

Virtual Fallasburg Fall Festival



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Beach volleyball in Lowell Twp



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2020-2021 school year



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Last two pieces of new Showboat delivered

Story and photos on pages 8-9



Noise, marijuana, police discussed at Aug. 3 Lowell city council meeting



Rev. Trevor Workman from the Lowell Church of the Nazarene, 201 N. Washington, asked the council to consider either changing the noise ordinance or giving the church an exception so they can conduct outdoor worship services during the pandemic without having to worry about complaints from their neighbors.

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Lowell city council had their latest regular meeting virtually through the Zoom app on Monday, Aug. 3. During public comment, Rev. Trevor Workman from the Lowell Church of the Nazarene, 201 N. Washington, asked the council to either change the city's sound amplification ordinance or give the church an exemption. The church had an outdoor service recently that generated noise complaints from neighbors.

"With the recent executive order where we can only have 10 people in the building at one time, we're either looking at doing outdoor services or online," Workman said. "Nobody

likes the online option."

The council directed Burns to discuss the issue with Workman and present them with an update at a future council meeting.

The city is under consideration for a \$92,000 CARES Act grant from the state of Michigan.

"They are reimbursing payroll costs for public health and public safety expenses, as of right now for the months of April and May," said Lowell city manager Michael Burns. "It's first come, first served, and we had until Aug. 7 to get the applications in, so I feel that we will probably get reimbursed for that."

The city hired a new full

time police officer, Jason Diaz. His first day will be Monday, Aug. 10. Diaz was a full time officer with the Muskegon Heights police department and worked as a part time LPD officer for over two years. The decision to hire Diaz did not sit well with one city councilor.

"I'm a little disappointed that we are hiring full time employees when a couple months ago we could get by without them," said city councilor Greg Canfield. "The tough times are coming. We're spending money we don't have, and we're going to be bankrupt pretty soon, but let's keep spending money."

"These two positions were

budgeted at the beginning of this year," Burns said. "The position that we hired last time, we talked about at the budget session, and there was no issues with hiring the position. The council was informed that if that occurred, if we didn't hire that position, then we would not be able to have front desk coverage at the police department. And nobody on the council at the time said anything about that, so to say that we're wasting money, I take offense to that. I am very diligent of our money and I take it very seriously how we spend money."

The council declined a request from Meds Café, 1965 W. Main, to stay open until 10 pm while they're restricted to curbside service. The current ordinance allows recreational marijuana stores to stay open until 9 pm, but Meds Café general manager Casey Cole said that they often have to refuse service to customers who arrive late in the day. Meds Café is currently the only recreational marijuana store in Kent County, and Cole said they are busy every day from open to close.

Burns said he toured Meds Café recently and observed how they process a sale.

"Meds Café cannot process sales after 9 pm," Burns wrote in a city memorandum dated July 30. "So people who are arriving 15 to 20 minutes prior to

closing are in a position where the clerks may have to turn them away. The owners have had dozens of complaints/requests when they have turned late arriving customers away and this has caused lost revenue. Meds Café informs me a normal transaction takes five to 15 minutes as they have to track the sale with the state."

"There's only a limited number of places you can get these products," said Lowell mayor Michael DeVore. "I would imagine it only takes you showing up at 8:50 one time before you start coming at 8:15."

The council approved amendments to the Riverview Flats condo development's site plan. According to a report by Williams & Works urban planner Andy Moore, "major changes to the site plan include modified internal circulation for vehicles and pedestrians, updated boundaries to reflect recent agreements with the city and additional parking."

Lowell city council's next regular meeting is scheduled to take place at city hall at 7 pm on Monday, Aug. 17. This date, time and location could change.

To watch previous city council, board and commission meetings, look for the "City of Lowell" or "Lowell Light and Power" channels on YouTube or visit archive.org.

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Opioid overdoses surge during COVID-19 pandemic

Emergency Services and emergency departments in Michigan have both seen substantial increases in opioid overdoses since the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic. These increases are a tragic reminder of the continued toll of the opioid epidemic, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services urges anyone with opioid use disorder to carry naloxone and practice other safety measures to prevent overdose deaths.

According to statistics gathered by MDHHS, EMS responses for opioid overdose increased by 33 percent from April to May of this year. Additionally, EMS responses for opioid overdoses from April through June 2020 were 26 percent higher than the same period in 2019. EMS responses for opioid overdoses increased for all regions and nearly all demographic groups, with the exception of residents aged 65 years and older.

“Opioid overdoses kill far too many Michiganders, and it’s a double tragedy that the pandemic has

exacerbated this crisis,” said Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun, chief deputy for health and chief medical executive. “If you or someone you love has an opioid use disorder, please take steps to prevent overdose deaths – like carrying naloxone and never using alone.”

The data provides other insights on how the pandemic has impacted the opioid crisis. Patients were more likely to refuse transport to EDs in April to June compared to the same period in 2019. The percentage of opioid overdose EMS responses that resulted in the patient declining transport to EDs nearly doubled from 7.7 percent April to June 2019 to 14.3 percent April to June 2020.

While all racial groups demonstrated increases in opioid overdoses and transport refusals during the pandemic, preliminary data suggests white residents experienced the greatest increases during this period. Despite this finding, longstanding racial disparities continue to impact how black

residents experience opioid overdoses, resulting in a far higher opioid overdose rate. The average monthly rate of EMS responses for opioid overdoses among black residents was 219.8 per 100,000 residents, as compared to 123.4 among white residents between April and June.

After an initial drop in April, ED visits for opioid overdoses increased in May and June to pre-pandemic levels despite EDs seeing fewer visits overall in Michigan during the pandemic. The total number of ED visits April to June 2020 declined 38 percent compared with April to June 2019, while the number of opioid overdose ED visits increased by 2 percent. It is too early to determine if opioid overdose deaths have increased following the onset of the pandemic due to the length of time required to finalize death certificates.

MDHHS continues to use every available tool to combat the opioid epidemic during this challenging time, including ensuring continued access to Syringe Service

Programs and increasing access to naloxone, the medication used to treat overdoses, for individuals and organizations. Treatment for opioid use disorder, which may include medications used to combat the effect of opioids on a person’s brain, remains available. For individuals who are not ready to access treatment, MDHHS also recommends safer drug use to prevent further injury and death due to overdose during this time.

If you or someone you know has an opioid use disorder, access resources to support the mental and physical health of those with substance use disorder during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact your primary care provider before you run low on necessary medications.

If you need access to a medical provider, contact your nearest Federally Qualified Health Center for support.

Ensure naloxone is readily available. Naloxone for All and NEXT Distro will mail naloxone at no cost to anyone

in Michigan. Individuals can request naloxone online. MDHHS has also created an online naloxone portal where community organizations can request free naloxone.

Practice safer drug use (safety practices that prevent overdose deaths) and encourage others to do the same. More information is available in Safer Drug Use during the COVID-19 Outbreak.

Never Use Alone is a service anyone can call while using drugs. The caller will be connected to a person who will seek emergency services for them if they drop off the line or don’t respond to a return call. Call 800-484-3731 or visit NeverUseAlone.com to learn more.

Find an SSP near you that can provide sterile needles, naloxone and other life-saving resources.

If you or someone you know would like to seek treatment for opioid use disorder, treatment centers are still open during COVID-19 and listed online so you can find a center near you.

If you or someone you know is in recovery, reach out with a phone call, text or email to let him or her know you are there. Model good coping behaviors yourself.

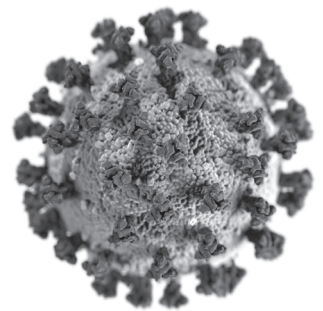
Share the COVID-19 hotline number, 888-535-6136, and tell them to press “8” for free emotional support counseling.

Direct them to Michigan.gov/StayWell for a list of other help lines, including a peer “warm line” for individuals in distress who want to talk to someone who understands substance use disorders, the National Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990 and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255.

Call 211. Anyone struggling or seeking resources for substance use treatment services can call this free service that connects Michigan residents with health resources in their communities.

For more information about overdoses and resources for prevention and treatment, visit Michigan.gov/Opioids.

COVID-19 puts MI hospitals \$1.1B in the hole



Michigan hospitals have lost a combined \$1.1 billion during the recent pandemic, even after factoring in \$2.1 billion in emergency federal aid, according to a Michigan Health and Hospital Association report released Thursday, July 30.

The loss of patients, canceled and delayed medical procedures,

staffing changes and the need to buy additional protective equipment has cost the hospitals a combined \$2.7 billion, according to the report. The additional cost of treating COVID-19 patients has added \$440 million in emergency expenses, for a total of \$3.2 billion in combined financial losses.

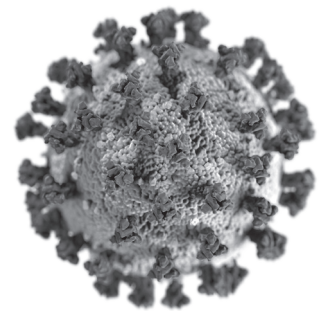
The MHA noted that MidMichigan Health lost 24 percent of its inpatient volume between March and June, compared to the same time period in 2019.

This comes at a time when hospitals muscle through nearly \$2.6 billion in uncompensated care they

typically expect during normal circumstances.

“Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic has come at a steep price,” said MHA CEO Brian Peters. “Now more than ever, support is needed for the hospitals and health care providers that have been serving on the front lines of the pandemic.”

Back in April, the



financial losses for the states’ 134 hospitals were at \$600 million.

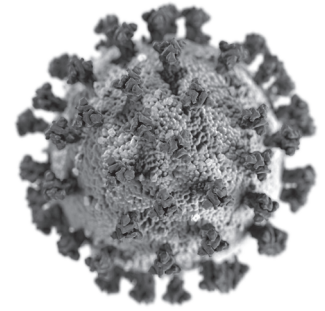
Meanwhile, nursing homes also are on the financial ropes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the American Health Care Association.

The profit margins of nursing homes has gradually decreased from 1.9 percent in 2013 to -.3 percent in 2018.

The major reason is that Medicaid patients make up 60 percent of the nursing home population and Medicaid only covers 70 percent to 80 percent of the costs of care, according to the AHCA.

Nursing homes are able

to stay afloat by bringing in enough short-term Medicare post-acute care patients, since Medicare is more generous with their



payments.

The COVID-19 outbreaks have meant surging costs for personal protective equipment and 18 percent higher personnel costs, as staff are sidelined by the virus or fear coming into work because of it. Occupancy is down, costs are up, and without more federal funding, AHCA sees homes on the verge of collapse, according to Dr. David Grabowski of the Harvard Medical School.

“Some nursing homes are facing bankruptcy due to decreased Medicare

revenue and the increased costs of managing patients with COVID-19,” Grabowski said to the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The leaders of Michigan’s largest employers anticipate the state and federal economies will worsen in the coming months as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to results of a board member survey conducted this month by Business Leaders for Michigan.

The latest survey data shows 17.7 percent of Michigan employers anticipating job growth in their companies, while another 31.1 percent believe it will be lower or worse and 51.1 percent say it will be about the same.

As for capital investment, 15 percent of employers anticipate additional capital investment, 40 percent expect worse or lower capital investment and 44.4 percent believe it will be about the same.

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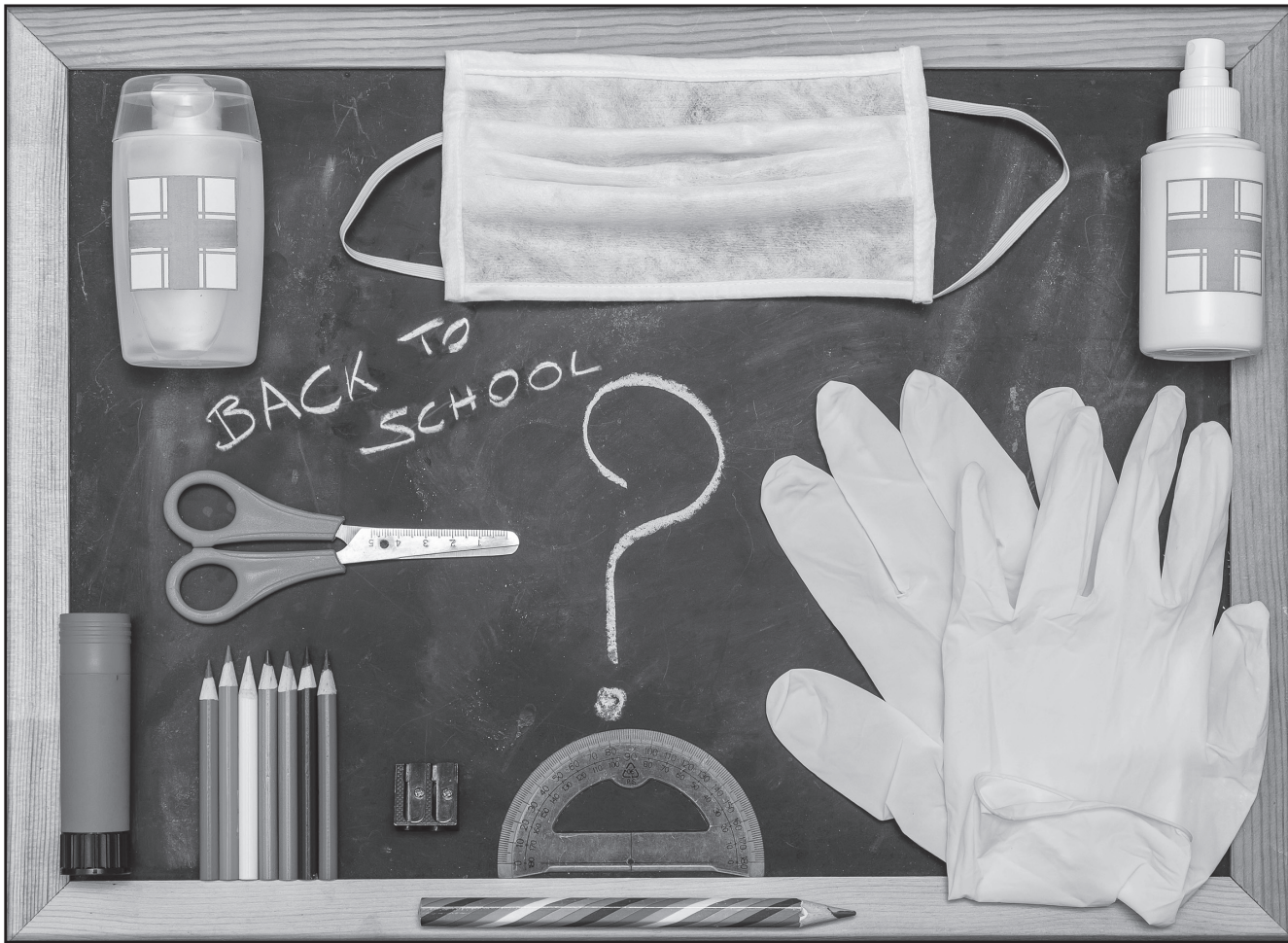
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District reveals tentative 20-21 school year plan



by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

In a document sent to parents last week, interim Lowell Area Schools superintendent Nate Fowler revealed the district's plans and guidelines for the upcoming school year.

Parents and guardians are required to pick either virtual or face-to-face learning options for their students, and are asked to commit to their choice for at least the first trimester of the school year.

Face-to-Face

All students and staff will be expected to wear cloth or disposable masks during the school day - on the bus, in common areas and during classroom instruction. Students will not be allowed to board the bus or participate in class without a mask, but disposable masks will be available. Breaks will be built into the day to allow

students the opportunity to go outside and remove their masks. Medical documentation is required for any student to claim they cannot tolerate a mask.

School buses will be "deep cleaned" and sanitized daily.

Before entering any bus or school building, every single individual will be required to complete a COVID-19 screening form indicating they do not have the virus, have not been exposed to the virus and do not have any current symptoms.

Virtual

Students in grades 6-12 will take their courses through an online program called Odysseyware. Students in grades K-5 will take online classes developed by LAS staff and supported by the University of Michigan.

Because of pupil accounting and state funding rules, students that participate in virtual school are not able to be part of in-person classes during the school day, including elective classes such as band and orchestra.

"Marching band remains an open question for participation," Fowler wrote. "Students who participate in virtual school may participate in after school extracurricular activities that are still allowed."

There will not be any

advanced placement classes offered to high school students who choose virtual learning.

"Odysseyware does not have course offerings for all of the AP courses that we offer," Fowler wrote. "The college board requires that AP courses be taught by a college board-approved instructor and our instructors are assigned to the in-person program at this time."

For more information or to follow any updates to the plan, visit lowellschools.com and click on "Return to School."



Whitmer order allows large instruction spaces

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed an order Wednesday, July 29 allowing colleges and universities to proceed with converting large spaces for instruction without approval or inspection.

The order amends the Michigan Administrative Code during the current state of emergency to allow colleges and universities converting large spaces to provide socially distanced learning without inspection or approval from the Bureau of Fire Services.

Under the order, the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs will issue further guidance governing temporary approval of the use of a space as an instructional facility.



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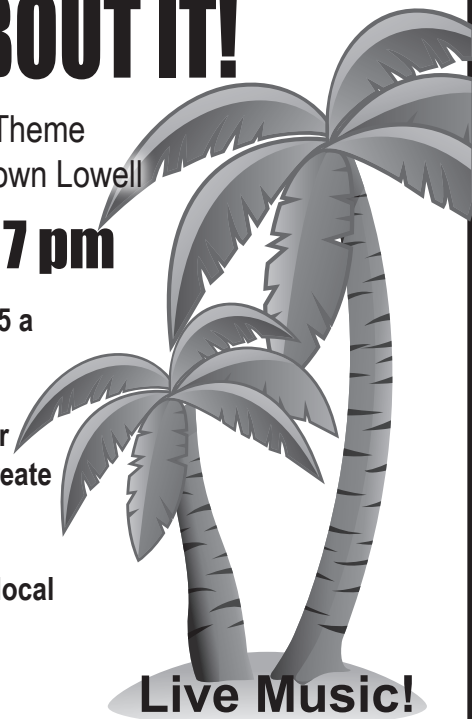
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82% of consumers use coupons received through newspaper inserts¹

33% of Michigan adults prefer receiving coupons from direct mail.²

Sources: ¹2K17 Valassis Coupon Intelligence Report; ²2017 Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved; ³Triad/Coda Ventures Insert Study; ⁴NAA; ⁵Pulse of America 2018

LowellArts Fallasburg Virtual Arts Festival 2020



by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

With COVID-19 wreaking havoc on some of the best laid plans and traditions, LowellArts is creating a new and unique experience for one of its most well-known events.

