

Vergennes Twp primary election is Aug. 3

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Vergennes Township is having an election on Tuesday, Aug. 3, with a Senate primary and a public safety millage.

The first thing on the ballot is a primary to determine who the Democratic and Republican nominees for State Senator of the 28th District will be in the November election. The previous senator for this district, Republican Peter MacGregor, was elected Kent County Treasurer last year and vacated his seat.

On the Democratic side, Keith Courtade and Gidget Groendyk are the two choices.

Courtade is a retired employee of General Motors who served on the Kent County Board of Commissioners from

2008 to 2010. Other past service includes the board of directors of Network180, the Wyoming/Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce and UAW Local 730.

A native of Sparta, Groendyk is one of the first transgender people to run for public office in Michigan. They are a hobby farmer and they also work in home improvement.

There are three choices over in the Republican column, Tommy Brann, Kevin Green and Mark Huizenga.

Brann is a co-owner of multiple Brann's restaurant locations, and has represented the 77th House District since 2017. Brann is president of the Division Avenue Business

Association, a member of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and is on the board of the Metro Hospital Foundation.

Green is supervisor of Algoma Township and has been since 2016. He previously represented the 77th House District for three terms and has also served on the Wyoming City Council.

Huizenga owns the companies Mark Huizenga Systems Consulting and Key Green Solutions. He served as mayor of Walker from 2013 to 2017 and was also a member of their city commission. He currently sits on the board of the Salvation Army's Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division board, the Council of State Governments, the

Midwest Higher Education Compact Commission and the Midwest-Canada Trade Subcommittee.

There is also one proposal on the ballot, a 20-year public safety millage for the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority. Here is the complete text that will appear on the ballot:

"Shall the tax limitation on all taxable property within the Township of Vergennes, Kent County, Michigan, be increased and the Township be authorized to levy a new additional millage annually in an amount not to exceed .70 mill (\$.70 on each \$1,000 of taxable value) for twenty (20) years, 2021 to 2040 inclusive, to provide funds for the purpose of operating, equipping, purchasing and

making capital expenditures for fire services and emergency medical services, including ambulance services? The estimate of the revenue the Township will collect in the first year of levy (2021) if the millage is approved is approximately \$171,000. All or a portion of the revenue collected may be distributed to the Lowell Area Fire and Emergency Services Authority for the purposes stated in this proposal."

The election will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 3. Participants for both precincts in the Vergennes Township election vote at the new township hall, located at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave. NE.

To register to vote or check your status, visit <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us>.

Lowell Little League Baseball



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Melophobia at the Showboat



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LowellArts "My Dearest Friend"



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Reminder: Weaving Fair at Ability Weavers is Saturday, July 31

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

Ability Weavers, 215 W. Main, will host their second annual Weaving Fair downtown on Saturday, July 31 from 10 am until 4 pm.

"It will be on Riverside Dr., north of our store, on the west side of the river, just past the Backwater Café restaurant," said co-owner Beryl Bartkus. "We're going to be right in there between the Line Shack building and Lowell Light & Power. We've got about 12 vendors coming, all of whom are fiber artists - either weavers, spinners, dyers or wool producers. They will have many unique things made out of fibers, which are usually natural products like cottons and wools. Anything woven, hand-spun, hand-dyed, all that kind of stuff. There will be lots of demonstrations from the different fiber artists. We will have one of



our smaller towel looms out there demonstrating towel weaving. You can't always move a giant loom outside! We've also asked the participants to demonstrate any skills that they can, we hope that you'll see spinners spinning, making their yarns and so forth."

"We have participants coming from northern Indiana, from Traverse City, all over," Bartkus said. "It's fun to see all the stuff that other people are creating. A lot of people love to dye yarns. Often, they'll die

yarns that they've spun out of natural wool. We have several vendors who will have that. Most of the dyes are synthetic, some people do use all-natural dyes, though. They'll boil down dandelions and different plants to make natural dyes."

Bartkus and her husband Eric started Ability Weavers in 2016 to create opportunities for growth, development and enjoyment for special needs adults like their daughter Erin, who has autism. Ability Weavers has since trained and employed more than a dozen crafters, and hundreds of people have taken their "Weave Your Own Rug" classes.

For more information about Ability Weavers, visit abilityweavers.com, follow them on social media or check out their Etsy shop: etsy.com/shop/AbilityWeavers.



Rep. sentenced for OWI arrest

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

MI state representative Bryan Posthumus (R-Kent County) was sentenced last Friday, July 23 for his April 30, 2021 arrest for driving while intoxicated.

Posthumus was sentenced to 15 days in jail, two years of probation with Recovery Court, no alcohol and marijuana with random monthly testing from a probation officer, mandatory participation in a victim impact panel, must maintain employment, full fine of \$1,820, 30 days with no license and 15 days or 120 hours of community service.

"Since my arrest for Operating While Intoxicated [on] Friday, April 30th, not a day has gone by that I haven't thanked God that no one was injured because of my mistake," Posthumus said in a press release. "That day was the wake-up call I needed to make serious changes in my life. I vowed to do certain things immediately, like attending Alcoholics Anonymous and making the program an important part of my life, and am proud to say I am doing these things. Today, I am living a sober and healthy life. I continue to take full and complete responsibility for my actions, and humbly accept the court's decision.



MI Rep. Bryan Posthumus (R-Kent County)

As I move forward, I will continue to work to regain the trust, respect and support of my loved ones, colleagues and the people who put their faith in me to represent them. I never again want to embarrass myself or anyone else because of my actions."

Posthumus also announced that he will write a check to reimburse the state for the 15 days of pay he receives during the time he is in jail

The 73rd District consists of East Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Township, Plainfield, and the townships of Cannon, Courtland, Nelson, Oakfield, and Spencer. Part of this area is serviced by Lowell Area Schools.

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Cage-free funk band Melophobix at Showboat Aug. 5



by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The Grand-Rapids based pop/funk/rock/etc. band Melophobix will perform on the Lowell Showboat on Thursday, Aug. 5.

Melophobix is one of those bands who are so versatile, they had to make up their own genre: “cage-free funk.”

“We all come from varying musical backgrounds and genres, so our sound is not confined to one thing or another, yet we have a consistent flavor of horn-hued funk driven by rock and reggae roots,” said Melophobix saxophone player Nate Hansen. “You never know what you’re going to get, but there is sure to be a little something for everyone. While Melophobix is primarily an original band, we delve into



covers spanning the decades, each with some Melo special sauce.”

The band formed in 2015 when the various

members met at open mic nights in the Grand Rapids area. Currently, the group consists of Nate Hansen on saxophone, Geoff Hansen on trumpet and vocals, Adam Parada on keyboards and backing vocals, Matt Robert on bass, Scotty King on drums and Stefan Schwartz on vocals and guitar.

They’ve performed all over the Midwest and have opened for notables such as Gogol Bordello, Rusted Root, Less Than Jake and the

Electric Six.

“We have been to Lowell a handful of times,” Hansen said. “The Showboat concert is always a good time and the experience continues to evolve. Gary’s Country Meats is also a favorite when we pass through.”

Their first recording, an EP, came out in the summer of 2016, followed by their first full-length album “Cage Free” in 2018. The album was recorded at Third Coast Recording Company

in Grand Haven, a studio owned by Bill Chrysler, who has worked closely with pop music luminaries such as Paul McCartney, Bon Jovi, Mariah Carey and Christina Aguilera.

Locally, the group might be most well-known for their “Melophobix Groovitational” open mic events. The next one of these will take place at Turnstiles Bar, 526 Stocking Ave NW in Grand Rapids on Thursday, Aug. 26 at 8 pm.

“The idea has always been to cultivate and build the local music community,” Hansen said. “We wanted to provide an experience that gives everyone a space to connect and collaborate through live music, regardless of genre,

with an open mic format accessible to full bands. Professional stage, sound, equipment, even instruments are provided. Every Melophobix Groovitational at Turnstile’s features one highlighted artist per month, followed by a first come, first

serve sign up until they shut

down for the night. Every experience is organic and a great hang for networking, collaboration or just an excuse to let loose. You never know who’s going to come through that door and sit in.”

To read more about them, visit melophobix.com or look for them on social media.

Presented by LowellArts and the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Sizzlin’ Summer Concerts

are among West Michigan’s most well-attended outdoor live music events, bringing thousands of people to downtown Lowell every Thursday night all summer long.

Parking and seating are free, but bring a blanket or chair if you don’t want to sit on the ground or in the bleachers. The Riverwalk is wheelchair accessible and there will be plenty of food and drinks to enjoy.

For more information, visit lowellarts.com or discoverlowell.org.

Sizzlin’ Summer Concerts

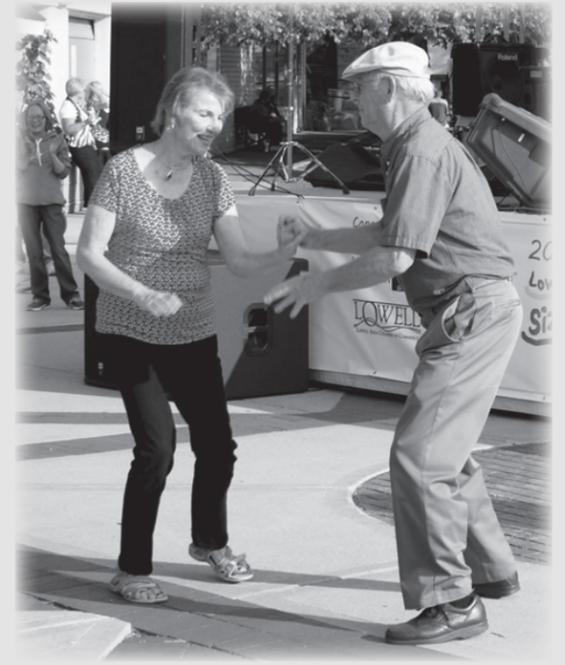
July 29: Midnight Madcat Blues Journey [madcatmusic.net]

Aug. 5: Melophobix [melophobix.com]

Aug. 12: Lighten Up Francis [twitter.com/francis_theband]

Aug. 19: Escaping Pavement [escapingpavement.com]

Aug. 26: Nicholas James and the Bandwagon [nicholasjamesthomasma.com]



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Public art campaign illustrates impact of overdoses

In honor of International Overdose Awareness Day on Aug. 31 and National Recovery Month in September, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Vital Strategies are partnering with community-based organizations to launch a public arts campaign aimed at broadening awareness of the drug overdose crisis in Michigan.

