

Ball's Softee Crème's 50th anniversary



Pages 2 - 3

Don't miss the Riverwalk Festival this weekend



Downtown Lowell is about to get super busy when the Riverwalk Festival returns this weekend. The event will take place on Thursday, Friday and Saturday July 8, 9 and 10.

Look for the duck raffle, grilling and chilling on Avery, the car cruise, the kids' zone and the used

book sale at the Englehardt Library.

There will be live music from Soul Syndicate on Thursday and the Bronk Bros. on Friday, and on Saturday there will be an open mic talent show for anybody with special talents.

The Lowell Area Historical Museum will

have placed 10 placards around the downtown area with QR codes to scan for in depth information about the history of that specific location. It's sort of a self-guided, interactive historical tour of Lowell.

A big attraction for those 18 and older will be Moose bingo, a benefit for

Mooseheart Child City and School and Moosehaven, sponsored by Lowell Moose 809. Moose bingo will be open on Thursday and Friday 4 pm to 9 pm and Saturday from noon to 4 pm.

The Run the Riverwalk 5k race is returning, it's a benefit for a community in Swaziland, Africa, and it will

take place on Saturday, July 10 at 8:30 am. To sign up or for more information, visit runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lowell/RuntheRiverwalk.

For the most up to date information, including a schedule of events and a list of vendors, visit discoverlowell.org/riverwalk_festival.

Milton Berle upstaged by ducks on the Lowell Showboat



pages 8 - 9

Lowell Area Museum fundraiser returns



The Lowell Area Historical Museum, 325 W. Main, will once again hold their "Summer Fest" fundraiser from 6 until 9 pm on Friday, Aug. 20. The event was cancelled last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attendees will be able to freely explore the museum and its grounds while enjoying food, beer and wine from local

restaurants, caterers, breweries and wineries, and live music from the Easy Idle String Band.

Tickets include admission, a souvenir Lowell Area Historical Museum glass, food and beverages, and all proceeds will benefit the museum's programs.

Food at the event will be provided by Big Boiler Brewing, Flat

River Grill, Heidi's Farm Stand, Larkin's and Miss P's Catering, and there will be local craft beer from New Union Brewery and Big Boiler Brewing. Several other beers and wines originating in Michigan will also be served.

The event is sponsored by Addorio Technologies, Greenridge Realty of Lowell, Reagan Family

Dentistry, Edward Jones Financial Advisor, River Valley Credit Union, Chimera Design, Miss P's Catering, Big Boiler Brewing, Larkin's, Flat River Grill, New Union Brewery and Heidi's Farm Stand.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit brownpapertickets.com/event/5144220 or call 616-897-7688.

Hastings Banner selected by Report for America



page 7

LPD promotes two field training officers



LPD officers Ian Shears (left) and Mike Stephens (right).

The Lowell Police Department announced last week that officers Mike Stephens and Ian Shears have graduated from the 40 hour DeWolfe and Associates Field Training and Evaluation Program. Stephens and Shears will now be LPD's newest field training officers.

"The FTO is a critical position in the department," LPD chief Christopher Hurst said in a press release. "The role of the FTO is to mentor, teach, train, evaluate and supervise new officers to the department on its policies and procedures, and the community. The success of [any] new officer and their future with the department is, in part, dependent on the FTO."

50¢



Ball's Softee Crème celebrating 50 years with party



Colleen LaLone and Jim Ball

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Ball's Softee Crème, 503 E. Main, will celebrate their 50th anniversary in business by throwing a big party with special prices and entertainment on Saturday, July 10.

From 6 pm until 9 pm that day, they will be offering hot

dogs, ice cream cones, soda pop, chips and pickles for \$.50 each, and there will be live entertainment from the Stone Street Revival band.

The shop was started by Harold and Rose Ball on Memorial Day 1971. Two of their children, Colleen

LaLone and Jim Ball, along with Colleen's husband Dar LaLone, have operated the ice cream shop since 1991. Jim and Colleen have worked there since opening day, when they were still teenagers. Harold and Rose Ball both passed away in 2019.

The Ball family moved to Lowell in 1954, into a house next door to a gas station called Cities Service. That gas station would turn out to be the future location of Ball's Softee Crème.

"Our family's house was next door, until our dad moved it in 1996 so that we could have a parking lot," said Jim. "There was no place to park here, customers used to park right out in front on M-21 and on Jefferson, up and down the streets. That house is now at 401 N. Division, where dad owned a lot. Our dad also owned a laundromat in Ionia, and after he bought the gas station he used the building for storage for laundromat equipment. I wish I could remember the lady who suggested that mom and dad put in an ice cream shop! It was a little older lady, she had the



suggestion, and obviously my mom and dad thought about that for quite a while. That would have been in the late 60s, so they owned the building for a few years before they decided what to do. I remember dad saying something about putting in an ice cream shop, and I think I had a dream about it!"

"Mom and dad always owned something, and us kids always had a thousand jobs to do," said Colleen. "From newborns up, we've worked every day. Everybody pitches in, you have no choice! They really taught us to appreciate what we have and to work for what we want."

"Back in the 70s, all we had in here was one small ice cream machine and one window, and all we served were cones," Jim said. "Things were quite cheap back then, 50 years ago. Everything was a nickel or a dime, and I think they made about 85 bucks our first day. My mom said, 'I think we've really got something here, Harold!' Nickel-and-dime your way up to 85 bucks back in 1971 was a pretty good day. And it just progressed throughout the years, we've tried a lot of different stuff. We used to

have those little packaged Stewart sandwiches. Somewhere along the line, probably about 40 years ago, my mom and dad found a recipe that they liked for chili, and they started making chili dogs. We only use meat from Gary's for the chili. As long as I can remember, people have been trying to get that chili recipe out of us. I just laugh and say no."

"We've kept the chili recipe the same all these years," said Colleen. "We make anywhere from four to six batches of chili a week. Six batches would be 220 pounds of hamburger. That's a lot of chili! We just started out with a little red carousel steamer for our hot dogs, and a lot of the factories around here would come in for lunch. We were one of the only choices on this end of town."

"That's a lot of ice cream, a lot of employees and a lot of customers," Jim said. "Without the customers we would be nothing, they are the driving force behind what we do and they make it worthwhile. We get people from the East Coast, the West Coast, the north, the south, even Europe! For some kids that grew up here and moved away, whenever they come to visit their parents, this is one of their first stops when they get off the plane. God bless them, they remember us, and I often remember them. We've been very, very fortunate and very blessed."

"Our customers are our driving force because they're so good and kind to us, and that makes it worthwhile," Colleen said. "I love how in the spring when they find

out we're opening, they're so excited."

"We always have between 40 and 60 employees every year, so over 14 years, that's a lot of people," Jim said. "Well, back in the 70s we didn't have as many because the place was a lot smaller. But we've been very, very, very, very, very fortunate to have all the high school kids who have worked for us throughout all the years. I can't even begin to tell you how many!"

They have kept the restaurant up to date over the years as food service laws changed and the business expanded. The most recent renovation was a kitchen overhaul in the mid-90s.

"This has been through about four remodels in the 50 years, which isn't too bad," Jim said. "We just kept going as far as the walls would go! I think I knocked out the last wall in 1994, and my wife Kim and I put this kitchen in, with a hood and a burner and all that stuff, so that it would be easier to make chili. Kim was actually a driving force behind a lot of the changes in the kitchen, and we still use a lot of her ingenuity and inventiveness to this day. Well, if it works! We had been using crock pots, there were crock pots all over the place... Probably one of the best things we ever did was expanding the kitchen with the new steam table and the new burner, new condiment tray, all that kind of stuff."

Another potential obstacle is the seasonal nature of an ice cream business in a cold climate, but the Balls have managed to overcome that as well.



Combine and get in on the surprise.



Here's the deal, our Home and Auto rates are already great. But when you combine with State Farm®, you can save even more. Call me to discover your surprisingly great rates on Home and Auto today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®
Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm underwriting requirements.

Deborah Wilks Ins Agency Inc
Deborah Wilks, Agent
11827 Fulton St E
Lowell, MI 49331
Bus: 616-897-9237



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company; State Farm Indemnity Company; State Farm Fire and Casualty Company; State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL; State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas; State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX; State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL 2001865

the lowell ledger

(USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$25 a year
for zipcodes beginning with 493 or 495;
\$36 a year any other zip code.

Deadline for display advertising is Friday at Noon
Deadline for classified advertising is Monday at 5 pm

Jon Jacobs Publisher/Editor
Tim McAllister Reporter/Editor
Tammy Janowiak Classified/Accounting/Sales
Jon Jacobs Advertising Sales

(616) 897-9261

email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:

The Lowell Ledger

PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

www.thelowellledger.com

NEED HELP WITH YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN?

If you have questions about your pension, 401(k) or profit sharing plan, call the Mid-America Pension Rights Project at (866) 735-7737 to get free legal advice. Funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging, MAPRP staff provides free legal assistance to anyone with a question about their retirement plan.

CALL US TODAY 1.866.735.7737

Ball's Softee Crème celebrating 50 years with party



Ralph and Barb Fluger were the first customers on Memorial Day, 1971.

“Being seasonal makes it a little more difficult, because you’ve got to make your hay while the sun shines,” Jim said. “It’s been a lot of work, a lot of hours, a lot of

lot younger then! But I was here all the time. And if I took a day off, all I did was sleep!”

Another attractive aspect of Ball’s Softee Crème is

LaLone has turned the outside into a beautiful area,” Jim said. “My mom and dad did the garden for years and years and years, they won even awards for



Photo of Ball's Softee Crème sometime in the 1980s.

upkeep. When I first took over, my main motivation was fear! Fear of failure, but mainly fear of not living up to the standards of Harold and Rose. I worked seven days a week, morning, noon and night. Of course, I was a

their beautifully-curated garden seating area. Originally maintained by Harold and Rose, Dar LaLone is the current caretaker.

“My brother-in-law Dar

their garden. In 2005, we were the second business in town to ever get the business appreciation award from the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. We’ve just been lucky.”

We'll Make You Feel at Home... a Part of the Family.