In a press release on Monday, Aug. 3, event organizers revealed plans for the “LowellArts Fallasburg Virtual Arts Festival 2020.”

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it was announced a few weeks earlier that a virtual version of the event would be held. Although with a new format, the 52nd annual event will consist of many of the same traditions people enjoy, just with the twist of technology.

This year, visitors will walk through the festival via an online, interactive map that will “open” at 10 am on Saturday, Sept. 19, the original start date and time for the festival. The map will be available at lowellartsmi.org and will include links to explore artwork, music, children’s creations, craft demonstrations and more.

Many artists who will be unable to present their work in person will be represented on the interactive map with their own virtual booth location. Visitors to the website can click on the artist’s booth and get more information on the artist and images of their artwork. For those interested in purchasing artwork, they can then be redirected to the additional links to the artist’s website.

Live music will be played on both Sept. 19 and 20, available free to online visitors. A limited number of tickets will be sold to visitors who wish to experience the live music in person. Ticket

prices and the ticket sale date will be announced at a later date.

Three shows with multiple groups presenting at each will be showcased at a new, outdoor performance venue just off of Grand River in Lowell called “Camp Clear Sky,” described as a safe outdoor environment for creating and performing music. Showtimes are on Saturday, Sept. 19 from noon until 4 pm and 6 pm until 10 pm and on Sunday, Sept. 20 from noon until 4 pm.

Prerecorded arts and crafts demonstrations will be featured as part of the online festival experience, as well as the opportunity for children of all ages to create a “character” pumpkin and have a photo of their creation uploaded to the festival website as part of the virtual event. Pumpkins will be available free of charge during regular gallery hours at the LowellArts gallery beginning Saturday, Aug. 29.

Food booths will also be represented on the interactive map, with

highlights about how the non-profit organizations that typically benefit from the proceeds of festival food sales impact the community.

Another major tradition of the Fallasburg Fall Festival is the annual quilt raffle. A quilt called the “Blue Lagoon” was created exclusively for the 2020 festival by Dawn Ysseldyke. The quilt can be viewed in person at the LowellArts gallery beginning Tuesday, Aug. 4. Raffle tickets for the quilt will be available for purchase soon and will be available through festival weekend. On Sunday, Sept. 20 at 5 pm, a live-streamed “pulling of the winning ticket” ceremony will be held to announce the winner of the quilt.

With the pandemic creating challenges across the world and in our community, it is exciting to see such a valiant effort to create a unique experience that the community can enjoy. For more information go to www.lowellartsmi.org or go visit the gallery at 223 W. Main.



viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger August 9, 1895

A union meeting of the Lowell and the Saranac horticultural societies was held in this village Wednesday of last week, but owing to a misunderstanding as to the date of holding the meeting the attendance from the Saranac society was not as large as would have otherwise have been.

Benjamin F. Riley was accidentally killed at the saw mill of the Raney Refrigerator company at Greenville Monday afternoon about 5 o'clock. He and his brother were left in charge of the sawdust cart, which was backed under the sawdust bin. When the wagon was filled his brother picked up the reins, and Benjamin climbed on the load. As the horses were started Benjamin was caught between the top of the wagon box and a sill on the underside of the bin, and his skull was fractured. The deceased was a son of Owen M. Riley, engineer at the mill, and was 17 years old.

There was a little ripple of excitement in the west end of town, Monday night, all caused by a running match between Deputy Ben Morse and John Davis of Grand Rapids. The last named individual had been indulging in a loud "toot", and under the seductive influence of a horn of Lowell benzine, had used unbecoming language on our sanctimonious streets. The race was not with the swift, for David struck a mud puddle first with his feet and next with his pants and before he could pull himself out the Deputy had him good and stout. Next day both men told their stories to Justice Hicks, who simply scratched the place where his hair ought to be and remarked: "Five dollars and costs."

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 12, 1920

Kent county veterinarians report the "black leg" epidemic among Kent county cattle well under control and rapidly dying out. The herd of Edward Johnson, of the Grand River Valley dairy, was reported the hardest hit by the disease, eight of his cows having perished. The plague is said to be very infectious and has caused disastrous results in the west.

Another important victory in the American Legion's long fight for beneficial legislation in behalf of sick and disabled ex-service men is revealed in a telegram announcing passage of the bill, recently received at Legion national headquarters from Thomas W. Miller, chairman of the organization's national legislative committee in Washington.

Township Clerk White reports upper Grand river bridge in an unsafe condition for the heavy truck and automobile traffic that is going over it. Highway

Commissioner McIntyre has posted a "Ride at your own risk" notice there and Mr. White has repeatedly called the attention of State Highway Commissioner Rogers to the matter. With a tremendous through traffic going over it, our officials regard it as a state matter and will deny responsibility in case of accident.

75 years The Lowell Ledger August 9, 1945

At three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon President Truman summoned the members of the press and radio to the White House, saying that he had a simple statement to make. The statement was, "Russia has declared war on Japan!" Within a half hour the civilized world was rocking with the great news.

Old R-2 tire purchase certificates, which local War Price and Rationing Boards stopped issuing June 5, 1945, will be removed from the rationing system to protect the nation's limited tire supply from the black market, the Office of Price Administration has announced. Consumers will have until August 15 to buy tires with the R-2 certificates they now have. The new certificates, R-2A and R-2B, are not affected and will remain valid.

Capt. James C. Carothers returned recently from the Philippines, and is enjoying a 30-day furlough with his wife and baby at the Don Dickerson home.

50 years The Lowell Ledger August 13, 1970

Negotiations between the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education and the Lowell Education Association (LEA) were at a standstill this week after the teacher's group told the board it was going to ask for a state mediator.

An old established Lowell firm recently added a new face; now it's going to add a new name. Beginning Monday, the Christiansen Drug Co. will become one of the three stores of Lippert Pharmacies, Inc. Headquartered in Lowell, the firm has stores in Cedar Springs and in Carson City in Montcalm County.

An attractive pediatrician, who has spent the last three years building up a lucrative practice in Lowell, is chucking the whole thing for something she feels is more important. Dr. Marilyn R. Hunter, is leaving the city to return to the island of La Gonave in the Caribbean Republic of Haiti to work as a medical missionary for the Department of World Missions of the Wesleyan Church.

25 years The Lowell Ledger August 9, 1995

Lowell's Downtown Development Authority will push back a portion of the planned streetscape work to 1997 so it can reapply for the Transportation Enhancement grant offered through the Michigan Department of Transportation. In June of the year, Lowell City Manager Dave Pasquale was informed that the DDA's grant application was not approved for its 1996 projects. The application requested a grant in the amount of \$350,000.

Landscaping timber, wood chips and red brick are things an Eagle Scout is made of — or at least Lowell's Jason Haybarker is. Haybarker, Boy Scout Troop 102's most recent Eagle Scout, organized, coordinated and labored over a one-month project. His Eagle Scout project included grading a path and then laying the timber, brick and wood chips. the path begins in back of the high school and blazes its way down to Red Arrow Stadium.

outdoors

on the road

Dave Stegehuis

Back in the early years of the last century when automobiles were just becoming a viable means of transportation, Henry Ford with friends Thomas Edison and Harvey Firestone set out on camping trips with Ford vehicles. Ford and Firestone were probably promoting trucks, cars, and Firestone tires, but they all had a good time doing it.

The call of the open road is still strong today as camping with recreational vehicles is as popular as ever. The R.V. industry seems to grow regardless of economic ups and downs.

Camping at one time meant sleeping in a tent and cooking over a campfire or white-gas stove. For some that is still true. We tented with our kids for many years as I did with my parents before that. We always had a good time and made a lot of fond memories.

Our transition to R.V.s came when fishing in the U.P. with the kids, and it rained fourteen out of fifteen days with the temperature barely getting above 40 degrees. On the fifteenth day Gwen announced that we would be purchasing a pickup camper when we returned home.

Camping with the basics is fun, and with thoughtful preparation is enjoyable. For some campers it's the preferred way to camp, or it may be necessary to achieve

an objective not possible with vehicles. Apparently, for the majority of campers today, the convenience and comfort of an R.V. outweighs the joys and satisfaction of roughing it.

There are many types of R.V.s from fold down trailers, travel trailers, fifth wheel trailers, pickup campers, and half a million-dollar motorhomes. You will see examples of all of these in campgrounds because there are pluses and minuses for each type of unit. The potential buyer must consider such issues as cost, maintenance, storage, tow vehicle requirements, and who will be using the unit and for what purpose.

A fold down trailer will provide shelter, heat, refrigeration, and a cook stove at a reasonable cost and is relatively easy to tow with a modest vehicle. A large fifth wheel or motor coach will feel a lot like home or maybe better but may present financial and operational challenges for some folks. Truck campers and travel trailers are also serious considerations when shopping for an R.V.

Camping may not be for everyone, but campground occupancy even during difficult times is high so getting out and about with one's own accommodations appeals to a lot of people.

