruce was a little boy in 1966 when his mom stopped working for the Stratemeyer Syndicate. He says that Pat never hid her work, he was well aware of what she was up to and sometimes was personally involved in her adventures.

"I grew up with her, and it wasn't a big secret or anything," Bruce Doll said. "I've read that some of the authors kept it secret and stuff. I was still young when she stopped doing it, I was nine then, so during most of my childhood she was doing stuff like that. I knew she was doing it because we'd get a copy of the book! She would bring home a bag of books once in a while, or we would get to do some research, like when she did 'The Bobbsey Twins and the Circus Surprise' we ended up going to the circus where we got the backlot tour to see what *really* goes on at the circus. That was awesome. I was probably six years old and getting to meet the circus people and the animals and all that. I remember standing next to

an elephant, looking up at it like... 'Oh my God!'"

Patricia Adelaide Freggens was born in Orange, New Jersey on June 10, 1926. Intelligent, creative, ambitious and attractive, she got an English degree from Bradford Junior College in Massachusetts, then earned a BS in Business Education from Syracuse University in 1948, where she was active in the Pi Beta Phi sorority.

After college she worked as a service representative for Bell Telephone in Newark, NJ but left after one year to study shorthand. That certification got her a job as a legal stenographer in the Newark office of her father Carl at Public Service Coordinated

Transport. After gaining some experience there, she moved on to secretarial positions with various companies in New York and New Jersey, including Schenley Industries, DuPont and Ciba Pharmaceuticals. She quit that job because of her opposition to testing on animals. Finally, in early 1953, she answered a newspaper ad for a secretarial position at the Stratemeyer Syndicate, a juvenile fiction company headquartered in Manhattan. Doll would spend the next 13 years there contributing to everything from simple typing to elaborate creative projects. During her syndicate career she ghostwrote, re-wrote and helped revise many Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys, Bobbsey Twins and other novels. Also, at some point she married Cliff Doll and



Patricia Doll was secretly the author of several books in the Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys and other series.

they adopted a baby named Bruce Thomas. Bruce was reunited with his birth family recently, but that is a story for another day.

According to what she wrote in her 1966 resume, at the Stratemeyer Syndicate, Pat Doll was responsible for "secretarial and editorial work in the office of this literary organization, creators and owners of a dozen juvenile series including The Bobbsey Twins, Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys, Tom Swift and The Happy Hollisters. Involved work of a highly creative yet technical nature. Range of required talents from proofreading

to idea suggestions and rapid manuscript typing. Submitted original story ideas and wrote books, with release, under pseudonym. From 1958-1966, editorial work and ghostwriting juvenile fiction in my house. Proofreading galleys, research, did special typing projects, set up elaborate card system."

They certainly kept their employees busy.

The Stratemeyer Syndicate was founded by Edward Stratemeyer, the son of German immigrants, in New York City in 1906. Stratemeyer, a prolific author himself, would come up

with ideas and outlines for a book or a series, then he paid journalists and other writers to turn these ideas into full-length works of fiction. The writers were paid a flat fee, usually the equivalent of several weeks salary, while Stratemeyer kept the copyrights and the profits. The books were credited to authors that did not actually exist. Nancy Drew series author Carolyn Keene was actually over two dozen obscure people including Harriet Stratemeyer Adams (daughter of Edward), Mildred Wirt Benson, Patricia Doll, US Navy captain Walter Karig,

George Waller Jr., Margaret Scherf, Wilhelmina Rankin, Alma Sasse, Charles Strong, Iris Vinton and Nancy Axelrad. Likewise, there was no Franklin W. Dixon, most of the original Hardy Boys novels were created by a Canadian journalist named Leslie McFarlane. Some other popular series the Stratemeyer Syndicate was responsible for included the Rover Boys, Tom Swift and the Dana Girls, and none of the authors of those series were real people either.

When Edward died in 1930, his daughters Harriet Stratemeyer Adams and

Patricia Doll, continued, page 8



Bruce Doll with his adoptive parents Clifford and Patricia in the pond at the Stratemeyer Syndicate company picnic, Harriet Stratemeyer Adams' farm, New Jersey, June 1958.