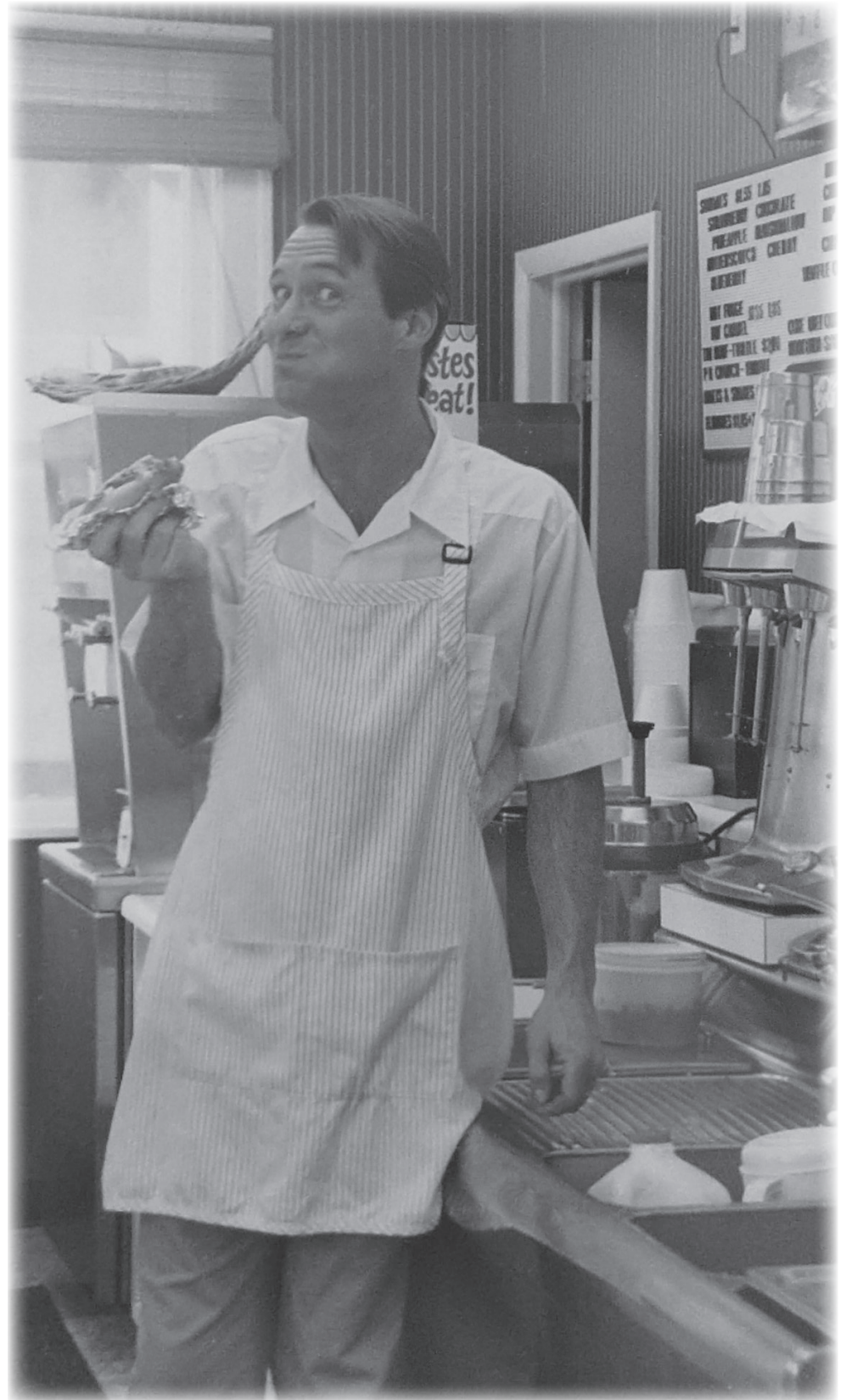


Family Dentistry of Lowell
Ann Wilson D.D.S. | Jennifer Byrd D.D.S

147 N. Center Street,
Lowell, MI 49331

Telephone: 616-897-4835

Info@familydentistryoflowell.com



Jim Ball snacking on a chili dog sometime in the 1980s.



Lowell Showboat SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERTS

Presented by LowellArts and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

Concerts are family-friendly and wheelchair accessible. Bleacher seating is available, or bring a chair. Free parking.

Enjoy Lowell's Social District for your adult beverages. Concessions also available for purchase.

THROUGH AUGUST 26 FREE OUTDOOR CONCERTS

THURSDAYS AT 7:00PM ON THE RIVERWALK PLAZA BY THE FLAT RIVER IN DOWNTOWN LOWELL

Watch the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts LIVE on Facebook!

JULY 15 Paradise Outlaw



Lead Sponsors



business directory

Today: Wednesday, July 7
Wednesday, July 7, is the 188th day of the year. There are 177 days remaining until the end of 2021.

Historic Events

1456: Joan of Arc is retried and acquitted of heresy, 25 years after her death.

1575: The Raid of the Redeswire is the last major battle between England and Scotland.

1777: American forces retreating from Fort Ticonderoga are defeated in the Battle of Hubbardton.

1834: Four nights of rioting against abolitionists begin in New York City.

1846: US troops occupy Monterey and Yerba Buena, beginning the US conquest of California.

1863: The US begins its first military draft. An exemption costs \$300.

1865: Four of the conspirators in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln are hanged by the neck until dead: George Atzerodt, David Herold, Lewis Payne and Mary Surratt.

1898: President William McKinley signs the Newlands Resolution annexing Hawaii as a territory of the United States.

1907: Florenz Ziegfeld Jr. stages his first "Follies" on the roof of a theater in New York City.

1911: The US, UK, Japan and Russia sign the North Pacific Fur Seal Convention, banning open-water seal hunting, the first international treaty to address wildlife preservation issues.

1928: Sliced bread is sold for the first time by the Chillicothe Baking Company

in Chillicothe, MO.

1930: Henry J. Kaiser begins construction of Boulder Dam, now known as Hoover Dam.

1946: Howard Hughes nearly dies when his XF-11 reconnaissance aircraft prototype crashes in a Beverly Hills, CA neighborhood.

1954: Elvis Presley makes his radio broadcast debut when WHBQ in Memphis plays his Sun Records recording of the song "That's All Right."

1958: President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs the Alaska Statehood Act into law.

1978: The Solomon Islands become independent from the United Kingdom.

1980: Institution of sharia law in Iran.

1981: President Ronald Reagan appoints Sandra Day O'Connor to become the first female member of the US Supreme Court.

1985: At age 17, Boris Becker is the youngest player ever to win Wimbledon.

1992: The New York Court of Appeals rules that women have the same right as men to go topless in public.

2003: The NASA Opportunity rover is launched into space aboard a Delta II rocket.

2016: Ex-US Army soldier Micah Xavier Johnson shoots 14 policemen during an anti-police protest in downtown Dallas, TX, killing five of them. He is subsequently killed by a robot-delivered bomb.

Birthdays

1053: Emperor Shirakawa of Japan

1119: Emperor Sutoku of Japan

1207: Queen Elizabeth of Hungary

1540: John Sigismund Zápolya, king of Hungary

1616: John Leverett, governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony

1848: Francisco de Paula Rodrigues Alves, president of Brazil

1860: Gustav Mahler, composer, conductor

1891: Virginia Rappe, model, actor

1899: George Cukor, director, producer

1906: Satchel Paige, baseball player

1907: Robert A. Heinlein, science fiction writer

1913: Pinetop Perkins, singer, pianist

1917: Fidel Sánchez Hernández, president of El Salvador

1924: Mary Ford, singer, guitarist

1927: Doc Severinsen, trumpet player, conductor

1930: Hank Mobley, saxophonist, composer

1933: David McCullough, historian, author

1940: Ringo Starr, Beatles drummer

1941: Bill Oddie, comedian, actor, singer

1943: Joel Siegel, journalist, critic

1947: Gyanendra, king of Nepal

1949: Shelley Duvall, actor

1963: Vonda Shepard, singer/songwriter, actor

FRY DADDY'S
 608 West Main Street
 Lowell, MI 49331
897-FISH
 Fish, Shrimp, Wing Dings, Chicken Strips
Friday Special
 Lake Perch
 Hours: Tues - Sat 2-8 pm
 Closed Sunday & Monday



BILL WHEELER
 Certified Public Accountant
 W.J. WHEELER
 103 Riverside Dr.
 Lowell, MI 49331
897-7711



RISNER'S ROOFING & HOME IMPROVEMENT
 SHANE RISNER • 616-897-1080
 email: risnersroofing@gmail.com
 website: risnersroofing.com



JERRY'S LAWN MAINTENANCE & SNOWPLOWING
 Spring Clean-Up Fertilizing Lawn Maintenance Mosquito Spraying Mole Control Bark
616-822-4168



Rich's Service Co.
 In-Home Appliance Repair
 Dryer Vent Cleaning
 INSURED • 20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE
 Washers • Dryers • Refrigerators
 Garbage Disposals • Stoves
 Dishwashers
RICH CURTIS • 897-5686
 209 E. Main St., Lowell



897-4123
Arctic Inc. Heating & Cooling
 Heating & air-conditioning • Wall hung boilers & water heaters
 Geo Thermal systems • Radiant floor heat • Snow melt systems
 Whole house generators • Duct work • Humidifiers
 SALES, SERVICE AND INSTALLATION, UPGRADES, NEW HOMES
 www.HeatingCoolingOnline.com



YOUR AD HERE
 CALL 897-9261 TO ADVERTISE



When it comes to Lake Estate®, the **EXPERIENCE MATTERS.**
 Call **Kristin Johnson-VanderBie & Mark Johnson** today!
(616) 940-8181
 MarkJohnsonAgency.com
 6151 28th St. SE, Ste. 10, Grand Rapids
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE A Company





Charlie Louvin (center), born July 7, 1927, chatting with fans at Buck Lake Ranch in Angola, IN sometime in the 1950s. [photo by Wilma Wondergem]

viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger July 10, 1896

This edition of the Ledger is missing.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 14, 1921

One freight car containing six new Buick automobiles was smashed to kindling wood and the Buicks wrecked, and another car derailed, and partially wrecked at Lowell on the Pere Marquette track a short distance north of the Main street crossing Wednesday at 11 a.m., when the "Bobby" train backed into a freight train.

Wednesday, the 13th, proved an unlucky day for J. J. Lalley, who thinks he is getting more than his share of trouble. A considerable portion of his goods were more or less damaged by water from the second floor which overflowed the toilet from 11 o'clock the night before till opening time Wednesday morning. It made a bad and discouraging mess, necessitating much removal of goods and drying by sun and electric fans.

