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Gallery Concert at Lowell Arts

By Cliff Yankovich
Contributing reporter

Now that the sizzle of summer and summer concerts on the Riverwalk are done, Lowell Arts continues to make the music of local musicians available through their Gallery Concerts.

Last Saturday, attendees were treated to a big heart, a big voice, and some masterful guitar licks from the duo of Hannah Rose Graves and Jeremiah Wenger.

“Straight out of the womb, I came out humming,” was the response from Graves upon being asked when she started singing. “I have been singing since I was little. I formed my first band, ‘Two Headed Girl’, when I was in high school.”

Hannah gives credit to her grandpa Roger for providing a wealth of musical inspiration to her. He played four instruments, sometimes all at once in the style of a one-man band. Roger has passed, but Hannah keeps his memory alive every time she performs the song she wrote for him and which bears his name. When she isn’t out singing in front of a wide variety of talented



Gallery concert: Hannah Rose Graves and Jerry Wenger at Lowell Arts.

musicians, Hannah lives in Rockford where she was born.

One of those talented musicians is Lowell’s own Jeremiah Wenger. Wenger showed his musical prowess very early in life, including

during his four years at Lowell High School. Since he graduated in 2014, he has honed his musical chops to the point that he is constantly in demand.

We tried our best to keep track of Jerry this past

summer, and it was fun to sit him down and get him to list all the bands he has played with over the last few months. It took a couple minutes of recollection, but the list grew to eight: Hannah Rose, Y-Not,

Ryne Experience, Patty Pershayla & The Mayhops, Austin Benzing, Sally Anne Company, Future Skeletons,

Gallery Concert, continued page 2

City Council hears Kent District Library annual report

By Jake Bates
Contributing writer

Lowell City Council met on Monday, Sept. 6, for its latest regular meeting.



Kent District Library Executive Director, Lance Werner, addresses Lowell City Council.

The meeting lasted a brief 27 minutes, and began with representatives from Kent District Library (KDL) presenting their annual report. Nicole Lintemuth, the new representative for the Lowell area on the KDL board, spoke first, “I see the value [KDL] adds to our community on a regular basis, such as providing events, great resources, and space for others; including letting

me and a bunch of other folks warm-up and shelter there when we all lost power for a week because of the polar vortex.” Lintemuth offered many examples of the Englehardt branch’s positive impact on the community, as well as intangible benefits.

Lance Werner continued the presentation with visitor and usage statistics. Following the 2020 shutdowns and the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, the library has seen a steady increase in the number of physical visitors, up to about 66 percent of pre-pandemic levels in 2021 and further increasing to 75 percent of pre-pandemic levels in 2022. “Our electronic circulation

Voter registration assistance to veterans

On National Voter Registration Day, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced its partnership with the State of Michigan to provide voter registration information and assistance to veterans and eligible dependents at select VA facilities across Michigan. Through this partnership, VA aims to make it easier for Michigan veterans to exercise the rights and freedoms that they fought to protect.

“We are proud to launch this first-of-its-kind partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure the people who served our country play a role in determining its future,” said Secretary of State

Jocelyn Benson. “We continue implementing innovative ways for all who are eligible to participate in our democracy in a secure and convenient way.”

“The brave men and women who served our nation in uniform deserve to easily exercise the constitutional rights they fought to uphold,” said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. “Today’s partnership between the State of Michigan and the VA will ensure that voting is more accessible

to our veterans and their family members. Every Michigander deserves to make their voice heard in our elections and I

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Lowell Light & Power celebrates Public Power Week Oct. 3-8

Lowell Light & Power (LL&P) is celebrating Public Power Week, Oct. 3-8, along with more than 2,000 other community-powered, not-for-profit electric utilities that collectively provide electricity to 49 million Americans.

“This year, we are focusing on educating the next generation of Lowell Light & Power customers on the benefits of public power,” said Lowell Light & Power General Manager, Charlie West. “We are so proud to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable power to Lowell,” said West. “We hope that young people in our community, and their families, acknowledge this vital service and maybe even look to the utility as a

good place to work down the road.”

“Since we operate right here in Lowell and serve our friends and neighbors, we care a great deal about things like customer service, helping folks save energy and money, and keeping the community safe,” said West. “We are proud of the work we do in these areas.”

Lowell Light & Power invites community members to participate in a variety of Public Power Week events. Activities include:

- Free popcorn and Energy Saving Kits (over \$50 value!) for customers who stop in the office throughout the week (Mon-Fri, while supplies last)
- Enter to Win a \$50

Bill Credit—customers can enter by stopping in the office during the week or by stopping at LL&P’s booth at the Lowell Harvest Celebration on Saturday.

• 1st-3rd Graders Drawing Contest – top entries displayed in the LL&P office lobby; first place receives a \$50 Amazon Gift Card, second and third place each receive a \$20 Amazon Gift Card

• 4th Graders Art Contest – drawings displayed in the LL&P office lobby and the winning student will receive a pizza party for his/her class and a \$20 Amazon Gift Card

• Follow on Facebook and Instagram for a history of LL&P, since its formation in 1896

• Tune into WZZM Channel 13 for an interview with General Manager, Charlie West, on Saturday, October 8, at 8 am.

• To conclude Public Power Week, join LL&P at the Lowell Harvest Celebration on October 8, from 10 am - 4 pm, for pumpkin decorating (pumpkins generously donated by Heidi’s Farmstand) and giveaways.

Today, Lowell Light & Power has 18 employees and two primary facilities; an office building at 127 N. Broadway and an Energy Center at 625 Chatham. The Energy Center houses the distribution and generation departments and is also the location of LL&P’s two natural gas, fired-combustion turbines.

LL&P serves over 2,600 residential customers and over 450 commercial and industrial customers.

Public Power Week is an annual national observance coordinated by the American Public Power Association. The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. The Association represents public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities



serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. It advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Its members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power. More at www.PublicPower.org

City Council continued

has been astronomical. [KDL] is in the top 60 libraries in the entire world on e-book circulation. If you take a per-capita calculation, we’re probably top 30 in the world,” said Werner.

KDL has opened up WI-FI hotspots throughout the county, focusing on rural areas. KDL also fought food insecurity throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and by partnering with Feeding

America and implementing a food program, has provided thousands of meals to kids in the county. “When you’re hungry, all you can focus on is [being hungry],” said Werner, “When you have a full belly, suddenly, you’re in a better position to have fun.”

Sandy Graham finished the presentation with logistical details regarding the local Englehardt

branch employee hires, and programs that have started back up after the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions. Many of these programs and events saw a turnout that exceeded expectations. “We love working here, and we’re grateful to be a part of this community,” said Graham, to finish the library’s presentation.

Lowell Light and Power recently updated their IT infrastructure. “Originally, that equipment came with a three-year support agreement and a three-year extended warranty period. We have the opportunity to extend that,” said Lowell Light and Power General Manager, Charlie West. West explained the importance of this infrastructure to the power company and how detrimental it could be to operations if this equipment were to fail. A motion to renew the warranties was approved by the city council at a cost of \$14,562.78.

Gallery Concert, continued

and Froggy. There may have been more. Jerry helps out with one or more of his collection of eight electric and acoustic guitars, or he might be playing the electric or stand-up bass. In his spare time, Jerry installs granite countertops for Expressions in Stone.

Saturday night, he treated the audience to his magic on his PRS guitar, as he backed Hannah and cut loose with some fantastic flying finger solos. At first, Hannah was keeping her vocals a little subdued, maybe because of the intimate gallery atmosphere that places performers in very close proximity to the audience. She actually talked about backing off the mic a little after a few songs but members of the audience encouraged her to let the power of her

vocals loose, and she did exactly that.

Hannah Rose gives vent to her big heart in almost every song she writes or has co-written. Several have to do with the sobering subject of people, like Grandpa Roger, who have passed. But don’t think she is all goth and gloom; she has a lot of fun with songs like “Mr. Right Now” and “Addictions.” By the second half of the show, she was giving free rein to her powerful voice and it was an excellent companion to the guitar work of Mr. Wenger.

Many of the songs performed Saturday will be available on Hannah’s new CD, “Medicine”, which she co-wrote with Austin Benzing and which will be available in November. She is making plans to perform in Florida and other warm parts of the country as

winter approaches and was doing her best to persuade the talented Jerry Wenger to come along.