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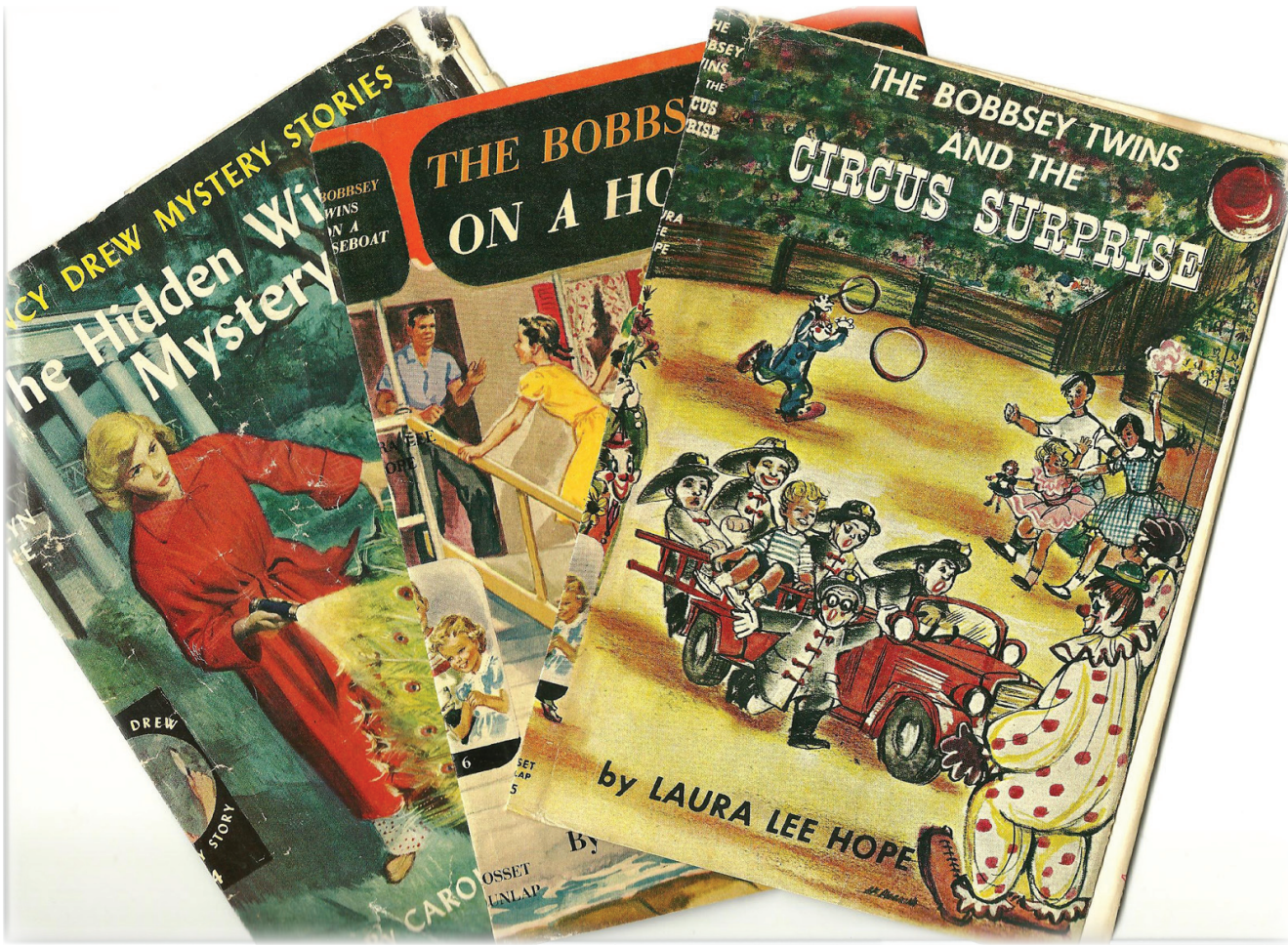
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Patricia Doll, continued



A selection of books from Pat Doll's personal collection, it's likely she was the primary author of these titles.

Edna Stratemeyer Squier inherited the business. Edna dropped out to get married in 1942, so Harriet ran the syndicate for the next 42 years, keeping the characters active and relevant through the Great Depression, World War II and subsequent

youth culture upheavals. Harriet finally retired and sold the company to Simon & Schuster in 1984 for \$4,710,000.

"Harriet Stratemeyer Adams was a really, really, really nice lady," Doll said. "She kind of was like a

grandmother to a lot of the kids of the authors. She was always very nice, and she would send nice Christmas and birthday presents. Every summer she had a party out at her farm in New Jersey, and it was really, really cool. She'd have the entire

company out there, a big company party with the kids and the parents and all that. I remember there were just a lot of people there. It was a hobby farm, but it was my first experience seeing animals. They had a pond, and you could take the little rowboat out on the pond. It's probably why I like to live in the country. Harriet always sent out a nice Christmas bonus too, a decent bonus for back then. She was a good person and an incredibly good businesswoman."

The Stratemeyer Syndicate copyrights are now owned by Mega-

Books, whose ghostwriters are churning out brand new stories to this day. Billions of Stratemeyer Syndicate books have been sold all over the world in dozens of different languages, and when you consider the various TV series, movies and other merchandise, the characters and their anonymous authors have generated billions of dollars in profits for whatever organization owns them.

Ghostwriting is a dirty little secret of the publishing industry that still goes on today. Books credited to celebrities, politicians and many popular mass-market authors such as V.C. Andrews or Tom Clancy are often the work of ghostwriters. Edward Stratemeyer actually had one of his first successes in publishing when he ghost-finished a few of Horatio Alger's uncompleted works and printed them as brand new books after Alger's death in 1899.

Nancy Drew expert Geoffrey Lapin, interviewed by telephone from his home in Indiana, was one of the first people to figure out that some of the authors of his favorite books were as fictional as the characters on the pages. Lapin eventually became good friends with Mildred Wirt Benson, one of the most prolific and well-known syndicate ghostwriters. Thanks to some clever lawyering, she is the only ghostwriter credited by name in the books where she was the primary author. Lapin said he got hooked on the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew series when he was in third grade.

"I grew up in Baltimore, and when I was a kid in the 50s my family had a summer home down at the seashore in Atlantic City, before it got destroyed," Lapin said. "I was spending the entire summer there with my mom, and my father would come up on weekends. Sometimes I used to hang out in the public library there, which they still had because it was still a family town at the time. The neighborhood library had all the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew books, and I started reading them all. Then I was curious about who had written them, but it said in the card catalog, 'Carolyn Keene, pseudonym, real name unknown.' At first I was like, 'What is a pseudonym?!' then I just started checking it out. When I was back in Baltimore later, when I was like a sophomore in high school, I was researching it in the public library there. Someone had penciled a notation into a Carolyn Keene book that said, 'See Mildred Wirt Benson in 'American Women' by Durward.' That book had this little biographical sketch of her, it had her listed as living in Toledo, and I was able to trace her through that. In the reference department of the library they had phone books on the shelves, so I went in there and found her address in Toledo and wrote to her. I was the first person to contact her in many, many decades. This would have been in about 1969. She said she would be glad to talk with me, so I took a bus from Indianapolis over

Patricia Doll, continued, page 9

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Harriet Stratemeyer Adams

Patricia Doll, continued

Stratemeyer Syndicate

Books for Boys and Girls

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Harriet S. Adams
Edna C. Squier

Telephone
ORange 3-2990

December 21, 1956

Dear Pat,

In appreciation of that original streak and great help the past year I enclose a bonus check with best regards from the Syndicate.

Beginning January first your salary will be \$85 a week.
Merry Christmas!

Harriet Adams

"December 21, 1956

Dear Pat,

In appreciation of that original streak and great help the past year I enclose a bonus check with best regards from the Syndicate.