National reporting shows drug overdoses spiked during the pandemic. Centers for Disease Control data shows more people died of an overdose in 2020 than any other year on record in the United States, reemphasizing the need to create communities foundationally rooted in compassion and dignity for people who use drugs and people in all stages of recovery.

“We’re proud to support this partnership, which will draw on the storytelling power of art in communities hard-hit by the surging overdose crisis,” said Daliah Heller, director of drug use initiatives, Vital Strategies. “Art has power, and this

community-driven initiative can bring people who use drugs out of the shadow of stigma and promote a supportive and caring response.”

Overdose Awareness Day recognizes the risks of overdose, honors individuals whose lives have been lost, reduces stigma of drug-related harms and acknowledges the collective grief felt by friends, families and communities impacted by the drug overdose crisis.

In partnership with the Downriver Council for the Arts in Wyandotte, MDHHS and Vital Strategies will commission artists affected by the drug overdose crisis to create art for a powerful exhibit entitled Collective Healing through Art: 2021 Overdose Awareness Day Exhibit.

“Downriver Council for the Arts is honored to support this initiative to broaden awareness of the drug overdose crisis that has taken so many lives across the state,” said Erin Sues, executive director of Downriver Council for the Arts, “Art is healing, and this opportunity will empower

individuals impacted by this crisis and create a space for collective healing for anyone impacted by the drug crisis.”

Recovery Month is recognized during the month of September to support the treatment workforce and promote the message that recovery is possible for everyone. In partnership with City Walls Detroit, MDHHS and Vital Strategies will commission three Michigan-based artists or collaborative teams with lived experience with drug use or the effects of the crisis to create murals symbolizing the impact of the drug overdose crisis. Since 2017, City Walls Detroit has facilitated the creation of 87 murals across the city of Detroit covering over 120,000 square feet of wall space.

“City Walls Detroit could not be more grateful to be included in this great community-based collaborative effort to elevate the message of recovery and hope,” said Zak Meers, project manager of the City Walls Detroit program, “We cannot wait to see what the arts community comes up with to highlight

that message of resilience on these highly visible and easily assessable public-facing walls, because after all it is not about how many times you get knocked down, it is about how many times you get up.”

Murals will be hosted by three recovery-oriented, community-based organizations: the National Council for Alcohol and Drug Dependence of the Greater Detroit Area, the Detroit Recovery Project and the Detroit Association of Black Organizations.

Both opportunities seek to elevate the voices of artists who are people with lived experience with drug use, and in particular artists of color. In 2019, opioid overdose deaths fell by 16.9 percent for white residents, but continued to rise for Black residents, laying bare the inequities characterizing this epidemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the forefront the deadly impact of health disparities on people of color. African American men, particularly in large central metropolitan areas,

such as Detroit, died of an overdose at a rate over 1.5 times higher than their white counterparts during the onset of the pandemic last year.

“We have made important progress in addressing opioid use and reducing deaths, but we can and must do more,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS. “That is particularly true across communities of color as a part of our work to reduce health disparities in Michigan. This public art serves as a reflection of the personal impact of the drug overdose crisis and the opportunities we have to meet people where they are with dignity, compassion and the resources they need when they need them.”

CollectiveHealingthrough Art will open on Aug. 31 and run through Sept. 18. To learn more about the exhibit, visit downriverarts.org.

To submit art to the Collective Healing through Art exhibition, visit overdoseawarenessexhibit.artcall.org. Deadline to submit for the exhibition is July 27.

To submit for the mural opportunities and learn more about the community spaces, visit <https://detroitmi.gov/departments/general-services-department/city-walls/call-artist>. Deadline to submit concepts for the mural opportunities is Aug. 14.

For more information and resources, visit Michigan.gov/Opioids.

Vital Strategies is a global health organization that believes every person should be protected by a strong public health system. In November 2018, Bloomberg Philanthropies announced a \$50 million investment to address the country’s overdose crisis. The initiative, a first-of-its-kind partnership between Vital Strategies, Pew Charitable Trusts, CDC Foundation, and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, is helping up to 10 states implement solutions over three years to strengthen and scale up evidence-based, data-driven interventions to reduce risks of overdose and save lives.

For more information visit vitalstrategies.org.

Federal approval to continue additional emergency food assistance benefits

All Michigan families who are eligible for food assistance benefits are receiving an additional monthly payment in July in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced on Thursday, July 22.

More than 1.25 million people in close to 700,000 Michigan households will benefit under approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services.

Some Michiganders began receiving additional food assistance in April 2020 after the beginning

of the pandemic the month before. In May 2021, all eligible households began getting extra monthly benefits. Federal approval is necessary every month.

All households eligible for SNAP receive an increase of at least \$95 monthly, even if they are already receiving the maximum payment or are close to that amount. Households that received over \$95 to bring them to the maximum payment for their group size will continue to receive that larger amount.

Eligible clients will see additional food assistance benefits on their Bridge Card by July 27. Additional benefits will be loaded onto

Bridge Cards as a separate payment from the assistance that is provided earlier in the month.

Below are the maximum allowable benefits for SNAP customers based on their respective household size:

- One person: \$234
- Two persons: \$430
- Three persons: \$616
- Four persons: \$782
- Five persons: \$929
- Six persons: \$1,114
- Seven persons: \$1,232
- Eight persons: \$1,408

The federal government is providing additional funding to states for food assistance under House Resolution 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Eligible families do not need to re-apply to receive the additional benefits. People who receive food assistance can check their benefits balance on their Michigan Bridge Card by going online to www.michigan.gov/MIBridges or calling a consumer service

representative toll-free at 888-678-8914. They can ask questions about the additional benefits by calling or emailing their caseworker.

Customer service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Spanish and Arabic service is available. If you are deaf,

deafblind hard of hearing or speech-impaired, call the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1.

The latest COVID-19 information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

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Art in the Park returns on August 7

Art in the Park is back, and marking its 46th year. The fun -- the browsing, the ability to see and buy various forms of art and crafts from local and regional artists and artisans -- takes place on Saturday, August 7 in Lake Odessa's shady and picturesque Village Park, beginning at 9 a.m.

The annual tradition, cancelled in 2020 like so many other events due to the pandemic, is hosted by the Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission. "There's a hunger for in-person events after the last year and a half of COVID," said Arts Commission chair Jen Hickey. "It means a lot for Lake Odessa to have this event back. It's a sign that we're beginning to emerge from this difficult time we've all had since the pandemic started."

Whether people are in the market for a unique piece of jewelry, pebble art, painting, home décor, folk art or apparel, there will be plenty to spark the imagination, and organizers expect a good turnout of vendors and people coming to look and buy this year.

Organizers say more than 5,000 people attend Art in the Park, where more than 70 artists and crafters display a rich variety of crafts and artwork, along with vendors offering food and drink.

Throughout the day visitors will be treated to the sounds of some favorite Michigan-area musicians. This year's entertainment line-up includes:

• **9:00 AM** - The Adams Family: Playing a crowd-pleasing repertoire that includes everything from folk and doo-wop through classic rock hits. Also at 9:00 a.m. will be the opening flag ceremony, courtesy of Lake Odessa's VFW Post.

• **10:00 AM** - B-Side Growlers: Tradition-

inspired, toe-tappin' fired, vintage acoustic blues, jazz and country.

• **11:00 AM** - Double Strung: Acoustic country, bluegrass and gospel tunes.

• **Noon** - Art Trivia Contest. Audience members can test their art knowledge

of wines from Michigan vintners will be available for sampling, and a limited number of commemorative glasses will be available for guests. Tickets for guests 21 years of age and older may be purchased at the entrance to the wine-tasting



The Adams Family, pictured left to right: Jerry Adams, Cindy Kropf, Brian Adams and Dale Kropf.

for a chance to win door prizes.

• **12:45 PM** - Center Stage Dance Academy: Youngsters from the local dance studio showcase their dance skills learning during the past school year.

• **1:45 PM** - Blue Water Rockers: A West Michigan country, rock and blues band.

• **2:45 PM** - Metro Johnny: Favorites from the '70s to today, played in an easygoing and fun style.

• **3:45 PM** - Door prize announcements

In addition to great musical entertainment, activities for children of all ages will be available at the Kids' Zone from 10 AM to 1 PM. Children will be able to enjoy craft projects; have their faces painted; and enjoy entertainment with Marbles the Clown.

For adults, a new feature in 2021 is "Art of the Vine," a wine-tasting venue. "We just decided we would try something new as a way to celebrate this opportunity to gather together again," said Hickey. A variety

venue, which will be open from noon to 4 p.m.