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

M METRO HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

Johnathan G. Meier, D.O. Laura E. Kass, PA-C
Wayne A. Christenson, D.O. Kaili M. Walker, PA-C
Tracy L. Lixie, D.O. Alexandria Clum, PA-C
Catherine S. Smith, NP-C

ABCs of Lowell History

The Lowell Area Historical Museum introduces a new weekly feature to explore local history. The ABC's of Lowell's History this week is:

The second steamboat, the Owashtanong (Odawa name for the Grand River) was built in 1837 in Grand Haven by Robinson, White and Williams & Co. As steam riverboats gained

popularity, the need to improve the river became greater. In 1838 the state appropriated funding for improvement of the Grand River, for the large boats.

Grand Rapids and hauled over the canal bank there to begin its service which continued until 1858 with the Detroit, Grand Haven, and Milwaukee Railroad laid its tracks and began

- poison ivy dermatitis

“Leaves of three, let it be”
Poison ivy dermatitis, also known as Rhus dermatitis, is caused by an allergic reaction to Urushiol. This can be found in poison ivy, poison sumac and poison oak plants.

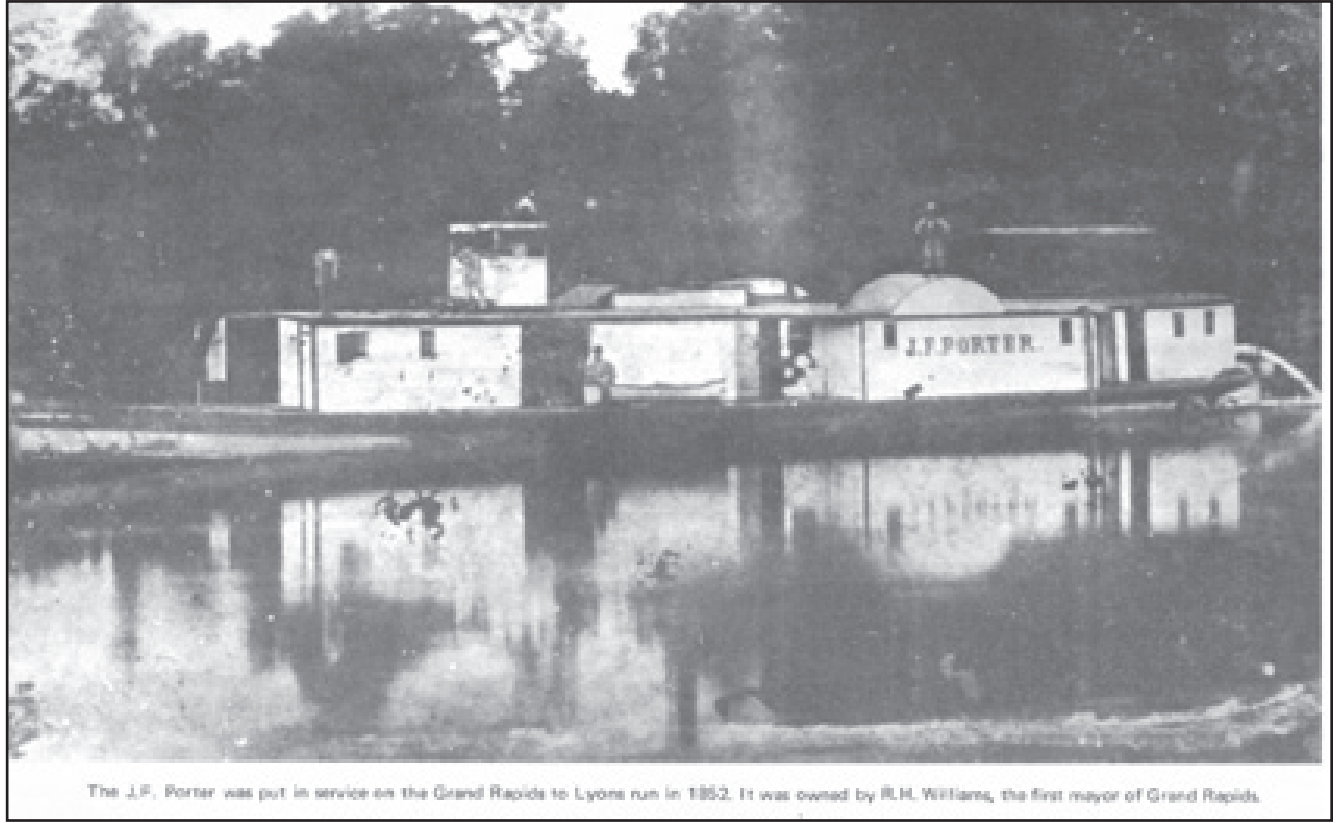
skin. The rash itself and the fluid that may drain are not contagious.

Without treatment, it can take one to three weeks for symptoms to resolve. Avoidance of the plants that cause Rhus dermatitis is key. When engaging in activities where you might be exposed, it is important to wear protective clothing such as long sleeves and pants. If you think you or an animal might have been exposed wash your skin and their coat as soon as possible with soap and water. In addition, make sure to wash all clothing, gloves, hats, shoes, etc.

An individual does not have to come into direct contact with the plant; one can still develop a rash with indirect contact, such as touching contaminated clothing, tools, objects, or a pet. It can also be inhaled from the smoke of burning plants. Symptoms can occur within hours of being exposed to days after exposure.

Common symptoms include itching, redness, rash, and swelling. The rash can blister and may open to drain and crust over. It may be arranged in linear streaks from where the plant made contact with the

There are a variety of over-the-counter and prescription treatment options for Rhus dermatitis. If you have questions or concerns regarding these, consult your health care provider.



The J.F. Porter was put in service on the Grand Rapids to Lyons run in 1852. It was owned by R.H. Williams, the first mayor of Grand Rapids.

R is for Riverboat

Local steam riverboat popularity lasted between 1837 and 1858 in West Michigan, when it began to drop off. Initially, their purpose was to haul freight and passengers. The first steam riverboat, the Governor Mason, was built in 1837. It mainly traveled between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven but did make one trip upriver past Lowell to Lyons. The boat had no whistle so a bugler was hired to alert of the boat's arrival.

the Almy sank at Lowell on its maiden voyage.

The John Almy, an 1838 riverboat gained lasting fame around Lowell when it was stranded and wrecked on the Grand River, at the mouth of the Flat River. The launching of the Almy was described by Able T. Page: “It was a great event in the little pioneer village, a gala day

serving the same route. As the availability of railroads increased, the popularity and usefulness of the riverboat declined. From then on, riverboats became a leisure form of transportation.

As the availability of railroads increased, the popularity and usefulness of the riverboat declined. From then on, riverboats became a leisure form of transportation.

business matters

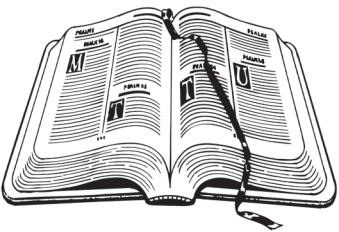
Greenridge Realty announced that Dave VanKeulen received Realtor of the Month in July.

This award recognizes VanKeulen for his outstanding success and achievements.



...
I was brought up to respect my elders, so now I don't have to respect anybody.
~ George Burns

area churches



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Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • 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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897-7060
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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

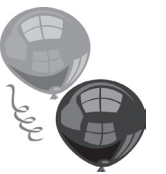
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happy birthday



AUGUST 5

Robin Abel, Stephen Martin Jr, Grady Nowak.

AUGUST 9

Pamela Esparza, Steven Burrows.

AUGUST 6

Jessie King, Kim Foster, Steven Vickers.

AUGUST 10

Madeline Scott, Tanner Nowak.

AUGUST 7

Barbara Wright, Jaimi Smith, Steve Newell, Don Grummet.

AUGUST 11

Mike Wilzcewski, Jordan Warren.

AUGUST 8

Jennifer Kimble, Chris Goggins, John Rasch, Allen Hoekstra, Sharell Wolf, Debra Lenneman.



Kathryn Robertson among those with work currently on display in the LowellArts gallery

by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

The LowellArts gallery has provided the opportunity for the community to view many amazing artists since its reopening. With that, there is a wide variety of pieces to view, with many different styles shown throughout the gallery. Some of the more intriguing pieces in the gallery are that of Kathryn Robertson.

Robertson's work showcased at the LowellArts gallery features ink on paper pieces that focus on black and white imagery with very little color. But when there is color, it draws viewer's attention.

The drawings can give off, Robertson concedes, a bit of a creepy feel to them.

"Yes, the stark contrast between light and dark can often create that kind of feeling," Robertson said. "It is really a reaction to my early work, which was rather an explosion of color. As time has gone on, my color palette has condensed, simplified in this medium. I feel that this has served to amplify the subject matter and helped to clarify the story being told. I also like to make sure you can really see all the tiny details I've worked so hard on!"

I use either a light box or a window to transfer the basic linework with pencil to a thick art paper. Third, using the pencil lines as a guide, I lay in the basic ink linework for the entire piece. At this point it looks rather like a coloring book, and I often leave it at this stage for a while to get to know it a little bit. The final step is to add all the crosshatch shading, the tiny texture details and color, if any. This is the bit that can take from hours, or days... to months."

One of her pieces, 'Between the Light and the Dark,' took over 10 hours over the course of a few weeks to complete. Another piece, 'Life and Death's Head Moth,' while only being slightly bigger but more detailed took over 25 hours to complete over the course of months.

The largest and arguably most notable artwork displayed in her collection at the gallery are the pieces named 'The Nature and Scope of the World' and 'The End and the Beginning Again.' These depict a landscape of trees that has been decimated and damaged.