Beginning January First your salary will be \$85 a week.

Merry Christmas!

Harriet Adams"

to Toledo and met her at the newspaper office where she worked, and then we got to be really close friends. This was an amazing experience!"

The first Nancy Drew novel, "The Secret of the Old Clock" was published in 1930 and has never gone out of print. However, the book that people loved in 1930 is not the same book you'll find in bookstores today. To update cultural references and slang and to remove a lot of terribly racist content, Harriet Stratemeyer Adams initiated a project in the late 50s to revise and reprint the whole roster of series. The updating process (called "cut-downs" in the industry) has been repeated occasionally ever since and is likely to continue as tastes evolve and technology changes. And most important, it saves the publisher money.

"That [updating the content] is the reason that was given for publicity," Lapin said. "But the fact was that the printing plates were wearing out! And they wanted to save money, so instead of redoing them with the same printing plates,

they wanted them to be updated. That's when they could take out the racism and the material about flapper dresses and roadsters. They also shortened them from 25

to 20 chapters, so that saved more money as well. And originally, the books would all have four illustrations on glossy paper that were all hand-glued to the paper.

They cut that down over the years to just have the frontispiece - one main picture in the front across from the title page. So it was all done to save money for

If
you like
an old-time
tree, dress yours
with simplicity. Long
ago a tree looked merry
strung with popcorn, nuts and
berry. Had no skirt to warm its
feet—candy canes to swing a beat—
twinkle lights to make a show, star
on top to catch a glow. Fashion rules
our modern tree, and other people seldom
see mementoes that are wired in but not to
fill a branch that's thin!

NOEL
NOEL
NOEL

Patricia and Clifford Doll

Pat Doll, 1967

the publishers."

According to Lapin, he has seen documents that prove Pat Doll had a major role in at least five Nancy Drew novels: The Secret of the Old Clock, The Hidden Staircase, The Bungalow Mystery, The Mystery at Lilac Inn, The Sign of the Twisted Candles and The Password to Larkspur Lane. Various online sources also attribute The Hidden Window Mystery to her and Lapin said there are "three possible additional titles." She also labored in some capacity on many other titles in many other series.

"One of her first jobs for the syndicate was to reread the books and take copious notes to decide what could be changed, rewritten or redone completely," Lapin said. "Pat was instrumental in figuring out how to edit, completely change or rewrite all of these classic Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys and Bobbsey Twins books. She did the very first rewrites for the very first Nancy Drew book, 'The Secret of the Old Clock.' She was fast at what she was doing and she was good at it. But chances

are that when the syndicate was bought by Simon & Schuster, anything that was historically significant was probably just stored in a warehouse someplace, and nobody probably cares or knows about it anymore."

The existence of the Stratemeyer Syndicate's ghostwriters was first publicly revealed in the late 70s when Grosset & Dunlap, at that time the publisher of the syndicate's books, sued the company for "breach of contract, copyright infringement and unfair competition" when the syndicate wanted to reprint some series books in paperback and have Simon & Schuster print a few brand new titles. Until then the books had always been hardcovers and either reprints or revisions of existing titles.

While she did have plenty of creative input, Lapin said that Harriet Stratemeyer Adams eventually lost control of her ego and began to take sole credit for the work of her ghostwriters. And because the real authors signed non-disclosure

Patricia Doll, continued, page 16

CITY OF LOWELL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Lowell City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 18, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lowell City Hall Council Chambers on the second floor of the City Hall, 301 E. Main Street in the City of Lowell to receive public comment, verbally or in writing, on the proposed 2020-21 City Budget and the proposed 2020-2021 Millage Rates. The proposed budget provides for general fund expenditures of \$3,225,751.63. The proposed millage rates are 15.70 mills for City operations and .2423 extra voted millage for museum operations.

THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING.

A copy of the proposed 2020-2021 Budget is available for review and inspection during normal business hours at the Lowell City Hall and on our website at www.lowellmi.gov.

Interested persons may submit written comments to the City Clerk prior to the hearing or may appear and speak in person at the hearing. Persons with special needs, as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the City Clerk at (616) 897-8457 or the Michigan Relay Center TDD 1-800-649-3777 for accommodations.



Susan Ullery
City Clerk

Red Arrow

- SOFTBALL

SPORTS

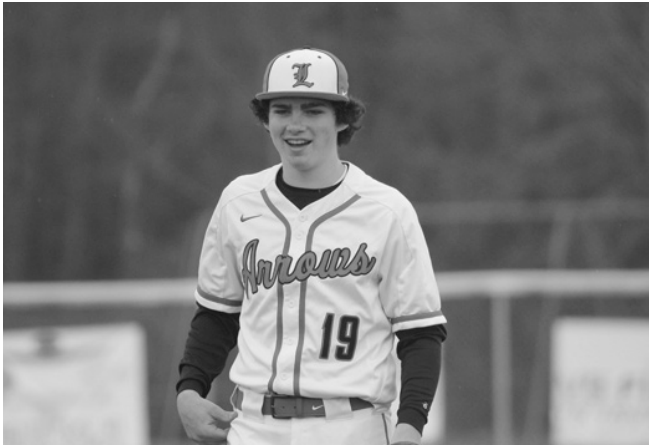
Honoring Senior athletes: baseball and softball

by Justin Scott
contributing reporter

Sports aren't at the forefront of most people's minds currently. With the COVID-19 pandemic, 67 Lowell High School seniors, unfortunately, saw their last year of spring sports come to an abrupt end. We'll certainly miss being able to cover these seniors play the sports they love. All of us at the Ledger in partnership with the LHS athletic department and spring sports coaches look forward to highlighting all 67 over the next few weeks. This week we'll be featuring the 11 seniors from the Lowell High School baseball and softball teams.

Benny Davis

Davis has been in the high school baseball program for four years at LHS, as well as basketball his freshman and sophomore year. In baseball, his primary position was in centerfield. Davis was the starting centerfielder both his



junior and senior years and served as a captain during his junior year on the varsity baseball team. Davis is going to GRCC in the fall and will be following his father's footsteps by getting a criminal justice degree in hopes of becoming a police officer.