While strolling the park and browsing the various booths, visitors will want to take time to relax and enjoy a snack or meal. This year's food line-up includes delicious offerings from:

• Dog Central (gourmet hot dogs and fries)

• Hardin's Concessions (elephant ears, funnel cakes, freshly-squeezed lemonade)

• Lakewood Area Lions Club (pulled pork sandwiches)

• Maria's Tacos (tacos, taco salad)

• Silver Star Kettle Corn (kettle corn and roasted nuts)

• The Nut Shell (cinnamon roasted almonds)

• Alexis's Sugar-Coated Bakery (cinnamon rolls, cupcakes, muffins)

The 2021 Art in the Park has been made possible with generous support from local area businesses and community organizations, as well as a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs. "These businesses and organizations commit their

precious resources to support the quality of life we enjoy here in the Lake Odessa area," commented Hickey. "We are grateful for the strong support we receive which allows us to continue this favorite annual tradition."

For more information, pick up a copy of the 2021 Art in the Park Visitors Guide at area merchants or view it online at www.LakeOdessaArts.com.



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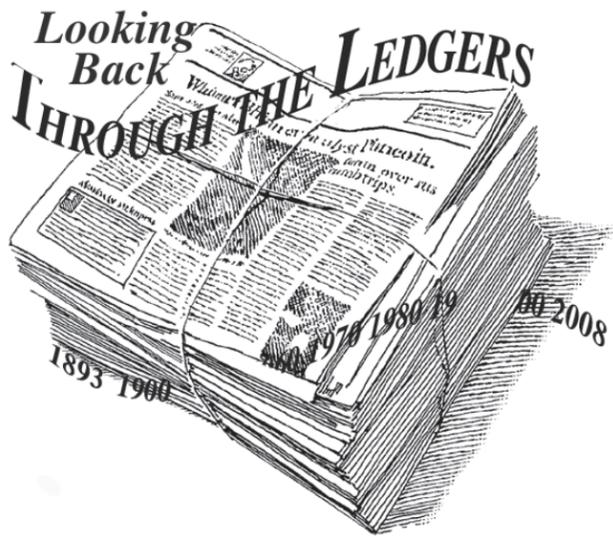
Newspaper ads result in more purchases than magazine ads.

22%

of adults often purchase products and services as the result of a magazine ad.⁴

Sources: (1) Release 2 Nielsen Scarborough Report. Copyright 2018 Scarborough Research. All rights reserved. (2) Triad/Coda Ventures - The Newspaper Generation Study; (3) NAA; (4) AMG/Parade Local Knowledge Survey

viewpoint



125 years ago Lowell Ledger July 31, 1896

This edition of the Lowell Ledger is missing.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger August 4, 1921

Twenty years ago Peter Martin, of Ada, lost his horse and buggy at Reeds lake through the cunning of a thief and today Peter can have a similar experience with his automobile, if he is alive and able to own one. Grand Rapids seems not to have improved much in this respect.

Horse racing is the king of all out door sport, and nothing has ever been introduced that can justly take its place or begin to compare with it in points of amusement, as it carries with it a thrill, and has a fascination which is known only at a horse race. All over the United States and Canada at this time of the year, and we might say the world, horse racing is going on.

The automobile craze has been with us for a long time. Notable among examples were cases where homes were mortgaged to buy cars and where the mortgage finally took both home and machine. In other extreme cases homeless people living in tents have been known to buy cars, following which either family or car were without shelter.

75 years The Lowell Ledger August 1, 1946

The idea that was impossible—a National music camp for talented boys and girls—has become one of Michigan's outstanding tourist attractions here at Interlochen, near Traverse City. It is the only place of its kind in the United States—and, indeed, in the world.

Damage of \$10,000 was estimated Saturday when fire destroyed a large barn with all the crops and equipment on the farm of Godfrey Roth in Keene township. The Lowell and Belding fire departments prevented larger loss when they extinguished smoldering fires in an adjoining barn and other buildings.

The Showboat ended its most successful season on Saturday night when he boat pulled in before another overflow crowd. An estimated 25,000 persons saw the Showboat this year, either from paid seats or from vantage points near the stadium.

50 years The Lowell Ledger August 5, 1971

The 37th Annual Kent County 4-H Youth Fair at the Lowell Fairgrounds August 9-13, will include a number of new features. One new addition is the baby farm animal mothers with their offspring. Another area will be a "do it yourself spot" where the public may try out tie-dye, macramé and other crafts. All are invited to come to the fair, view the exhibits, be entertained, and participate in the action.

Sergeant Robert P. Lewis Jr., son of Mrs. and Mrs. Robert P. Lewis, is a member of the 600th Photographic Squadron that has been cited for the heroic and outstanding performance while documenting the Vietnam war. The squadron, which operates throughout Southeast Asia, has received the U. S. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with special "V" device for valor in combat.

The City of Lowell will soon add 400 souls to their census figure—at least on one or two weekends per month. The Young Marines of Grand Rapids have just completed the purchase of 140 acres of land near the old municipal generating dam near Fallasburg Park for a year around campsite.

25 years The Lowell Ledger July 31, 1996

It wasn't scheduled as a sightseeing trip, but oh, what sights the 13-day Lowell High School social studies tour provided. The tour, taken by 26 Lowell High School history students and six chaperones, including history department teachers Jack Ogle, Steve Kampfschulte and Sue Bristol, included memorable stops in London, Normandy, Brussels, Amsterdam, Paris and Berlin.

No-till farming practices and extremely wet conditions were the genesis for the fungus vomitoxin. The fungus set back this year's wheat harvest by approximately two weeks. The result has made it necessary for the city of Lowell and King Milling to devise a backup staging area for trucks looking to dump their wheat during fair week.

In his first presentation before the Lowell Planning Commission Evert Bek, proposed the construction of four storage buildings. He was asked to downsize the scale of the project and to add some landscaping. He went to an engineer to have a blueprint drawn up at a cost of \$600. He then presented the revised plan to the commission.

college news

Just over 7,600 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on May 8.

Local recipients are: of Ada: Claudia Vredevelt, School of Medical & Public Health, Master of Science-Population Health, population health and Lauren Walson, Law School, Doctor of Law (Juris Doctor), law.

The University of Dubuque celebrated its 169th commencement

with three in-person commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 1, 2021, in the Chlapaty Recreation and Wellness Center.

Heather Libich, of Ada, received the Master of Arts in Christian leadership.



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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.

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

Enuresis

Enuresis is bed wetting in a child over age five. Most children stop wetting the bed before age five. It is a more common issue with boys than with girls, and it tends to run in families.

Enuresis happens when a child does not wake up when his or her bladder is full. There is no obvious cause for enuresis in most children, but several factors make it more likely. For example, some children don't wake up easily, or their bodies produce more urine than normal. In children who don't usually wet the bed, enuresis may be caused by a traumatic event (i.e., bullying, divorce, or abuse) or a medical condition such as an infection.

Most children with enuresis are healthy and will outgrow this condition. However, you should tell

your health care provider if your child has been wetting during the day, experiencing painful urination, or complaining of stomach or genital pain. You should also seek help if bed wetting occurs after a long period of no bed-wetting. If bed wetting upsets your child, or it happens often, there are strategies and medications that can help such as:

- Avoid giving the child liquids or anything with caffeine before bedtime
- Make sure the child goes to the bathroom before bed and empties completely
- Avoid punishing the child for bed wetting. Instead, reward them when they are dry
- Have your child help change and wash the sheets after bed wetting so that your child is involved with his or her own care and hygiene.

ABCs of Lowell History

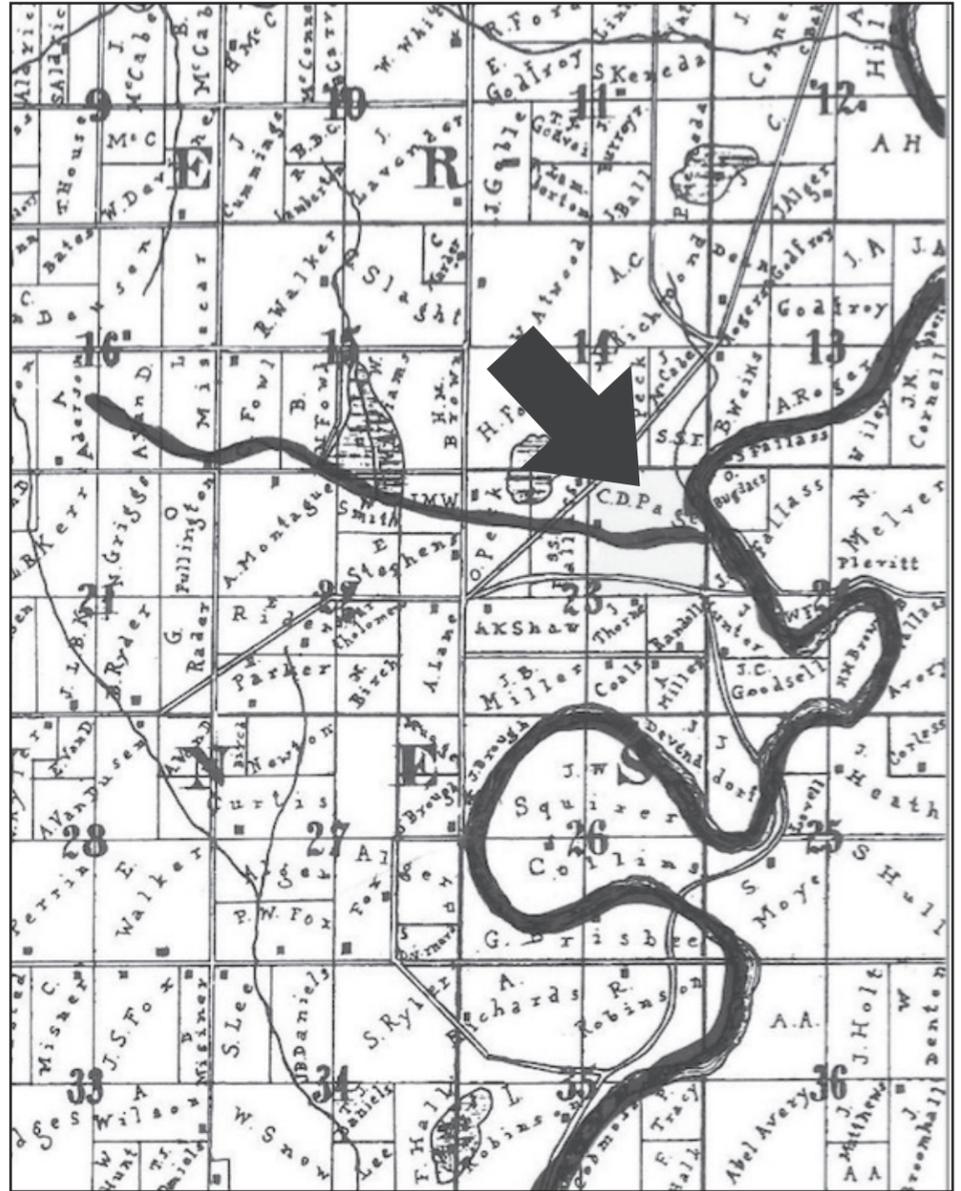
The ABC's of Lowell History was introduced last year as a way to share some of the many fascinating stories from Lowell's past. It was initiated in-part by the pandemic shutdown which led the museum to seek alternative ways to share local history with the community. The series will continue with a third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