You can follow her and find out if she succeeded in taking Jerry out-of-state, at www.facebook.com/hanahrosegraves Put her name in a search engine and you will find music and videos at several places.

There are two more Gallery Concerts scheduled at Lowell Arts. Saturday, October 1, is the Songwriter Showcase with Josh Rose, Michael Crittenden, Michelle Held, and Dan Bracken. Drew Nelson will perform on Saturday, October 8.

Details and tickets here: www.lowellartsmi.org/gallery-concerts

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting 7:00 pm
Synopsis of Minutes
August 22, 2022

Motions Approved:

1. Award of Inspection Contract
2. Approval of Paul Knoerl and Sabrina Freeman to the Grattan School Resident Committee.
3. Budget Amendments.

Regular Meeting 7:00 pm
Synopsis of Minutes
September 12, 2022

Motions Approved:

1. Budget amendments regarding FYE 2022.
2. New Firefighters.
3. Resolution 2022-018 POW MIA Day.
4. Short-Term Rental related ordinances ORD22-003 and ORD22-002.
5. Revised Fee Schedule for 2022-2023.
6. Resolution 2022-017 approving a purchase agreement and authorizing the purchase of a parcel.
7. Approval of applicants to the Grattan Resident committee.
8. Up to \$5,000 for the cost of Prein and Newhof to do initial analysis parking/stormwater of 12047 Old Belding Rd not to exceed \$5,000.00

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Author Kathryn Den Houter pens psychological suspense novel *Prison Shadows*

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

“I do believe that good novels are disturbing,” said award-winning author, Kathryn Den Houter, of Caledonia. Her fifth book, *Prison Shadows*, was inspired by her late husband’s prison stories from Marquette in the Upper Peninsula.

“My late husband went to Marquette to do hearings and stayed in a hotel,” she said. “He would come back with a lot of stories. He ran across people who had bad experiences being thrown into this hard place.” Although research is key for Den Houter’s writing, her experience as a psychologist also played a major role,

as well as a prison system needing reform.

“I love the UP, there’s a lot of charm,” she said. “I wanted to incorporate that in the book.” So, what followed the initial inspiration were

State Prison, a tour under the large rotunda and through the flower gardens tended by the inmates. “The route to UP and back helped me stay in touch with settings,” she said.

police procedures when they apprehend a criminal and carrying out a relatable protagonist, according to Den Houter.

During her career as a psychologist in Lowell, Den Houter had clients who had been inmates with personality disorders and had some horrific stories. “I’ve met a lot of fascinating people,” she said.

It was the combination of all of the above that molded the protagonist Clifford Ratz, a small-town drug trafficker in the 1980s who journeys from slacker to victim to selfless redeemer. Clifford is imprisoned and framed for murder by corrupt prison

guards, and later, he is betrayed by the light of his life.

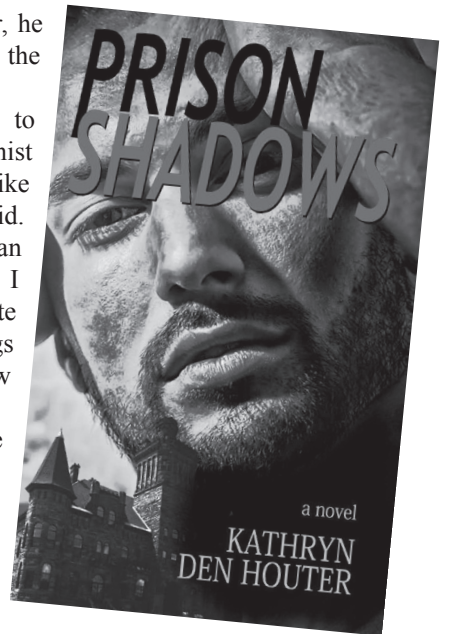
“I wanted to create a protagonist so readers like him,” she said. “There is a human side to him. I wanted to create human beings rather than law breakers.”

After three years in the making of the book, Den Houter feels like she has succeeded.

“Good books are disturbing,” she said. “It makes people think and identify with the main character.”

According to a review by Frank Langer, Ph.D., Den Houter has crafted a story that answers the broader question: What do we need from each other so that we can go on living? In response to the question, Den Houter said: “It’s about loving beyond betrayal,” she said. “That’s the bottom line. The family came together to support him. Love is the underpinning that keeps the family together.”

The other takeaway from the book is a hard look at the prison system that sometimes puts together violent offenders with non-violent ones. “I cherish people and their back stories,” she said. “I appreciate knowing that about people.”



“I wanted to create human beings rather than law breakers.”

~ Kathryn Den Houter

several trips to the UP; the first trip to the Peter White Library in Marquette to get information about the Tiroler Hof Hotel, the Marquette State Prison, and articles about the assault on Gov. G. Mennen Williams. The next trip was to Marquette

Finally, Den Houter took a 12-week course at the Citizens Police Academy to give ‘Prison Shadows’ its authenticity. “I had hands-on experience,” she said.

Some of the biggest challenges in writing this book were the research of

Although the story, the settings, and the characters have been crafted well, Den Houter wishes that she could have cut the writing time in-half. “It was a grueling three years,” she said. “I left a question about what’s important in life. Fashioning the characters created a disturbance in me as I hope it does in my readers.”

DenHouter’s website: kathryndenhouer.com

Podcast: Oct. 21 For the Love of Books Podcast on <http://emmapalova123.podbean.com>

Events: Nov. 5, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Caledonia Arts & Crafts Show

Goodreads: https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/14931760.Kathryn_Den_Houter

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Kathryn-Den-Houter/e/B073XX1WMH>

Lowell Life Chain set for Oct. 2

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

The Lowell Life Chain and St. Patrick’s will hold a silent vigil on Respect Life Sunday, October 2, on Main Street, from 2 pm to 3 pm.

The Lowell Life Chain, always held on the first Sunday in October, in conjunction with the Grand Rapids Life Chain and all the Life Chains in the country, has been in existence for at least 18 years locally, and nationwide, since 1987.

The Life Chain event aims to support life from conception to natural death, to pray silently and be witness to those who have no voice, and to support women in vulnerable situations.

With only a few weeks left until Nov. 8 general election in Michigan and proposal three on the ballot, the Respect Life movement is gaining traction.

“It is important for people to show up so that others who believe in the sanctity of life can be encouraged in the battle against the culture of death,” said St. Mary’s coordinator

, Rhonda Fitzpatrick, “and for God to hear our collective prayers for this intention.”

The participants will meet at Little Caesar’s parking lot to pick up signs that are pre-printed with guidelines and prayers on the back.

“Prayer warriors are asked to pray silently and reverently and not respond to those who disagree,” said Fitzpatrick. “It is a time for silent prayer not confrontation.”

Signs vary in messages from Adoption the Loving Option, Choose Life, Abortion Hurts Women and Abortion Kills.

“The message we hope to convey to those who are unsure or support abortion is that there are loving options to abortion that celebrate life and retain the dignity of women,” said Fitzpatrick. “We also invite those who feel helpless to know that God is there for them, that faith and love can heal and prevail in their lives.”

According to Fitzpatrick, the turnout fluctuates from year-to-year.

Usually, anywhere from 25 to 50 people show up. “Others pray in union with us at home, especially those who are unable to stand for an hour on the sidewalk, or if the weather is inclement,” she said.

A parishioner from St. Pat’s said it is important to make a public, peaceful, and prayerful stand for life by showing up. “The simple message is that life is sacred from conception to natural death,” he said.

Fitzpatrick said that St. Mary’s Church has always supported the sanctity of life. St. Mary’s Pregnancy Crisis Center opened in 1999; it is still in existence but it has been re-named, the Lowell Baby Pantry and is now located at Flat River Outreach Ministries. It provides assistance to mothers and families in need, supplying diapers, wipes, clothing, formula, food, and other necessities free-of-charge. It is staffed by volunteers; some are St. Mary’s parishioners.

“Our hope for this event

is to let those considering an abortion know there are other options, that life is sacred and worthy of our respect,” she said.

Since it is rare for the media, government representatives, celebrities, and big corporations to advance the support of life, Respect Life Sunday is a concrete way to let others know that there is hope and that someone cares enough to put themselves out there in a world hostile to life.

St. Mary’s and St. Pat’s invite everyone who cherishes the sanctity of life to join on Sunday, October 2 from 2-3 pm, along Main Street in Lowell.



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BEST OF SHOW Congratulations to watercolor artist Suzanne Mays-Wentzell from Fennville, MI, who was selected by a panel of jurors to win a cash prize and the 2022 Best of Show Award.