"This piece was something of a journey," Robertson said. "The early

scenes from the wildfires that year. The piece that ended up on the final paper ended up seemingly a much darker piece. As with many of my pieces that seem dark, however, there is an element of hope."

The second piece showing what appears to be nature's recovery has brighter colors and more light appearing.

"Despite the apparent devastation in the first piece, it is not devoid of life," Robertson said. "Moss, fungi and other living things continue to flourish, and those are the very things that make it possible for the forest to continue to evolve, to create new growth. The light would not exist without the dark. And in the light piece, the red poppy flowers, which represent memory, make sure the field doesn't forget what made it possible."

Robertson's ink pieces are not the only artistic pursuit that she participates in. Robertson's studio, the Artsy Rooster Studio, allows her to capitalize on her specialties in fine art: portrait photography, ink and pencil illustrations, digital design, painting and murals. With her studio, she is able to produce photography, art



Kathryn Robertson



Some of Robertson's work on display at her Artsy Rooster Studio in Wyoming, MI.

Robertson said her ink pieces are created in four stages. This process can vary somewhat from piece to piece.

"First, I sketch out the full piece in pencil on a separate paper, to plan out every aspect in advance," Robertson said. "When you leave white, clean paper in your pieces, you can't leave any stray markings! I may do this several times until I'm happy. Second,

sketches were drawn in the beginning of 2019, which feels a world away from where we are today! It featured a much more whimsical, cheerful story. But when we got hit with so many global events - Australian wildfires, global pandemics, etc. - I began to feel strongly that I needed to make my pieces differently to reflect some of the uncertainty in the world. I sketched many forest

commissions and jewelry all benefiting her creative process.

"I work in several different mediums because the variety has a beneficial effect on both my creative process and my self-care capacity," Robertson said. "It really helps prevent burnout and encourages creativity to have multiple projects on the burner!"

Practically speaking, I find that continuing to learn

and grow in any aspect of the arts will encourage growth in all other aspects by default. For example, learning to see light as it hits a shape during a life drawing class translates beautifully into seeing light in a photography studio as it falls on your subject, and manipulating it to a desired effect."

Robertson described her career path as something that has grown organically. Being an artist has evolved into more than just a painter in the years after her graduation from Western Michigan University in 2004.

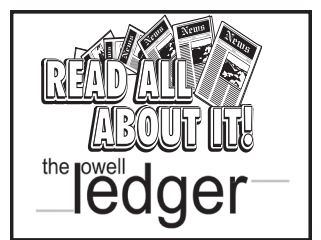
"My path has never been particularly linear but, on the other hand, my growth has been very organic," Robertson said. "When I first set myself up as a professional artist, I had a very limited idea of what I could make, what I could be. Painter, period. Now, 20 years later, I am still that. I'm MORE that, in fact. But I'm not JUST that. Now I'm also an illustrator, photographer, graphic designer, creator, muralist. And who knows where I

might get to tomorrow?" Robertson had many words of encouragement for her fellow creators.

"Keep practicing. Keep making," Robertson said. "Don't ever compare yourself to other artists. There's room for everyone. Build each other up!"

You can view Robertson's work, along with many others, at the

LowellArts gallery from now until Saturday, Aug. 15. To view other artwork by Robertson, you can visit her studio online at artsyroosterstudio.com.



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Last outstanding pieces of new Showboat arrive

The final pieces of the new Lowell Showboat were delivered last Thursday, July 30, so now all the crew from Moran Iron Works has to do is weld it together and slide it into the river.

“I am very pleased and so excited,” said Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker, one of the leaders of the Showboat project. “After almost four years of work, to actually see it come to fruition is just amazing.”

The new Showboat is substantially larger than any of its predecessors. The previous boat, built in 1978, was 24 feet wide and 80 feet long. When complete, the new one will be 30 feet wide, 100 feet long and at least four feet taller.

“It just looks mammoth sitting out here,” Baker said. “We plan to use the space inside as a venue year-round.”



Aug. 11, 1983: Rock & Roll Hall of Famers Stevie Ray Vaughan & Double Trouble play the Showboat



Blues rock legend Stevie Ray Vaughan and his band Double Trouble performed at the Lowell Showboat on Thursday, Aug. 11, 1983, 37 years ago this week. There is no known recording of the concert, but a few images were taken by an unknown photographer.

1983 was a big year for Vaughan. He turned 29 years old, he signed a contract with a major record label and made an album, he played lead guitar on David Bowie’s latest album and he toured all over the USA and Europe.

Vaughan was killed in a helicopter crash after a show in East Troy, WI on Aug. 27, 1990. Double Trouble was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2015.



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Gov. Whitmer extends executive order protecting people in long-term care facilities

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-156 on July 23, which continues the limited and temporary restrictions on the entry of individuals into health care facilities, residential care facilities, congregate care facilities, and juvenile justice facilities previously imposed by Executive Order 2020-136. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services remains empowered to

specify exceptions to these restrictions.

“We must remain vigilant in our fight against COVID-19 and protect our most vulnerable citizens from the spread of this virus,” Gov. Whitmer said in a press release. “This executive order protects more long-term care facility residents and staff, including the most vulnerable residents in our nursing homes. I know

seniors and their families are making sacrifices every day during this crisis, and moving forward, I will work closely with the Michigan Nursing Homes COVID-19 Preparedness Task Force to protect our most vulnerable communities - the heroes on the front lines and our families - from this virus.”

EO 2020-156 maintains restrictions on visitation to health care facilities, residential care facilities,

congregate care facilities, and juvenile justice facilities, while authorizing the Department of Health and Human Services to gradually re-open visitation as circumstances permit. This policy was in place since March and has consistently prohibited entry into nursing homes by persons exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. The order is effective immediately and continues

through August 31, 2020.

On June 26, Gov. Whitmer created the bipartisan Michigan Nursing Homes COVID-19 Preparedness Task Force within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, which is charged with, among other things, analyzing relevant data on the threat of COVID-19 in nursing homes, and making recommendations to the

governor on improving data quality, and releasing periodic reports to the governor on its findings and recommendations. The task force must produce a recommendation to the governor for an action plan on how to prepare nursing homes for any future wave of COVID-19 cases by Aug. 31.



...

The cider tasted like Michigan too and I always remembered the cider mill.
~ Ernest Hemingway, *True at First Light*

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATORS & REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

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

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

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

Gov. Whitmer amends Safe Start Order to limit indoor gatherings

On Thursday, July 30, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Orders 2020-160 and 2020-161, amending Michigan's Safe Start Order and issuing revised workplace safeguards. Under these orders, statewide indoor gatherings will be limited to 10 people and bars will be closed for indoor service across the state starting July 31.

“As we see COVID-19 cases continue to rise, Michiganders cannot afford to drop our guard,” Whitmer said in a press release. “We must take every step possible to save lives, protect the brave men and women on the front lines, and avoid overwhelming our healthcare system while we continue to combat COVID-19. After seeing a resurgence in cases connected to social

gatherings across the state, we must further limit gatherings for the health of our community and economy. By taking these strong actions, we will be better positioned to get our children back into classrooms and avoid

“As we see COVID-19 cases continue to rise, Michiganders cannot afford to drop our guard.”
Gov. Gretchen Whitmer

a potentially devastating second wave.”

COVID-19's resurgence is closely associated with super-spreading events at large social gatherings, often attended by young people. An outbreak at a Lansing bar has resulted in 187

infections; more than 50 cases have been linked to a single house party in Saline; and a sandbar party at Torch Lake over the July 4 weekend led to at least 43 confirmed cases. Therefore, Executive Order 2020-160 limits statewide indoor

gatherings to 10 people or less and, across most of the state, limits outdoor gatherings to 100. The outdoor gathering limits will remain at 250 in regions 6 and 8.

EO 2020-160 also orders that bars in every region, including those in

regions 6 and 8, must close for indoor service if they earn more than 70 percent of their gross receipts from sales of alcoholic beverages.

Under the new orders, Detroit casinos will be allowed to open on Aug. 5, but their occupancy will be limited to 15 percent capacity. Casinos must also, among other things, conduct a daily entry screening protocol for customers and employees, temperature screening. Casinos must require patrons to wear a face covering, except while eating or drinking or for identification purposes.

EO 2020-160 rescinds EOs 2020-110, 2020-115, 2020-120, 2020-133 and 2020-143.

For the most up to date information about the pandemic, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

Status of \$3.5B road bonds

With the wall-to-wall coverage given to the COVID-19 crisis, there has been little, if any, attention to fixing Michigan's roads with the \$3.5 billion in bonds Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ordered earlier this year.

The Department of Transportation is preparing right now for the sale of \$800 million in bonds, with the price to be set in late August and the actual closing sometime in September.

MDOT is upbeat about receiving a good interest rate, given the State Trunkline bond credit is pegged at Aa2 with Moodys, and at Standard and Poors it's a respectable AA+.

Back in January, the state transportation commission decided to fund 49 new road projects.

