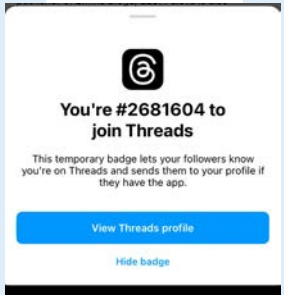


Riverwalk Festival Pictures



pages 8 & 9

Threads App



page 7

Fat Guy's Burgers



page 16

\$1.00



The Streets of Lowell – USDA loans, revenue sharing, and marijuana taxes

By Cliff Yankovich
contributing writer

It is safe to assume that everyone reading this will agree that the streets in Lowell, and most other communities in Michigan, are a mess. Our recent unscientific, purely speculative, hunch-based opinion would award Washington street as the most pot-holed stretch of pavement in the City. (My bet is that some other ones might be coming to your mind.) For the sake of this article, how about we pretend that Washington is the worst. Then why the heck is Monroe getting a total make-over before Washington?

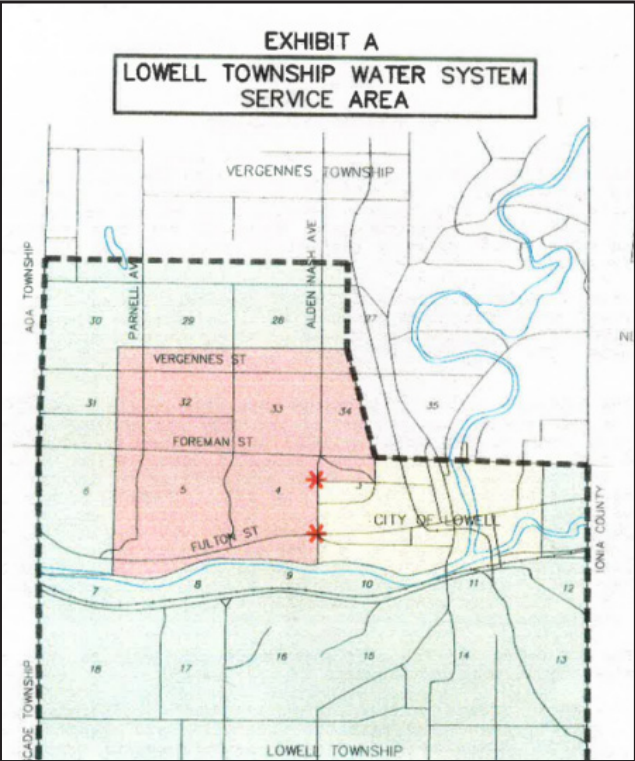
Here are some other questions we can examine today: Why is Lowell borrowing millions of dollars to fix our roads? Does the USDA fund road repairs? What happened to all the money from marijuana sales in Lowell? What is the difference



Roads, continued page 2

Big equipment for a big project.

1992 water agreement to blame for sprinkler restrictions



The Exclusive Service Area for Lowell Charter Township residents serviced by the city's water utility is defined by the red section of the map.

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

To the chagrin of many in Lowell, June 5 marked the beginning of the City of Lowell and Lowell Charter Township's second odd-even outdoor water restriction for municipal customers. Though it is a recent sore spot for citizens, the issue at stake and its possible solutions have been on the minds of the city council and township board for months. Though talk of a shared water authority and expansion of the water plant are ongoing, the specifics of the current restrictions trace their roots back to the "Water Supply Agreement Between the City of Lowell and Lowell Charter Township" that went into effect over 30 years ago on

Water, continued page 3

America's Sexiest Couple heats up the summer at LowellArts

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

Can they rekindle the spark that made them America's Sexiest Couple? It's a love affair that never ended, or has it?

The play by Emmy award-winning writer, director, and producer, Ken Levine, will make your summer even hotter. Two actors, Susan White and Craig McAllister, who were "America's Sexiest Couple" on a popular 1990s sitcom *Residents* reunite for the first time in 25 years. Craig, the male part is full of himself.

They face a lifetime of unresolved issues, longings, resentments, and regrets as the network wants to reboot the show. Can they rekindle the spark that made them America's Sexiest Couple, or was it all just an act? And then there is the bellboy with his intermittent interruptions of the show with news from the hotel's front desk.

In a career that spanned over 30 years, TV comedy legend, Levine, has worked on popular shows such as *MASH*, *Cheers*, *Frasier*, *The Simpsons*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, and more.

The play, directed by Richard Mulligan and stage managed by Lilleigh Christopher, stars Vicki Kavanaugh as Susan White, Dave Benson as Craig McAllister, and

Play, continued page 4

Roads, continued

between a storm sewer and a sanitary sewer? And the one that seems to never go away on social media: Why did Lowell spend 3.2 million dollars on the new Showboat when the roads are in such bad shape?