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Regulating Emotions

Every day we experience a wide variety of emotions. Some emotions we enjoy, some not so much. Some we are aware of (conscious) and some we are not (unconscious). The key is learning to balance these emotions (emotional regulation). Why? When we have better emotional regulation, we feel more in control and balanced. It's easier to stay calm and process challenging situations and events. We are better able to better manage stress, relationships school, and work. So, if you find yourself having a tough time regulating your emotions, you can try some of the below suggestions to see what may work for you.

Emotional Regulation Tips:

Some find that experiencing overwhelming emotions/ thoughts leads to self-destructive results (emotional eating, substance abuse, anger/rage outbursts, etc.). Then, after the self-destructive reaction, you feel guilty, ashamed, sad, or depressed. For some, this becomes a self-destructive reaction cycle that becomes difficult to break. Try the following steps to see if they may help you break this cycle.

Write down the unhealthy/self-destructive behaviors. This will help you to see patterns.

Write down the emotional benefits you get from these self-destructive behaviors. For instance, a temporary relief from the anger/rage.

What are the possible results/consequences of these self-destructive behaviors? I.e., loss of relationships, friends, jobs, your health, possible criminal charges, etc.

After the self-destructive behavior, how do you feel about yourself?

Re-read what you wrote for the above questions several times. Process it & let it sink in.

Next, think about & list healthy behaviors to help you manage intense emotions. Some possibilities include:

Exercise or walk. Physical activity releases feel-good endorphins that can help regulate your mood.

Do something you really enjoy.

Call a friend that you know will be supportive/non-judgmental and talk it out.

Try some scream therapy. Go someplace where you won't be heard and scream it out. It can be a good release for some; just don't hurt your vocal cords!

Have a good, ugly cry. Write it out. Journal your feelings without judging what you write. Just free-write exactly what you are feeling.

Meditate. Go for a long drive in a scenic area but only if you find it relaxing/enjoyable.

Emotions happen quickly so learning

important to not just blindly respond to situations but to know why you are feeling the emotions. Anger is often a response to fear or hurt. Knowing the underlying cause of your emotions helps you learn to communicate in healthier ways. So, if a fear response has been triggered instead of being angry you share

inner bully. When we feel emotionally overwhelmed, our inner voice can become negative. Work to change that inner voice to one that sounds as if you actually like yourself! Believe that you are doing the best you can. This shift can help balance your emotions. It doesn't mean you won't feel overwhelmed, stressed,



emotional regulation is something we can all use. Now that your emotions are more balanced, look at the situation & figure out how to handle these emotions to avoid reacting in an unhealthy and/or self-destructive manner. Below are some suggestions to get you started.

Take a few seconds to pause when you start feeling an intense emotion. Stop, pause, take a breath before you allow yourself to feel and respond. It takes practice but it can be done and this pause can stop you from going into a full-blown emotional meltdown.

During the pause, really think about what you are feeling. Is it really anger or is it hurt or fear? It is

your fear & work through that emotion.

Identify your emotional triggers/insecurities so you can work to avoid them. For example, do you get angry when someone gives you instructions on a new task or project at work? Maybe you feel getting these instructions means you are somehow less intelligent? Is this really what the person is relaying or do they give instructions to everyone taking on a new task or project? Could this be an insecurity that you are taking personally? Knowing why you're feeling a certain way is important in order to move past it and respond in healthier ways.

Work to replace your

or frustrated but you don't have to add to it by bullying yourself.

You alone have the power to choose. You have the ability to choose how you respond to any situation. You alone choose to change your responses to healthier ones. Get away from the "he made me feel" or "you make me so angry" and take responsibility for how you feel. Don't let others control your emotions and responses.

If you are still having issues managing your emotions, you may want to get help from a counselor. You may actually have an emotional regulation disorder for which you will need the help of a professional. This article is not meant to treat or diagnose. I hope everyone stays safe and healthy.

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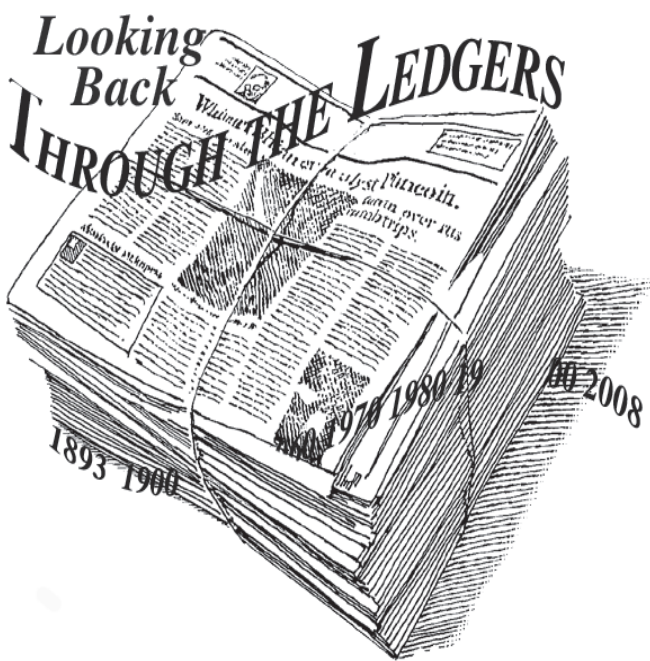
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viewpoint



75 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 2, 1947

For the township clerks of Kent county, who are the certifying agents under the state's new fox bounty, the conservation department has prepared reporting forms and a step-by-step guide to the new law's operation. The law becomes effective October 11. The new bounty applies to wild red foxes taken on and after October 11. Foxes must be bountied within 10 days after capture.

Among Michigan rural youths, rejections for the military service were higher than among city youths. Some of their physical defects were due - of all things! - to faulty nutrition.

In conjunction with the state department of Vocational Education, the Lowell Board of Education has inaugurated a program of "On-the-Job" training, with Mr. Charles White as co-ordinator.

The new custom milling department of the King Milling Company, on which the millwrights and electricians have been working for months past, is at last ready for operation.

Gored by a bull, James Byrne, 28 of Lowell, was taken to St. Mary's hospital last Thursday afternoon, suffering a compound fracture of the right leg above the knee, severe body bruises and a left shoulder dislocation.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life September 28, 1972

Motorists will have to stop at the railroad crossing on Alden Nash Road, near 60th street, east of Alto, until new flashes are installed at the crossing. Stop signs have been placed at the crossing as a safety precaution after Carl Kaechele and three children perished in a mishap there on August 11.

Next year's income tax form is slated to be so simple that a fifth-grade student will be able to make it out, which means, probably, that a lot of us are going

to find out that while we may have gone further in school, our education actually stopped at the 4th grade.

A stolen car complaint at Bristol's Body Shop on West Main Street, September 19, prompted Lowell Police to send out an area broadcast. The car was recovered later in Belding.

Two motorcycles collided on M-21, east of the roadside Park, when a motorcycle driven by Flavous Flurry lost power and sideswiped a motorcycle driven by Clarence DeBose. Lois Parlmer, a passenger on the Flurry motorcycle underwent emergency surgery for internal injuries.

Looking Back,
continued page 14

outdoors

fall frenzy

Dave Stegehuis

Fall is a busy time for people who fish and hunt in Michigan. Most hunting seasons occur during the fall season. Fishing seasons are longer, so fishermen have been active since early spring, but fall is when several species make runs to Great Lakes feeder streams. Many hours will be spent in the field and on the water. Preparing for these outings consumes even more time.

There are seven different deer seasons from September to the first of the year. Each of these hunts have different regulations and time periods. Wild turkey re-introduction went so well that there is a spring and fall season. Could be an opportunity to put a bird on the table for Thanksgiving. If deer or turkey are not your thing, then how about hunting for rabbits or squirrels. There seems to be good numbers this year and hunting small game is a good introduction to the hunting lifestyle for young people. Other small game species available this time of year include pheasant, grouse, and woodcock. Pheasant hunting is limited but work is being done to expand opportunities. Grouse and woodcock are

pursued by hunters with well-trained bird dogs, as well as those who just enjoy roaming in the fall woods. Geese are drawn to harvested cropland, while ducks of all kinds seek out scattered wetlands. A few lucky hunters will draw a tag for a Michigan elk. The rest of us have the opportunity to observe the majestic animals in northern Michigan habitat.