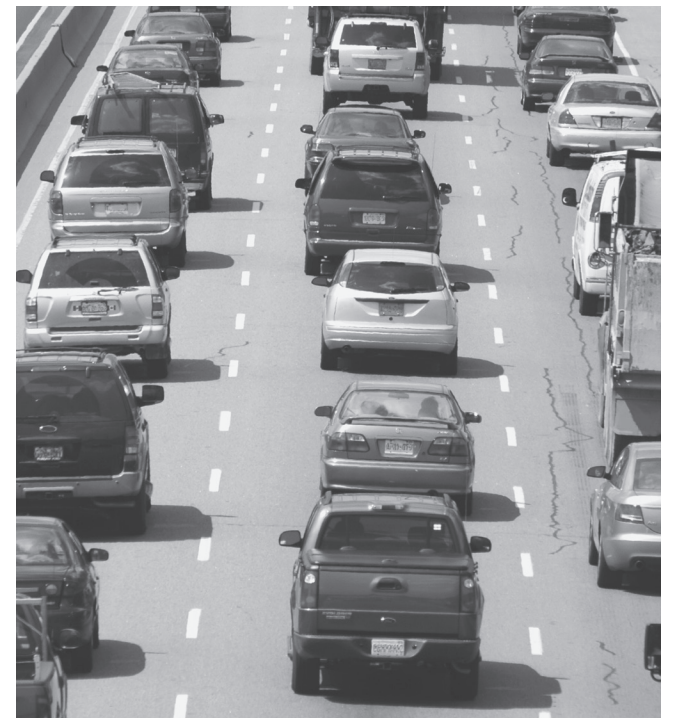
While these new bonds have not been rated yet, the state is hoping to recoup \$1 billion from the sale, which will mean more orange barrels down the road.

The remainder of the \$2.5 billion will be allocated at a later date.

A number of other projects are not funded by bonds but are being accelerated because of funding freed up by the infusion of bond money, according to MDOT.

“The need to restore our crumbling infrastructure did not go away because of the pandemic and the governor

remains committed to the bond program,” said MDOT spokesperson Jeff Cranson in a press release.



MHSAA representative council approves phased-in practice and competition for fall sports

On Wednesday, July 29, the representative council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association approved the next steps in returning sports for member schools, adopting a plan to phase in competition for fall sports in hopes of continuing to deter the spread of COVID-19.

The council affirmed that lower-risk sports – cross country, Lower Peninsula girls golf, Lower

conducted. As this remains a fluid situation, the MHSAA would release updated timelines for competition for football, girls volleyball and boys soccer by Aug. 20 dependent on how the spread of the virus is trending statewide. Plans remain reliant on sustained metrics measuring virus spread and/or progression by schools and regions across the state according to

precautions that apply generally for all sports. These include coverage of the protocol for reporting COVID-19 infections, guidance on face coverings (athletes participating on the field/court are not required to wear face coverings but are allowed to do so, but bench personnel must wear face coverings at all times), transportation, use of locker rooms and facility cleaning. Specific sport guidelines

exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such

association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate

in MHSAA tournaments, which attract more than 1.4 million spectators each year.



Peninsula boys tennis, Upper Peninsula girls tennis and Lower Peninsula girls swimming and diving – may begin practice on Aug. 12 and begin competition on their traditional start dates of Aug. 19 and 21.

However, moderate and high-risk sports – football, girls volleyball and boys soccer – may begin practice but not competition. Decisions about competition timelines for these three sports will be made by Aug. 20.

Practice for boys soccer and girls volleyball may begin on Aug. 12. Football will delay the start of practice with full player pads and equipment until Monday, Aug. 17. The week of Aug. 10 may include football practice sessions consisting of conditioning, physical training and skill work with no other player equipment except helmets. This week of acclimatization is similar to allowed summer football activities that have been ongoing for schools since June.

The council – the MHSAA’s 19-member legislative body – also voted to cancel scrimmages in all fall sports for this school year and approved limitations on numbers of teams that may compete together at regular-season tournaments, invitationals and other multi-team events. The council believed eliminating scrimmages emphasized the importance of keeping teams from mixing before the first date of competition, and the regular-season limitations may lessen opportunities for viral spread while still allowing meets to be

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s MI Safe Start Plan. Currently two regions are in phase five, which allow for limited indoor activity, while the rest are in phase four and unable to host indoor training, practice or competition.

The start of volleyball and swimming and diving practices are in part contingent on the reopening of indoor facilities. Those sports may begin their practices outdoors if not allowed to be indoors by Aug. 12.

“The council, reflecting on the positive impact on their athletes this summer from taking part in offseason training, feels it’s of utmost importance to continue athletic activity moving forward,” said MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl. “If we take a month off, our students will find opportunities to compete through non-school entities that may not be as focused on safety. Our athletic directors and coaches can provide the safest-possible environment to return to sports, and this phased-in approach to competition will help schools continue building on progress already made. The council chose to make these adjustments to help ensure our athletes have a safe regular season this fall. As we continue to solidify the regular season, we can then turn our attention to building a safe postseason for our athletes.”

The MHSAA also has posted sport-by-sport guidance documents outlining increased precautions designed to limit the viral spread, plus a four-page overview with

and the overview are available on the respective sport pages of the MHSAA website: mhsaa.com/sports. Recommendations on spectator attendance will follow before the start of competition; spectators will be limited in accordance with Gov. Whitmer’s executive orders on large gatherings.

The council on July 17 approved a return-to-activity plan for the 2020-21 school year retaining the traditional calendar of fall, winter and spring sports, but allowing for the possibility that all sports forced to halt activity during the next four months may conclude later in the school year.

“The easy way out would be to postpone all activity to next spring, and we are not taking the easy way out,” Uyl said. “We will make wise decisions based on medical guidance. We will make these difficult decisions quickly and appropriately. If we don’t play this fall, it won’t be because we didn’t make every effort to do so.”

The representative council is the legislative body of the MHSAA. All but five members are elected by member schools. Four members are appointed by the council to facilitate representation of females and minorities and the 19th position is occupied by the superintendent of public instruction or their designee.

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by more than 1,500 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which

NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS

(In accordance with 1956 PA 40, as amended)

Notice is Hereby Given that a Day of Review will be held on **Friday, August 21, 2020**, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Kent County Drain Commissioner’s Office, 1500 Scribner Ave., Grand Rapids, MI 49504. At that date and place, the Kent County Drain Commissioner will hear the proofs and allegations and carefully reconsider and review the description of lands within Kent County comprising the Drainage Districts for the Drains listed below, and will determine whether the addition or deletion of lands will more accurately define the boundaries of the land benefitted by the Drains and is just and equitable pursuant to Section 197 of 1956 PA 40, as amended. The Drain Commissioner will also review the apportionment of benefits for assessment purposes. The Drains are located and established in the following municipalities, and a general description of the lands proposed to be added or deleted, in whole or in part, include the following:

DRAIN NO.	DRAIN NAME	MUNICIPALITY	SECTION NUMBERS
8568	BOWLER	BOWNE TOWNSHIP	17-20

Maps of the proposed Drainage District boundary revisions and the list of parcels within the district may be found at the Kent County Drain Commissioner’s Office or on its website www.accesskent.com/Departments/DrainCommissioner/meeting_notices.htm

The Kent County Drain Commissioner will have the tentative apportionments against parcels and municipalities within the Drainage Districts available to review. Drain assessments will be collected in the same manner as property taxes. If Drain assessments are to be collected in installments, they may be paid in full with any interest to date to avoid further interest charges. The entities to be assessed at large are the municipalities listed above, as well as Kent County for benefit to county roads, and the State of Michigan Department of Transportation for those Drainage Districts that include state highways. The lands to be assessed are those generally described as being within the Sections set forth above.

YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE DAY OF REVIEW

Prior to the Day of Review, you may contact the Drain Commissioner’s Office at 616-632-7910 or visit its website to get information about your apportionment and assessment. The Drain Commissioner intends to hold an in-person Day of Review at the location stated above. However due to the ongoing coronavirus public health crisis, we are asked to reduce the in-person meeting and request that any questions be addressed through email or phone. Otherwise, an appointment can be made to meet with the staff on the Day of Review between the hours of 8:30am -4:30pm. Please call to make such appointment.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Kent County Drain Commissioner at (616) 632-7910, or the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

You are Further Notified that persons aggrieved by the decision to add or delete property to or from a Drainage District may seek judicial review in the Kent County Circuit Court within ten (10) days of the decision, and persons aggrieved by the decision with regard to the apportionment of benefits for assessment purposes may appeal to the Kent County Probate Court within ten (10) days of the Day of Review.