When taking a test, I like to hit the easy questions first. It gets them out of the way and makes me feel smarter when facing the tough ones. Here we go: The City of Lowell did not spend any local tax dollars, meant for roads or anything else, on the big, beautiful Showboat. Please repeat that sentence to yourself and anyone holding on to that fantasy as often as needed to eradicate it from existence. Hey, a guy can dream, can't he?

Now, how about we move on to the more difficult questions. Before we do, a bit of funding education is in order thanks to our friends at the Michigan Municipal League (MML). Back in the good old days, prior to the year 2000, the State of Michigan used to return tax monies they collected to

local municipalities through revenue sharing. According to the MML, "Revenue sharing was promised to local communities in the Michigan Constitution to help pay for core government services, such as police protection, fire services, roads, water, sewer and garbage collection services." In a nutshell, once we made it firmly into the 21st century, Lansing decided to ignore the Constitution and keep most of the money it collects. (Which allowed a pork barrel project, like the Lowell Showboat, to happen, but that is a story for another day.) In fact, revenue sharing was created in order to "help keep communities alive and well, spic and span, and with nice roads, safe water, and police and fire protection". Revenue sharing was instituted in the 1920's to "eliminate the need for local taxes and streamline the process", according to the MML.

Fast forward 100 years and the majority of

communities in our state face the same challenges we do in Lowell. Our roads are a mess. Our water delivery and sewer systems are falling apart and need replacement. Funding for adequate police and fire protection can be a headache. Many cities and towns now collect local income taxes in an effort to deal with the lack of revenue sharing from Lansing. We put a local income tax on the ballot in Lowell and it failed. It took three attempts to get it passed in East Lansing, where it went into effect for 12 years starting in 2019. The monies collected there are all dedicated to the areas that used to be funded by revenue sharing. Grand Rapids has had a city income tax in place for decades to help them stay on top of infrastructure demands. Twenty-four municipalities in Michigan levy an income tax as of 2022.

Enough history, time to answer the other questions. Sanitary sewers carry the waste water from our homes and businesses to the water treatment plant to be cleaned up before returning it to the



A sample of the water delivery system that is being replaced.

Grand River. Storm sewers are built to take rain water directly to the river and bypass the water treatment process which takes time and money. Monroe street is being done first because, examination of sewer lines there by robotic cameras, showed an immense amount of storm water was infiltrating the sewer lines, thereby putting an unneeded burden on the water treatment plant. In addition, all of the water and sewer lines are past their service life and need replacement.

Mike Burns, Lowell City Manager, explained it in more detail, "If you look at Monroe and Washington Street, one could argue Washington is worse than Monroe. However, the underground is where the major issues are. The major sewer infiltration is on Monroe and, in fact, was the worst infiltration point when the City completed the Stormwater Asset Management Grant Program conducted between 2016 and 2019. The underground situation on Washington was bad but we believed the underground situation on Monroe was much worse so it was done first."

Next up, the USDA

and repairing our roads. The 2023 Monroe Street Improvements project will be done because of a loan to the City of Lowell from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development fund to cover the estimated cost of 3.9 million dollars. Lowell had to borrow the money. The USDA program is a winner on more than one front. The interest rate on the loan is very low and locked in for the duration of the pay back. Better yet, there is no prepayment penalty, so if the City continues to budget, as effectively as it has over the last few years, it could conceivably pay off the loan early. We asked Burns to better explain the benefits of funding the project with USDA money.

"Most infrastructure bonds are 25- to 30-year notes. Right now those interest rates are around 5 or 6 percent. Since we are a rural community, we qualify for the USDA Loan Program. The interest rate for Monroe Street is 2 percent with a 40-year payoff," Burns commented. "While water and sewer rates have to be raised to complete these projects [Monroe and Washington] it is not nearly as much as if we had a 25-year bond with 5 or 6 percent interest. The City of Lowell will save over \$1.1 million, over the life of the loan, financing through the USDA Loan program."

The Monroe project is projected to be done by the end of construction

season this year. As of today, thanks in part to the abnormally dry weather, the contractors are ahead of schedule. It is important to remember that in addition to completely new paving, Monroe will have all new water, sewer, and storm sewer lines installed. Along the way, water hook-ups to houses and businesses will be checked for lead piping and any of those will be replaced. The same scope of work is planned for Washington next year. The estimated cost of the Washington project is 4.1 million dollars. USDA funding will be used for that as well.

The last issue to examine is how the taxes on adult use marijuana in Lowell relate to our streets. The City Council, with the full support of Manager Burns, has made a commitment that all such tax dollars received will go to our streets. According to Burns, the City received \$28,000 in 2021. In 2022, the City received \$282,267 and \$362,888 in 2023. He is projecting \$250,000 for the current fiscal year but anticipates it will be higher. It is worth noting that Burns takes a conservative approach to budgeting. He has consistently planned ahead counting on lower amounts of pot tax revenue than were realized. We asked him what has been done with all that money.