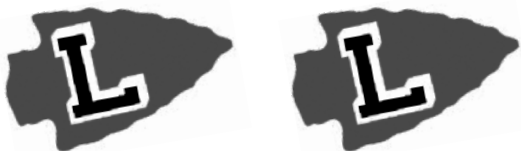


Krin Beach

Having played first baseman, third baseman, catcher, and right-field during high school, Beach was a hard-working versatile softball player. Her favorite memory was pulling off a suicide squeeze in districts last year. Her constant positivity and leadership will be greatly



missed next year. Beach will be attending Grand Rapids Community College this fall and will play softball there as well. She plans to become a behavioral therapist.



Cade Solomonson

Solomonson was a four-year athlete in both baseball and football at LHS, while also playing basketball for his



first two years. On the baseball diamond he was a second baseman. Coach Justin Miller notes that "Cade had a strong junior year, working his way to a regular starting position as a junior. When our staff thinks of Cade we see a player who loves to compete and to just be out on the diamond with his classmates." Solomonson will be attending Alma University studying Business. He will also play football for the Scots.



Audrey Conrad

A four-year student-athlete in three sports, Conrad played softball, basketball, and ran cross-country during her time at LHS. She also was going to participate in track & field this spring as a part of the team's middle distance events. She holds the second best time in school history for cross-country. Conrad will be attending Cornerstone University this fall, where she will participate in cross-country and track and field. She will be pursuing an exercise science degree. *Photo courtesy of Nicole Tuttle.*



Matt Stephens

Stephens played first baseman for the Lowell baseball program and also participated in football as a linebacker. "He always gave great effort towards the team, whether it was seeing the need of fundraising or on the field as a



teammate. His unselfishness that made him so enjoyable to be around will be missed and we believe his character skill set will make him a successful adult." Coach Miller said of him. Stephens will go to trade school next year while working as an apprentice and after seven years he plans to earn his masters in electrical.



Tyler Lange

Lange is a four-year baseball player and also participated in basketball his freshman and sophomore year. "Tyler worked really hard this winter getting ready to compete at third base and be a regular contributor from the mound for our Arrows in 2020. Tyler moves really



well for his height and our staff was excited to see him put his glove to work this spring," Coach Miller said of Lange. Lange will be attending Grand Rapids Community College this fall.

Red Arrow

- BASEBALL

SPORTS

Honoring Senior athletes: baseball and softball

Kaia Zimmerman

Zimmerman played varsity softball all four of her high school years earning multiple honors including all-conference and all-district. She played several positions



including third baseman, second baseman, and shortstop. Her favorite softball memory was hitting an RBI single against Bay City Western in the state quarterfinals last year. A scholar athlete, Zimmerman will attend Grand Rapids Community College this fall intending to major in journalism and political science.

Grady McDonald

McDonald has participated in football and baseball during his time at LHS and served as a captain for



baseball during his junior season. As a baseball player he split between being an outfielder, catcher, as well as a designated hitter. "Our staff feels that Grady is a player of grit. You always trusted that he did everything he could to be prepared. He always respected a challenge that could test him both physically and mentally," added Coach Miller of Grady. A scholar-athlete, McDonald is continuing his secondary education at Purdue or Michigan Tech University.

Logan Staley

A multi-sport athlete, Staley played baseball and football throughout his time at LHS, as well as basketball his first two years. For baseball, his primary position was pitcher and also played in the outfield. "Logan has a gift of a left arm and we were really excited to see his hard



work pay off this spring on the mound. He would give you everything he had with no regrets," Coach Miller said of Logan. Staley has committed to play football for Michigan Tech University next year and study building construction management or civil engineering.

Jenna Perry

Perry will finish her Lowell career as a four-year varsity softball player. During her time she played centerfield/outfield and her favorite memory was hitting a home run against Reeths-Puffer in regionals last year. She also served as the student section leader and was named homecoming queen this past fall. Perry will be attending Western Michigan University this fall to study digital marketing or business law. Photo courtesy of Lowell Red Arrows Softball.



Kenzie Jordan

Like many of her fellow softball seniors, Jordan will end up as a four-year starting varsity player. She played first and third base during her time at LHS earning all-



district and all-regional honors. Her favorite memories include hitting back-to-back home runs and playing in the state quarterfinals. Jordan will be continuing her education and softball career at Aquinas in the fall.



CONGRATULATIONS!

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obituaries

DeJONG



John C. DeJong, age 81 of Lowell, went to be with the Lord, Thursday, April 30, 2020. He was preceded in death by his children, Aaron & Kelly. John is survived by his wife of 56 years, Kathleen; children, Tom MacManus, Michael (Joy), Mark Patrick (Katie), Thomas (Randalee), Jon Joseph (Josie), Patricia, Margaret DeJong, Jennifer Kathleen (Jason) June; sisters, Patricia (Tom) Toosley, Janet (Patrick) Coffee; grandchildren; Adam, Brook, Naomi, Noelle, Brittney, Trevor, Emmett, Samuel, McKinney, Jacob, Deaglan, Julieann, T.J., Keegen, Aurora, Amaru, Amara, Olivia; and one granddaughter, Payten. John was one of the most charismatic individuals and was very proud to be cursillista. On top of that he was amongst the greatest jack-of-all trades: from a naval platoon leader, a DJ, a golden glove trainer, a poem, song & article writer, a football coach, a fisherman, a quality control director, a piano player, a clarinet player, a harmonica player, a Christian bible study leader, a teacher, a church councilman, a servant, an electrician, a good Samaritan, an author, a wood working craftsman, a painter of beautiful art...and then this man found time to be a husband, father, and grandfather, even a great grandfather, and just when you think this man has done it all...he became an Angel! Private funeral services were held 11am Tuesday, May 5th at St. Mary Catholic Church, 402 Amity St., Lowell. Roth-Gerst will be livestreaming the service from the church from their Facebook page. Rev. Aaron Ferris officiating. Interment St. Mary's Cemetery. Memorial Contributions may be made to Right to Life, 2340 Porter St., SW P.O. Box 901 Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0901 or Doctors Without Borders USA, P.O. Box 5030, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5030.