7/22/2020

Kenneth Yonker
Kent County Drain Commissioner

obituaries

DELOOF

Karen Sue DeLoof, age 62 of Grand Rapids, formerly of Lowell, passed away Thursday, July 30, 2020 with her loving family at her side. She was preceded in death by her father, Arnie DeLoof. She is survived by her mother, Norann R. DeLoof; brother, Brian (Barb) DeLoof; sister, Nancy Russell; nephews, Sean Butterworth, David



Devroy, Scott DeLoof and Andy Russell. Karen was funny, fierce, and feisty with a quick wit. She enjoyed volunteering for Disability Advocates. Karen loved her family deeply and had a strong faith in God. Karen's family will receive friends and relatives Tuesday,

August 4, 2020 from 9:30 AM-10:30 AM at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell. Graveside services will be at 11:00am Tuesday at Oakwood Cemetery. Rev. Karen Campbell of Church of the Servant, officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Spectrum Hospice, 100 Michigan, NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or Church of the Servant, 3835 Burton, SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



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GIPSON

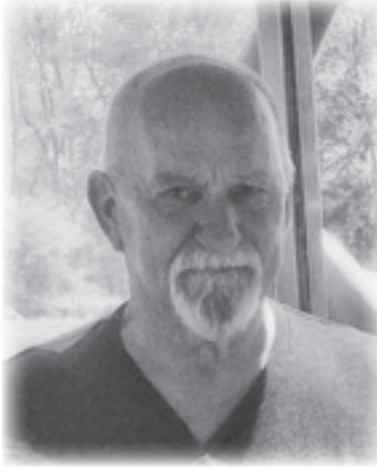
Gracelynn Rose Gipson, weighing 3 ounces and 6.5 inches long, passed in the arms of her loving parents July 27, 2020. Her life was a brief gift to us, that will forever be imprinted in our hearts. Hebrews 13:2 states, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for whereby, some have entertained Angels unaware." Angels may be someone who enters your life even briefly, to protect, guide, and teach. Gracelynn fulfilled her duty and then went home to our Lord. God will say, well done my good and faithful servant, welcome home. Fly high Gracie, we will see you again soon.... Gracelynn Rose is survived by her parents, Jordan and Lindsey Gipson; her grandparents, Robert and Sheri Stehley, and Raymond and Janise Gipson; her great-grandparents, Robert and Sandra Murdock, John and Pam Adamson, Lori Stehley and Erma Williams. Many loving aunts, uncles and cousins. Gracelynn was preceded in death by Freeman (MICK) Stehley, Jeremy Gipson, Dale Williams, Clarence Gipson, and Marvella Gipson. Gracelynn will rest in peace beside her maternal great great-grandparents Sam and Lois Ledford at Flint Memorial Park. Graveside services were held Friday, July 31, 2020 at 1:00 PM., Rev. Robert Murdock, officiating.



GOULD

Randy Gould, age 71 of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, July 30th, 2020. Randy is survived by his daughter, Kim Harding; son, Ryan (Chayo) Gould; their mother, Barb Zandstra; son-in-law, Mike Harding; grand children,

Jacob (Tia) Gould, Jordan Harding, Brayden Gould, Gavin Gould; siblings, Bonnie (Will) Cardinel, Diane Ferris, Doug (Vicki) Gould. In addition to his parents, Randy was preceded in death by his sisters, June McCaul, Marsha Holliday; brothers, Dick McCaul, Ken Gould, Art



Gould, David Gould. Randy was a graduate of Lowell High School and a life-long resident who enjoyed fishing, hunting, playing pinochle and euchre with his buddies at the Lowell Moose. Most of all, Randy loved spending time with his grandchildren; whether it was attending Jacob's wrestling matches, Brayden's tennis tournaments, Gavin's baseball games or Jordan's lacrosse games, you would always find "Papa" in attendance to cheer them on. There will be a celebration of Randy's life at the Lowell Moose Lodge, 1320 E Main St, Lowell, MI 49331 on Saturday, August 15 at 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions should be made to the charity of one's choice.



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KETTNER

Harold Grant Kettner, aged 77 of Lowell, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, July 29, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth and their three children, Mark Scott (Bonnie) of Lowell, Brenden John (Phi Yen) of Atlantic, VA, and Sarah Elizabeth Lutz (Ron VanderWerff) of Muir; his brother, Michael Kettner (Diane) of Grand Rapids. Harold was the grandfather of nine children. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Greta Kettner of Lowell. Harold met Beth while studying at Kendall School of Design in Grand Rapids. He attended Kodak to earn a journeyman degree in color and black and white photography.



He was a member of the Graphic Arts International Union and served many years as a Steward while employed at Michigan Lithographic in Grand Rapids. In retirement he worked at the Ford airport driving the shuttle bus and attending the parking facility. He loved cars. In his youth he was known to do a bit of racing, earning two trophies.

A fond memory was when at five years of age, he rode on the Ford Proving Grounds sitting on his father's knee while living in Detroit. Harold had a 1956 Buick Special and attended the 100th anniversary of the Buick line in Flint. He also attended many car shows. He enjoyed traveling in the states as well as Scotland, Netherlands, and Vietnam. The most memorable time was when he climbed a Mayan pyramid and then had to climb down. His greatest love was his family. Harold was an excellent father and role model, deeply loved by his children and grandchildren. He loved his community and spent many years on the Lowell YMCA board. Harold also served on the vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church in Ionia. A Celebration of Harold's life will be scheduled at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Lewy Body Dementia Association, 912 Killian Hill Rd., SW, Lilburn, GA 30047 <https://www.dementiasociety.org/association/foundation>.



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A redesigned retirement benefits portal that works for you

We are excited to tell you about our redesigned retirement benefits portal at www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement. Keeping you informed about our products and services, and helping you prepare for making decisions that will affect your benefits is very important to us. Preparing for retirement is one of the most important decisions you can make.

We made our redesigned retirement benefits portal more user-friendly and easier to navigate, whether you are ready to learn about, apply for, or manage your retirement benefits. You'll find the new portal eye pleasing, informative, and optimized for mobile devices. We also improved how we list our information on search engines to make



Our website has helped millions of people get ready for and apply for retirement. But we heard your feedback that you also want to:

- Find the information you need without reading through too many pages.
- Learn about the benefits in a clear and concise way.
- Be better prepared to apply for retirement online.
- Learn how to manage your personal my Social Security account online.

it easier for you to find outside our website.

The new Retirement Benefits portal is just the first of several steps we are taking to improve your experience on our website. Visit our new retirement benefits portal today at www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement to Learn, Apply, and Manage your retirement benefits and subscribe to receive retirement information and updates.

Stay tuned for more exciting improvements and services.

Statewide COVID fatality rate down to 7.7

The statewide fatality rate from COVID-19 as of today now stands at 7.7 percent, down from a high of 9.74 percent from back in mid-May.

On Wednesday, July 29, the state reported another 996 cases, but it was noted that roughly 300 of these were older cases cleared from a backlog of tests at a commercial lab. There were also two more deaths reported last Wednesday.

The cumulative total for Michigan now is 80,172 cases and 6,172 deaths, amounting to 7.7 percent overall fatality rate.

On May 13, the state hit a 9.74 percent rate when there were 48,391 total cases and 4,714 deaths. The last time the fatality rate

was this low was back on April 19, with a death rate of 7.61 percent.

Michigan saw 4,841 cases in the past seven days, or 48 cases per 100,000 people, according to The New York Times tally of COVID cases nationwide.

In comparison to other states, Florida has seen the most cases in the past week – 72,143 cases. Florida also leads in cases per 100,000 people in the last seven days, with 336.

As far as deaths go, The New York Times has Michigan at 41 total the past week, and less than one person per 100,000. The leader in this category is Texas, with 2,196 deaths in the past week and eight deaths per 100,000.

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for sale

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FOR SALE - '82 motorcycle, CB900C Honda, hi-low transmission, full dresser, drive shaft, just serviced. \$2,250. Call 906-203-1461.

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

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

REACH OVER 100,000 AREA HOMES - with our Marketplace! One call & one payment, only \$40! Includes 20 words & 1 black & white photo. Only items for sale please. Perfect place to advertise a vehicle or camper for sale! The ad runs in the Lowell Buyer's Guide & News, Hastings Reminder, Marshall Advisor/Chronicle & Battle Creek Shopper News. Call 897-9555, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com or stop by 105 N. Broadway for more info.

help wanted

VETERINARIAN - FT, VCA Inc. in Grand Rapids, MI. Email: recruiting@vca.com

sales

HUGE MOVING SALE - Downsizing, furniture, women's clothes small, men's clothes large, lots of knick knacks, tools and household goods. Aug. 13 & 14, 8 to 5, 10300 Downes NE.

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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 EOW

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

wanted

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

TRACTOR MAN - aggregate driveway up-keep, lawn prep, bucket/fork work, food plots, gardens, brush/field mowing. 616-272-8097, kaamcosps@gmail.com

FAX SERVICE - We send or receive a fax for you! Great Rate - \$1 for the first page & 50¢ for each additional page. Buyers Guide, 105 N. Broadway, 897-9555.

CARPENTER WANTS JOBS, JOBS, JOBS - New homes, remodeling, additions, flooring, siding, decks, kitchens, baths, plans drawn. Licensed since 1967. References. Mel Cooke, 676-9239. No Sunday calls please.

services

STUMP GRINDING - Call Dan for free estimate, 616-970-3832.

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.

POWER WASHING - Houses, decks, modular homes. Also deck staining with sanding options. 14 years experience, quality work, free estimates. Email Jeff at jbrower7@gmail.com call/text 616-706-9519. Prefer email.

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 classified ads, and must be paid for when ad is placed. Call 897-9555 or email to: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

services

SEAMLESS GUTTER - Blead Eavestrouthing. Free estimates, 50 colors, leaf guards. Since 1959. Choose the experience! (616) 765-3333 or 1-877-945-RAIN. www.bleam eaves.com

WORK WANTED - Double D's Tree & Handyman Service. 40' & 70' bucket truck, tree trimming & removal, gutter cleaning, window washing, power washing, buildings, barns, homes, decks, etc. Insured. Call Dave Delinsky, 616-212-3008. Free estimates. TFN

TWO BROTHERS AUTO SERVICE - 5400 Ivan Rd., Saranac, 616-642-9180. 30 years experience, state certified, licensed & insured. Hours Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm. Dave Traver head mechanic.

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misc.