"Every dollar the City has received has



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Roads, continued page 6

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Water, continued

October 15, 1992.

Aside from the City of Lowell, the agreement extends city water to a quadrant of properties between Alden Nash, Foreman, Parnell, and Fulton referred to as the Exclusive Service Area, and a couple of properties in Vergennes Township. For the sake of water and water only, properties within this area are treated as if they are part of the City of Lowell, which means that rates must be fair, water must be the same quality, and pressure must be consistent. Section 10 of this agreement titled “Emergency Discontinuance and Restriction of Water Use” lays out how this fair treatment applies to times of water scarcity.

“Upon notification by the city,” the section reads, “the Township shall, within a reasonable time after such notification, comply and cause Vergennes Township and Users in the Service Area to comply with any

water sprinkling ban or other restrictions on the use of water which shall be deemed necessary by the City and which shall apply equally to Users within the City and Users within the Service Area.”

Out of the context of the original document, which defines terms and provides a map, some of this wording may be confusing. For example, the applicable portion of Lowell Charter Township is maybe five percent of its landmass, if that, and the chunk of Vergennes Township affected is smaller still, probably less than one percent. The important thing to understand is that restrictions “shall apply equally to Users within the City and Users within the Service Area,” meaning that a water restriction for Lowell Charter Township is a water restriction for City of Lowell is a water restriction for Vergennes Township within the city’s water servicing area.

To the credit of those who signed the agreement in 1992, namely City of Lowell Mayor James D. Maatman, City Clerk David M. Pasquale, Lowell Charter Township Supervisor John R. Timpson, and Township Clerk Carol Wells, it would be difficult to forecast, especially on a small municipality budget, what might happen to complicate this agreement in 30 years, let alone the full 40 years agreed to. That was five U.S. presidents and six *Jurassic Park* movies ago; the Exclusive Service Area has become a favorite place for middle class families since then, and it often feels like new developments break ground daily. These developments, in addition to drought conditions resulting from some of the highest temperatures in recorded history, fuel the city’s water shortages.

City of Lowell resident, Perry Beachum, has expressed concerns about water usage differences between the city and the township at numerous city

council meetings. “There’s only so much land in the city,” Beachum said at the April 3 meeting, “and I don’t see the water usage growing at the rate that the township’s growing.”

Mayor Mike DeVore echoed Beachum’s sentiments at the June 5 council meeting, suggesting that outdoor water usage restrictions punish City of Lowell residents for the actions of Lowell Charter Township and Vergennes Township. At the same April meeting that Beachum expressed his concerns about growth, the council tabled the township’s offer of \$2.775 million for equal ownership of the water plant and pump station serving the township’s water tower. City Manager, Mike Burns, recommended against the offer. “We don’t need the plant expansion,” Burns said. “We don’t need to sell. There is no sense of urgency on the city’s part.”

However, if the township’s development is to continue unhindered, it is incumbent upon them to

make an offer that motivates the city. Due to water needs, the city has placed limitations on expansion within the Exclusive Service Area requiring new water connections.

While a 40-year commitment may seem absurd to some residents, city manager Burns commented that agreements like this often extend for 50 years with 50-year extensions upon approval. Nor did Burns find anything fishy in the wording of the agreement. The main difference Burns would have proposed would be to process the agreement as a PA 425 Conditional Land Use Transfer, which would effectively incorporate the Exclusive Service Area as part of the City of Lowell according to whatever terms the parties involved agreed to. This would not be an annexation; in fact, Public Act 425 (PA 425) was passed in 1984 to prevent annexation. Instead, the land would revert back to the township at the conclusion of the contract if no further contract is agreed upon. Burns noted that an agreement, such as this, likely would have been more financially beneficial for both parties. “That never happened though,” Burns said, “and I don’t know why.”

There are approximately ten years left in this agreement, but discussion of the terms of renewal will begin much sooner than that, according to Burns. In theory, the city could back out of renewal or push for different terms, though Burns is unlikely to support

either. “I think it’s off the table,” Burns said. Though renegotiation is legally possible and may even be strategically beneficial for the city’s bottom line, it comes with an ethical burden that few in the community would likely wish to shoulder. The rest of the township has well water, but wells cannot be drilled in the area in question, which means that the township would have to build its own infrastructure from concept to completion in less than ten years. Burns is unwilling to put the people in Lowell and Vergennes townships in that position, but he is also unwilling to enter into further municipal agreements without increasing the city’s tax base using a PA 425. Without changes to the water agreement that led to Lowell’s current water crisis, the only solution is to expand city water capacity. Expansion is a costly endeavor, and leaders at the City of Lowell have made it clear that Lowell Charter Township must pony up significant funds in order for water to keep up with township expansion. Burns had no data to support or oppose the hypothesis that the urgency of the city’s water concerns is connected to climate change-fueled drought. However, he does have access to pump data, and the city does not have any water capacity or flow issues when it is raining. In other words, as the heat rises locally, residents can expect the heat to rise proportionately in negotiations between the city and the township over water usage.