Salmon fishing is accessible to more anglers as the fish move into rivers, drowned river mouths breakwalls, and piers. Walleye also join in on the fall migration. Inland lake fishing for panfish picks-up as the water cools and fish go on the feed to prepare for winter under the ice.

The majority of this activity takes place during relatively comfortable weather conditions and in a landscape painted with brilliant fall colors as winter approaches. Some of us are going to have to order priorities and make choices on how to spend our time outdoors this fall. Check out the possibilities and join the frenzy.

125 years ago The Lowell Ledger September 30, 1897

An aggravated highway robbery is alleged to have been committed about 4 o'clock, Saturday morning, in the lonely woods skirting the river by the railroad, about four miles west of this village. The amount secured by the robbers was not large, but they took all the man had and left him nearly as destitute as he was the day he was born.

The 2.4 trot or pace in the Lowell picnic races was won by W.S. Barnes of Alaska. J.C. Train second and Scot Thomas third.

No person is allowed to peddle or sell from any stand or vehicle of any kind in the public streets, highways or elsewhere in any township in this state, without first getting a license from the township board of the township in which he proposes to operate.

The ladies of Lowell are wild with admiration over the Cloaks and Furs at the new store. We can't blame you ladies. It's the low prices, however, that catch the men.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 5, 1922

Among the big events in Ada for the benefit of Ada cemetery Saturday night, large crowds were served with chicken pie supper, hundreds being in attendance. A player piano, furnished by Frederick of Grand Rapids, furnished music. Liberal purchases of vegetables, fruits, fancy work at booths helped swell the proceeds. Sum of \$310.00 was realized from the supper and fair.

We noticed Noble McClure driving through Whitneyville Sunday with a young lady. He attends market daily and it begins to look like other things besides watermelons and potatoes were on the market - some markets at least.

By a streak of good luck, Watts' department store at Alto escaped robbery by burglars at 2 o'clock Sunday morning; but unfortunately, the criminals got away.

A lot of good stuff that good soldiers are made of is somewhere bottled up in Frances Curley. He has had a lot of accidents in his short life, and the last to add to the list is a broken nose. It happened on the foot ball field. He kept on at school; he said it hurt like ——— to have his nose fixed up, but no one knew it but him. Good grit, Frances.

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. We have a 500-word limit.

Letters can be sent to emailed to
ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com
Deadline is noon on Mondays



At Your Local Library

Kent District Library programs at Alto Branch, 6071 Linfield Ave SE. For additional information call 616-784-2007.

Storytime

Mondays, 10:30 -11:30 am. Nurture your child's love of books and build early literacy skills through stories, rhymes, music and movement.

Fall Fest

Sat., Oct. 8, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Celebrate the season with autumn crafts, games and art activities.

All Board! Book Club

Thursday, Oct. 13, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Join a fun, informal discussion of great books. This month, we'll discuss *On the Clock* by Emily Guendelsberger. For adults 18+

Senior Neighbors:

Make Giving Back Your Second Act

Thursday, Oct. 13, 6-7 pm. Programs by AmeriCorps Seniors connect individuals age 55+ to local organizations tackling tough challenges. Come learn about the benefits of serving and how you can use your unique skillset and experience to give back to your community as an AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer. For seniors 55+

Scrabble for Seniors

Friday, Oct. 14, 1 - 3 pm. Sit down and enjoy a word game, unplugged, with other fans. All ages and skill levels welcome!

ABCs of Lowell history

The Lowell Area Historical Museum is introducing a new weekly series. Each week we will explore the history one of the buildings in the downtown Historic District.

Address: 213 E. Main
 Built: 1879
 Builder/Owner: Robert W. Graham
 Building name: White Front Store
 1st business: Collar & Weekes Dry Goods

Robert W. Graham moved an old wooden building away from this site in 1879 so he could build a new brick one. It was built to match the building to the east, which Graham had built 10 years previously and originally also had three floors. The third floor of this address was home to the G. T. Hall (Lowell Lodge No. 79 I. O. of G. J.), 1879 to 1900. The 2nd floor held apartments.

The first business was Collar and Weekes Dry goods, 1880-1884. They



The Lowell Beer Store dealt in package liquor sales. The building photo was taken in 1961, when Jack Fonger owned it. It is the only remaining three-story building in the block.

then moved into the new Lyon Block on the west side of town and Marks Ruben, Gent's Furnishings moved here. Ruben advertised his store as the "White Front Store." Albert D. Oliver, jeweler, was next, from

1899 until after the 1905 fire, when he moved into the new Negonce Block. This building survived the fire and stopped the eastward movement of the fire because of its height.

It is listed as a clothing store in 1910. In 1918, it was a barbershop and pool hall. In 1929, it was part of a movie theatre that included the store next door to the east, 219 E. Main. The theatre may have been in the basement. In the early 1930s, the 2nd or 3rd floor was used as a

gymnasium for boxing. Harvey Callier started the Lowell Beer Store sometime between 1929 and 1935. It was purchased and operated by Jack Fonger, 1941 to 1968. In 1968, Gary Laux and George King purchased it. Next it belonged to Tom Speerstra. It has been called the Lowell Beer Store or Lowell Beer and Liquor Store through the years except when Speerstra owned it. He called it River City Beer Store. In 2019, Joel and Diona Oudbier purchased it and renamed it "Showboat Spirits and Fine Wine." They have renovated the third floor into a charming studio loft apartment, which is available for rent.



The White Front Store stands out in this photo. The building name was due to its white painted front.

Prudential Financial Planning Services

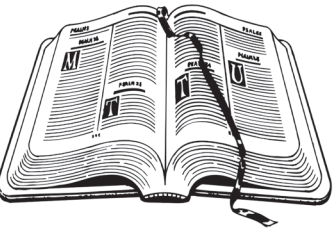


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area churches



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
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 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

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

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

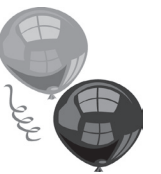
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

10305 Bluewater Highway
 (Missouri Synod)
 Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21
 Sunday Services - 10:30 am
 www.gslc.church
 Richard Boshoven, Pastor 897-8307
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 897-5938
 www.lowellumc.com • Barrier Free Entrance
 WORSHIP
 Traditional Service: 9 am
 Contemporary Service: 10:30 am
 Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

happy birthday



SEPTEMBER 29

Orison Abel, Judy Baird, Kelleigh Stephens, Edward Stormzand II, Keaton Dilly, Cameron Dilly.

Timothy Hoag, Alex Blundy, Alison Blundy.

OCTOBER 3

Mike Moore, Jim Stoutjesdyk, Sr., Lori Smith.

SEPTEMBER 30

Jimmy Hodges, Lowell Swift, Linda DeCator, Mark Willmarth, Jay Thaler, Haley Main, Ernie Barnes, Jessica Spencer, Don VanSickle, Kyle Potter, Roger Hurley.

OCTOBER 4

Raymond Kastanek, Cody Chambers, Rich Wade, Dennis Denton, Jr., Morgan Ford, Theresa Baerwalde, Joe Kovacs, Nichole Dorsey.

OCTOBER 1

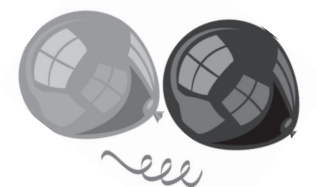
Sue Zoodsma, Stephanie Foss, Justin Anes, Sara Schuitema Sandy Nikodemski.

OCTOBER 5

Bradley Kiczenski, Allen Reynolds, Zachary

OCTOBER 2

Doris Titcombe,



River City Cannabis re-opens after closing due to smell

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

River City Cannabis has re-opened after closing due to smell complaints at the end of last year and receiving a citation from the city. The dispensary and growing facility are located in the strip mall between the movie theater and Tractor Supply known as the Lowell City Mall.

"We were shut down for construction because of smell leaking," said owner, Michael Matthews. "We put

\$35,000 into the building." The building now has rooms that filter out smells with anti-microbial walls and multi-stage air filtration. "We hired an industrial hygienist to review our plan," said Matthews. "We closed down to take care of it." The smell was coming from the growing plants, as they flower during its two-months cycle.

The owner-operated micro-business has three licenses combined into one:

grower license, processor, and retail. "We can only sell what we grow," Matthews said. "It's small batch but more focused on quality. It's all organic and ethically sourced."