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In Memory of Angela M. Scharaswak Wife, Mother, Friend 10/1965 - 04/2020



It's hard to capture in words the woman mom was. She married her High School sweetheart and they were married for 39 years when mom went to be with the lord. From the time they were married she gave everything she had and more to her family, she loved more than everything else. Mom gave birth to 3 children but she raised many more. She loved to help when

new babies were born into the family.

She was one of the bravest and most resilient woman ever known. She took on raising a family at a young age without batting an eye. Mom was an inspiration to every one she knew. She gave selflessly and shared everything.

Mom could make something of nothing, and have leftover. She was a Best Friend, Soulmate, Plant Geek, Animal Lover, and Undercover black belt whose blood was 70% caffeine. She would share her plant cuttings but only if you promised to try and take care of them.

Mom loves to learn new things about plants especially. She also loved to paint and try new techniques. She was an artist but always questioned her ability. She was an avid sewer, especially of clothing she made for her children, grand children, and many other family members.

Mom loved to encourage people and animals to grow into what they could be. She touched people most through her excitement, and love of plants.

We Love and Miss You!
Your Family

DOYLE

Maureen (Mo) Kay Doyle April 3, 1958 – May 1, 2020

We lost a gem too early. Maureen (Mo) Kay Doyle, 62 of Grand Rapids, Michigan passed away due to complications from a cardiac arrest on Friday, May 1st, our most beautiful day to-date in the 2020 calendar year. During her final days, Maureen was physically surrounded and supported by close family members. She also was able to receive additional phone calls and webcam visits from family members and friends. May 1st was a fitting day for Mo to transition to her spiritual afterlife. Within many cultures, this day is recognized as "spring's rebirth", encouraging people to come together to celebrate life. Mo celebrated and enjoyed life every day. If you knew Mo, you were witness to her profound happiness and enjoyment of life every day. Maureen would always say, "Let's have fun!" Conversation came very easily for Mo and she really knew how to tell a story to make it so much more interesting. Maureen was also sometimes mischievous and had a wonderful smile that could light up a room. She was such an authentic human being and expressed herself with an abundance of exuberance and conviction. Maureen was a fighter and had beaten breast cancer. Maureen was born on April 3, 1958 in Lowell, Michigan to Charlie and Dolores Doyle. Maureen was the third child of four children and her mother called her baby number one because her litter sister, Michele, arrived nine years later. Maureen was a loving sister and very good friend. Maureen graduated from Lowell High School in 1976, during the year of our bicentennial. She was the student class president and homecoming queen in her senior year. After graduation, Maureen pursued her bachelor's degree in Education and Health from Northern Michigan University. At Northern, Maureen played on their field hockey team. She started as walk-on and became a scholarship player. After graduation Maureen pursued teaching with multiple schools and was also a camp counselor at Camp Tapawingo in Sweden, Maine where she led the swimming program. During one of her holiday visits home, she decided that she missed Michigan and her family and friends and soon returned to Grand Rapids to stay. Maureen saw the opportunities of working for UPS (United Parcel Service), and shortly after moving back home she was offered a full-time job as a delivery driver which she accepted. She retired from UPS in 2017 after 30 years of service. At her retirement celebration, Maureen was inducted into the Circle of Honor, which is a very prestigious award given for twenty-five years of safe driving with the UPS. Very few drivers are able to achieve this accomplishment. Maureen seemed to be more proud of this award than her thirty years of driving! Maureen had many hobbies and interests. She enjoyed bicycling and swimming and had even participated in a few triathlons. Maureen enjoyed traveling. Her two favorite destinations were Key West, Florida where she was able to spend quality time with her family, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where she had attended college. Mo was a card shark and enjoyed many games. One of her favorite games was Euchre because she was able to enjoy time with siblings and close friends. During her retirement, Maureen had a lot more time to enjoy life. Many times, Maureen would prepare a meal for Peggy, her wife, with inspiration from the TV show "Chopped". She enjoyed jigsaw puzzles and reading and began volunteering in 2019 at the Garden View Café at Spectrum Health Blodgett in EGR. Maureen is survived by her wife Peggy Michmershuizen of Grand Rapids; her mother Dolores (Dee) Doyle from Lowell; sister Sally and husband James Zarafonitis of Alto; brother Robert and wife Diane Doyle of Newark, Ohio; sister Michele and husband Marty Marino of Cascade; brother-in-law Fred Michmershuizen of New York, New York; sister-in-law Betsy and husband Art Jones of Saint Clair Shores; sister-in-law Molly and husband Mitch Van Tuinen of Hamilton; nephew Marcus Zarafonitis of Grandville; niece Jaime Zarafonitis and husband Dennis Haraszko and their children Naia and Truman of Toronto, Canada; Sean and wife Alexie Doyle of Saranac; nephew JR Doyle of Ionia; niece



Laura Whitehead and wife Katie Faul of Lancaster, Ohio; niece Kaley Marino of Charlotte, North Carolina; niece Lexie Marino of Tampa, Florida; Alex Kuiper who recently moved to Nashville, Tennessee from Grand Rapids; Julia Marino of Grand Rapids; nephew Josh Kuiper of Grand Rapids; nephews Kevin Jones and Kyle Jones both from Saint Clair Shores; nephews Ryan Van Tuinen, TJ Van Tuinen and Kyle Van Tuinen all of Hamilton; her sweet dog Maddie; many cousins, friends, acquaintances, neighbors and customers. Maureen was preceded in death by her father Charles R. Doyle of Lowell, her grandmother Alice Baut of Lowell, many aunts and uncles and her friend Terah Bishop who was the catalyst for Maureen meeting Peggy, who was the love of her life. To honor Maureen, consider watching her favorite movie, "It's a Wonderful Life" or "Big Fish." Maureen certainly knew how to tell a story to make it so much more interesting and enticing, and sometimes enhanced it beyond what had actually happened and it was great! In lieu of flowers, the family suggests making a contribution in her name to one of the following organizations: The American Heart Association, Lowell Pink Arrow Pride or Spectrum Health Foundation. Maureen's family would like to thank the Grand Rapids Firemen of Engine 3, and the following teams from Spectrum Health departments: Emergency, Infectious Disease, Cardiac ICU, and Hospice. Peggy would like to personally thank Maureen McCrone and Susan Sparta for taking care of Maddie and their home, for bringing Peggy clean clothes and most importantly, for their prayers and spiritual guidance. A celebration of Maureen's life will take place at a later date (TBD) when family and friends can gather together to share stories, remember many great times with her and wish her well on her new journey.