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Could you be in denial?

There are many reasons people are in denial, but at the core is self-protection. It’s typically an unconscious defense mechanism meant to protect a person from distress, emotional pain, discomfort, fear, shame, conflict, anxiety, etc. It may be the result of trauma, a relationship in turmoil, grief/loss, mental health issues, physical health issues, etc.

Denial isn’t always negative, as it can help a person deal with difficult emotions and distressing situations by adjusting to the situation gradually. However, some get stuck in denial or linger there so long that denial of the truth typically leads to more pain, not less, because they don’t process and move past the situation. A person at this level of denial won’t easily admit being in a state of denial or accept the reality of their situation.

Signs of denial

A person in denial typically has a difficult time, not only recognizing that they are in denial, but admitting it, even when it causes strain on their relationships and other aspects of their life. Knowing the common signs

can help show behavioral patterns, and hopefully, help move a person out of denial and forward in their life.

Below are some common denial behaviors:

- Avoidance: not thinking or talking about the situation. They simply ignore the issue.
- Blaming others for forces beyond their control, for causing the problem, or for their own bad behavior or mistakes.
- Minimizing: If a problem is admitted, it may be minimized as a small issue, even when it is a big issue. This is often seen in people with addictions, in abusive relationships, or those in denial about serious mental or physical health issues.

• Rationalizing: excuses or justifications are made regarding the problem, situation or behavior. Rationalizing also makes it easier to continue exhibiting the problem behaviors.

• Self-deception is at the core of denial by pretending a loss or difficult situation or behavior isn’t real. Sometimes, this false reality feels easier to deal with.

• Inner-conflict. This happens when a person ignores actions they know are needed but that they don’t want to do. An example of this is a person living well above their means and choosing to go into serious debt instead of changing. This is often seen in the relationship-abuse cycle.

People tend to do things that benefit them, or seem to benefit them at the time, even if there are potential serious, negative consequences in the future. Someone that stays in denial may withdraw from others and from life. They may just go through the motions of

life in existence mode but are not really living. Even when in denial, they may still feel the pain or issue they are hiding from and turn to self-harm, substance abuse or other harmful addictions or behaviors. If this sounds like you and you’re struggling, it may be time to seek help from a professional counselor. I hope you find this info helpful but it’s not intended to provide advice, diagnose, or treat. Be safe and well!





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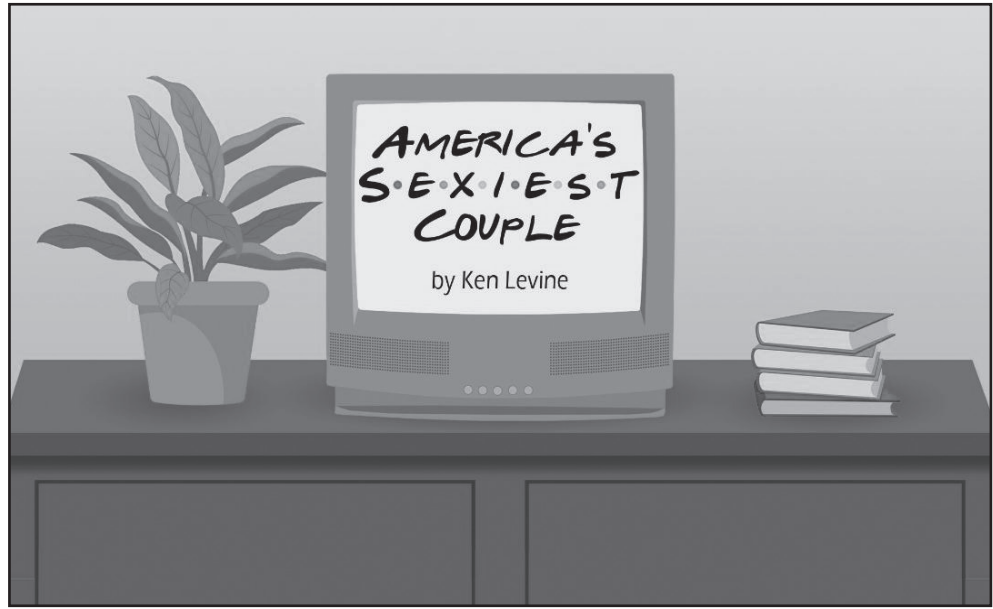
Play, continued