P is for Page

Part of the fun of a visit to Fallsburg Park is splashing in Page Creek and picnicking alongside that meandering creek before it empties into the Flat River.

What is behind the name 'Page' Creek? The name first shows up in 1871 in reference to the creek. The creek flows through land purchased by Caleb Page on August 10, 1841 from the government. He bought 156 acres in today's Vergennes Township, in the northeast quarter of Section 23. Caleb was born in Vermont, later lived in New York, and then came to Lowell. He worked on a farm the first summer he was here and helped to build the sawmill at Fallsburg.

In 1839, Caleb married Caroline Beard (Baird). Caroline was from New York but was here visiting her sister, the wife of Dr. Silas Fallas, when she was hired to teach "Down to the Mouth" (today's Lowell). She was the first schoolteacher in Lowell. Her first session totaled 14 students: nine white students including Carl Tracy and eight Robinsons,



plus five Odawa students. Her time teaching brought many adventures. Caroline told of adult Odawas coming to her school. Sometimes they would lie down in the middle of the floor and sleep there for hours and she had to step over them in attending to her school duties.

While teachers normally boarded with area families, she grew tired of that and

was given permission to sleep in the loft above the schoolhouse. She maintained her privacy by pulling up the ladder with her, preventing visitors.

The Page/Beard wedding was the first amongst the settlers and took a lot of work. The log schoolhouse was utterly transformed. Sheets were fastened to the walls and evergreen boughs were pinned to the sheets. A circuit rider, Reverend Richards, married the couple. The wedding food brought by guests consisted of wild turkey, cranberry sauce, potatoes baked in the ashes of the fireplace, pumpkin pie and bride's cake (old fashioned twisted fried cake). The evening ended with songs by Mrs. Rodney Robinson.

Caleb died in 1854 and Caroline died in 1863. Both are buried in Fox's Corner Cemetery. Of their

four children who lived to reach adulthood, daughter Caroline died the same year as her mother. Frances Jane married John Fallas in 1868 but died the same year. Julia married local boy Clark Frazier, lived her life in the area and is buried in the Krum - Blanding Cemetery on Vergennes street. Son Caleb eventually moved to Colorado and lived the rest of his life there.

Much of the Page land became Fallsburg Park in 1927 when the then owner Mrs. Lena Reusser Eickhoff sold it to the county for that purpose. In 2011 the descendants of the Page family held a family reunion at Fallsburg Park, on land originally part of Caleb's farm. During the reunion they unveiled a memorial at the Page Creek footbridge located below the hill in the park.

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“My Dearest Friend” brings the American Revolution to life at LowellArts

by Tim McAllister
lead reporter

The LowellArts summer theater production of “My Dearest Friend” will premiere on Friday, Aug. 6.

The play chronicles the lives of John and Abigail Adams, key figures in the creation of the United States of America. It was written by Michigan playwright Mary G. Kron and stars Gary E. Mitchell and Mary Beth Quillin of GEM Theatrics.

Co-lead actor Gary E. Mitchell has a thing for presidential history. He is currently reading biographies of every past president (so far he’s up to Grover Cleveland) and previously portrayed President Harry Truman in

the one-man show “Give ‘Em Hell, Harry.”

“History is an important thing for me,” Mitchell said. “I’m not a historian, but it’s an avocation, it’s a hobby. Truman famously said that ‘The only thing new in the world is the history you don’t know.’ John Adams and I go way back. I first learned about him and the American Revolution in middle school like every other kid, but Adams just fascinated me. He was tenacious. He was shorter than average, I was shorter than average, and I just began to feel that he was ‘my Founding Father,’ so to speak. So I

suggested to Mary Beth that we think about a show focusing on John and Abigail Adams.”

The Adamses were avid letter-writers, and their correspondence is the basis of the play. You can read all of their letters online at masshist.org/digitaladams/archive. The process behind transforming centuries-old letters written months or years apart into compelling dialogue and action was

difficult and complicated, but Mitchell said they are ecstatic about the result.

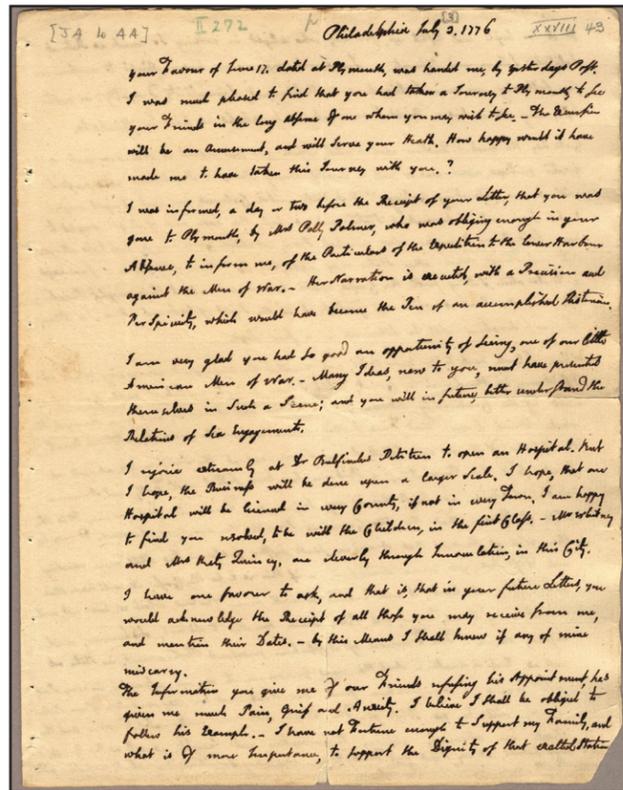
“One of the reasons I wanted to do that was because there was a lot of information about them,” Mitchell said. “They kept all of their correspondence, and in the modern era it’s great, because it’s all digitized on the Internet. Mary G. Kron was a friend of ours from the Grand Rapids Civic Theater, we knew she was a

The first 10 minutes of a Shakespearean drama are slower than the rest so actors and audiences can get in into the rhythm of the language, and that’s what we’ve done here. Mary Beth and I have both performed a number of Shakespeare’s plays, and we found that if the actors know what they’re saying, even though the audience might not understand every single word or the way the words are put together, they will understand the point of the speech. But the first five minutes can be difficult for audiences because of the language. Letters between John and Abigail Adams, even when he was in Philadelphia and she was in Braintree, outside of Boston, it would take three or four weeks for her letter to get there. And then for him to reply to it, that would take another three or four weeks. When he was in England or in Holland raising money for the Revolution, it would take months, and sometimes the letters would get lost at sea, so a long time would go by or there would just be no reply. So what she did was, as she downloaded them, she color-coded them by topic and then organized them in a way that would make some sort of dramatic sense. So, for example, when Abigail would ask a question about the farm in a letter, months later she would receive a reply from John. Mary was able to take the question and the answer and put them together, despite the fact that in real life they were separated by months. That worked great for the purposes of the show, because the whole play takes place in John Adams’ mind after Abigail has died. John Adams begins the show with a letter to John Quincy Adams, his son, about the death of Abigail Adams, and then she appears to him and the rest of the show basically takes place in his mind. Because Mary was able to do that, John and Abigail Adams talk about their lives as if they were in the same room, even though what they said was written months or even years apart.”