Over \$52,000 were spent by the officers of Lowell school District No. 1, during the year just closed, including more than \$27,000 for teachers salaries; and only nineteen tax payers were sufficiently interested in the disposition of their money to turn out to the annual school meeting. Truly, we are a complacent community. How would it do to publish the names of those who attend the next annual meeting?

75 years The Lowell Ledger July 11, 1946

One would think from the bread lines which can be seen early every morning on Main-st. that we had been suddenly transferred to famine stricken Europe or Asia. But don't forget that we are still the most favored country on earth. Cattle and hogs are reaching meat packing centers by the thousands and meat will soon be more plentiful.

About everything throughout the business district is being brightened up with fresh paint for the 1946 Showboat. We're putting on our best bib and tucker.

Carlton H. Runciman was reelected to membership on the board of education of graded school district No. 1, township of Lowell, for a term of three years at the school election held Monday in the high school building.

50 years The Lowell Ledger July 15, 1971

City Manager Blaine Bacon announced this week that the resignation of Allen Eckman from the Lowell Police Department has been accepted, and will take effect on August 1. Eckman announced that he has taken a position with Lowell Area Schools. Belding Police Officer Michael Olson and former Lowell Reserve Officer has accepted the position on the Lowell Force, vacated by Eckman.

In a marathon session of the Lowell City Council July 6th a dozen representatives of the Michigan State Health Department and the Kent County Health Department hammered out an agreement in which the City agreed to accept the waste water for, Key Heights Mobile Home Park.

Heading the administrative staff for the 1971-72 school year at Lowell Area Schools will be Dennis McMahon, newly named high school principal, Don Kelly, assistant-to-the superintendent, and the school's superintendent, Leonard Sinke. "Education today. Perhaps more than any other time in history, is so vitally important that schools must meet the pressing need of every student," stated Dennis McMahon as he accepted the position of Lowell Senior High School Principal early this week.

25 years The Lowell Ledger July 10, 1996

Developer Leonard DenHouter took the first step in making his 57 acre Oak Hills Estates a reality. DenHouter received tentative approval on his plat design from the Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission which would bring 23 new homes to the land overlooking the city of Lowell.

The Downtown Development Authority project will help the city of Lowell's Main Street and sidewalks to take on a look of the 90's. To do so the city will also retrace steps from its past. Lowell's city council gave manager Dave Pasquale the go ahead to replace the steps in front of City Hall. The steps will simulate the look of 1909, the year City Hall was constructed.

Sylvia Taylor stepped down from her year as Lowell Rotary Club's first woman president. Jim Bosserd, the club's incoming president, presented Taylor with the traditional past president's plaque. The ceremony capped events at the annual Rotary picnic held last Wednesday at Fallasburg Park.

outdoors

plan ahead

Dave Stegehuis

Spending time in the outdoors often requires getting far away from home. On camping trips, we need to take with us essential things that will keep us comfortable and safe.

Unseasonal weather is common across the Michigan peninsulas at any time of the year. Packing clothing for unexpected extreme weather is always wise. Except for the month of July, we always pack a goose down vest and need it on occasion during upper peninsula camping trips. Shorts, T-shirts, and flip flops may not always be suitable. One may become uncomfortable enough to make an unscheduled trip to the nearest dry goods store.

Unpredictable weather may not be the only surprise. Insects are among the relatively few drawbacks to experiencing outdoor activities in Michigan when compared to other places around the world. Keeping insect repellents handy is good insurance in case bugs crash the party.

There are a few more essentials to be considered: A basic set of

tools will eventually come in handy, especially when dealing with recreational vehicles and even tent camping. Include a variety of fasteners, as well as cordage, zip ties, and, of course, duct tape. Owner manuals help to solve repair and troubleshooting issues. Maps and G.P.S. help to navigate unfamiliar territory. One doesn't always know where an adventure may unexpectedly lead. A well-stocked first-aid kit should always be at hand. Don't forget medications.

Making a list of what to pack avoids forgetting something essential and should be checked coming and going. I also keep a list of steps for setting-up, taking down, and winterizing an R.V. with the vehicle. These procedures are done in sequential order and done properly can save time and avoid problems.

Think about what might be encountered on a trip, and plan ahead to make for a more trouble free and enjoyable experience. Like the Scout motto says—"be prepared".

Eat. Shop. Explore.
LOCAL

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

- styes

A sty (hordeolum) is a red, painful bump or pimple of the eyelid. It can appear on the inside or outside of the lid. It is caused by a blocked oil gland of the eyelid. The gland gets blocked with old oil, skin cells and bacteria. It becomes red and swollen as it becomes infected.

To treat this, apply a warm washcloth for a few minutes several times a day. If it doesn't resolve in a few days or if redness and swelling

extend to the eyelid, seek medical care as topical antibiotic creams or oral antibiotics may be needed.

To prevent styes, remove make-up prior to bed, avoid use of old eye make-up, and wash your hands prior to touching your eyes or applying contacts. If you have frequent styes, washing your lids regularly with diluted baby shampoo may help prevent future styes.

anniversaries

60th wedding anniversary



Jim and Norma Peterson on their wedding day.



The Petersons now.

Jim and Norma Peterson were married at the Lowell Methodist Church on July 7, 1961. They have three children, Brian Peterson, Lynn and Mark Droog, and Kathy and Jim Schafer. They have 6 grandchildren, Jesse, Laura,

Delaney, Ellery, Kaden, and Jamie (deceased). They also enjoy their four great-grandchildren, and look forward to a new one on the way. They will be celebrating with family on July 18, at their home.

★ In The Service ★

United States Air Force Airman John M. Patrick graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio, Texas on May 13, 2021. Although his departure to basic training was delayed several times due to COVID-19 restrictions, he successfully completed the intensive eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Patrick graduated from Lowell High School in 2020 and is the son of Lawrence G. Patrick of Lowell and

Kim B. Golombisky of Saranac. Currently, Patrick is attending technical school at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, and is training for a career in Avionics working with F-16 and F-15 fighter aircraft.



John M. Patrick

college news

Emily M. Depew of Lowell has earned a spot on Saginaw Valley State University's winter 2021 semester Dean's List.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must take at least 12 credit hours and carry a semester GPA of 3.4 or better. More than 1800 students from SVSU were named to the list.

Kelsey Merrifield of Saranac is one of more than 600 students from Saginaw Valley State University whose determination and commitment to academic excellence earned them a spot on the winter 2021 semester President's List.

To be eligible for the President's List, a student must take at least 12 credit

hours and earn a 4.0 grade point average.

This past spring, local students Jaelyn Goble and Ellie Kunkel, both of Ada, graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

2,301 students graduated from Marquette in May. The university celebrated its 140th Commencement with a series of events, including graduate recognition ceremonies at American Family Field and a baccalaureate mass on campus.

Goble earned a Masters in physician assistant studies and Kunkel earned a Bachelors in nursing.



area churches

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL

897-7060
Pastor Ryan Landt
1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI
Website: calvarylowell.org
Morning Worship..... 10:00 AM
Weekly Prayer Meeting - Mondays7 PM
Barrier-Free

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

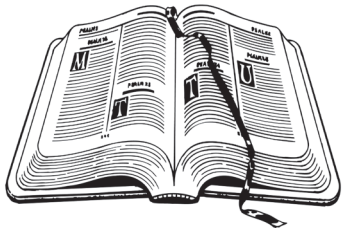
103 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod)
Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21

Access Services at
www.goodshepherdlowell.org
Left hand side, click on Sermons, etc.

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

St. Mary Catholic Church

402 Amity Street • 616-897-9820
Website: www.stmarylowell.com
Weekend Masses: Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am
Confession: Saturdays 3-4:30 pm
Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 8 am to 7 pm
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN TO ADULTS



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

865 Lincoln Lake SE • lowellucc.org
Pastor Alyssa Anten
Worship Service - Sundays 10 AM
Open Table (No-cost meal) - Thursdays 5 - 6 PM
Open & Affirming • LGBTQ+ Inclusive
616-897-5906

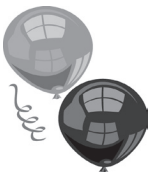
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL

CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES
2275 West Main Street - (Barrier Free)
897-7168 • www.fbclowell.org
Pastor Jon Pickens • Lead Pastor
Pastor Andrew Bolkom • Pastor of Discipleship
Christi Swain • Director of Children's Ministries
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 AM (Nursery provided)
LIFE GROUPS 11:00 AM (Nursery-Adult)
Awana (K-5 during school year) Wednesday, 6:15 PM

LOWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

discover. grow. share
621 E. Main Street
897-5938
www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance
WORSHIP
Traditional Service: 9 am
Contemporary Service: 10:30 am
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

happy birthday



JULY 7

Phil VanLaan, Elizabeth Gerard, Tim Tulppo, Zach Meiste, Wayne Racine, Brice Wingerter.

JULY 8

Jason White, Tony Stencil, Ryan Vashaw, Jessica Tulppo.

JULY 9

Elaine Haines, Leo Pfaller.

JULY 10

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

JULY 11

Dina DeCator, Jodi Hutchinson, Savannah Rice.

JULY 12

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

JULY 13

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



National nonprofit selects Banner for news initiative

Rebecca Pierce
Editor, Hastings Banner

The Hastings Banner is one of only three news organizations in Michigan that were chosen this year for Report for America, a national initiative to support local news coverage.

Benjamin Simon, 21, of Philadelphia, a recent graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, is the newest staff member at The Banner.

Simon also is a member of the Report for America reporting corps, a program created to transform the economics of local news by providing an infusion of local reporting resources. The overarching goal of the program is to replace the business model with one that will be sustainable into the future.

“Additional reporting positions come at a critical moment, when many local newsrooms are closing – leaving a vacuum of trusted, accurate information that is being filled by online and broadcast disinformation,” said Steven Waldman, cofounder and president of Report for America.

Michigan, in particular,

has sustained large losses in the number of reporters covering community news. The impact is significant.

In maintaining its commitment to covering the community, The Banner, among other J-Ad Graphics Inc. publications owned by the Jacobs family, created a news oasis in the midst of a local news desert in southwestern Michigan.