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LUCAS

(Josephine) Barbara Lucas age 81 of Lowell, passed away Thursday, April 30, 2020. She was preceded in death by her parents, Emmett and Blanche (Doan) Needham; her sister, Marion (Richard) Stuart; and brother, Emmett Needham. She is survived by her husband, Robert; son, Jeffrey; sister-in-law, Frances Walling; also, nieces and nephews. Apart from the last 2 years at a nursing home, Barbara lived her entire life on the Needham Homestead, south of Lowell, on Segwun Ave. She attended Clarksville Grade School and was



a proud Lowell Red Arrow, Class of 1957, where she enjoyed marching band, class reunions and get-togethers through the years. Barbara married Robert Lucas on September 5, 1964 and in the early 70's they adopted their son, Jeffrey. Barbara was employed for many years at McCarty Publishing in Saranac, ending as head pressman. Afterwards, she worked several years at Egypt Valley Country Club. Barbara enjoyed traveling, vegetable gardening, auction sales, tinkering on equipment, and wood working – building cabinets and special gifts. Private visitation and services were held Monday, May 4, 2020 at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, MI. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to a Charity of your choice.

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Obituaries, continued, page 14

...
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what lies before us are
tiny matters compared to
what lies within us.**
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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TRAILER MECHANIC WANTED - Position available for a trailer mechanic. Job responsibilities include maintaining a fleet of flatbed and dump trailers by completing preventative maintenance requirements, aluminum & steel welding & fabricating, paint & electrical, and keeping records. Candidate should be capable of operating various types of heavy equipment. CDL not required. Some experience or education required. 40 hrs/week plus overtime and full benefits. Please apply in person at Timpson Transport; 3175 Segwun Ave. Lowell, MI 49331 Monday-Friday from 8 am - 5 pm. Or email resume to info@TimpsonTransport.com or fax to 616-897-5905.

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Word search grid with words circled:

Words found: QUAIL, TIT, YAU, UUC, WCO, AG, BUIS, NES, SOT, YIS, EEA, ACE, V, RLV, UWF, UYT, OIS, SAT, MGP, ACX, IUL, OPG, IRM, EWTS, MEWA, TWV, TEM, RVY, QEP, QEI, IPM, GGH, PFA, YMC, QS, PRS, MS, SH, EE, FE, UAT, S, PYH, NP, QHW, FNY, NF, MC, WL, TN, O, NYE, UAO, GAO, TT, ST, TU, REM, QV, OS, SSP, MCC, LI, YQ, VL, LN, EP, BI, EHA, PCT, RA, SN, QR, LL, TT, P, PER, QTI, XI, AY, OR, QE, OO, I, RO, ON, OI, LN, TO, TOL, P, FS, FF, FO, IO, XH, AW, MP, GH, NQ, LCH, AP, RA, NC, GH, WT, GN, PA, XX, US, UM, FN, TV, ES, TG, CM, LN, OA, C, YH, XX, ET, RES, OL, UT, IO, NL, CT, REP, EAT, WTL, EN, IMP, RO, VE, M, GL, MG, QV, XAE, W, EC, NE, IR, EP, XE

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obituaries

- continued

SCHARASWAK

Angela M. (Ripley) Scharaswak, age 54 of Belding, went to be with the Lord, Wednesday, April 29, 2020. She was preceded in death by her father, Lyle Ripley, Jr.; and sister-in-law, Carol Scharaswak. Angie is survived



by her husband, Elmer E. Scharaswak Jr.; her children, Amy Kay (Doug) Scharaswak, Heather Nichole (Jeff) Perry, Gregory Eugene (Katrina) Scharaswak; mother, Rosalie A. Ripley; father-in law Elmer E. Scharaswak; mother-in-law, Martha M. Scharaswak; brothers Ron (Patricia) Ripley, Robert (Michelle)

Ripley; sister, Terri Stowe; grandchildren Dylan M. Scharaswak, Steven B. Rish, Emma Faith Scharaswak; sisters-in-law, Sharon (Jim) Annable, Marie (Tom) Spickler, Martha M. Scharaswak Jr., many nieces and nephews; special friends, John and Mary Wierenga, Karla and Bill Herndon, Lorene Ryan; dogs Barley and OD. Angie enjoyed painting, working with her plants and flowers, caring for her pets, sewing and collecting antiques. Visitation and services will be held at a later date. Interment Oakwood Cemetery.



WALKER

Clifford Carter Walker, age 64 of Lowell passed away on Monday, April 20, 2020. He was preceded in death by his father, Daniel Walker, Sr.; his mother, Agnes Wieland; brother, Daniel Walker, Jr.; and sisters, Iris Mixer and Mary Walker. He is survived by his sister, Sharon (Jack) MacKenzie of California; sister-in-law, Phyllis Walker; step-sisters, Marie Fredericks, Norma (Jim) Peterson; and step-brother, Bill (Diane) Wieland; cousins, Elizabeth Wright of Lansing, James Rankin of Lambertville; aunt, Mary Chambers and her two daughters; and several cousins in Georgia including Billy Wright and Caroline Jackson. Clifford was born on December 6, 1955 in Grand Rapids, MI, and joined the US Army later in life becoming a Sargent before being honorably discharged on May 19, 1993. He was employed by Admiral (gas station/convenience stores) for many years, until leaving due to disabilities from injuries due to an automobile accident and military service. Clifford was also a member of Moose Lodge for many years and supervised the Moose Fishing Derby. A Kent County Veterans Honor Guard burial service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Moose Lodge, 1320 E Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331.