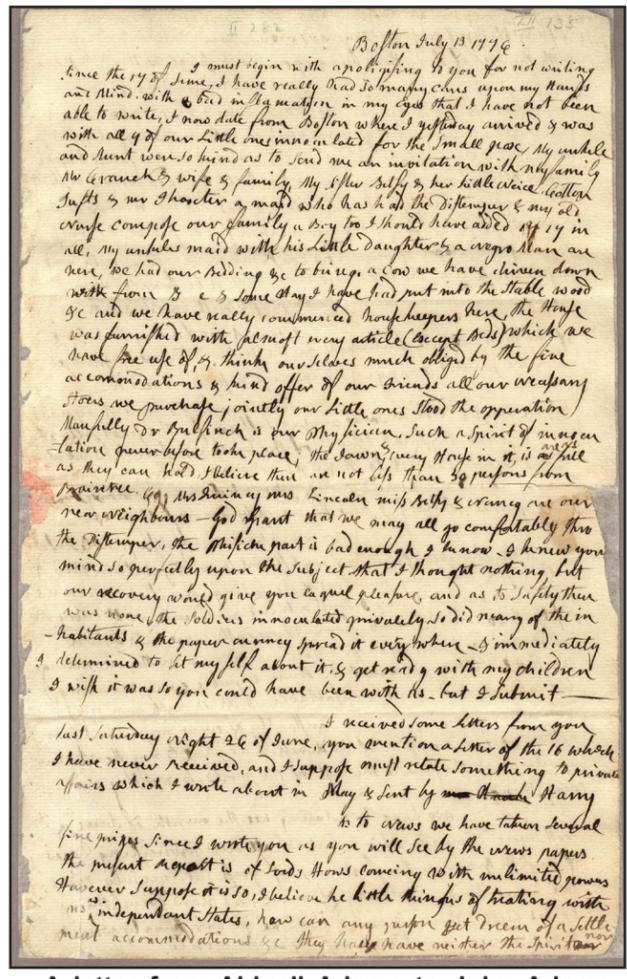
one considered that women would ever have the right to vote in those days. So she was traditional in that way, but in their relationship, it was really quite modern. She didn’t have any qualms about disagreeing with her husband about things and having very serious discussions. She probably wrote things in her letters that she might not have had the nerve to say out loud, face-to-face. But as a result of that, their discussions via this correspondence became much deeper than many couples of that historical period would have had with each other. So that’s why we think that they’re a very modern founding couple.”

“Abigail Adams was very intelligent, a strong woman of strong opinions, and a true partner to John in every way,” said co-lead actor Mary Beth Quillin. “She ran the farm and raised the children while he was gone, both in Philadelphia and in France, England and the Netherlands for many years.”

“The Adamses were separated for almost half of their married life, because John was away on diplomatic missions and Abigail didn’t like to travel across the ocean,” Mitchell said. “And besides, she had the farm and the children to take care of. She did a lot of the farming. In fact, one of the people in the John Adams correspondence was a man named Joseph Warren, who wrote to John that his farm ‘never looked better as without him.’ She was an amazing woman. She was able to keep body and soul together while John was away. John didn’t make a lot of money working for the government in those days, maybe unlike what happens today. It was really difficult to get rich in public service in those days. So Abigail worked the farm, and she was able to pay some workers to help her. When John was overseas, she started a little store in their home, and she would say to John, ‘Can you send me some French lace?’ and ‘Can you send me some English China? Because I can sell it here.’ So he did! He would buy things and crate them up and send them home on a ship, then she would sell them at the store. John Adams truly was brilliant, and I truly believe that this country would not be the free country that it became without John Adams. There were others, but when others wanted to quit, Adams never would. In that way, he became a gadfly, but that’s what it took! He would just never



A letter from John Adams to Abigail Adams, dated July 3, 1776.



A letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams, dated July 13-14, 1776.

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playwright so we suggested the project to her. She said, ‘Well, let me go back and think about it and see what I can do.’ She started reading the correspondence and, like everybody does who actually reads the correspondence, she was hooked. She said, ‘I can do this!’ But we said, ‘A.R. Gurney’s play is terrific, but we don’t want another ‘Love Letters,’ we don’t want another play about two people just sitting and reading letters.’ That’s been done and done very well. So Mary started to dive into the correspondence, and what she decided to do was try to take those letters and turn them into dialogue. About 95 percent of the show was taken directly from the correspondence between John and Abigail Adams over the course of their long marriage, and even a little bit before that into their courting period. And it was tough, it was a hard job. There are some places where there wasn’t a whole lot we could do, but the language is the language. We treated it like Shakespeare.

“My Dearest Friend” brings the American Revolution to life at LowellArts

give up. But the truth is that in interpersonal relationships Abigail was the brains of the outfit. John was a little hard to get along with, and he was irritating. As he used to say, ‘obnoxious and disliked.’ So Abigail helped John a lot, especially as he became more successful politically, in winding his way through the minefield of political traps and intrigues. He was probably the first president to actually talk to his wife about political matters, even as president. George and Martha Washington didn’t have that same kind of relationship. Abigail was smart about it. She knew, despite her own feelings about rights for women, she knew what the times were, she knew what she could get away with and what she couldn’t. So it was all done behind the scenes, it was all discussed privately, and then he would go out and do the public things.”

Mitchell is a native of Mount Pleasant and graduated from Central Michigan University. A couple of his classmates hit the big time, but Mitchell said he wasn’t comfortable risking it all to pursue an acting career. Instead, he became a lawyer, practicing first in Chicago and then Grand Rapids.

“My major was business administration with a minor in political science,” Mitchell said. “I really wanted to be an actor, but a liberal arts degree was something that I wasn’t certain I could turn into a career. The thought of actually going to New York

or California and trying to make it as an actor... I didn’t have John Adams fortitude! I was timid. I had some friends who did it, I went to college with Jeff Daniels and Terry O’Quinn, a guy that’s not on television so much anymore, but he was on ‘Lost’ and some other shows. They went and they made it because they had courage. But you know, Jeff Daniels made a lot of Burma Shave commercials and a lot of other stuff before he became Jeff Daniels! I just figured I needed a degree that I might be able to parlay into some sort of career, so business administration was it, but I spent a lot of time in the theater department. After CMU, my acting career got put on hold. I went to law school at the University of Michigan and I was a lawyer for a long time. I came to Grand Rapids in 1987. By 1995, I thought that I had time to go back into acting and try that, so I started auditioning for shows in local community theaters and I got parts. I met Mary Beth Quillin in 1997 while we were doing ‘Love Letters’ together at the Grand Rapids Civic Theater, and then we got married. Mary Beth and I founded our production company GEM Theatrics in late 2009. We found that, as much as we wanted to, we weren’t getting cast in the same shows often enough. Every year as we get older it’s harder and harder to find two person plays that are people of the right age. We’re still rebelling against doing ‘The Gin Game!’



John and Abigail Adams



We had been doing two-person plays at that point, mainly A.R. Gurney’s ‘Love Letters,’ about two people who correspond with each other throughout their lives. That play basically consists of two people just sitting and reading these letters. We decided that it would be helpful to us if we could create a show that was ours alone and wasn’t something that we had to deal with other people in order to be able to perform. We figured the only way to solve that was to make our own production company and do our own shows. Actors are always looking for good pieces of work. We think we found it with this, and audiences seem to agree. It’s very well-written, and it’s not just educational, it’s also entertaining.”

Performances of “My Dearest Friend” will take place in the LowellArts

gallery, 223 W Main, on Aug. 6, 7, 8, 13 and 14. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7 pm and the Sunday show is at 2 pm. Tickets are \$18 in advance or \$20 at the door. Advance tickets are available at lowellartsmi.org or by calling 616-897-8545.

Playwright Mary G. Kron will join the performers after the Sunday, Aug. 8 matinee for a Q&A about her research into the letters and diaries of John and Abigail Adams. Kron has more than 30 years of experience in the theater as a performer, director and instructor. She

earned her BFA in directing and acting from Central Michigan University.

Her discussion of the challenges of working with primary sources and building the tension necessary to create three-dimensional, dramatic characters from centuries old material will be of interest to budding playwrights, history buffs and casual audience members alike.

This production was funded in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Humanities

Council.

“We are very grateful to LowellArts for all of the support that they have given us, for making us a part of this project and allowing us to get back in front of people,” Mitchell said. “I think folks are really starved for live theater. This is an opportunity to see a show that that we believe is not only educational but also entertaining, and we think that everybody will have a very good time.”

For more information, visit lowellartsmi.org/my-dearest-friend.



Mary Beth Quillin and Gary E. Mitchell in costume and in character as Abigail and John Adams.

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~ Route 66

by Martha Hayden

Have you ever spray painted graffiti? I never imagined I would, but near Amarillo, Texas there are ten Cadillacs buried, fin-up for anyone to leave their mark. This was just one of our stops along Route 66.

As we drove on the highway from Chicago to Arizona we followed alongside old Route 66, "America's Glory Road." This roadway housed attractions and hotels along the 2,400 mile route. It spanned all the way from Chicago to Los Angeles.

I followed our path in a travel book, "The EZ66 Guide" from my friend, Kim. She'd traveled this route with her friend a few years ago and shared this helpful resource. (Kim had circled some of her favorite spots!) The guidebook reminded me of the 'AAA Trip Tik' we used on family trips in the 1970's. I could keep my finger on our



a long-distance record. The photos below helped shape the desire for a transcontinental roadway.

The dirt roadways were dusty and rough on the slender-tired automobiles. Flat tires were a daily issue. After a rainstorm the mud caused these narrow tires to sink.

Weak bridges weren't reliable for loaded trucks to pass. Sixteen bridges collapsed in one day along the route. They needed to be

repaired before their return trip.

With these photos Dwight D. Eisenhower and the Motor Transport Corps convinced congress to enact a national campaign to build a connective artery of commerce through our country. The Townsend Highway Bill established a Federal Highway Commission. This group could appropriate money for the construction of roads under the guidance of congress. "Route 66" was named in 1926. With it's diagonal path connecting communities, farmers had an easier time hauling their crops and livestock. With secure bridges in place by the 1930's, trucking was rivaling the train industry.