“The business model of news is broken, mostly due to internet technologies that dismantled the way newspapers were able to pay for the news side of the business,” Fred Jacobs, CEO/publisher of J-Ad Graphics Inc., said. “For hundreds of years, newspapers covered the cost of local news by attracting readers and providing advertisers with a solid relationship with their customers.

“Prior to the internet, local newspapers were the only way to get this information to the local audience. Now the internet is threatening many businesses, such as automotive, retailers, real estate and more, which

were traditionally weekly advertisers.”

“Community support is essential to maintaining these businesses, along with the news organization that fulfills a vital role of informing the public about the workings of government, education, business and health care,” Jacobs said.

“The crisis in our democracy, disinformation and polarization, is in many ways a result of the collapse of local news,” Report for America’s Waldman said. “We have a unique opportunity to reverse this decline by filling newsrooms with talented journalists who not only view journalism as a public service, but who can make trusted connections with the communities they serve.”

The Report for America program leverages a unique funding-match model, paying half of a corps member’s salary, while encouraging local and regional funders to contribute a matching amount.

Donors in the Hastings community already have stepped up to help support the program. Report for America matched their pledge, and Simon joined The Banner news staff as a general assignment reporter earlier this month.

Simon is covering the City of Hastings, Hastings Area School System along with general assignment news and features. In addition, Report for America requires him to perform a local public service project focused on student journalism.

“At J-Ad, we remain committed to covering as much local news as possible,” Jacobs said, “but the loss of regular advertisers is making it nearly impossible to keep up with the growing need. Our reporters cover local government, schools, sports, events and more for the entire county and beyond, which puts a strain on our budgets. Now, with increasing costs in ink, newsprint and general expenses, the pressure has grown even greater.

“For J-Ad to be acknowledged by Report for America as an important source of journalism in a local market was one of the greatest honors I’ve experienced in my over 50 years in the industry. We will do our best to live up to their expectations by giving Ben a level of experience that so many young journalists were able to obtain as beat reporters.”

The model being tried here is seeing demonstrated success in newsrooms across the nation, Waldman said. It relies on continuing to grow philanthropic support for news organizations from the communities they serve.

In all, Report for America had a nearly \$10 million philanthropic impact on U.S. local news in 2020. The total amount donated to Report for America newsrooms grew from \$861,000 in 2019 to \$4.6 million – a 61-percent increase per reporter.

Additional leading, current supporters include: The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation;

Facebook Journalism Project; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Natasha and Dirk Ziff; The Joyce Foundation; Lumina Foundation; Jonathan Logan Family Foundation; Craig Newmark Philanthropies; Chan Zuckerberg Initiative; Heising-Simons Foundation; Tow Foundation; Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation; Henry L. Kimelman Foundation; the Wunderkinder Foundation; the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; Evelyn Y. Davis Foundation; Jesse and Betsy Fink; Leon Levy Foundation; Inasmuch Foundation; Select Equity Group Foundation; Annie E. Casey Foundation; Val A. Browning Charitable Foundation; Newman’s Own Foundation; Further Forward Foundation; and McClatchy Foundation.

Report for America is an initiative of The GroundTruth Project, a nonprofit journalism organization that helps place journalists in local newsrooms to report on the community.

Pregnancy risk assessment survey receives \$800,000 grant, releases annual report

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recently received an \$800,000 grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help fund the Michigan Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System Survey for the next five years.

This survey asks women to confidentially share their thoughts and experiences before, during and following pregnancy to capture information about the factors leading to healthy pregnancies and healthy babies as these details are not always identified or addressed in hospitals and clinics.

“While doctors, nurses and health care professionals deliver care to expectant women in clinical settings, many factors that contribute to healthy pregnancies and healthy babies happen during everyday life,” said Elizabeth Hertel, MDHHS director. “With this award from CDC, MI PRAMS can continue to tell the stories of Michigan’s moms and babies as we work to improve the health of mothers and their babies.”

Information from the mothers who answer Michigan PRAMS is used to enhance the understanding of emerging health issues and

track progress in improving the health of mothers and infants across Michigan. These findings help to develop laws and policies, strengthen public health programs, educate health care providers and distribute resources. Examples include guidelines issued to Michigan doctors and dentists to ensure pregnant women are receiving proper oral care; implementing programs to assist Native American mothers; and including breastfeeding goals and support in the state’s infant mortality reduction plan.

In 1987, Michigan was among the first states to work with CDC on surveying a random sample of new mothers about their everyday

lives. Today, almost every state conducts a version of the PRAMS survey. The MI PRAMS project provides vital information about the successes and struggles faced each year by Michigan’s mothers.

MI PRAMS recently released its 2019 Birth Year Annual Report and responses show:

About one in four (23.1 percent) Michigan mothers had one or more basic needs that were not met during pregnancy, such as adequate food, safe housing or reliable transportation. Most mothers (84 percent) plan to follow their doctor’s exact recommendations for immunizing their new infant, although this has decreased since 2016 (88 percent).

Smoking during the last three months of pregnancy has decreased significantly over time, down from 18.9 percent of mothers in 2004 to 10.8 percent in 2019.

Marijuana use before, during and after pregnancy remained elevated in 2019 compared to prior years. One in five Michigan mothers (19.6 percent) reported any marijuana use in the year before pregnancy, up from 12.4 percent in 2016-2017. One in 15 mothers (6.5 percent) used marijuana during pregnancy; an increase from 3.1 percent in 2016-2017. One in nine mothers (10.9 percent) reported marijuana use since the birth of their new baby, an increase from 7.5 percent in 2018 and 4.8 percent in

2016-2017. Depression is prevalent before (18.8 percent), during (17.0 percent) and following (14.8 percent) pregnancy. Over a quarter of women (28.4 percent) report anxiety in the three months before pregnancy. Most Michigan mothers reported that, on average, they slept between four and six hours (59.8 percent) or between seven and eight hours (34.7 percent) each night. Some mothers, (3.5 percent) reported a very low amount of sleep (0 to 3 hours) per night. Very few

mothers (2 percent) averaged nine or more hours of sleep each night. Most PRAMS respondents (91.7 percent) say that they have a husband or partner. When asked about eight different types of emotional, financial and personal support, the vast majority of partners (92.1 percent) supported mothers in six or more ways.

For more information about MI PRAMS, visit Michigan.gov/PRAMS.

mothers (2 percent) averaged nine or more hours of sleep each night. Most PRAMS respondents (91.7 percent) say that they have a husband or partner. When asked about eight different types of emotional, financial and personal support, the vast majority of partners (92.1 percent) supported mothers in six or more ways.

This notice paid for with public donations

FREE to the public!

Weight Loss & Stop Smoking Hypnotherapy

Health Awareness Clinics is providing therapists to administer weight loss and stop smoking, and stress relief group hypnotic therapy. For many people, this therapy reduces 2 to 3 clothing sizes and/or stops smoking. Funding for this project comes from public donations. All attendees will be hypnotized twice during the hypnotherapy session.

An appointment is not necessary. Just sign in and immediately receive therapy. Health Awareness Clinics is a non-profit organization. They rely on donations to make treatment available. A modest \$5.00 donation when signing in is appreciated. Support materials available. Only one 2 hour session is needed for desirable results. **Sign in 20 min. early.**

Friday, July 16th 7:00PM
Fairway Event Center
13955 Cascade Rd. - LOWELL

Monday July 19th 7:00pm
Comm. Center
900 E. Kent Rd.
GREENVILLE

Tuesday July 20th 7:00pm
Thought Design Bld.
10 East Bridge St. NE
ROCKFORD

HealthAwarenessClinics.org
(512)433-6200

THE HOTTEST STARS



JAKE OWEN
SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

LARRY THE CABLE GUY: REMAIN SEATED
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

EARTH, WIND & FIRE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

RANDY HOUSER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

Tickets available now at the FireKeepers Box Office or FireKeepersCasino.com.

GET YOUR VEGAS ON™



FIREKEEPERS
CASINO HOTEL
BATTLE CREEK

1-94 to Exit 104 | 11177 Michigan Avenue | Battle Creek, MI 49014
Must be 21 or older. Tickets based on availability. Schedule subject to change.

Memories from the Lowell Showboat: A Night to Remember with Milton Berle



Gerrit Willem Lamain

by Gerrit Willem Lamain
gerrit.lamain@gmail.com

Milton Berle, the comic who came from vaudeville, radio and films, can truly be called "Mr. Television." From 1948 to 1954 he captured 80 percent of all TV viewers nationwide each Monday night. His influence was so

overwhelming that nightclubs nationwide changed their closing night from Monday to Tuesday. Restaurants were empty on Monday nights and, according to Berle, an investigation took place in Detroit when the water levels took a drastic drop

in the city's reservoirs on Tuesday nights between 9 and 9:05 pm. According to Berle, "it was because everyone waited until the end of the Milton Berle Show before going to the bathroom." He had a wonderful comic mind, saying things

like:

"We owe a lot to Thomas Edison. If it wasn't for him, we'd be watching television by candlelight."

"Laughter is an instant vacation."

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."

"Money can't buy you happiness, but it helps you look for it in more places."


In the 50s and 60s insult comedy was quite popular. The king of that genre was Don Rickles, whose razor sharp wit was at times borderline hurtful. Milton Berle tended to be

night. Unfortunately, the Showboat chorus was the act that preceded Berle. Each night we sang our medley of showtunes, accompanied by the Showboat stage band. It was a typical medley with a spectacular Hollywood-type ending, and the chorus had learned it well. When we finished, we received thunderous applause from the thousands of appreciative spectators in the stands. It made the chorus, the band and I very happy.

Next, the interlocutor

entertainment, here is Mr. Showbiz himself, Milton Berle!"