The nutrients for the soil include organic components such as seabird guano, according to co-owner, Noah Gonyon. Together, with co-owner, Nicholas Maher, the trio picked Lowell because it was the only town that had adopted



Noah Gonyon in the retail space.



The flower of the cannabis plant in the growing rooms at River City Cannabis.

"If somebody comes in with a receipt from another business from that day, they will get a discount."

The focus is on bud density and the terpene profile, such as the aroma, flavor, and smoke quality or experience. "We keep our stuff fresh," he said.

"We do minimal exit packaging." The packaging is recyclable and biodegradable. River City sells the flower, pre-rolls, and rosin and will expand into edibles.

The growing area in the back accommodates the staggered cycle of the plants to have fresh products and different strains. The plants start in the East Flower Room and will be harvested in the West Flower Room the first week of October.

The growing rooms have negative pressure so

the smell doesn't seep out. According to Matthews, the difference between the pressure in the hallway and in the room is 2.5 Pascals, plus there are three-to-twelve-inch carbon filters that scrub the smell and

exhaust it out the back, as recommended by the HVAC contractor and industrial hygienist. For hours, call 616-987-3086

For more info go to <https://www.rccgr.com/>



Flowering plants in the West Flower Room with Michael Matthews.

CITY OF LOWELL
PUBLIC NOTICE

Look Memorial Fund Board is now accepting grant applications for 2022. Applications are available at Lowell City Hall or on the website at www.lowellmi.gov.

Grant applications should be submitted to Susan Ullery, City Clerk, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331. The deadline for submitting 2022 applications is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 28, 2022.



Respectfully,
Susan Ullery
Lowell City Clerk


SEEKING BIDS
SNOW REMOVAL SERVICE
VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Vergennes Township is accepting bids for a 2-year contract for snow removal for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 winter seasons. Specifications are at www.vergennestwp.org or may be picked up at the Township Office, 69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, during business hours, Mondays and Wednesdays 9 am - 3 p.m. and Thursdays 9 a.m. - noon.

Bids must be submitted to the Vergennes Township Clerk on or before October 12, 2022, at noon. Bids will be reviewed at the October 17, 2022, 7 p.m. regular board meeting.

Shantell Ford, Clerk
clerk@vegennestwp.org
Vergennes Township
69 Lincoln Lake Ave NE
PO Box 208
Lowell, MI 49331

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Dr. Min Han joins Reagan Family Dentistry

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

Dr. Min Han of Ada, originally from Seoul, S. Korea, has joined Reagan Family Dentistry to expand his expertise. With an impressive list of academic credentials and professional experience, Han brings to

Lowell a broad knowledge of dentistry.

"I've always liked to work with my hands," he said. "I want to learn from other dentists."

Han moved to West Michigan after graduating from the University of

Michigan in 2015; he first got a job in Wyoming, MI as an associate general dentist. "I like it here," he said. "The lake is close. I love outdoor activities."

Han came to the USA in 2004 to study biochemistry in Hawaii, and later, chemistry in Oregon.

Although his career path winded and twisted, Han has always wanted to be a dentist. "I thought I couldn't afford it," he said.

In the middle of the chemistry program at the University of Oregon, Han changed his major to dentistry. "That was a big change for me," he said. "In Hawaii, I volunteered and job-shadowed at a dentist's office."

Among all the changes, Han got married in Hawaii, then moved to Oregon and had a son.

"I've always been interested in health care, so dentistry was perfect for me," he said. "I've never regretted changing my career."

For Han, a definite driving force to work more is seeing people smile. "I am

looking forward to working together with a good team," he said. "Lowell is a nice

town. I get to meet people around here, as well."

Han is fortunate to be able to visit his homeland, since his parents live in Seoul, and vice versa. He visited his homeland in 2019, and during the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, he watched the track and gymnastics.

At Reagan Family Dentistry, Han wants to learn all phases of dentistry, including crowns, bridges, cosmetic, fillings, and implants. "We provide dental implants right now," he said.

Although Han and his family got used to the American culture, he still misses Korean food. Han and his wife cook Korean dishes at home like barbecue, beef, and pork.

"There's a big cultural difference," he said. "There's a different concept of living space. In

Korea, most people live in apartments."

Dr. James Reagan, who has been working solo throughout his practice, said that it's always nice to have another dentist to work side-by-side and to add more hours to serve the community. "We both learn off of one another," said Reagan. "That's the advantage."

Although experience cannot be taught, Reagan wants to share years of experience from his chairside manner. "I've learned some chairside techniques that you don't learn in school from Dr. Han too," said Reagan. "He will be part of the community. We're glad to have him. Lowell's not the next place to be," he said. "It's the only place to be."

"I am happy to serve the community of Lowell," Han said.

For an appointment, call the office at 616-897-7179.



Dr. Min Han of Ada has joined Reagan Family Dentistry.

Ace In The Lowell opens this week

By Cliff Yankovich
Contributing writer

When you consider the state-wide BuyNearby effort to encourage Michigan residents to support locally owned businesses by redirecting at least 10 percent of their out-of-state online purchasing dollars to mom and pop stores, then Patrick and Erin Hendrick have perfectly timed the grand opening of their new sports store, Ace in The Lowell. The doors open this Saturday.

"This is really a family

affair," the couple said, almost in unison. "It is the seven of us; the kids have been really helpful in putting this together."

Using basic math skills, you have probably figured out by now that the Hendricks have five kids: Austin is 20, Garrett is 15, Vonn is 11, Grayden is 8, Westan – aka "Stan" is 7. Their parents were happy to share how much work the boys have done getting the store ready. Erin estimated that when they got the space,

there were at least eight different colors of paint on the walls in the 1,500 sq. ft. space at 1004 West Main in Lowell. Most of us call the location the Speedway Plaza. With the help of their sons, the walls are now a nice consistent combination of gray tones throughout the various rooms.

Having five boys – all of whom were or are active in wrestling, football, basketball, soccer, track, baseball and even Tai Chi – was one of the driving forces behind the decision to open a sports store in Lowell. The Hendricks recalled having to drive into Grand Rapids when one of the boys needed something for a sport. They pointed out that there are no stores dedicated to sporting goods from Ada to Ionia. They also noted that Play It Again sports on 28th Street is no longer open. These factors combined to inspire them to open a store with a combination of good, clean, used sporting equipment, as well as brand-new gear from top name brands. They had been spitballing the idea of a store for a few years, but narrowed it down to sporting goods and got serious about the enterprise last December.

"Money should not be the deciding factor of a kid participating in sports," Erin said, as we discussed

the demand for, and value of, gently-used items. People are welcome to bring items that are in good, clean, usable condition, for sale on consignment, during business hours. The hours are Monday thru Friday, from 12:30 to 6:30 and Saturday, from 11 to 4.

Patrick was quick to emphasize that Ace in The Lowell will have brand new merchandise in the majority of the store space. He was also very happy to report that because the website for the store is already up and running, customers have recently purchased some hard-to-find items for football season, like football pants, warm-up gear and even clips for shoulder pads, along with visors for

ACE IN THE LOWELL

the girl's golf team.

The store will be a literal mom and pop. While both of them have other employment, they have worked-out a schedule that has one or the other covering the store during business hours. Erin is a teacher at Curiosity Corner and Patrick is in IT Security and works from a home office. One of the messages you will hear from this mom and pop shop is that if



Erin and Grayden Hendrick painting the store.

they do not have something you want, they will do their level best to try and find it for you. All the more reason to BuyNearby and keep your dollars local.

Patrick is very happy with their decision to open now. "It is a very good time. Everybody is in a rebuilding phase right now after the pandemic," he noted. "Sports teams are active again and things are moving forward."

"We are going to stock the things your kid needs for sports," Erin added. "You do not have to go to Grand Rapids to find them."

In addition to offering up new and used gear for organized team sports, the Hendricks will be stocking the store with "yard sports" items like corn hole, ladder ball, badminton, washer toss and home volleyball.

Having lost Erin's sister, Carrie LaFond, to cancer, the Hendricks are very pleased that they will be involved in Pink Arrow 16 next year, by providing a location to purchase and customize Pink Arrow shirts and other gear. Continuing in the same vein, they are going to be offering a selection of Lowell and Red Arrow themed items from Fans In The Stands in their store. They will also be able to offer customized lettering and/or embroidery on the clothing items they sell.

The grand opening is Saturday, October 1, but as we noted above, you can get to know more about this new addition to shopping in Lowell on the web.