As the Dust Bowl and Depression knocked our nation to its knees, around 210,000 people moved west to California on the "road of opportunity" Route 66. Many others were put to work paving this pathway. The laying of asphalt was completed by 1938.

As World War II loomed, the thoroughfare provided troop transportation. Battalions trained in the dry, consistent climate of the southwest.

In the fall of 1945



The Roaring 20's liquor business had to shut down due to lack of customers.

drive with speed and safety at the same time."

The Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 provided funding for a national interstate and defense highway system. These federally subsidized programs aimed to construct a more fluid, consistent system of thoroughfares throughout our country.

Every Friday from 1960-1964 the television show, "Route 66" would entertain our nation. Martin Milner and George Maharis brought people along on their journey down the "Mother Road." I had no idea there had been this weekly array. I watched the beginning of an episode on YouTube. (See "Resources" below for the link) The men were looking for a shortcut as a bridge wasn't functional.



Gate City Auto Camp, San Bernardino, CA.

location using the maps. (I like that!) "The EZ66 Guide" was chock-full of interesting facts and locations for each of the eight states. We stopped at several. Stay tuned for snippets of our adventures in upcoming articles!

In the span of a single generation, Route 66 went from being a booming roadway with economic promise to a collection of dilapidated towns all along the way. Sadly, now many businesses along Route 66 are in ruins. We were determined to soak up the remaining sights as we crossed our beautifully diverse country.

How did this roadway come to be? What happened to these towns in such a short span of time? I wondered aloud to Da Viking. "It sounds like an article to me!" he smiled.

The beginning of Route 66

Cyrus Avery of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and John Woodruff of Springfield, Missouri were visionaries. Around 1914 they began to lobby congress about creating a single roadway from Chicago to Los Angeles.

Lieutenant Colonel Dwight D. Eisenhower led a convoy on a road trip across our nation. Nearly 300 people and 80 vehicles left Washington D.C. in July of 1919. They arrived in San Francisco, California on September 6, 1919. They had traveled for 62 days and covered 3,251 miles. This set



Dwight D. Eisenhower's cross continent convoy 1919. Photo Credit: American Historian.

troops were returning to the states and ready for some relaxation. Many chose to abandon snowy climates and relocate along Route 66. This was known as 'the barbecue culture.' Families traveled Route 66 as their vacation destination.

First, there were "auto camps" at specific locations along Route 66. Families could rope off sections around their cars and camp. State employees would provide water, showers, toilets and laundry facilities free of charge. Next, "Cabin Camps" popped up, sometimes called 'cottages.' These stops developed into rest areas and motels.

Businesses were growing like dandelions along the side of the roadway. Filling Stations, diners, motels and giant tourist attractions with souvenir shops supplied the thousands of people who traversed this line daily.

"Get Your Kicks On Route 66" was written by Bobby Troup, a famous pianist with Tommy Dorsey. Nat King Cole recorded this song in 1946, one week after Troup arrived in California.

Foreshadowing the End of Route 66

Dwight D. Eisenhower, a man who loved to make improvements in our roadways, returned from Germany and reported about Hitler's Autobahn. "I saw the superlative system of the German national highways crossing that country and offering the possibility, often lacking in the United States, to



The Chuckwagon Cafe held the charm of a traditional Route 66 restaurant with its décor.

This was a correct representation of the roadway due to the increasing weight of trucks traversing the Route 66.

Expressways bypass Route 66

By 1970, most of Route 66 had been re-routed with four-lane divided highways. These new expressways bypassed the small towns and businesses that had once flourished. Many tried to re-invent their businesses to attract travelers, but most fell into disrepair and were abandoned. In 1984 the last section of Route 66 was bypassed in Williams, Arizona.

Looking Forward

Route 66 provided the largest boom the United States' economy had ever seen. Following World War II, Route 66 provided travelers with unique sites and many utilized the trek to migrate out west. It served our nation well. The National Historic Route 66 Federation is a strong organization working hard to preserve this American History. (See their link under "Resources.")

There are still many sites to visit and enjoy along Route 66! Look for future articles highlighting several stops we made along our journey!

Resources:

"The EZ66 Guide for Travelers" 4th Edition by Jerry McClanahan 2015

<https://americancarhistorian.com/1919-transcontinental-army-motor-convoy/>

National Historic Route 66 Federation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rrhdy3wmE>

- LITTLE LEAGUE SPORTS

A closer look at Lowell Little League baseball

by Justin Scott
sports reporter

With summer comes thoughts of sunny days, family outings, days at the lake and, of course, baseball and softball. In Lowell, one organization has been at the forefront of the latter for many years. The Lowell Little League is a volunteer-run organization that promotes baseball and softball at the youth level here in Lowell. We took a closer look at the work going on within the program.

Local baseball and softball runs through the blood of the organization from top to bottom. The program's list of volunteers includes Lowell High School Baseball president Mike Minier, vice president Tim VanLaan and coaches coordinator Aron Kennedy, all of whom are baseball alumni of Lowell High School. Many baseball and softball players at LHS have gone through

the Lowell Little League, including recent graduate Emily Depew, now pitching at Saginaw Valley State.

The program is part of the Little League Baseball and Softball national organization headquartered in Pennsylvania. There are over 180,000 teams in the national organization including nearly three million players. The program in Lowell offers baseball and softball in the spring and fall to those aged 5-14 at the boys level and 5-12 at the girls level.

Those at the youngest level, aged five and six are in the program's early development level, which teaches team skills and fundamentals of the game. Most practices and events are held locally here in Lowell. Despite a challenging year last year with the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has done well, adding a fall

team this year. Teams are typically sponsored by local businesses.

"This year we will be having a girls softball fall team for juniors, which we have not had in many years past," said Mindy Minier, Lowell Little League program safety officer.

Over the past decade, there has been much discussion about the relationship between travel teams and traditional community-based youth sports programs. This has been particularly focused on baseball and softball. The differences between both can be confusing to parents looking to get their kids involved, but the Lowell Little League has been able to work with kids to accommodate both fall sports and travel programs.

"Over the years, Lowell Little League has tried to accommodate for the increase in travel sports," Minier said. "We encourage players to participate in both travel and Little League in the spring. It is not uncommon for several teams to have up to four to five players on the Little League team in travel ball. This allows them to further their skills and also play with friends during the spring season. This is the same for fall ball although, most of the conflict with playing fall baseball is because of other sports such as football. It has affected how we run the league, but really has not been a hindrance for league sign up numbers. We always work with players to make it work so they can play."

Often, when thinking about Little League we think about the Little League Baseball and Softball World Series. These separate events have received major airtime on ESPN over the last decade, with the baseball tournament featuring over 50 players that have gone on to the major league. Only eight U.S. teams get to the final tournament each year. The teams that manage to get to the LLWS, go through a gauntlet of a tournament that narrows down thousands of teams to the final eight. One wonders, perhaps in the future, could the Lowell

Little League be one of those final eight?

"Yes, the Lowell Little League could participate in the Little League World series," Minier said. "How it works is we have our regular spring season and then tryouts for an All-Star team towards the end of the season. This All-Star team begins to play other local teams. If they continue to win, they could go to the World Series. First you must win locals, regionals, state, levels. Any age starting with eight years could participate in the All-Star team. This is a tryout and potentially an entire summer commitment if the team kept winning. We have had both baseball and softball participate in this for many years."

While the program does offer the sport to area kids at a relatively low cost, being a nonprofit, the program is heavily volunteer dependent. This offers options not only for parents, but high schoolers looking to get volunteer hours and those involved with the game looking to umpire or give back.

"We have a board made of volunteers that meets on a regular basis to discuss league matters," Minier said. "This meeting is open to the public and the dates can be found on our website, www.llmi.com, and the Lowell Little League Facebook page. As the league is run on volunteers only, we rely on our community, families and businesses for support. We are always in need of coaches, field maintenance help, concession stand assistance and umpires. The umpire position is our only paid position at this time and we typically use local high school and middle school students that have baseball and softball experience for this. We have offered contact hours in the past for any high schooler that is needed to work in concession and help with field prep and maintenance. These are hours that can be recorded for college transcripts as volunteer hours. At this time we are not able to offer high school students coaching opportunities due to League

International rules, but that may change in the future."

The Lowell Little League is in need of board members. The program is looking for a vice president, secretary

and safety officer for next year. Please contact

lowelllittleleague@gmail.com if interested and visit llmi.com for more information on the program.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a special meeting of the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday, August 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave, Lowell, MI** to hold a public hearing as summarized below:

1. A public hearing for a proposed Special Exception Use, at the property addressed as 12031 Foreman St SE, Lowell, MI 49331 and known as PP#41-16-34-351-005. The applicant, Lowell Youth Sports Foundation, is seeking approval for a rural recreation facility to include seven youth softball and baseball fields.
2. A public hearing for a proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendment to create a Section 201.306 (C) (9) to add "Fallasburg Single-Family Residential (R-F)" as a zoning district and rezone 32 parcels from R-A to the RL zoning district. Parcels to be rezoned are addressed as Covered Bridge and Montcalm.
3. A public hearing for a proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendment to allow shipping containers to be used as an exempt structure in the "C-Commercial" and "I-Industrial" zoning districts. The specific ordinance section to be amended is 201.402 (G).
4. A public hearing for a proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendment to update the "FR Flat River" overlay zoning district. The proposed amendments would increase the Flat River boundaries from 300' to 400', would clarify bluff setbacks, and clarify placement of septic facilities on site. The specific ordinance sections include: 201.307 (A), 201.307 F.1, and 201.307 F.2.