Josh Youngsma as the show,” Conrad said. Bellboy. However, the play contains strong adult language, mature themes, references to death, frank discussion of sex, simulated sex, and references to sexual assault, and may not be suitable for young audiences. Audience discretion is advised. “This play is strictly for adults, the recommended age is 17+,” Conrad said. “That being said, it’s still a comedy, but

some serious themes are present in the play.” Productions each year are chosen by the LowellArts Theatre Committee from plays proposed by committee members, theatre volunteers, and the general public. LowellArts is currently accepting Production Proposals for the 2024 season, and more information can be found on the website: lowellartsmi.org/production-proposals. “There is a lot of consideration in choosing the plays produced each season,” Conrad said.



The cast: Lilleigh Christopher, Richard Mulligan Vicki Kavanaugh, Dave Benson, and Josh Youngsma.



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A large factor is if the play is feasible in a non-traditional, black-box style venue - the LowellArts gallery. Other considerations include the value the production would give our theatre artists and our audiences. “And of course, our goal is to create a connection with our audiences,” Conrad said. “We want them to feel something, and hopefully, to carry that feeling with them beyond the performance.” The Thebes Players (also previously named The LowellArts Players) operates within the LowellArts organization and many of the previous members serve on the LowellArts Theatre Committee. Those involved

in this play are not on the committee - for each show, the committee chooses a director through an application process, the director then chooses their stage manager, and actors must audition for the role. Committee members may put in a director application or audition for a show, but they must go through a fair process, just as anyone else would. America’s Sexiest Couple opens on July 21 at 7:30 pm at Lowell Arts Gallery located at 223 W. Main St in downtown Lowell. Currently, there is a brand-new exhibit installed at the gallery, Festival of the Arts Regional Arts Exhibition.

Performance Dates & Times:
Friday, July 21 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, July 22 at 7:30 pm
Sunday, July 23 at 2:00 pm
Friday, July 28 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, July 29 at 7:30 pm
Sunday, July 30 at 2:00 pm
Tickets:
In advance - \$15 (\$13 for LowellArts Members)
At the Door - \$20 (\$18 for LowellArts Members)
Tickets can be purchased in advance online lowellartsmi.org/upcoming-production, over the phone, 616-897-8545, or in person at LowellArts, 223 W. Main St, Lowell.

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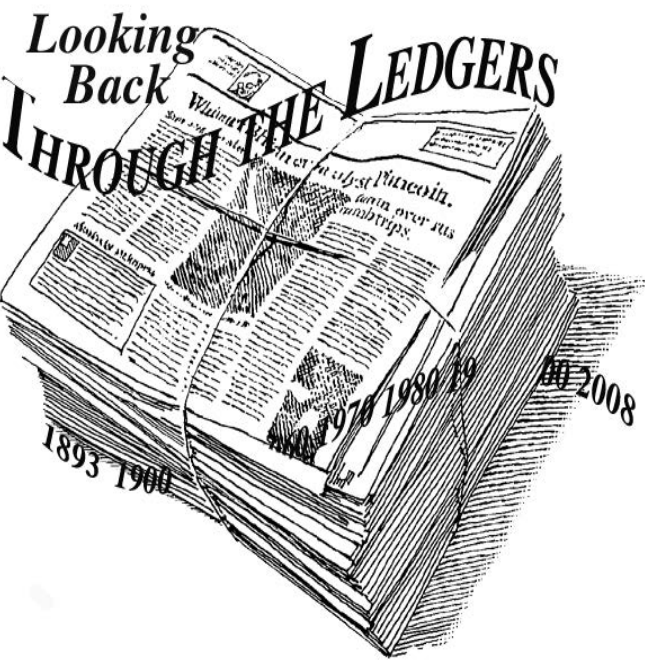
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viewpoint



150 years ago The Lowell Journal July 9, 1873

Forepaugh's Circus sold 7,700 tickets for the afternoon, last week. Possibly the largest crowd ever to be seen in the village.

E. Lee has purchased thousands of pounds of wool here, most at 42 cents a pound. P.D. Sneathan, A.S. Standard and John Cilley each brought in over a ton.

A "lung-tester" brought his machine to town last week, charging a nickel each for a "lung-capacity test." The editor notes that the boy who followed the tobacco-chewing man probably got a stomach-ache out of it.

"It always makes it uncomfortable for a man to have his collar feel above his shirt. Pin it down." (Collars were separate from shirts).

125 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 14, 1898

Forty people attend the school meeting (average: 12) to vote down the state uniform textbook lawn and proposal to furnish free books. Also, a "number of lady taxpayers" attended and voted.

Warning to young men who bathe in rivers - since sewage is discharged into streams and rivers, they may contract typhoid fever from accidentally swallowing river water.