Rep. Albert supports plan to return to normal democracy while continuing COVID-19 protections

State Rep. Thomas Albert voted for a plan to restore the normal balance of powers between the branches of state government and end the broad, unchecked control given to the governor during a state of emergency. Albert, of Lowell, said the plan also puts many of the virus-related executive orders into state law, ensuring they continue to exist after the state of emergency ends at the end of the day.

“We all agree that COVID-19 is a serious health crisis and needs to be dealt with swiftly,” Albert said. “Our response needs to both protect public health and allow people to resume activities safely. Many of the governor’s decisions, while well intentioned, have been implemented poorly because they were not properly vetted through the legislative process. For example, the statewide prohibition of preventative medical treatments the governor has deemed ‘non-essential’ is bankrupting our health systems while denying residents vital treatments such as cancer radiation. We need checks and balances going forward.”

To ensure measures remain in place to protect public health and help families who have been hurt by the economic impact of the virus, the Legislature took action to put some of the governor’s previous orders into state law with specific expiration dates. This includes:

Protections for workers that prevent employers from taking disciplinary action against any employee who elects to stay home from work because of COVID-19.

Procedures allowing school districts, parents and students to continue

the learning process while school buildings remain closed.

Measures to prevent price gouging.

Expanded unemployment benefits and eligibility requirements.

Suspending all foreclosure and eviction proceedings until June 30.

Restrictions on large public gatherings.

Standards for businesses and entities where people are working on site, such as following CDC social distancing guidelines, using enhanced cleaning provisions, providing personal protective equipment for employees, avoiding the sharing of tools and equipment when possible, and promoting remote work.

Limiting visitors at health care facilities, residential care facilities, congregate care facilities and juvenile justice facilities, conducting health screenings for necessary visitors and providing phone or video chat visitation options.

Among the executive orders not included by the Legislature are the stay-at-home order, orders prohibiting preventative medical procedures, dental work and veterinary services, as well as the order suspending certain responsibilities for public bodies to respond to public records requests made through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Additionally, Albert voted to support a resolution that will allow the Legislature to take legal action against the governor if she attempts to extend the emergency declaration beyond the date set by the Legislature.

“The legislation passed today is in no way an attempt to limit



the governor’s ability to address this crisis,” Albert said. “We simply are showing the governor that the people’s chamber wants to work with her. Decisions which have such a significant impact on the lives of Michiganders must include transparency, accountability and be decided in the manner established by our republic.”

Looking Back, continued

25 years ago
The Lowell Ledger
May 10, 1995

Teamwork will once again behoove the Lowell Little League. Once again the combined work of a local electrician, the Department of Public Works personal and the city of Lowell will see to it that the hookup of a pitching machine is completed.

The average person changes his/her profession four to five times in their lifetime. Jim DeWeerd is completing his 30th year in education. He, too, is now ready to take on a different look. DeWeerd announced that this year will be his final year with Lowell Public Schools. He has spent the last years as principal of Lowell High School.

A phone call late Sunday (April 30) afternoon to Lowell School Board president Marsha Wilcox reopened a superintendent search that was closed just six days earlier. Robert Slotterback, who was chosen as the next superintendent of Lowell Schools, telephoned Wilcox to inform her that he, his wife and children would not be coming to Lowell. Instead he had decided to accept a superintendent’s position with Wauwatosa Schools (7,400 students) just outside of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

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Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

CUSTOMER WORD SEARCH

P C I Q C A S M Y L U P N C P Q U Y E M
 R T M V Q U A L I T Y A U U C W C O A G
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 C Y H X X E T R E S O L U T I O N L C T
 R E P E A T W T L E H N I M P R O V E M
 G L M G Q V X A E W E C N E I R E P X E

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

CUSTOMER WORD SEARCH

AGENT
 ATTENTION
 BUSINESS
 CONSISTENCY
 CUSTOMER

ESCALATION

ETIQUETTE
 EXPERIENCE
 FOLLOW-UP
 IMPACT
 IMPROVE
 LOYALTY
 MANAGEMENT

METRICS

PERCEPTION
 PERFORMANCE
 PRIORITY
 QUALITY
 REPEAT
 RESOLUTION
 SATISFACTION

SERVICE

SHOPPING
 SUPPORT

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Germany on April 2, 1977. My parents relocated to the Republic of Ireland when I was two to open a restaurant. I eventually found my way into acting, and audiences were first introduced to me in "Band of Brothers." I've made many other popular movies since then.

Answer: Michael Fassbender

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to customers.

Y L A L O

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Loyal

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

CLUES ACROSS

- Bond villain Mikkelsen
- A team's best pitcher
- French river
- Mountain nymph (Greek)
- City of Angels airport
- Military force
- Scrawny
- Value
- One billionth of a second (abbr.)
- Highly seasoned sausage
- Trouble
- Prong
- Showing varying colors
- Cloaked
- Renters sign one
- Acquires
- Type of language (abbr.)
- Partner to pains
- Third portion of the small intestine
- Excessively theatrical actor
- Infraction
- Classical music for the stage
- Slogged
- One who terminates
- Breakfast is an important one

CLUES DOWN

- Female parents
- Region
- Transaction
- Heroic tale
- Of algae
- Luminous intensity unit
- Uncovers
- French commune name
- Poisonous gas
- Pearl Jam's bassist
- Horse groom in India
- Destroyed
- A way to alter
- Promotional materials
- American state

- Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- "Modern Family" network
- Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- Exercise system __-bo
- Type of bulb
- Opposite of beginning
- Utilize
- Type of student
- Deficiency of moisture
- Areas of the eye
- Select
- Sheets of floating ice
- Priests who act as mediums
- Roof of the mouth
- Unnatural
- Illuminated
- There are three famous ones
- Large, fast Australian birds
- "Dracula" heroine Harker
- Substitutes (abbr.)
- Tax

Patricia Doll, continued



Bruce Doll (lower right corner) with friends and family at the 1966 Stratemeyer Syndicate company picnic at Harriet Stratemeyer Adams' farm in rural New Jersey.

agreements, nobody dared contradict her.