Enthusiastic applause greeted the star. His first couple jokes were of the insult kind, and they were aimed at the chorus, who had just finished their big number. The audience and the chorus did not react well. These were their kids, their friends and their neighbors! Insult comedy might work in sophisticated Hollywood, but in Lowell, in America's heartland, the singers deserved applause,

LOWELL SHOWBOAT INC.
presents the
1969 PRODUCTION SHOWBOAT XXXVII
STARRING
MILTON BERLE
* PROGRAM *

OPENING . . . CAST AND CHORUS "Are You From Dixie?"
Endmen and Chorus "Alabama Jubilee"
GORDON RAYNOR DANCERS "Choreography-in-Action"
TALENT SEARCH WINNER Performance

Monday "Junior Sherylettes"
Tuesday "The Five of Us"
Wednesday "Brass Union Band"
Thursday "The Pink Panther" — Jill Halperin
Friday "Contemporary Dance" — Randi Hahn
Saturday "Song 'n-Music" — James Brown — Leonard Keller

Endmen and Chorus "Toot-Toot-Tootsie"
SHOWBOAT CHORUS "This Is My Country"
CRESTON MADRIGALS "Scarlet Ribbons"
Endmen and Chorus "Sweet Georgia Brown"
GORDON-RAYNOR DANCERS "Showboat Specialty"
Endmen Song 'n-Dance "By the Light of the Silvery Moon"
SHOWBOAT CHORUS "Georgy Girl"
Endmen and Chorus "Alabama Bound"

THE MILTON BERLE REVUE
Starring Milton Berle
and featuring

- * Talent Un-Limited Trumpeteer LEONARD SUES
- * Broadway 'n-TV Songstress ANN HILTON
- * World Famous Acrobatic AMIN BROTHERS

GRAND FINALE . . . Entire Company "Waitin' for the Robert E. Lee"

Chorus under the Direction of Gerrit LaMain
Stage Band under Direction of Max Barnes

more humorous, but still in an insulting sort of way. Having a star like Milton Berle as headliner on the Lowell Showboat in 1969 was a big deal. He packed the grandstand night after

[Gordon Gould] stepped up to the mic and gave his introduction, ending with, "And now, ladies and gentlemen, direct from Hollywood, for your pleasure and

not ridicule! Instead of leaving it alone and changing his approach, he tried a couple more insult lines with the same result but finally gave up and went to some of his other,



Billboard promoting Berle's appearance in Lowell. [courtesy Lowell Area Historical Museum]

Memories from the Lowell Showboat: A Night to Remember with Milton Berle

safer material.

From where I was sitting, I could see that the chorus members were really upset. Somebody had to try to mellow the situation. I decided to talk to Berle's manager and see if he would convince Uncle Milty to change his opening routine. I tried, but the next night and the night after that, Uncle Milty continued to open his monologue with the same insult comedy about the chorus, and they were getting angrier each night. Each evening as we made our little journey down the river to the front of the grandstand, I did my best to settle everybody down, telling them that this was showbiz and that's the way it was done in Hollywood.

in the basket?" I was told, "It just contains some street clothes for some of the guys who are going to a party after the show, they didn't want to go in their Showboat outfits." It sounded reasonable and, considering that we were approaching the grandstand, there was no time to investigate further.

We pulled up in front of the grandstand and the chorus did their choreographed procession to their seats. The show moved along like clockwork. Everything clicked. The chorus number went spectacularly well, the applause was the longest and loudest of the whole week. I was so proud of my group! As the M.C. began with his usual



SHOWBOAT CHORUS : — "READY-TO-ENTERTAIN" YOU. . .

The 1969 Showboat chorus. [courtesy Garrit Lamain]

happily quacking away. Uncle Milty's reaction was instantaneous. He used some very non-humorous barnyard language and stormed off the stage into the safety of the Showboat, yelling

source. [Note: according to the July 3, 1969 edition of the Lowell Ledger, William Doyle was the president of Showboat, Inc.] Money speaks loudly, so Berle went back on stage and finished his act.

I later learned that one of the kids in the chorus had a relative who raised and sold ducks. The kids had purchased a couple dozen baby ducks for their "project" and promised that they would try to catch them after the show

and release them in the Flat River.

I suspect that Uncle Milty never forgot that night on the Lowell Showboat, and neither did the chorus or I.

Quack, quack!



Milton Berle circa 1969.

They grumbled, but promised me that they would behave.

Finally it was Saturday night, closing night. Coming down the river, I was making my usual rounds on the Showboat, checking that all was ready for our opening number. A fairly large wicker basket stowed away in a corner caught my attention. Curious, I asked someone standing nearby, "What's

introduction, I began to hear the sound of ducks, but I dismissed it, thinking, "Why not ducks? After all, we are on a river." Berle came out and started one more time with his insult comedy, denigrating the chorus. There was some snickering and muffled laughter coming from the grandstand. It was then that I saw them, a whole bunch of baby ducks waddling across the stage,

to everyone who could hear that he was not going back out there and that he was going to sue the Showboat! Fortunately, the Showboat manager, normally a soft-spoken man, was on the boat, and he told Uncle Milty in no uncertain terms, "Get your [expletives deleted] back on the stage if you expect to get paid!" I did not hear this personally, but I heard it from a very reliable

★ ★ ★

TOOT! Uncle Milty probably will incorporate more than a few jokes about Lowell into his future routines. One thing is for certain, there won't be many times that his act will be interrupted by ducks waddling across the stage!

★ ★ ★

A small item about the loose ducks appeared in the July 31, 1969 Lowell Ledger.

LITEHOUSE


More Info Here

**JOIN OUR
JOB FAIR**
Your Future Starts Here!



JULY 14TH • 10AM - 3PM
113 Riverwalk Plz., Lowell, MI 49331

OR APPLY TODAY @ www.litehousefoods.com/careers



The Restless Viking

The World Less Traveled
With Chuck & Martha Hayden
www.restless-viking.com

~ Hipcamp with highland cattle

by Martha Hayden

“What is a hipcamp?” I asked as I had no idea! Da Viking explained, “It’s like an outdoor B and B. Campsites are on people’s land.” I was still having difficulty picturing the scene, but I would be finding out soon as we headed to Wisconsin. Our destination was Willow Pond Farm on Craig and Cindy’s property. Boy, were we in for a treat!

After departing from the Badger car ferry we headed north from Manitowac, Wisconsin. Craig and Cindy’s Willow Pond Farm was entrancing. Their menagerie of farm animals gave this ‘city girl’ a whole new perspective about capers in the country.

Hipcamp Greetings

Cindy and Craig were amazing hosts! They explained that there would be a note for us on the refrigerator in the blue pole barn. Both Craig and Cindy hold full time jobs so we would be arriving before they returned home



We were Craig and Cindy’s FIRST campers! Photo Credit: Craig Waters was showing their first hipcamp guests on the Willow Pond Facebook page.

from their workday. The note on the mini fridge explained where our campsite would be, about the animals and the accommodations. There was a bathroom inside the pole barn.

We were instructed that we could take a half dozen eggs. There was bacon and sausage available for an additional charge, if we desired. On top of their note they had left us a ceramic mug and stickers praising Scottish Highland cows as well as cocoa mixes. Wow! Gifts, too! We left a Restless Viking mug in it’s place.

Setting Up Our Hipcamp

We headed to our designated spot which had been freshly mowed in a wooded alcove. There was a fire pit and chopped wood standing at attention. The picnic table looked ready for some action!



Scottish Highland cows were unlike any cows I’d ever seen before. Having the opportunity to be near them and feed these bovine treats gave me an experience I’ll always carry with me.

Rain hadn’t been in the forecast, but it sprinkled throughout our first day, so Da Viking added the screened tarp across the back of Grumpy.



The rooftop tent popped up easily and kept us comfy and dry all night long! This tent included a memory foam pad, plus we added an air mattress for another layer. Chuck is always thinking about my comfort when we are on our excursions! Here’s his video about assembling the rooftop tent: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySwNjjq3uj4>

I really enjoy our capers together! Da Viking does all the cooking, too! He has a “Chuck Box” full of supplies! His skills as a campsite chef have been satisfying. I am in charge of setting up our camping chairs and bedding. Boy am I spoiled!

This hipcamp concept had originated in 2013 by Alyssa Ravasio based in San Francisco. The online website and mobile app were designed to help travelers find locations for inexpensive outdoor stays. Craig and Cindy saw this as an opportunity to connect with others by sharing their farm.

Our Walk Around The Farm

We decided to stroll around the farm and check out the large variety of animals.

These creatures kept their distance, however one large-eyed, bony-looking cow (That’s how he’s suppose to look) approached the fence. He was confident and eager for attention. He gave me a side-eyed look and batted his long lashes. I reached out to pet him. He leaned into my affection.

Meeting Craig and Cindy

Later, Cindy and Craig meandered down the lane to meet us in person. They had started their farm in 2017 and had recently decided to open up hipcamp sites.

Craig and Cindy bubbled as they spoke of their family and their farm animals. The way they embrace hard work with a matter of fact perspective was impressive! Their energy and zest for life radiated like sunbeams through the rain.

Cindy smiled with endearment when I shared my encounter petting the large-eyed cow. “Claus.” Cindy nodded as she explained the bovine’s confidence with people. “He was bottle fed by our German daughter, Alba. She would lay down and cuddle with him in the barn. Alba named him Claus.” Well, that’s a good German name, I thought. Cindy and Craig have housed several high school foreign exchange students.

From our short meeting, I could tell that the two cherished all living things. Then to realize their willingness to create lasting connections with youngsters from other cultures inspired me. This couple has so much love to share with others!

I was in awe of Craig and Cindy! We were so engrossed in our conversation, that I hadn’t taken their picture. So, I borrowed the above photo from Cindy’s Facebook page.

Cindy excitedly talked about their house pets. Their three cats (Dotty, Nelson and Capone) along with their two dogs (Luna and Zeus). I thought about how these five animals would have been plenty to keep me busy. Yet, Craig and Cindy have many more creatures who are fortunate to receive their love and care.

Cindy excitedly talked about their house pets. Their three cats (Dotty, Nelson and Capone) along with their two dogs (Luna and Zeus). I thought about how these five animals would have been plenty to keep me busy. Yet, Craig and Cindy have many more creatures who are fortunate to receive their love and care.

Scottish Highland Cattle

Last April, Lily Rose’s birth had been captured on “Facebook Live” by Craig. Craig relived this story. We watched this event on



As I stood to snap this photo, the chickens raced to the side door thinking I would be retrieving grain for their snack. There was a lot of determination in those chicken legs. They were high stepping with purpose holding hope for a treat!

our phone with amazement! (I winced a bit.)

Scottish Highland cattle are the oldest registered breed of cow in the world! Both males and females are adorned with horns. A bull’s horns have a wider base and grow forward, where the cow’s horns face upward and are finer at the top. I had difficulty telling the boy from the girl until later when their baby, Cinder, approached ChaCha for a snack.

The Scottish Highland beef is known for being lower in cholesterol than other breeds. Cindy referred to this processing as “going to freezer camp.”