A round-trip special rate of a dollar will take you to Ottawa Beach for the day. Take your lunch or eat at a hotel.

"Worthless dogs" have killed or mauled eight of Adelbert Odell's spring lambs in Vergennes. There should be a bounty established, says the correspondent.

100 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 12, 1923

An unusually large annual school meeting (86) results in, among other things, election of the first female school board member, Miss Grace Walker.

John A. Andrews of Vergennes has a clock whose works are 200 years old, the case 80 years.

The coming of trucks is phasing out the need for large oat crops to feed horses.

A "chicken dinner special" at Harry's Restaurant will set you back 50 cents.

75 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 8, 1948

The Showboat management is calling on every person in Lowell for help with new clean, short jokes with plenty of snap. Free tickets will be offered for the first 100 usable jokes submitted.

Lowell Mfg. Co. is shipping large quantities of electric sprayers to South America for eating establishments, ordered by health authorities.

The extension entomologist at Michigan State College warns that some plants, also fish, frogs, cats and dogs, are poisoned by DDT. He advises the wettable powder, which will not accidentally drift on to pets and flowers.

Carlton H. Runciman is reappointed by Gov. Kim Sigler to a five-year term on the state welfare commission. He has held the position for 12 years.

50 years ago Lowell Ledger Suburban Life July 12, 1973

The proposed sidewalk construction, to the new middle school, meets with opposition from residents who will be charged for the walk construction.

County improvements to Lincoln Lake, north of Lowell, call for relocation of Bailey Drive entrance to 200 feet north.

The new seats in the Showboat stands give more space to stretch one's legs.

Barb Brown delivers Showboat brochures to all the ticket outlets in Michigan.

The Showboat and School boards will get together to talk about Showboat's request for a piece of school property to help reconstruct the Showboat area.

25 years ago The Lowell Ledger July 15, 1998

Extreme E-coli counts close down Pebble Beach. City officials say geese are the cause of the problem and they will look to have the DNR relocate the birds.

Lowell superintendent, Bert Bleke, was ecstatic about final 1997-98 budget picture. The school district's excess revenues topple \$500,000 for the last school year.

Cherry Creek Classic 5K Run/Walk coordinators, Terry VanderWarf and Thad Kraus, presented Lowell police chief, Jim Valentine, with a check for \$2,500 to be used for the D.A.R.E. program.

Sue Ullery is comfortable in her new roll as the city's new account clerk.

Rockford resident, Mike Winick, has opened Ada-Lowell Self Storage business at 20175 Bowes Rd.

to the editor

Letter writer opinions are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this publication.

To the Editor:

In the June 21st *Lowell Ledger*, Senator Albert identified challenges the people of Michigan face.

I take issue blaming our Governor with the lead "Can't Trust Governor Whitmer." I am a voter in your district and respectfully disagree. I trust Governor Whitmer!

The issues of tax relief, infrastructure, jobs and education are amongst the issues that require consideration and action by serious people.

Governor Whitmer has addressed these challenges with the following results: signing more than 1,000 bipartisan bills into law, repairing more than 16,000+ lane miles and 1,200+ bridges, investing more than a billion dollars in public safety, announced investments of billions in Ford, GM and Stellantis affecting 35,000 auto workers and finally connecting 23,048 to high speed internet. There are many more examples with 0 tax increase for Michiganders.

It would be wise for Senator Albert to focus on bipartisan solutions for the challenges we face. Blaming Governor Whitmer is a political strategy, but not a solution.

Jack Misner
Vergennes Township



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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.

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Ruff Readers

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. This unique read-aloud program in partnership with West Michigan Therapy Dogs, Inc. pairs kids with a trained therapy dog and their handler. Kids read their favorite book and the pooches curl up, listen and enjoy. Arrive 15 minutes early to sign in and secure a time slot. First come, first served. For ages 5-10.

Fishing Basics: Rod and Reel

Monday, July 17, 4-5 pm. Learn about fishing rods and reels, necessary fish line strength, and hook size or lure choices for various types of fishing from Don Snoeyink, a lifelong lover of fishing. Learn casting, knot tying and fish cleaning tips. All participants receive one stick bobber and two small hooks and two sinkers for pan fishing. Space is limited; first come, first served. Doors open 15 minutes before the program begins and you may save one seat for a friend. For ages 11-17.

Program at the Park: Cameron Zara

Wednesday, July 19, 10 - 11 am. Join us for FUN with Comedy Magician & Entertainer Cameron Zvara! Cameron’s show is filled with mind-blowing magic, comedy, juggling, music and TONS of audience participation. You do not want to miss out! In partnership with Kent County Parks. This event will take place at Fallasburg Park Open Shelter, 13565 Covered Bridge Rd. Please note that this is not the park’s main entrance. For all ages.