"Harriet Adams claimed to have written all the

books, but she didn't," Lapin said. "Eventually she

may have actually believed that she had written all these

books... I mean, she just was completely bonkers.

There are all these gaps in the history of who actually

wrote a lot of the titles, but it's obvious that Harriet did not write them. She definitely did write one original book that was not a cut-down, it was called 'The Hidden Window Mystery.' I got to see her at the trial in New York when Simon & Schuster was being sued by Grosset & Dunlap. I was there and saw Harriet on the witness stand, and she was a piece of work! Millie Wirt Benson was also there, and when the attorneys introduced them, Harriet said, 'Oh, I thought you died.'"

It is difficult to determine precisely what Pat Doll and the other ghostwriters did because the original contracts and records are inaccessible. Some documents are open to public inspection at the New York Public Library, but they have not been digitized and can only be examined by actually going to the New York Public Library.

"She signed a contract, and it was a kind of like a gag order," Doll said. "All that was only made public not

long ago. The information is still kind of hard to find, though. Probably on purpose, to keep the mystery going, so to speak. People knew she worked for the Stratemeyer Syndicate, she had a resume that really vaguely alluded to having written books, but that was probably about the extent of it. It was a different world back then, everyone wasn't on Facebook!"

Bruce fondly remembers listening to the endless deafening mechanical clack of his mother's typewriter. Pat was incessantly working on novels, poetry and other writing projects at home throughout his entire childhood.

"She worked at home most of the time," Doll said. "I remember hearing the typing constantly, and she would just chew through typewriters. I would say she'd probably go through a typewriter every year. When she bought the IBM Selectric, that was the one that lasted. They were basically built like a tank and it had the correction tape, she liked that! Both my mom and dad were really good parents. They always provided food and clothing and shelter. We didn't have every luxury in the world, we had a black and white TV until I was like 13 I think! But even though they both worked, they both were always there. Especially me being adopted, for them to do that just kind of lets you know what kind of people they were. And especially getting me!"

After her career with the Stratemeyer Syndicate ended, Pat Doll worked as a local TV correspondent and a newspaper reporter,

primarily for the Long Islander News in Huntington, NY, a publication founded in 1838 by poet Walt Whitman and still in print today. Doll volunteered her time as writer and editor for various New Jersey non-profit organizations, wrote publicity and special bulletins for the Orange, NJ Red Cross chapter, was the assistant editor of View Magazine published by the "Junior League of the Oranges" in South Orange, NJ, and had original poetry and stories published in "Reader's Round Table" magazine and other outlets.

"She was always doing something, she never wanted to sit around and not do anything," Doll said. "She did a lot of work with the Huntington Historical Society, which is based in Huntington, on Long Island where we lived. She wrote poems. At some point she started working for the Long Islander News."

Bruce has in his possession an unpublished children's book called "The Forgotten Doll" and other unpublished stories by his mother.

"It's never been published, but 'The Forgotten Doll' is a darling Christmas story about a doll in a tourist toy shop that had been forgotten because it was falling apart," Lapin said.

Tragically, Pat Doll passed away on Feb. 4, 1983, age 56, after battling various forms of cancer for over six years.

"I have several looseleaf books of unpublished works," Doll said. "It's kids books, mostly. I could publish them if I wanted to, someday. I figure that's something I can do when I retire."

Honoring the Class of 2020

This year the Lowell Ledger will be running a special graduation edition. This edition will feature all LHS graduates senior photos.

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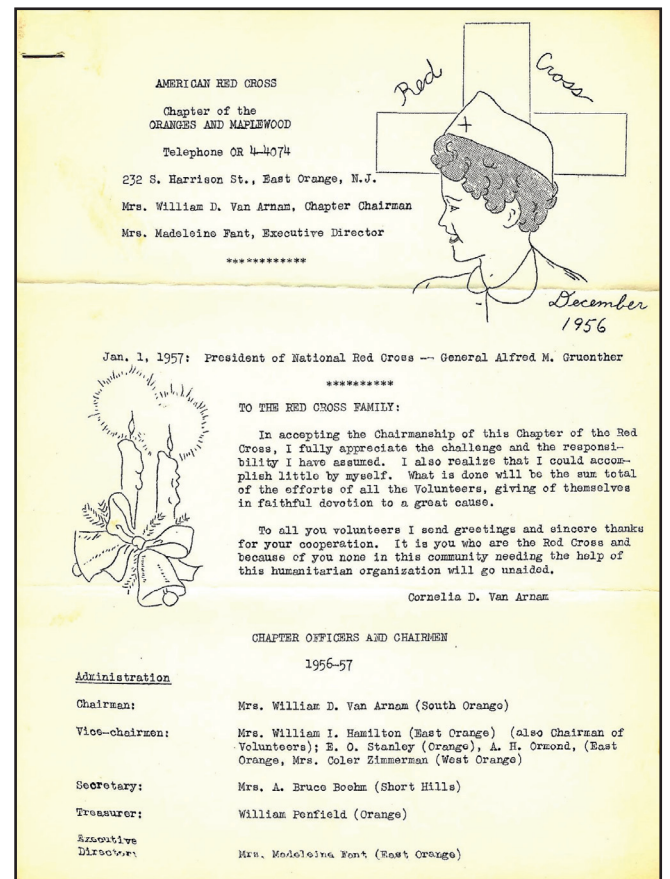
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An example of a Pat Doll newsletter for the local Red Cross, just one of the many organizations where she volunteered her talents.