Pigs

Loud snorts and squeals occurred each time we neared the pigs’ pen. We were enthusiastically reminded by Charlotte and Ollie that they were the rulers of their sty. We were not permitted to come too closely. (Sometimes they bite.)

Late at night we were able to tip toe by their fence not causing a disturbance.



Craig: Cindy, Alba (their German daughter) and Craig. Photo Credit: Cindy’s Facebook page.

The pigs snoring brought a peaceful farm feeling in the cool, damp evening. The children’s book by E.B. White, “Charlotte’s Web” came to mind.

As I reflected on the delicious fresh bacon and eggs we’d eaten for our dinner. My “city girl” heart grew three sizes that night. I marveled at all the work it takes to care for this variety of farm animals day following day, repeated endlessly. I recognized how this dedication provides nourishing, tasty food. This revelation was coming full circle in my mind. My appreciation for farmers, such as Craig and Cindy, has grown after this first-hand farm experience!

Feeding The Fur Friends

The next morning greeted us with a crystal blue sky. Cindy offered to let us feed the fur friends some treats. She had cut up apples and held a bag of bread to entice the herd.

Even in our short time with Craig and Cindy, we were smitten with their devotion to sharing their lives and animals with others. Their ability to create meaningful connections is a testament to their love for life!

Resources

<https://www.facebook.com/willowpondalpacas/>

ABCs of Lowell history

The ABC's of Lowell History was introduced last year as a way to share some of the many fascinating stories from Lowell's past. It was initiated in-part by the pandemic shutdown which led the museum to seek alternative ways to share local history with the community. The series will continue with a third round of the alphabet.

M is for Malta

Malta was a railroad watch tower located on the southern edge of Lowell, just

south of the Grand River. It was built at the intersection of the north – south Pere Marquette (PM) Railroad and the east – west Grand Trunk (GT) railroad. The sign on the tower stated that the location was 49.35 miles from Grand Haven and 138.95 miles from Detroit. A mechanical interlocking switching system was installed in 1890. When the bridge over the Grand River for the Pere Marquette was completed in 1891, Lever men were employed to keep the crossing clear.

The first tower

signalman was Fred Graham. He let the first train across the intersection of the Grand Trunk and Pere Marquette tracks.

In 1930, Malta was also used as a telegraph relay station. The telegraph operators passed on orders and sent out telegrams during the evenings and night hours.



Train No. 21, originating in Saginaw bound for Grand Rapids, is about to storm across the Malta diamond after crossing the Grand River south of



The Malta tower with operator Will Mullen standing on the stairway.

Accidents were part of life at a railroad crossing. The following are examples of notable accidents. In 1904, an accident resulted in six cars being thrown from the tracks, four badly smashed. Fortunately no one was badly injured. The following account was given, "The right of way was given the PM, so the watchman was amazed to see the GT freight come thundering toward the crossing at a terrific gait, and without a warning whistle having been heard. Before he could do anything the derail had done its work and

six cars were in the ditch, some wheels upward and all more or less wrecked. We understand the engineer claims his brakes refused to work and he lost his head and forgot the warning whistle which would have given the watchman a chance to have saved the train. The engineer was summoned to headquarters."

In 1924, several freight cars were wrecked, along with the engine and tender of a Pere Marquette train which overturned. The train

crew jumped and escaped uninjured. Signals were set against the PM train to avoid a collision with a train on the Grand Trunk at the crossing, but the freight was heavily loaded and being on a downgrade the train men were unable to stop the train.

In 1954, an extremely damaging accident from a broken train car wheel caused seven cars to jump the track, damaged a car on a siding, and tore up 100 yards of track between the Lowell Station and the Malta Tower. It took repairmen days to fix the damages.

Malta tower closed on June 23, 1955 after over 50 years of service. An automatic interlocking plant replaced the five lever men operators who manned the tower around the clock. M.R. Wood was the last full time operator. When the tower closed he took semi-retirement. Other operators who were transferred to other jobs with the railroad included Dale Page, Ralph Mullen and Emil Paulson. Robert G. Crouch had the most years of duty at the tower, with twenty-four and a half years.

Tick season is here - Michiganders urged to prevent tick bites

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is encouraging Michigan residents to take steps to avoid tick bites when enjoying the outdoors this summer. Tick-borne diseases, particularly Lyme disease and anaplasmosis, are increasing across the state.

Lyme disease, caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, is the most common tick-borne disease in Michigan. Anaplasmosis, caused by the bacteria *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*, is the second most common tick-borne disease in Michigan, and cases are increasing – particularly in the state's Upper Peninsula.

Both Lyme disease and anaplasmosis are transmitted by *Ixodes scapularis*, commonly known as the blacklegged or deer tick. The blacklegged tick is well-established in

parts of Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas and has been found in new regions over the past few years. Information about Lyme disease risk by county is available at Michigan.gov/lyme.

"Preventing tick bites is the best way to prevent tick-borne diseases, including Lyme disease and anaplasmosis," said Dr. Mary Grace Stobierski, MDHHS Emerging & Zoonotic Infectious Diseases manager. "If you find a tick attached to your body, promptly remove it. Monitor your health and if you experience fever, rash, muscle or joint aches or other symptoms, consult with your medical provider."

Signs and symptoms of tick-borne disease typically begin one to two weeks after a tick bite or being in wooded or brushy areas where ticks commonly live. Early symptoms can be non-

specific and include fever or chills, rash, headache, fatigue and muscle aches. Early treatment with appropriate antibiotics can decrease the risk of serious complications.

Protect yourself and your family against tick-borne diseases by following these tips:

Avoid tick-infested areas:

As ticks live in grassy, brushy, and wooded areas, walk in the center of trails to avoid contact with overgrown grass, brush and leaf litter at trail edges.

Protect your pets – dogs and cats can come into contact with ticks outdoors and bring them into the home. Talk with your veterinarian about the best tick prevention products for your pet.

Use insect repellent: Apply repellent containing DEET or Picaridin on exposed skin.

Ticks, continued, page 12

Shipshape Service

- UPS Shipping
- Prepaid Drop Off
- Faxing
- Copies
- Laminating
- Printing
- Posters
- Banners
- Signs
- And Much More!

Buyer's
Guide and News

Bringing local information and news to: Lowell – Alto – Ada – Saranac – Clarksville – Grattan

105 N. Broadway, Lowell
897-9555



obituaries

SEARFOSS

Maj. James Phillip Searfoss (ret.) died on June 28, 2021, due to complications from end-stage prostate cancer. Jim was born May 31, 1946, in a simple time and place. He was the son of Ralph and Ruth (Walterick) of Lima, Ohio. He grew to adulthood on a small farm in Northwestern Ohio. He married the love of his life, Melanie Wynne Jacobs, on September 18, 1976. This union was blessed by daughters, Jennifer, Shannon, and Caitlin. Jim was a 1969 graduate of Ohio State University and received his Master of Medical Science from Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pennsylvania. He joined the U.S. Army in 1972 and served 24 years, retiring as a Major at Fort Riley, Kansas. Following his military service, Jim was an Assistant Professor and Clinical Coordinator in Physician Assistant Studies at Grand Valley State University. Jim retired as a Physician Assistant with Spectrum Health in occupational therapy. Jim is survived by his sister, Sally (Jim) Becker; brother, Jerry (Carol) Searfoss; daughters, Jennifer (Tim Huddleston) Searfoss, Shannon (Jason) Carpenter, Caitlin (Robert) Olive; grandsons, Brody and Dylan Carpenter and James and Ethan Oliver. Jim was a mid-life convert to the Democratic Party and supported progressive candidates, causes and policies. Visitation took place from 2-4 PM & 6-8 PM on Friday, July 2, 2021, at Roth Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Michigan, 49331. Services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 3, 2021, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, with visitation one hour prior. Pastor Karen Niemeyer officiated. Interment at Bailey Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, he requested that contributions be sent to political candidates that support policies caring for homeless families or Family Promise of Grand Rapids, 516 Cherry St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.



...
**Yesterday I was sad,
 today I am happy!**
**Yesterday I had a
 problem, today I still have
 the same problem! But
 today I changed the way
 I look at it!"**
 ~ C. JoyBell C.

Three ways to achieve independence with Social Security

Celebrating our nation's independence every year on July 4 is a point of joy and pride. For more than 85 years, our programs have helped provide financial independence to millions of hardworking people. We have three useful online tools to help you achieve the financial independence you deserve in retirement.

my Social Security – You're in control with the many services available online through my Social Security. Creating a secure account will help you conduct Social Security business from home or on the go. With your personal my Social Security account, you can:

- Request a replacement Social Security card (in one of the 45 eligible states and the District of Columbia).
- Review your earnings history.
- Get personalized retirement benefit estimates.
- Check the status of your Social Security application or appeal.

If you already receive benefits, you can also:

- Request a replacement Social Security card (in one of the 45 eligible states and the District of Columbia).
- Get a benefit verification letter or proof of income letter.
- Set up or change your direct deposit.
- Change your address.
- Request a replacement Medicare card.
- Get a Social Security 1099 form (SSA-1099).

Frequently Asked Questions – What is your full retirement age? How do you apply for Social Security retirement benefits? Do you have to pay taxes on Social Security benefits? Discover the answers to your Social Security-related questions at our Frequently Asked Questions page at www.ssa.gov/faq.

Social Security's Official Blog – Stay informed about our latest news, retirement planning tips, and other helpful information. Our blog at blog.ssa.gov features messages direct from our Commissioner, as well as

information from other experts. You can sign up to get an email each time a new blog is available so you won't miss new postings. From the blog, you can also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube, where you can watch our informational videos. Don't forget to share these resources with your family and friends and encourage them to join us.

With so many services and helpful information

available online, we are here for you when your schedule allows. Be sure to tell friends and family about all they can do with us from anywhere at www.ssa.gov.

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

Ticks, continued

Treat clothes (especially pants, socks and shoes) with permethrin, which kills ticks on contact or buy clothes that are pre-treated. Do not use permethrin directly on skin.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when applying repellents.

Perform daily tick checks:

Always check for ticks on yourself and your animals after being outdoors, even in your own yard.

Inspect all body surfaces carefully and remove attached ticks with tweezers.

To remove a tick, grasp the tick firmly and as closely to the skin as possible. With a steady motion, pull the tick's body away from the skin. Cleanse the area with an antiseptic.