KDL Lab Experience

Wednesday, July 19, 1-2 pm. Drop in and allow children to think creatively, tinker, explore and collaborate while engaging in a variety of hands-on activities based on STEM concepts. For ages 5-10.

Teen Zone - Cyanotype Prints

Monday, July 24, 4-5 pm. Teen-only fun for you and your friends at the library! Stop by for activities that may include board games, food and more. For ages 11-17.

Honeybees

Wednesday, July 26, 1-2 pm. Learn the three types of bees and their roles in a hive, see how bees gather nectar and turn it into honey, make a hand-rolled beeswax candle to take home and much more! Presented by Thornapple Woodlands Beekeeper Don Snoeyink. For ages 5-10.

anniversaries

DeYoung’s celebrate 75 years of marriage



Lorema (DeLoof) and Martin DeYoung

Seventy-five years of marriage will be celebrated on July 17, 2023, by Martin and Lorema (DeLoof) DeYoung of Ada. The DeYongs owned DeYoung’s Orchard on Bailey Drive for many years. The couple has two children, Martin (Cheryl) DeYoung of Saranac and Chris (Craig) Yeiter of Ada. Their son Roger died in 1971. They have six grandchildren: Tammy (Brad) Janowiak, Karrie (Wes) Burt, Shanda (Rich) Weed, Sheila Yeiter, Martin DeYoung and Tasha (Rich) Brand; and six great-granddaughters: Hayleigh Borton, Kennedy, Addison and Harper Weed, Calihan Janowiak and Emerson Brand. Family and friends will celebrate this milestone on July 16.

college news

Rosalia Jimenez, of Lowell, has been selected to become a member of The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). The Society recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, scholarship and community commitment. NSHSS members automatically become lifetime members at the time of their initial membership. Each step along the way - from high school to college to career - NSHSS connects outstanding young scholars with he resources they need to develop their strengths and pursue their passions.



Roads continued

been placed into the Local Street Fund and is being used to pave streets,” Burns replied. “At the end of this construction season we will have paved 18 streets since the summer of 2020. By the end of next year’s construction season (could even be Spring of 2025), we are planning to work on 14 additional streets. The City could not do anything near this amount without the Marijuana Excise Tax.”

Burns also wanted to mention that the City of Lowell has a seven-year plan for the streets in place. The plan is subject to change if something drastic should happen, but there have been significant strides taken since the plan was adopted.

“The City is working on year two of our seven-year street plan. We have used very conservative funding model to develop our street plan,” Burns reported. “I believe the funding model in place will allow us to address all of the streets we placed in our original seven-

year plan. We have been able to add more streets each year due to higher than budgeted funding.”

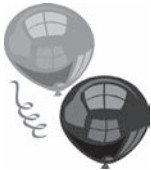
The seven-year street plan is updated every year as projects are completed and funding arrives. You can see the current version of it on the City of Lowell website: www.LowellMi.gov and click on “streets” from the drop down menu labeled “Departments”. If you want to learn more about revenue sharing in the State of Michigan take a look around the MML website: www.MML.org Search for “Revenue Sharing” and you will better understand how Lansing has changed the rules and greatly impacted municipalities all over Michigan.

In spite of the various hurdles, the streets in Lowell are getting better every year along with our water and sewer infrastructure.



USDA provided loans for the Monroe project.

happy birthday



JULY 13

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

JULY 14

Ernestine Bundy, Katie Stouffer, Richard Ellison, Mindy Tykocki, Bethany Kaczanowski.

JULY 15

Mari Stone, Joyce VanDyke, Keenan Hacker.

JULY 16

James Stanley Smith, Caleb Rinard.

JULY 17

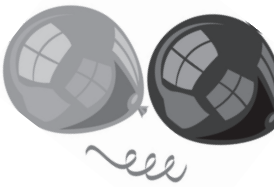
Vicki VanDerWarf, Ken Willmarth, Tom Karp.

JULY 18

Dianne Scanlon, Bette Phillips Haybarker, Emily Borton.

JULY 19

Danielle Rittersdorf, Marcia Baird, Mark Dupont.



area churches

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www.lowellriverside.com
Pastor Darrel le Roux

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Prayer & Adoration: Wednesdays 9 am to 4:45 pm
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Pastor Andrew Bolkcom • Pastor of Discipleship

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WORSHIP
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Contemporary Service: 10:30 am
Sr. Pastor - Brad Brillhart

Meta unravels Threads social app with millions of sign-ups

By Emma Palova
contributing writer

In direct competition with Twitter, Metaunleashed the new social app Threads with a stunning two million sign-ups before the official launch on Wednesday night, July 6.

This is Meta’s second try at Threads, a text-based app, developed by Instagram with capabilities to post pictures, videos, and reels as well. To join Threads, you must have an Instagram account.