A complete copy of the proposed special exception use and proposed zoning amendments can be reviewed at the **Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 or on the website: www.vergennestwp.org.** Beginning August 2 Township Staff will begin working from the **new Township Hall, located at 69 Lincoln Lake Ave, Lowell, MI.** Written and oral comments will be received from any interested party until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be mailed, dropped off, or placed in the drop box at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at: zoning@vergennestwp.org

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

CITY OF LOWELL, MICHIGAN

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF LIME SLUDGE AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

The City of Lowell is soliciting sealed proposals for the removal and disposal of lime sludge at the water treatment plant. Items of work include laboratory testing of the lime, excavation, hauling and land application or disposal and all related work.

Bid and contract documents may be obtained at www.lowellmi.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian VanVeelen at (616)897-5234.

Sealed proposals will be received by the City Clerk at Lowell City Hall, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331 until 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, and then publicly opened and read aloud at Lowell City Hall.

Proposed Timeline:

- Advertisement for Bids- July 28, 2021
- Question Period Ends- August 20, 2021
- Bid Opening- August 24, 2021
- Council Approval- September 7, 2021
- Notice to Proceed September 10, 2021
- Project Completion November 5, 2021



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obituaries

CANFIELD



Doris Myers Canfield (nee McCaul), passed away peacefully at the age of 101 on Sunday, October 18, 2020. A celebration of life will be held on Monday, August 2, 2021 from 4-7 PM at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Michigan 49331. Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society

of West Michigan, 3077 Wilson NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534 or F.R.O.M., 11535 Fulton St. E, Lowell, MI 49331.

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DEWOLF

Ilene R. DeWolf, age 98, of Lowell, peacefully went to her heavenly home on July 19, 2021. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Carl Wood and John Otis DeWolf; brother, Richard (Ozzie) Onan; and her parents, Sam and Helen Onan. Ilene is survived by her sister-in-law, Ida Onan; nieces and



nephews, Philip Onan, Kathy (Richard) Comunale, Rosemary (Duwayne) Dougherty, and Paul (Ann) Onan; special family members, Mike (Georgia) Smith, Chris (MaryLou) Smith, Paula (Jim) Fillmore, and Becky (Steve) Hubbert; and many cousins and friends. Ilene was a lifelong resident of Lowell. She and John spent many winters in Florida after her retirement from Old Kent Bank, where she was known as 'Woody' by her co-workers. Ilene took great pride in her flower gardens and had the ability to grow the most beautiful African Violets. Ilene, first and foremost, loved the Lord. She also loved children, animals, singing, and was a beautiful vocalist. A special thank you to Legacies Assisted Living Staff for their kind and loving care for Ilene. Visitation will be Saturday, July 24, 2021, 2-3PM at the Lowell Church of the Nazarene, 201 N. Washington, Lowell, Michigan 49331. The Funeral Service will be at 3PM at the Lowell Church of the Nazarene. James Carey, Thom Houseman, and Rev. Trevor Workman will be officiating. Interment is at Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be directed towards Kindred Hospice, 625 Kenmoor Ave., SE, Suite #115, Grand Rapids Charter Township, MI 49546, or to your favorite charity of one's choice.

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MICK

Ronald Alton Mick, age 75, of Sand Lake passed away July 20, 2021. He was born on June 9, 1946, to Alton and Phyllis (Yeiter) Mick. Ron was raised on the family farm north of Clarksville and graduated from Saranac Community Schools, class of 1964. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army, where he served in the 82nd Airborne Division.

During his tour of duty in Vietnam. Ron was the recipient of the Bronze Star for gallantry in action. Ron was an extremely loyal supporter of veteran's groups and a huge fan of the University of Michigan football program. Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Alton and Phyllis; and his sister, Joan (Mick) Bowen. Surviving are

his brothers, Steve (Barb) Mick of Nevada, Philip Mick of Grand Rapids; and brother-in-law, Dennis G. Bowen (Nanci L. Zeran) of Saranac. Ron had a special place in his heart for all of his nieces and nephews, Steven (Kate) Mick, Tami (Steve) Reeves, Dennis A. (Dianna) Bowen, Lisa (Tim) Sitzer, Alton (Jennifer) Mick; and great niece and nephews, Eden Bowen, Alec Sitzer and Steven Reeves. Ron enjoyed his home on the lake and all his friends and neighbors in the area. The family would like to voice a special thanks to Jeff and Mimi Webster, the staffs of Spectrum Health Palliative Care and Spectrum Health Hospice and those who cared for Ron at Mission Point. You are all very special people, and we greatly appreciate all you did for Ron. Funeral services for Ron were scheduled for Tuesday, July 27th at 11:00 a.m. at the Roth Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Michigan 49331. Visitation was on Monday, July 26th from 4- 7PM. Interment will be in the Saranac Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please contribute to the charity of your choice, in Ron's name.

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People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use.

~ Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855)

How much tax might be owed on vaccine sweepstakes awards?

On Wednesday, July 21, the state announced two more \$50,000 vaccine lottery award winners, as well as the first \$1 million prize. But how much is that, really?

While the Michigan Lottery isn't running the show on the MI Shot to Win sweepstakes, for any Lottery prize awarded over \$5,000, the Lottery is forced to withhold 24 percent in federal taxes and 4.25 percent in state taxes, according to its website.

So if the MI Shot to Win sweepstakes winners were treated to the same standards, the \$1 million

panel, showed up to Anderson's home with the big check in tow in what was described as a surprise visit. The pre-recorded video was played during the award announcement last Wednesday over Zoom.

Also part of the announcement Wednesday were Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II and Michigan native and former "Saturday Night Live" cast member Tim Meadows.

The next two \$50,000 daily drawing winners announced Wednesday were Jenna Basaj from Madison Heights and Paul Bareno from Rockford.



prize winner would need to fork over \$240,000 to Uncle Sam and \$42,500 over to the state Treasury. That equals \$717,500 in winnings.

The \$50,000 winner could conceivably owe \$12,000 to the feds and \$2,125 to the state, leaving \$35,875 net winnings.

But the Lottery website warns that those amounts don't necessarily satisfy a person's tax liability and are just estimates. The correct answer would come from the IRS, Treasury or a professional tax expert.

The second round of vaccine sweepstakes winners announced Wednesday included the first grand prize offering of \$1 million award to Grand Blanc resident LaTonda Anderson.

After getting the big check, Anderson said once she figures out how much she owes in taxes, she will be giving "tithes and offerings, that will be first."

After that, Anderson, who works as an account manager at a wellness management company, said she'll pay off some college tuition for her daughter going through dental school.

Kerry Ebersole Singh, chair of the state's vaccination promotion

The state is sitting at 62.9 percent partially vaccinated and 53.5 percent fully vaccinated, according to the most recent data. Statewide weekly vaccination numbers continued their decline for the week ending July 17, when there were 59,206 doses given, compared to the 63,161 the week before and the 70,898 for the week ending July 3.

Asked about the vaccine trends since the contest was first announced July 1, Gilchrist said Wednesday that every time a person makes a choice to get vaccinated, it's a "step in the right direction for the state of Michigan."

He said the sweepstakes could be the "extra piece" that folks need to decide to get vaccinated. Gilchrist also mentioned the mobile vaccination clinics that are bringing the doses directly to people who may be homebound, for instance.

As of Monday, the MI Shot To Win Sweepstakes has received a total of more than 2 million applicants for the grand prizes since it began July 1, with over 90,000 young Michiganders signed up for the college scholarship drawing, according to a press release.

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sales

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ESTATE SALE - WE'RE BAAAAAACK! Come & celebrate with us, the history, life & 90-year collection of this grand couples Estate. Pictures can be viewed on: estatesales.net - Look for Red Barn Estate Sales. Absolutely no early sales! No one is allowed to view the collection until the 1st day of the sale! This is going to be a great sale! We also have Big Mo's food truck to refresh you. Date of sale: Fri., July 30, Sat., July 31 & Sun., Aug. 1, 10 am - 5 pm daily. 8411 North 32nd St., Richland, MI 49083, 269-760-1682 or 269-275-3995.

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

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.

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!

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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.

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Grid of puzzle solutions with words like DARD, ACRID, DENSE, DACES, POLYSTYRENE, SCIATIC, TABOR, ISRAELITE, RACE, IMAM, DBMS, SIP, SRO, EEC, ETAA, ARAAD, KARS, AMERICANS, CARACAS, TRANSPARENT, SABCER, AILED, RABBI, SASS.

Grid of numbers for a puzzle solution, ranging from 1 to 9.

Large grid of letters with words circled, including YD, NAC, NOT, TO, C, DI, O, P, NY, YAM, NN, R, O, C, P, O, P, D, P, B, O, L, B, S, C, E, P, T, L, N, F, A, I, R, G, R, O, U, N, D, S, I, T, Y, G, G, W, B, W, K, F, O, C, B, B, Y, S, R, O, P, W, W, M, A, T, L, C, N, S, N, A, C, K, S, A, B, N, R, S, P, E, M, G, W, L, T, E, P, W, I, B, E, B, M, N, W, R, R, P, R, N, O, P, O, O, B, C, E, Y, P, N, M, D, N, N, B, A, L, U, V, T, H, U, S, V, C, K, F, H, T, S, G, N, F, E, C, U, T, K, C, E, C, I, R, U, V, A, S, R, W, I, K, C, Y, R, N, L, V, C, H, R, H, I, E, G, E, A, G, A, D, B, S, E, N, E, B, U, G, C, O, I, T, A, C, K, E, Y, T, N, C, C, L, S, T, P, W, C, T, N, S, T, L, A, C, K, L, R, C, H, H, E, U, E, M, R, I, U, D, I, N, S, D, I, K, C, B, E, I, U, G, R, M, U, T, R, R, V, Y, R, O, E, R, N, E, L, G, I, W, V, R, U, B, E, G, F, F, E, S, E, O, V, E, F, N, E, P, T, E, I, O, D, A, A, V, L, R, V, F, H, L, I, N, K, S, N, H, W, D, E, D, K, B, L, V, Y, N, R, B, T, L, L, T, S, K, N, P, E, L, S, T, E, K, C, I, T, U, W, L, A, A, N, V, G, S, U, S, E, F, R, L, A, V, I, T, S, E, F, L, G, B, D, K, P, L, F, E, H, P, W, O, R, E, M, M, U, S, S, F, D, H, F, P, E, A, A, S, L, E, M, O, N, A, D, E, B, O, O, T, H, G, K, H, W, B, T.