Bathe or shower:

Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors (within two hours) to wash off and more easily find ticks that are crawling on you.


Wash clothing in hot water and dry on high heat to help kill ticks in clothing.

Not all ticks spread the same germs. MDHHS can help to identify ticks you may encounter outdoors. Residents can email photos of ticks to MDHHS-Bugs@michigan.gov for identification. Michiganders can also submit ticks to MDHHS for identification free of charge. For more information on how to submit your tick and/or photos, visit Michigan.gov/lyme.

The MDHHS Emerging & Zoonotic Infectious Diseases Section has recently released a report "Michigan Trends in Tickborne Disease, 2016-2020," which includes up-to-date information on the types of ticks that are common in Michigan and the diseases they can carry.

Visit CDC.gov/ticks for additional information.

Celebration of Life
 for
Ron Stevens,
 who passed away February 4, 2021.



Will be held on
Sat., July 17, 2-5 pm
 at the Lowell Township Hall,
 2910 Alden Nash, Lowell.
*The family invites you to stop
 by and share your memories
 of Ron's life.*

Are you in need of....

ENVELOPES **BANNERS**
CALENDARS **BROCHURES**
BUSINESS FORMS **FLYERS**
LITHO **BUSINESS CARDS**

105 N. BROADWAY, LOWELL
 897-9261



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

classifieds

for sale

2003 YELLOW HONDA SCOOTER - 250 cc, excellent condition, low miles, \$2,650. Call 616-299-4700.

USE HAPPY JACK@KENNEL DIP - to control fleas, ticks, mange, stable flies & mosquitoes where they breed. At Tractor Supply. (www.kennelvax.com)

RAT TERRIER CROSS PUPPIES - first shot, wormed, \$450. Call 269-223-9194.

AUSSIE PUPS - Miniature Australian Shepherd puppies. Tri & Meryls with blue eyes. Adoption begins on July 4th weekend. 616-915-3757.

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

MOUNTAIN CUR PUPPIES - first shots, wormed, \$200. Call 269-223-9194.

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

SAWDUST FOR HORSES - Slabwood, \$15 per bundle, 2 1/2 face cord. Summer Special, 517-852-4016.

REACH OVER 100,000 AREA HOMES - with our Marketplace! One call & one payment, only \$40! Includes 20 words & 1 black & white photo. Perfect place to advertise a vehicle or camper for sale! The ad runs in 4 different papers! Call 897-9555, email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com or stop by 105 N. Broadway for more info.

LEDGER OFFICE
105 N. Broadway, Lowell.
Ships UPS!
Daily pickup at 3 pm.

sales

GARAGE SALE - 1376 Grand River Dr., Lowell. Wed. to Sat., 10 - 4 pm.

help wanted

WOULD LIKE A RELIABLE CLEANING LADY - to thoroughly clean house bi-weekly in the Lowell area. Please call 616-336-1028 if interested.

WANTED - a person for light housekeeping and weeding a small rose garden. Call 897-8042.

wanted

I WANT TO BUY - A refrigerator, stove, washer & dryer. Cash. 616-585-1709.

for rent

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

WATERFRONT COTTAGES - Some openings left for summer. Kayak, canoes, paddle & row boat, pontoon rental available. Call Ron, 616-644-9414.

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

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.

misc.

NEED AN AL-ANON MEETING? - Al-Anon is a fellowship of families and friends of alcoholics. Join us Sunday-Saturday at 10:30 AM and 7 PM on Zoom. Come learn the Steps, Traditions & Concepts of living and coping, in Serenity, with alcoholism. There are no dues or fees for Al-Anon. For Zoom meeting ID & Password, please call Joy at 616-901-7779.

FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-291-9169 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-524-0779 www.dental50plus.com/mipress #6258

TOPS (TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY) WEEKLY MEETINGS - Tuesdays, 6:30 pm at Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd., Lowell. Cost \$32 per year and \$5 per month... start losing weight TODAY!

services

THE BUYERS GUIDE, LOWELL LEDGER AND LOWELL LITHO OFFICES - will be closed on Fridays for the month of July. Hours are Mon. - Thurs. 8 am - 5 pm.

PROFESSIONAL TREE CLIMBER - Needs work. Call Dan, 616-970-3832.

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.

WORK WANTED - Double D's Tree Service Plus, 70' & 40' bucket trucks, tree trimming and removal, brush chipping, power washing and handyman service also available. Insured. Call Dave Delinsky 616-212-3008.

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

services

TRACTORMAN - Driveway grading, repair, lawn prep, bucket, fork work, food plots, gardens, brush, field mowing. 616-272-8097, kaamcosps@gmail.com

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

WHEN IN AN ACCIDENT - YOU CAN CHOOSE WHO TOWS YOUR VEHICLE - Request J&K Roadwide Service, 616-690-0983.

SEAMLESS GUTTER - Bleam Eavestroughing. Free estimates. Since 1959. Choose the experience! (616) 765-3333 or 1-877-945-RAIN. www.bleameaves.com

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

Show Local Businesses Some Love!



Find Out What The Buzz Is All About with a subscription to the lowell ledger. Call to start your subscription 897-9261

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with words like COLEUS, CHISEL, AUREATE, OMNIBUS, BDRGREATWORKTI, AGUESMAMOASSES, TENS PATENSETS, ELIJUNNODXII, VIOLVIRTUE, ALEPH NEUMS, SARONGSAMP, EBS SAPBURLAC, PRATPAPEN SERA, TALLASDAMRADAR, IDWHIRLIGIGBE, CORNICERESEALS, RHYMES EMEERGE

10x10 grid of numbers for a crossword puzzle.

Large grid of letters with words circled, including OQATCS, YMYMWCNT, ESWHCE, YTHI, FYLTYLANHE, WUOC, IONYE, BNCES, GISMNP, BFIFYBM, FRITRESE, FUDNBTC, GBYS, YDAIECP, OYWDC, ELAAH, YCKHAN, PNAGLAA, IBEIFNO, TVROKSK, LPBOWDIWKUHWVDWFTASD

Live the Life You Want

Developing a growth mindset

Melissa Spino MA LPC CDMS
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

Do you want to succeed in relationships, at work, and in life? One way to do this is to work on developing a growth mindset. Having a growth mindset means you believe in putting in effort, you learn from mistakes, you are in control of your abilities, you embrace improvement and you believe in yourself.

It's a belief that your destiny isn't out of your control. It's knowing that at times, you are going to be wrong but you don't give up. Instead, you get creative and keep working to find a solution. It's the opposite of a fixed mindset which is thinking things won't get better no matter what you do or how hard you try. Keep reading to find suggestions for moving away from a fixed mindset and toward a growth one.

Ways to develop a growth mindset

Below are suggested areas you can start with to

move you toward a growth mindset and away from a fixed one. There are more areas that can help with a growth mindset but these will help get you started on the path toward the life you want.

- Be a life-long learner.

Feeling fear is okay but push past it and accept challenges and additional responsibility. Consider challenges and responsibilities as opportunities to learn and grow. Put in effort. Don't just do the minimum. Sometimes it's good to delegate but I find it's better to learn, grow, and master tasks. Once you master challenges move on to greater ones. Try different things and explore new ways of doing things. This will help you develop new skills and learn how to better interact with others. Remember it's the journey that counts.

- Acknowledge and learn from mistakes.

This includes being



Melissa Spino
MA LPC CDMS

open to constructive criticism. Blaming others or getting angry or defensive when a mistake is made is a fixed mindset. Be open to looking at the situation from another's point of view and accept their suggestions and learn from mistakes. Not just your mistakes but also those of others. Don't ignore them but instead take the lesson they offer you.

- A c c e p t imperfections.

We all know "perfect" is unattainable. So not

holding yourself or others to something that is impossible is part of the growth mindset. If you haven't mastered something yet that's okay! In time, you will. Just be patient and stick with it.

- Be realistic.

It takes time, sometimes quite a lot, to learn and hone a new skill. Be patient with yourself and know that you may have setbacks. It's okay. Slow and steady is a good mantra.

- Be aware of your thoughts and words.

Thoughts + words = actions. If you find yourself having negative thoughts and communication it's time to work to change this. Work to not put your judgment and beliefs on others and instead work to embrace a mindset of acceptance. Get rid of negative self-talk and start talking to yourself like you would someone you care about. Communicate from a place of respect.

- Listen to understand.

If you are in a

conversation with someone and formulating a response in your head to what they are saying you are not truly listening to understand and learn. You may actually be trying to prove why you are right and they are wrong. Instead, really listen to understand what they are saying without your own beliefs and judgments getting in the way.

- Seek self-acceptance vs. approval from others.

If you're giving others the power of approval, you're preventing a growth mindset. Instead change to self-approval and acceptance. You are strong and capable so learn to trust yourself.

- Be uniquely you!

Be authentic. Don't put on a false front to try and fit in. Accept yourself, quirks and all. There is only one you, so embrace your uniqueness. Explore and appreciate your strengths and work to lessen your weaknesses.

- Work to find your purpose.

Without a purpose you will probably feel like you are just going through the motions of life. If you can't define your purpose, it's time to start exploring this area. Try Googling ways to explore your purpose. We are all here for a reason. Also, look for an upcoming article about this.

A growth mindset means you accept responsibility for your life and by your actions you are moving toward living the life you want!

I hope you find this helpful! This article is not intended to provide any type of treatment or diagnosis. If you experience a mental health crisis, call 911. If you're having difficulties and things in your life seem out of control it may be time to get professional help.



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones

Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

How does Social Security fit into retirement?

Here's something to think about: You could spend two, or even three, decades in retirement. To meet your income needs for all those years, you'll generally need a sizable amount of retirement assets.

How will Social Security fit into the picture?

For most people, Social Security won't be enough to cover the cost of living in retirement. Nonetheless, Social Security benefits are still valuable, so you'll

want to do whatever you can to maximize them.

Your first move is to determine when you should start taking Social Security. You can begin collecting benefits when you reach 62 – but should you? If you were to turn 62 this year, your payments would only be about 71% of what you'd get if you waited until your full retirement age, which is 66 years and 10 months. ("Full retirement age" varies, depending on when you were born, but for most people today, it will be between 66 and

67.) Every month you wait between now and your full retirement age, your benefits will increase. If you still want to delay taking benefits beyond your full retirement age, your payments will increase by 8% each year, until you're 70, when they "max out." Regardless of when you file, you'll also receive an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

So, when should you start claiming your benefits? There's no one "right" answer for everyone. If you turn 62 and you need the

money, your choice might be made for you. But if you have sufficient income from other sources, you're in good health and you have longevity in your family, or you're still working, it might be worthwhile to wait until your full retirement age, or perhaps even longer, to start collecting.