Find them on Facebook: www.facebook.com/aceinthelowell or visit their website www.aceinthelowell.com/



Vonn, Grayden, and Westan Hendrick modeling some gear.

LowellArts Artist of the Month - Jeremiah Wenger

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

Music has been part of Jeremiah Wenger's life for as long as he can remember. His parents were either listening, playing, or hosting parties with bands at their house. His father had played in bands and young Jeremiah always found his way toward the instruments - beating on the drums and strumming the guitars. You could say that the atmosphere most definitely rubbed off on Wenger, this month's LowellArts Artist of the Month. Then in second grade, he met a classmate at Alto Elementary, Adrian Mitchell, and the relationship helped steer him in the direction of what he does now, playing guitar. "Adrian was taking guitar lessons, and around fourth grade, he started teaching me a little bit of guitar," said Wenger. "I had learned a little bit of bass from my dad. From there I joined orchestra in middle school." He continued to play

recently been playing with two other local musicians, singer Hannah Rose and guitarist Austin Benzing. In fact, in September, he will be playing a total of 18 shows with either Rose or Benzing by his side. One would think that playing with the same people might get stale for a guitarist after a while, but Wenger sees the opposite happening. "I feel like it's always a different experience whenever I play music, even with the same people or the same songs, because a lot of what I do is improvisational," said Wenger. "With Hannah, a lot of times we won't play the songs the same. It keeps it fresh for us. We'll change it up live, so I try to come up with different stuff on the spot." As the lone guitarist, Wenger feels like a co-band leader who helps direct the other musicians on the stage. When he shares the stage with Benzing, also a lead guitarist, the vibe is completely different.

these different musicians. You have to learn how they speak. You have to learn the vocabulary they are using. A lot of it is just listening to other music and see how two guitars are interacting." Besides his father, Wenger has had many musical influences over the years: Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Jerry Garcia and Corey Wong of Ann Arbor's band Vulfbeck (Check these guys out if you don't know this band! Fun and talented). Other influences are funk bands Soulive and Tower of Power. "Lately I've been getting into a lot of Umphreys McGee," said Wenger. "The main guitarist in that band is Jake Cinninger (a Michigan native). He's probably my favorite lead guitarist of all time. He can pretty much play anything and he will during a show. They'll go from metal to jazz, to country to blues, and try to combine them all." Wenger recently moved



Jeremiah Wenger. Photos courtesy of Jeremiah Wenger's Facebook page.



music in high school, honing his guitar skills along the way, even after graduation from Lowell High in 2014. Since then, he has played a lot of gigs with a lot of bands but has

"It's sort of like having a conversation," said Wenger. "I pick up what he's saying and then I add in a little bit and he picks up with what I'm saying. That's what I like about playing with all

to Grand Rapids and has enjoyed it so far. "It's going pretty good and I'm saving a lot of money on gas," said Wenger with a laugh. This October he will be going into the studio with

one of the bands he plays with, Y-not, and is hoping they finish something within a couple of months, depending on everyone's schedule. Presently, he works part-time a few days a week, which allows him to play gigs at night - although he admits that he'd like to do less gig work in the future. "I'd rather spend time creating recordings," said Wenger. "Gigging is fun but it gets pretty draining playing place to place and playing in different bands. I want to create a permanent art rather than something that's temporary." He is

hoping to get to that place in the near future. I asked Wenger to give some advice to any aspiring musicians/guitarists out there in the Lowell community. He was more than happy to. "I feel like a lot of people think you either can or can't," said Wenger. "If you just sit down and hold a guitar for ten hours a day, you're bound to do something with it. That's the main thing I can tell you. Leave your guitar out. Don't put it in its case. Hold it as much as you can. Even if you're not playing it. Just get comfortable with

holding it. Pay attention to your technique, and if you feel stress, try something a little bit different." Wenger is excited about his future as a musician. Music has been a huge part of his entire life and he expects it to continue that way. "Playing music is such a high. It's an adrenaline rush and playing with your buddies is having the most fun you could probably ever have. There's nothing really like it." You can learn more about Jeremiah Wenger's music and appearances on his Facebook page.



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obituaries

DESJARDEN

Clifford Junior DesJarden, age 90, of Manistique, passed away peacefully on September 9, 2022, at his residence with his wife of 70 years, Phyllis, by his side. He was born on November 22, 1931, the second born of 12 children to Napoleon and Lila (Popour) DesJarden. Junior grew up in Cooks and attended Cooks School. On July 19, 1952, he married the former Phyllis Malott in Grand Rapids, MI. The couple lived and raised their family in Lowell. Junior proudly went off and served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War, achieving the rank of Sergeant before he was honorably discharged. After returning home, he resumed work in the construction industry, where he remained for nearly 50 years until his retirement as a construction foreman. He and Phyllis then returned to Manistique in 1994. He was a former member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He enjoyed always being busy



with projects, but hunting and fishing were his favorites. Junior enjoyed cutting and splitting firewood until his health prevented it last fall and had many loyal repeat customers. He was lovingly known as Grandpa Frog by all. Junior is survived by his devoted wife Phyllis; sons Daniel (Linda) DesJarden of Lowell, Jeff (Sherry) DesJarden of Hesperia; daughter Tina (Dwight) Nutting of Waynesville, MO; brothers: Allen (Marylee) DesJarden of Manistique, Elroy DesJarden, Jay (Marc) DesJarden and Dean DesJarden, all of Cooks; sisters: Rita Sturdy of Escanaba, Vera Orr Lakosky of Garden, Shirley Shampine of Cooks, Karen Pilon of Rapid River, Bonnie Elliott of Cooks, and sister-in-law Patti DesJarden of Cooks; six grandchildren: Jason, Kelli, Teresa, Tera, Mindi and Tim; eight great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, son Robert DesJarden, and brothers Terry and Butch DesJarden. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at Fausett Family Funeral Homes in Manistique, with Rev. Father Ben Paris officiating. Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery in Lowell. The family wishes to thank Stephanie (Angel) DesJarden for the loving care given to Junior. Memorial contributions in Junior's name may be directed to the Eva Burrell Humane Society or Schoolcraft Memorial Home Care Hospice, 7870 W. Highway US-2, Manistique, MI 49854.

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

**Regular Meeting 7 p.m.
SYNOPSIS OF MINTUES
September 19, 2022**

Motions Approved:

1. Motion stating township has no interest in developing State Street and township is in favor of allowing the process of abandoning and vacating State Street to move forward.
2. 925 O.E. Bieri site plan approved.
3. 1035 O.E. Bieri site plan approved.
4. Kent county millage update approved.
5. Accepted quote from River Rock Window Cleaning
6. Accepted quote from Images of Vision, Bruce Doll, for prints for the hall.
7. Accepted quote for additional lawn care at the Alton Cemetery from Scenic Expressions.
8. Approved the early payment of 2nd Quarter bill from Lowell Area Fire Authority.

SCHMIDT

Leona Mae Schmidt went to be with Jesus on September 21, 2022. She was born on August 3, 1935, in Sherwood, Michigan, younger daughter of Harold and Goldie Stockwell, and sister of Nancy (Stockwell) Tuttle. Leona married her high school sweetheart, Donald A. Schmidt on June 27, 1953, after graduating from Athens High. Leona then began her long career of working at State Farm Insurance at the Regional Office in Marshall. Leona leaves her husband, Don; her son, Michael (Diane), eight grandchildren: Mark, William (Desirae), Ryan, Paige (Jeremiah) Collins, Courtney Mae, Sabrina, Destiny, and Lanie; and four great-grandsons: Chase, Kayden, Levi and Weston. Leona and Don made many wonderful memories at their cottage in Barryton, as well as snowmobiling, mushroom hunting, camping, and boating. They moved to Archer Lake in 1978 and spent decades enjoying boating, and opening their home to family and friends, for whom Leona cooked and baked up a storm. In retirement, Leona and Don enjoyed spending the winter months traveling in their fifth wheel and exploring warmer climates. Leona remained feisty and in good spirits during the final trials she endured. She was an inspiration to all. Memorial services will be held, 12PM on Friday, September 30, 2022, at Lockwood Community Church, 202 E. Lockwood Road, Coldwater, MI 49306, with visitation one hour prior. Luncheon to follow the service at the church. Pastor Shayne Looper officiating. Interment Lakeside Cemetery, Quincy, Michigan for immediate family. Memorial gifts may be made to Kindred Hospice, 625 Kenmoor Ave SE, Suite 115 Grand Rapids, MI 49546 or to Lockwood Community Church, Attn: Shayne and Karen Looper.