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

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Is Roth IRA better for young workers?

If you're in the early stages of your career, you're probably not thinking much about retirement. Nonetheless, it's never too soon to start preparing for it, as time may be your most valuable asset. So, you may want to consider retirement savings vehicles, one of which is an IRA. Depending on your income, you might have the choice between a traditional IRA and a Roth IRA. Which is better for you?

There's no one correct answer for everyone. But the more you know about the two IRAs, the more confident you'll be when choosing one.

First of all, the IRAs share some similarities. You can fund either one with many types of investments – stocks, bonds, mutual funds and so on. And the contribution limit is also the same – you can put in up to \$6,000 a year. (Those older than 50 can put in an

additional \$1,000.) If you earn over a certain amount, though, your ability to contribute to a Roth IRA is reduced. In 2021, you can put in the full \$6,000 if your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is less than \$125,000 and you're single, or \$198,000 if you're married and file jointly. The amount you can contribute gradually declines, and is eventually limited, at higher income levels.

But the two IRAs differ greatly in how they are taxed. Traditional IRA contributions are typically tax-deductible (subject to income limitations), and any earnings growth is tax-deferred, with taxes due when you take withdrawals. With a Roth IRA, though, your contributions are

never tax-deductible – instead, you contribute after-tax dollars. Any earnings growth is tax-free when withdrawn, provided you've had your account at least five years and you don't take withdrawals until you're at least 59½.

So, which IRA should you choose? You'll have to weigh the respective benefits of both types. But when you're young, you may have particularly compelling reasons to choose a Roth IRA. Given that you're at an early point in your career, you may be in a lower tax bracket now than you will be during retirement, making the tax-deduction of traditional IRA contributions less beneficial. So, it may make sense to contribute to a

Roth IRA now and take tax-free withdrawals when you're retired.

Also, a Roth IRA offers more flexibility. With a traditional IRA, you could face an early withdrawal penalty, in addition to taxes, if you take money out before you're 59½. But with a Roth, you'll face no penalty on withdrawals from the money you contributed (not your earnings), and you've already paid the taxes, so you could use the money for any purpose, such as making a down payment on a home. Nonetheless, you may still want to be cautious about tapping into your IRA for your spending needs before you retire, since IRAs are designed to provide retirement income.

If your income level permits you to select a Roth or traditional IRA, you may want to consult with your tax advisor for help in making your choice. But in any case, try to max out on your IRA contributions each year. You could spend two or three decades in retirement – and your IRA can be a valuable resource to help you enjoy those years.

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

Edward Jones,
Member SIPC

Live the Life You Want Finding your life purpose

Melissa Spino MA LPC CDMS
Life Transitions Therapy LLC

It seems that some struggle with finding their life's purpose well into their mid and later years while some seem to know their purpose early on. So, why is finding our true-life purpose so difficult? If someone asked you what your life's purpose is; would you know how to answer? Why is it even important? Knowing our purpose is important in order to live a meaningful, satisfying, fulfilling life. You have probably seen people that have not found their life purpose because they often seem as if they are just going through the motions of life, not really living it. If you are struggling to find your purpose, keep reading

for suggestions to help start you on your journey.

Barriers to Finding Your Purpose

Some people end up on a path they don't want to be on. This could be due to life circumstances, pressure from others, or not being self-aware. Other barriers can also include putting the pursuit of money, power, or recognition above their true calling. They may even give up thinking it is too late to find their purpose. Just know it's not too late to find your purpose and lead a fulfilling life.

Explore and identify things that may be keeping you from finding your purpose and work to limit the effect they have on

the journey to find your true purpose. Change your focus from external factors to your feelings, passions, reactions, behaviors, habits and thoughts. This will help make your journey easier.

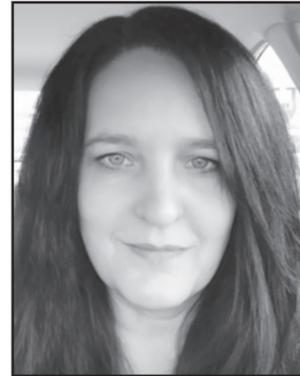
Discovering Your Purpose

We all have a purpose. It isn't something you have to create because it's already there, you just have to figure out what it is. It isn't always a quick journey and can take time, so be patient with the process and yourself. I didn't find my true-life purpose until I was in my late 30's. When I did, the constant searching that I didn't even realize I was always doing, stopped. My days went from being filled

with one unfulfilling task after another to excitement and gratitude, wondering in what way I would be able to help others on my chosen path.

Once you find your purpose it doesn't remain the same. It develops, grows and changes as you do. If you are stuck or not sure where to start, below are some suggestions to help you on this journey. You can also find numerous articles on the internet and books written on finding your purpose. One book I especially like is a "Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren.

- Explore your passions
- What things feed your creativity, inspire



Melissa Spino
MA LPC CDMS

How do you take your passions and apply them to helping others? For instance, if you know your passion is teaching but you don't want to be a school teacher how can you still share the knowledge you have with others? Maybe you become a life coach, lead seminars, tutor others or write a book. Get creative!

Career Exploration

I have clients that get stuck and are not sure how to continue with exploring their career or life purpose. Since our life purpose is usually our career, I have them complete the COPSsystem. This is a career exploration system that helps individuals narrow their interests, values and abilities. There are many career exploration inventories and tests, but from my background in career counseling, I have found that this system covers the important elements. Consider completing a comprehensive career exploration system to help you narrow your focus.

- What comes easily to you?

Often the things that come easily and naturally are things we are good at and passionate about. This is a good area to explore.

- Who do you want to help?

Have you volunteered with or always wanted to work with or help children, veterans, seniors, animals, etc.? Narrow down who you want to work with in terms of a group or specific person that you want to help.

- How do you want to help?

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Level: Beginner

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!

COUNTY FAIR WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

COUNTY FAIR WORD SEARCH

CHICKENS CHILDREN COTTON CANDY

FIELDS FUNNEL CAKE GATHERING

SNACKS SUMMER TICKETS

AGRICULTURE

ENTERTAIN

LAUGHTER

BALLOONS

ENTRANCE

LEMONADE

BANNER

FAIRGROUNDS

LIVESTOCK

BOOTH

FERRIS WHEEL

POPCORN

BUMPER CARS

FESTIVAL

RIDES

Guess Who?

I am a country singer born in Kansas on July 29, 1966. My father introduced me to country music, and I eventually performed in his band. Over time, I developed my unique pop country sound. I have been called the Celine Dion of country music.

Answer: Martina McBride

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to fairs.

L C U O S A E R

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Carousel

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

CLUES ACROSS

- Language group with Iranian influence
- No seats available
- Health insurance organization
- Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- Defunct European economic organization
- Dutch word for "language"
- Hard to penetrate
- When you'll get there
- Iranian city
- Small fishes
- Dry white wine drink
- Turkish city
- U.S.-born people
- Synthetic resin
- Major nerve in human body
- Type of recording
- Small drum
- Alters
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Venezuelan capital
- Free of deceit
- Member of Ancient Hebrew nation
- Competition
- Launch an attack on

CLUES DOWN

- Father
- Performed perfectly
- Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- Thin, compact object
- One attempting to find something
- No longer working
- Egg-shaped wind instrument
- Book of Genesis character
- Volcanic craters
- Brand of American automobile (slang)
- Hip hop icon Kool Moe
- Bangladeshi monetary unit

- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Family of genes
- Et ___ indicates further
- Pacific Standard Time
- S. American wood sorrel
- Women's ___ movement
- Chinese hoopster Ming
- Layers of rock
- Patriotic women's group
- Solid water
- Shade of brown
- Very fast airplane
- Put clothes on
- Quality of one's character
- Time zone
- Primates
- Pleasantly
- Metrical feet
- Rogue
- German river
- Relieves from
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- Those who resist authority
- Criticize



SPECTRUM HEALTH
Spectrum Health Cancer Center



LOWELL COMMUNITY WELLNESS PINK ARROW HEALTH FAIR



THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021
08.12.21



AT IMPACT CHURCH
Across from Meijer

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PINK ARROW FORCE XIV T-SHIRT**



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FOR EACH T-SHIRT SOLD ON 8/12/21



will match \$1



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Historical Museum Fur
Trading History

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PROFESSIONALS**
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10 - 3 pm



BLOOD DRIVE
Thursday, August 12, 2021 • 10 am to 7 pm
Inside Impact Church

PLAN TO DONATE BLOOD!
Versiti pledges
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of Lowell for every person who
signs in to donate at the drive.
WE MUST MEET 100 PINTS TO QUALIFY!
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Spectrum Health Cancer Center

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10:00 – 5:00

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(screening mammograms guidelines)*

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to schedule

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