Another key consideration is spousal benefits. If your own full retirement benefit is less than 50% of your spouse's full retirement benefit, you would generally be eligible to claim spousal benefits, provided you're at least 62 and your spouse has filed for Social Security benefits.

Survivor benefits are another important consideration. When you pass away, your spouse would be able to receive up to 100% of your benefit or his/her own retirement benefit, whichever is higher. Thus, delaying Social Security could not only increase your own benefit, but also the benefit for your surviving spouse.

An additional issue to think about, when planning for how Social Security fits

into your retirement, is your earned income. If you're younger than full retirement age, your benefit will be reduced by \$1 for each \$2 you earn above a certain amount, which, in 2021, is \$18,960. During the year you reach full retirement age, your benefit will be reduced by \$1 for each \$3 you earn above a set amount (\$50,520 in 2021). But once you hit the month at which you attain full retirement age, and from that point on, you can keep all of your benefits, no matter how much you earn (although your benefits could still be taxed).

One final point to keep in mind: The more you accumulate in your other retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan, the more flexibility you'll have in managing your Social Security benefits. So, throughout your working years, try to contribute as much as you can afford to these plans.

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

Local Newspapers are

▶ **IMPORTANT** ◀

Any Way You Look At It

We keep you informed on
Community Events,
Lowell Area Schools, Sports,
Local Government,
Local Businesses and Much More!

Support Your Local
News Source -
The Lowell Ledger

Call To Begin Your Subscription Today!

105 N. Broadway • 897-9261 • ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

So Many
Reasons
to
Shop Local!

FUN PAGE

SUDOKO

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

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

PEDAL FASTER WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

PEDAL FASTER WORD SEARCH

CADENCE

FRAME

RIMS

CHAIN

HANDLEBARS

SHIFT

CHASE

LEVER

TANDEM

CRANK

MOUNTAIN

TEMPO

ACCELERATE

DERAILLEUR

RACE

TIRES

BICYCLE

DROPOUTS

RANDONNEURING

TREAD

BREAKAWAY

ENERGY

RECREATIONAL

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on July 9, 1956. I started my career with many comedic roles, but eventually moved into dramatic movies. I won back-to-back Academy Awards for Best Actor in 1993 and 1994.

Answer: Tom Hanks

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to warm days.

O P S O L

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Pools

	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	
65		66						67				68		
	69							70						

CLUES ACROSS

- Plant of the mint family
- Hand tool
- Made of the color of gold
- A volume of several novels
- Type of degree
- Good job!
- Seventh tone in major scale
- Fevers
- One's mother
- Fertile desert spots
- Large integers
- Plate for Eucharist
- Tennis matches have them
- Peyton's little brother
- Monetary unit of N. Korea
- Head movement
- Twelve
- Renaissance musical instrument
- Behavior showing high moral standards
- Letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- Notes to be sung
- Women's garment
- Coarsely ground corn
- One point south of due east
- A way to deplete

CLUES DOWN

- Short stick used as a weapon
- An alternative
- Laws
- Sense organs
- One from Utah
- Mariner
- People in charge of cattle
- Health insurance organization
- Ornamental box
- Forest-dwelling deer

- One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- Atomic #71
- Become less intense
- Cowards
- Applicable to all cases
- Multiplied by 6
- Afghanistan monetary unit
- Calendar month
- Cena and Lennon are two
- Monetary unit of Serbia
- First time on the market
- Georgia rockers
- Free from contamination
- Coastal region of Canada
- Clothing retailer
- It rises and sets
- Fathers
- Stain with mud
- Suitable for crops
- Feels concern for
- Orange-brown
- Buddy
- Late sportscaster Craig
- Used to align parts
- Wake up
- Solid water
- Semiprecious stone
- Atomic #45
- Top lawyer

New funding announced for continued COVID-19 wastewater monitoring

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recently announced nearly \$49 million in grant funding to support 19 local projects that will continue conducting COVID-19 wastewater surveillance and implement COVID-19 variant strain testing of wastewater.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

funding will reinstate COVID-19 wastewater monitoring established during a Fall 2020 pilot project. The state's SARS-CoV-2 Epidemiology – Wastewater Evaluation and Reporting Network uses locally coordinated projects to conduct wastewater surveillance for COVID-19. Wastewater is tested for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which

causes COVID-19 disease, that is shed in feces into Michigan public sewer systems. Partners include local health departments, tribal nations, wastewater treatment and environmental engineering agencies, colleges and universities, and public, private and academic laboratories.

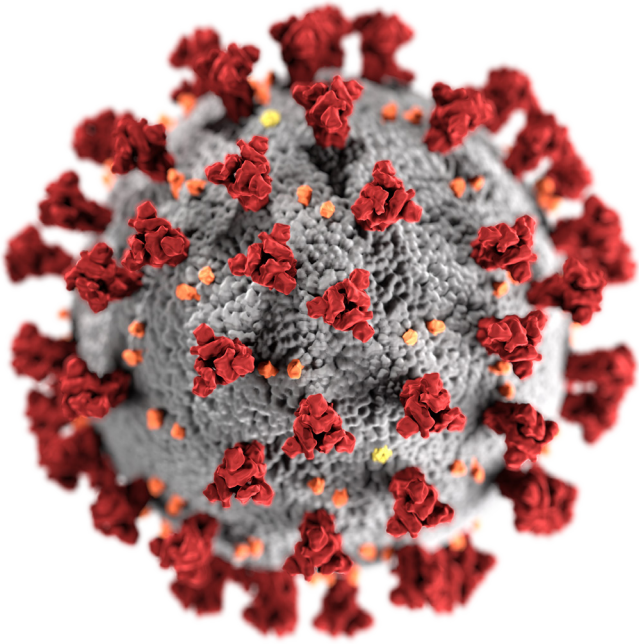
Funding for the project will continue through July 31, 2023. As COVID-19 cases decrease across the state, wastewater monitoring can provide useful information regarding disease detection and spread on a larger community level. This can be especially important as clinical testing rates decrease.

“Wastewater surveillance is so important to identifying COVID-19 infections and community transmission early, and is especially important as we move to a new phase of fighting this pandemic,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical

executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS. “If our rates of infection start to increase, this network may provide an early warning sign and help communities target public health actions to prevent further spread.”

It is also one of the few surveillance methods that can provide information on the virus within populations that are not showing signs of illness or who do not seek health care.

In the pilot project, participating local health departments and universities were able to focus clinical testing recommendations and communication efforts when increased levels of the virus were detected in wastewater. Specific examples of successful outcomes from the pilot project, including how the data was used, are available in the COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Feasibility Pilot Project Success Stories document



available online at michigan.gov.

Continued monitoring will provide timely and consistent wastewater data to support COVID-19 public health responses within 33 local health jurisdictions with project sampling sites. This data will include information on SARS-CoV-2 presence, trends and preliminary detections of variant strains found in wastewater.

The funding expands the reach of the established monitoring system to cover a large geographic portion of Michigan. Local projects have proposed over 460 sample sites across a total of 55 counties and the City of Detroit. Over the course of the project, it is estimated that more than 87,000 wastewater samples will be collected and analyzed.

These funds will support sample collection, transportation and testing of wastewater samples; analysis and reporting of results; coordination and communication within local projects and with state agencies; and submission of results to MDHHS and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

Nineteen local projects were funded for the following amounts:

- \$1,750,886 - Dr. Michael Conway's lab at Central Michigan University.
- \$1,979,848 - City of Traverse City.
- \$1,831,851 - Shimadzu Core Lab at Ferris State University.
- \$1,732,225 - Dr. Richard Rediske's lab at Grand Valley State University's Annis Water Resources Institute.
- \$1,910,023 - Health Department of Northwest Michigan.
- \$7,543,073 - Global Water Research Institute at Hope College.

\$3,278,054 - Kent County Health Department.

\$2,182,037 - Professor Benjamin Southwell's lab at Lake Superior State University.

\$2,673,806 - Macomb County Public Works Office.

\$3,223,635 - Dr. Joan Rose's lab at Michigan State University.

\$2,713,176 - Dr. Irene Xagorarakis's lab at Michigan State University.

\$628,935 - Dr. Josh Sharp's lab at Northern Michigan University.

\$2,500,000 - Oakland County Health Division.

\$2,483,851 - Dr. David Szlag's lab at Oakland University.

\$2,009,639 - Dr. Tami Sivy's lab at Saginaw Valley State University.

\$2,596,012 - Dr. Kevin Bakker and Dr. Krista Wigginton's lab at University of Michigan.

\$2,716,317 - Dr. Chuanwu Xi's lab at University of Michigan.

\$3,129,407 - Dr. Jeffrey Ram's lab at Wayne State University.

\$2,032,102 - White Water Associates Inc.

For this project, MDHHS will provide project coordination, data analysis, health education and project communications. EGLE will provide scientific expertise and data management capacity for the network. Dr. Rose's lab at Michigan State University will serve as the lead laboratory, responsible for standardizing lab testing and providing technical assistance.

To view data from the pilot project, visit the online Michigan COVID-19 Wastewater Dashboard. This dashboard will be updated in the near future to reflect the new data that results from this funding. For more information on wastewater monitoring, visit the Wastewater Surveillance for COVID-19 website.

NEWSPAPER ADS WORK.

6 out of **10** newspaper readers who read a **home services ad** took action after seeing the ad.*

THE TOP ACTIONS ARE >>>

- >>> Gather more information regarding service/product
- >>> Save the ad for future reference
- >>> Visit advertiser's website

ALL TOGETHER NOW As our nation looks to reopen, rebound and resurge, our advertising representatives are here to help your business. Hire us to help get your customers back and your employees ready. Nobody cares more about your success than we do.

Nobody delivers a more engaged audience than we do. Our growth online, combined with print, is impressive as more readers turn to us for local news.

Newspapers are your best investment.
We care about local.



Buyer's
Guide and News

105 N. Broadway • Lowell • 616-897-9555
www.lowellbuyersguide.com