BARNHART

James M. Barnhart, age 80 of Lowell, has passed away on September 22, 2022. He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Madeline Barnhart; son, Scott M. Barnhart; sisters, Connie Winerburn and Gaye Washburn; brothers-in-law, Dan Huver and Jerry Winterburn. He is survived by his wife, Barbara A. Barnhart; children, Jay (Robin) Barnhart, Steven (Katie) Barnhart; grandchildren, Angelica L. Barnhart, Emma M. Barnhart, Hailey M. Barnhart, Paige E. Barnhart, Noah H. Barnhart, Laura (Brad) Jackson, Lynda (Ryan) Czarnecki, Laurina A. Harden; 7 great-grandchildren; sister, Ann Huver; and several nieces and nephews. James was a lifelong resident of the Alto/Lowell area and retired from Dairy Farmers of America after 30+ years. He was a long-time member of the Lowell Moose Lodge and enjoyed golfing, bowling, softball, and tinkering. A Celebration of Life will be held from 11 AM to 1 PM, Saturday, October 1, 2022, at the Lowell Moose Lodge, 1320 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331. Memorial contributions may be made out to the Lowell Moose Lodge.



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letting go.**
~ Shannon L. Alder

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Inspector General's Scam Awareness page at oig.ssa.gov/scam.

Read about protecting your Social Security number from identity theft at blog.ssa.gov/protecting-your-social-security-number-from-identity-theft.

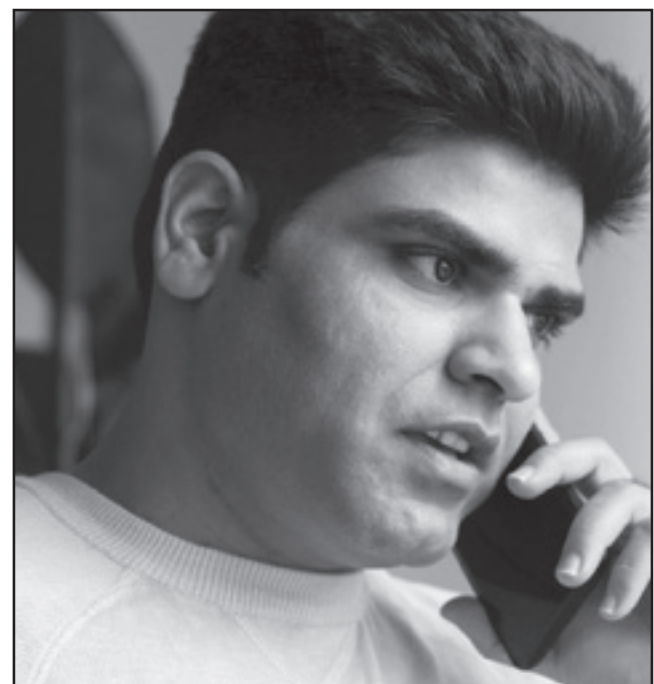
Create your personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to help you keep track of your records and identify any suspicious activity.

Visit our Fraud

Prevention and Reporting page at www.ssa.gov/fraud to understand how we combat fraud.

Please share these resources about scams with your friends and family — and help us spread the word on social media.

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



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my beloved wife*

BARBARA

2/13/55 - 10/2/13

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forever
and a day**

~ Jeff

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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Crossword puzzle grid with letters filled in for solutions.

10x10 grid puzzle with numbers in the first row.

GOERLSGNPACKAGINGMMDO
TQNTPLNOITACIFITRECE
BPUPWCONTAMINANTGWBT
QETQBMBRGFEBTRYGCBSBY
BKNFESWGA CADYOSOF LUA
OGDIAQC GN C ITAN NR SN O
KBGF T M N A T S I C O S L T Y I N T
CYEU Y I I E I L C I U R G Y M G M T
QTRKLLRNIE T M L K E A O W R R
YEGEP I F C P C E D K I L L S D K D
QQBM A E A T E R D F L R A U R L P W
O A O D C F A P S T N E I D E R G N I M
L C P T R B S I F K K N E G R E L L A R
QNRGLNC E F E Y U F D P Q P O C L
P D F E I D R E I L P P U S Q K L D M N
Y E C N A R U S S A M S A N I T A R Y E
Y A A I D O O F G E E A I R L O C K I G
T B U C P G Q U A L I T Y D F L U C F D
A D A F E Q L E R A W B K Q I A U D I T
P O G M Y D N S D R A D N A T S M Q S G

Where are the Prunes?

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

Has any man not dreaded the answer to the following question from his significant other:

“Honey, I’m going to the grocery store today to get some things. Is there anything you need?”

Her reply could be a simple one. “Yes, could you pick up tomatoes, grapes, milk and granola for my breakfast?”

Or the answer could be a bit more complex. Case in point. Upon answering this question recently, my wife texted me this list: “Gluten Free Flour (Red Mill), orange juice, Nut Pods (yellow container), rice, chicken thighs, Diaper Genie bags, hummus, prunes, skin cream, oatmeal, and amino acids.” Whoa. I had to put on my work boots for this

one, and in the end, it took me a while, but I found everything. Did you know that the prunes are NOT next to the raisins? Who designs these places?

Grocery shopping has always had a special place in my heart. I’ve seen it as a bit of a challenge, negotiating the aisle traffic while trying to find what you need. As a former college athlete from many years ago, I am running out of challenges as I get older. If you lean toward the passive-aggressive personality, as I do, shopping is a delightful mix of meditation and angst, all balled up together. When I’m alone, as a warm-up, I tend to sightsee a little in the housewares, toys, electronics, sporting goods, and automotive sections – never really buying anything – before making my way

into the true battlefield... the food aisles. My brain works overtime as I observe and unfairly evaluate each person’s shopping cart, and therefore, personality.

“Hmmm...really? You want to eat all those TV dinners?” And...“I don’t see any vegetables in that cart.” And...“They are getting popsicles now? A little early don’t you think? You still have 10 aisles to go!” I know, my brain can be a bad place sometimes.

Do any of you ever create a shopping foe while you’re at the store?

It sounds horrible, but I do this sometimes. For example, a few weeks ago I could have sworn a 60ish year-old woman was purposefully trying to ruin my grocery shopping experience. For one, I think she was following me, as I would run into her no matter where I went even if I skipped an aisle. I didn’t even need aluminum foil or sandwich bags but boom, there she was in the middle of the aisle. Secondly, when I ran into her, she always seemed to be looking at the same section as me...her cart sidled up next to the brown rice, blocking the entire section. I needed some rice, and there she was, carefully reading the ingredients on a can of refried beans (those

are bad for you, by the way!). It created a very awkward and stressful situation for me. Should I wait for her to finish? Or should I just say “excuse me” and sort of barge my way in front of her cart? My passive side said “wait” but my aggressive side said “barge”. I will say that my passive side usually wins out, so I pretended as though I was looking for a different product in the section next to her and tried to wait her out.

But oh, there are times when my aggressive side REALLY wants to come out. For example, just the other day, I almost got run down by one of those new “professional” shoppers ... you know, the ones that the pandemic created. They work for a company to deliver folks their groceries. By the way, I recognize the importance of such companies, as my mother uses them often. These professionals always seem to be in a hurry and are always pulling their carts by the front and not pushing from the back, and they are always looking down at their phones. I don’t feel as though the “grocery-shopping etiquette booklet” that we all have read as adults, applies to them. What, if I may ask, is the big hurry? Is there a 30-minute delivery

promise or something like that involved? I have almost been smashed a few times over the past couple of years, but thank goodness, I’ve always been a good defensive driver. My aggressive side wants to make a comment, something like, “Hey, there are unwritten rules here that you are not following.” In the end, of course, I don’t say a thing. But my brain does!

My shopping life

would be much easier if I just took a deep breath and understood that everyone is in the same boat as me. We are all just trying to find our own unique food for our unique families. Why can’t I be more Zen about it? And when I can’t find a product, as my wife says, “Why can’t you just ask for help?” Well, there’s no fun in that. Where else can I find a challenge these days?

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Looking Back, continued

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger October 1, 1997

Lowell Area Schools will not have to chip-in for the migrant education program this year. Lowell is one of several school districts for which Montcalm Area Intermediate School District (MAISD) provides a migrant education program. Lowell receives MAISD's help and has been required to chip-in a small portion to help cover costs in the migrant program.