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

A grid of letters with several words circled in black:

- FLORIDERS
- SMBGIDOR
- BARBERS
- SHS
- URVPPV
- CHEAEL
- TACPOV
- GFTPRI
- FUIULI
- YIYAMP
- NATOCY
- MEDEMS
- DAEQVLL
- YNIAPI
- BETPC
- MBGIDOR
- BARBERS
- SHS
- URVPPV
- CHEAEL
- TACPOV
- GFTPRI
- FUIULI
- YIYAMP
- NATOCY
- MEDEMS
- DAEQVLL
- YNIAPI
- BETPC

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Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones

Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

How can you help lower your longevity risk?

The investment world contains different types of risk. Your stocks or stock-based mutual funds could lose value during periods of market volatility. The price of your bonds or bond funds could also decline, if new bonds are issued at higher interest rates. But have you ever thought about longevity risk?

Insurance companies and pension funds view longevity risk as the risk they incur when their assumptions about life expectancies and mortality rates are incorrect, leading to higher payout levels. But

for you, as an individual investor, longevity risk is less technical and more emotional: it's the risk of outliving your money.

To assess your own longevity risk, you'll first want to make an educated guess about your life span, based on your health and family history. Plus, you've got some statistics to consider: Women who turned 65 in April of this year can expect to live, on average, until age 86.5; for men, the corresponding figure is 84, according to the Social Security Administration.

Once you have a reasonable estimate of the number of years that lie ahead, you'll want to take steps to reduce your longevity risk. For starters, try to build your financial resources as much as possible, because the greater your level of assets, the lower the risk of outliving them. So, during your working years, keep contributing to your IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Then, as you near retirement, you will need to do some planning. Specifically, you will need to compare your essential living expenses – mortgage/rent, utilities, food, clothing, etc. – with the amount of income you'll get from guaranteed sources, such as Social Security or pensions. You do have some flexibility with this guaranteed income pool. For example, you can file for Social Security

benefits as early as 62, but your monthly checks will then be reduced by about 30 percent from what you'd receive if you waited until your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67.

You might also consider other investments that can provide you with a steady income stream. A financial professional can help you choose the income-producing investments that are appropriate for your needs and that fit well with the rest of your portfolio.

After you've determined that your guaranteed income will be sufficient to meet your essential living expenses, have you eliminated longevity risk? Not necessarily – because "essential" expenses don't include unexpected costs, of which there may be many, such as costly home maintenance, auto repairs and so on. And during your

retirement years, you'll always need to be aware of health care costs. If you have to dip into your guaranteed income sources to pay for these types of bills, you might increase the risk of outliving your money.

To avoid this scenario,

at all, but it will be there for you when you need it.

With careful planning, adequate guaranteed income, a sufficient emergency fund and enough other investments to handle nonessential costs, you'll be doing what you can to reduce your own longevity



you may want to establish a separate fund, possibly containing at least a year's worth of living expenses, with the money held in cash or cash equivalents. This money won't grow much, if

risk. And that may lead to a more enjoyable retirement.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Live the Life You Want Relationship communication basics

Melissa Spino MA LLPC CDMS
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

This is a continuation of the relationship series. The first article discussed unrealistic ideals and the second focused on building a strong foundation. Now let's focus on basic relationship communication issues.

Common Communication Issues

Below are some common relationship communication issues. If you work to avoid these types of communication issues your relationship can become stronger with more open and honest communication. These apply to any type of

relationship at work, home or in your personal life.

Avoid the blame game. Instead of "you" language use "I" language. Saying things like, "You make me feel, you need to change, you are at fault," is blaming the other person. Take responsibility for your feelings. Instead of saying, "You never call me, I guess you don't want to talk to me," say, "I feel hurt when you go so long without calling. I'm afraid you don't care." Change, "You make me angry when you don't listen," to "I feel angry when you don't listen."

Avoid personal attacks – attacking, accusing, criticizing, and

calling names is not okay. It is unhealthy behavior and disrespectful. Treat your partner like your care.

Not actively listening. If you are formulating your reply to show you are right while your partner is still talking, you are most likely in "argument" mode. Instead, focus on what your partner is really saying and try to understand it from their point of view. Avoid trying to be right and instead listen to understand.

Tone of voice. Sometimes when having communication issues our tone of voice may change. This change may be due to stress, irritation, discomfort, etc. It can be difficult,



but work to control your tone of voice to keep communication open and to avoid escalating a discussion to an argument.

Don't invalidate feelings. Work to avoid minimizing, ignoring, judging, or belittling your partner's feelings. Try to understand what they are feeling from their point of view.

Talk to others with respect and show that they matter.

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FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

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

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!

EYE HEALTH WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

EYE HEALTH WORD SEARCH

CONTACTS CORNEA

FLOATERS GLASSES

PUPIL READING

DEBRIS

ITCHY

REDNESS

ALLERGIES

DILATED

MACULA

RETINA

BLURRY

DOCTOR

OPHTHALMOLOGIST

SIGHT

CARE

DOMINANT

OPTOMETRIST

VITREOUS

CATARACT

FLASHING

PAIN

Guess Who?

I am an athlete born in California on August 3, 1977. I watched the 1981 NFC championship game at age 4 and got hooked on football. As a quarterback, I have won six Super Bowl Championships and recently agreed to play for a new team.

Answer: Tom Brady

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to eyes.

A C R A A T C T

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

Answer: CATARACT

			1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		
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48				49						50				
51										52				
			53							54				55
		56						57		58				
		59								60				

CLUES ACROSS

- Opposite of on
- Creator
- No seats available
- About springtime
- Flagship ESPN show (abbr.)
- Automobile
- A matchup
- Porous volcanic rock
- Utter repeatedly
- Not written in any key
- Revolved
- Archrival
- Within
- Smoker's accessory
- Disfigure
- Primordial matter
- Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- Kisses
- Some is iced
- A way to derive
- Unaccompanied by others
- Discontinued Google app
- Tony B. left his heart there

- Condiment
- Ancient Italian city
- One who distributes payoff money
- Guarantees
- Highly decorative
- Strike with a stick
- Pie ___ mode
- Spanish be
- Glued
- A way to drench
- Part of the body
- Changes the color

CLUES DOWN

- Passerine birds
- Noisy quarrel
- The front arm or leg of an animal
- Early multimedia
- Golden years
- Large mollusk
- Small arm of the sea
- Persian jurisdiction
- Atomic #81
- From end to end
- Adorable
- Ma
- Nearly falling
- Portable conical tent
- Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- Fish with high dorsal fins
- Equal (prefix)
- Aquatic plant genus
- Choppers
- Hand parts
- Region bordering the sea
- Well-liked
- Nap
- It's used to make beer
- Related on the father's side
- Senior officer
- Delicacy (archaic)
- Figures
- A way to take away
- Beloved sandwich ___&J
- Symptom typical of withdrawal (abbr.)

Beach volleyball courts added to township park



by Brendan A. Sanders
contributing reporter

The Grand River Riverfront Park is receiving even more upgrades with a new addition that is sure to add more fun for families.

Eight beach volleyball courts are currently being installed at the south end of the Grand River Riverfront Park, in a little-used section located just east of the walking bridge. The courts can easily be accessed through the entrance on Grand River Dr.

The project was spearheaded by Lowell Township supervisor Jerry Hale and former Team USA

beach volleyball player Bill Genovich, who also founded the TAG beach volleyball club that quickly outgrew its original facility.

The project was paid through both a grant and a contribution of \$10,000 from Canfield Plumbing and Heating. Timpson Transport also provided help with excavating and transporting sand to the location.

“I was at a meeting with Jerry Hale, and they said they had funding for four courts but they wanted to get funding for eight,” Canfield said. “We were

able to donate \$10,000 so that they could put in the full eight courts. Timpson Transport also contributed by hauling the sand and doing the excavating to reduce the cost.”

Canfield was happy with how the community had been supporting his business, so he chose to give back.

“The Lowell community has been really good and supportive of us,” Canfield said. “We had a good year last year and, so far, things are going well for us this year, so we thought we

would give back to the community.”

Canfield also commented on the unique opportunities this park has to provide entertainment we do not see in many areas.

“It’s really impressive when you walk across the bridge that they got funding for,” Canfield said. “It makes Lowell a destination for people, having something that small towns and even big cities don’t. It’s like playing on the Lake Michigan beach right here in Lowell.”

The courts will be seeing some action right off the bat with a tournament being held on Saturday, Aug. 8. That tournament will be hosted by the TAG beach volleyball club owned and operated by Genovich.

The tournament is a “2V2” tournament for athletes ages 10 through 18, with both men’s and women’s divisions. The tournament will start at 10 am, with check-in between 9 and 9:45 am. The cost is \$50 per team to enter.

Another major event taking place at the volleyball courts will be a free volleyball clinic for kids of all ages that will be run by the TAG beach volleyball club and the Lowell High School girls volleyball team. It will be in conjunction with Pink Arrow Community Day on Friday, Aug. 21 and will run from 5 to 6 pm. That will be followed by an exhibition game with professional volleyball players from 6 to 7 pm.



MARKET ON MAIN

— 2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH —

10am to 5pm on August 8 and September 12

DOWNTOWN HISTORIC LOWELL

**Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Merchants
invite you to our Pop-up “Markets on Main Street”!**



Join us for outdoor sales that will promote shopping locally as we practice social distancing. Merchants and area vendors will offer their specialty items in a fun and summer-filled atmosphere.

Make sure you mark your calendar!

Our shops and vendors will be waiting for you!