Marilyn and Dennis Dombak set up an art scholarship fund in the name of David Dombak, a 1987 Lowell graduate, who died in a sight-seeing accident while serving with the US Marines 10 years ago. David was a talented student, whose artwork left a mark.

On Oct. 7, the Discovery Channel will broadcast "Travelers," an hour-long documentary. It will include a segment high-lighting the famous "Little White Chapel" in Las Vegas. The wedding of Lowell's Sean and Kimberly (Helms) Doran was filmed by the Discovery Channel crew of the segment.

The Englehardt Library was the recent recipient of a gift of \$5,000 from Mrs. Howard Peckham of Hendersonville, NC. The gift is in memory of her husband, Howard H. Peckham, and has been designated for the purchase of books relating to history.

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the lowell ledger

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

Puzzle solutions on page 13

FOOD SAFETY WORD SEARCH

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

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

FOOD SAFETY WORD SEARCH

ACCEPTABLE
 AIRLOCK
 ALLERGEN
 ANIMAL

ASSURANCE
 AUDIT
 BACTERIA
 CERTIFICATION
 COMPLIANCE
 CONSUMER
 CONTAMINANT

DISINFECT
 FACILITY
 FOOD
 INGREDIENTS
 INSPECTION
 LABELING
 PACKAGING

QUALITY
 RAW
 SAFETY
 SANITARY
 STANDARDS
 SUPPLIER

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in New Jersey on September 29, 1994. I began my singing career singing a parody of a popular tune. Since then I have achieved fame with notable singles. My stage name is an anagram of my real name.

Answer: Halsey

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to food safety.

S W E S H A

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

Answer: Washes

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

- Fall down
- Gas usage measurement
- Golf score
- A superior grade of black tea
- Wrath
- Eating house
- Delay leaving a place
- People now inhabiting Myanmar
- Canadian flyers
- Walks back and forth
- Frequently
- Humans have two
- Surrounds with armed forces
- Made proper
- Medical buildings
- Patty Hearst's captors
- Hits with a drop shot
- Italy's PM 1919-20
- Promotions
- En __: incidentally
- Queens baseball team
- Commoner
- Expenses in insurance world (abbr.)
- Payroll firm
- Broadway actress Daisy
- Skipper butterflies
- Hint

57. Daniel __, French composer

- English children's author Blyton
- Midway between east and southeast
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Patriotic women's group
- The woman
- Tall, slender-leaved plant

CLUES DOWN

- Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- Jump
- Eaten as a vegetable
- Residual paresis after anesthesia
- Brunchtime staple
- Makes money off of
- Refined
- Nocturnal S. American rodents
- From a distance
- Officials
- It helps you see
- Central Canadian indigenous person
- Invests in little enterprises
- They help in tough situations
- Industrial port in Poland

- Type of screen
- Peyton's little brother
- Alcoholic beverage
- Newspapers need it
- Herbal tea
- Distinctive practice
- Exercise system __-bo
- Explosive
- Belonging to a thing
- Presidential candidates engage in them
- Of the Swedes
- Meadow-grass
- "Rule, Britannia" composer
- Hooray!
- Greek city
- One way to do it by example
- Limited
- "Game of Thrones" actress Headey
- Swiss river
- Drought-resistant plant
- A French abbot
- One point east of northeast
- Get free of



The Mediocre Reign of The Woman King

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

Viola Davis is one of those actresses who sells tickets. She has received four academy award nominations for acting, the most for any black actress, and has starred in such films as *The Help*, *Fences*, and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. Watching her transform incredibly into Ma Rainey was worth the price of admission alone. When I watched the preview for *The Woman King* last week, and saw that it starred Davis, I thought to myself that this might be a good movie to review.

There have been many intensely profound movies over the years about slavery in the United States and

each has had its unique portrayal of the time period. Films like *Roots*, *7 Years a Slave*, *Django Unchained*, and *Amistad* have left their impression and all garnered many television and movie awards along the way. *The Woman King*, although a good movie and award-worthy in some areas, does not rank in excellence, as those named above, but it does take on a completely different perspective than the others.

Mainly, the entire movie takes place in West Africa in the 1820s and most of the characters in the movie are Africans but very little is mentioned about the white slavers from Europe and America

— although their presence lingers perniciously in the periphery. This is significant, as the movie portrays an important part of the slave trade about which little is known: tribes in Africa, who partnered with the white slave traders, captured and sold other Africans from rival tribes. *The Woman King* sets up this conflict immediately in the opening scene, with rival tribes fighting to the death. Naninsca (played by Viola Davis), a general for the Dahomey tribe, and her all-female warriors, hide in the bushes getting ready to attack an all-male group from the rival Oyo tribe, who have recently captured some Dahomey people to be sold as slaves. The end result is not a good one for the Oyo men, as they have just encountered Naninsca's "Agojie" female warriors, known as the bloodiest women in Africa. The next day, the leader of the Oyos, Oba Ade (played by Jimmy Odukoya), sees the death and destruction of the encampment and he vows revenge.

The Dahomey tribe is not innocent in the slave-trade industry, as they have sold many of its people to the Europeans/Americans as a way of keeping them at bay and have even made

themselves rich on the profits. The plot actually begins after the King of Dahomey (played by John Boyega) decides they will no longer sell their people. Of course, the Oyos, who continue to work with the slave traders, will not go away quietly. There are several battles that take place between the two conflicting tribes throughout the movie, with the Dahomey Agojie warriors, led by Izogie (played by Lashana Lynch) and Amenza (played by Sheila Atim) at the forefront. This is one of the storylines that plays itself out throughout the movie. The fighting sequences during these battles are well choreographed with incredible spear, sword, and hand to hand combat parts. The fighting scenes are highly entertaining and full of action.

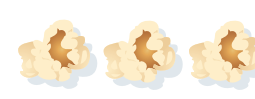
The second story line is the more human one and this is where the movie does falter. *The Woman King*, ironically, does not follow Davis' character as an audience member may think. This might have been a bad decision by the director (Gina Prince-Bythewood) and writers (Dana Stevens and Maria Bello), as there doesn't seem to be enough depth with Davis' character. They begin to touch upon the aging warrior's PTSD and physical ailments from many years of fighting, but the plot then veers in a different direction. The story mostly follows the character of Nawi (played by Thuso Mbedu), a 19-year-old orphan who tries to join the Agojie warriors. Her training is a common storyline that

other military movies have shared and borders on the edge of cliché. She is an independent soldier, set in her ways, and struggles to hold the company line during training. She thinks of others, and not herself, and is chided when veering from orders but then praised later for her altruism. One cliché we see is Nawi, who

themes and character arcs. The story would have been better without him.

I saw *The Woman King* as a movie trying to reach the stars with its unique setting, plot, and characters but not quite making it there. There is something missing for it to reach that status. In the end, I guess I was not moved by the story, and therefore, the characters paid the price. If it focused more on Naninsca and Nawi as characters, and less about Nawi's love interest or even the secret relationship between her and Naninsca, the movie would have seemed more like a serious drama and less like a Marvel movie with a Hollywood ending.

I feel as though I am being overcritical of *The Woman King*, as it must have been quite difficult to depict such a catastrophic time in West Africa's history. I would recommend the movie for many reasons: the historical significance of the story is important (although the film is receiving some criticism about its accuracy); there is plenty of strong acting; there is incredible footage of the African landscape and recreated villages; and the fight scenes are action-packed and well-choreographed. But in the end, the story seemed convoluted and loose at times, and the characters lacked some depth because of the mediocre plot. Overall, *The Woman King* is worth the watch; it just doesn't reach the height it may have wished to. I give it 3 out of 5 popcorn kernels.



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Assistance, continued

will continue working with anyone to protect the constitutional right to vote."

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make sure that they are able to enjoy those rights and liberties here at home."

As part of this partnership, VA facilities in Michigan will implement and expand programs to help veterans and eligible dependents register to vote and participate in elections. The Michigan Department of State (MDOS) will provide up-to-date information on how to register, upcoming election details, and casting a ballot.

The partnership with Michigan and three other states is executed as part of Executive Order 14019, "Promoting Access to Voting," to make voting more accessible to all Americans.

To learn more about how to register and vote in Michigan, go to Michigan.gov/Vote. For more information about VA's efforts to provide voter registration assistance to veterans, visit www.va.gov/vote.