The pre-launch users received an invite and a badge with a ticket number and then came the first posts. “Let’s do this.

The vision for Threads is to create an open and friendly, public space for conversation,” posted Meta founder, Mark Zuckerberg.



Preethi Saravanakumar

“We hope to take what Instagram does best and create a new experience around text, ideas, and discussing what’s on your mind.”

Threads received 100 million sign-ups over

It definitely will be interesting how it all plays out, and I’ll be watching.
~ Douglas Kelly, Evolve Solutions

the weekend based on mostly organic demand without turning on many promotions.

So, who has been threading in the first five days of the launch?

A lot of creatives and celebrities carried over their following on Instagram and Facebook to Threads, plus regular users who plan to use the new app the same way they have been using their other social media accounts.

Senior Java developer and author, Preethi Saravanakumar, was one of the first-day users of Threads. “I think Threads does remind us of Twitter,” said

Saravanakumar. “The layout, and button options to repost and like. However, I like how Instagram Threads offers a private messaging option with your private circle.”

Saravanakumar said it

was easy to join using her Instagram account. Once she started getting her friends’ feeds on Facebook and Instagram about their Threads accounts, she was curious. “I ended up joining. It even integrated my IG friends list,” she said. “It felt like home.”

Saravanakumar wasn’t a fan of the latest changes on Twitter such as the app’s algorithm changes, and the monthly subscription for verified accounts. She was interested in trying the fresh, new app with the same features as Twitter and more. “Threads feels more personal,” she said.

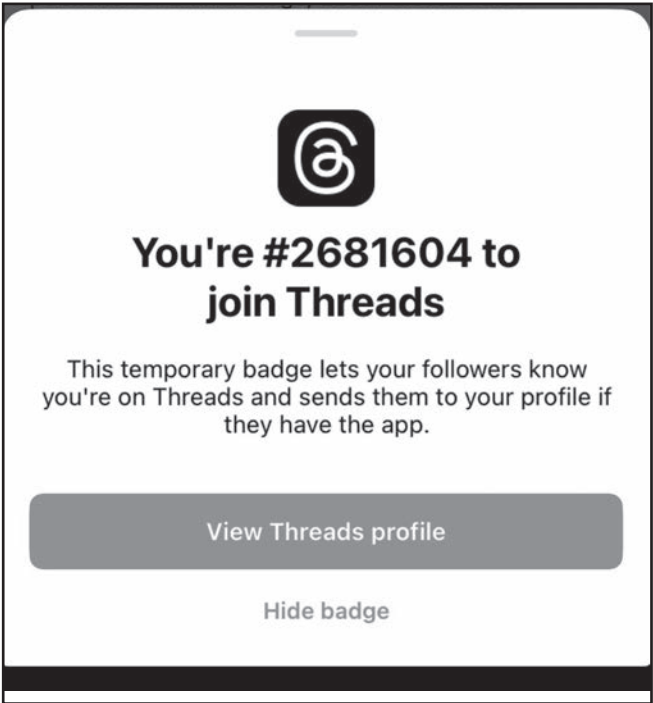
On the day of the launch, she didn’t see any disadvantages to the new app other than adding another social media account to her list. “It’s one more platform

to manage,” she said.

As a published author, Saravanakumar plans on using Threads for her book promotions and updates just like she uses other social media platforms. “The more, the merrier,” she said.

Entrepreneur and marketing internet consultant with Evolve Solutions, Douglas Kelly, wasn’t as optimistic about Threads, but he called the timing of the launch smart. He has been on Twitter since it launched in 2006, and on Clubhouse, a voice-based app since 2020. He joined Threads on the first day of the launch. “This is a pretty smart time to launch a Twitter look alike,” Kelly said. “I just don’t know how many social media apps do we need.”

One of the disadvantages of Threads in comparison to Twitter, Kelly can’t use it on his Mac. “I can read through other people’s posts, but I can’t log in to my account and see my stuff. I like that about Twitter,” he said. “Twitter also has Spaces built into the app, a lot of people like that feature, which is similar to Clubhouse.”



The initial ticket badge invite number before the official launch.

Andrew Smith is a technology professional with over 40 years of working as a system integrator and leader in technology. He has been a speaker across the world on clinical technologies and currently works for a large staffing firm. He is a published author.

“Threads is yet another social media platform meant to capture the minds of end users everywhere,” Smith said. “The features are similar to Twitter with integration into Instagram and Facebook allowing for a rapid seamless experience.”

However, after looking into the reviews of Threads, the app had no real “curb appeal” to Smith. “On the good side this is another fast feed, easy-to-use application that can allow people access to each other in rapid time.”

On the bad side, according to Smith, is the integration and ownership by Meta, who has

consistently been under fire for censorship and leaning one way or another.

Smith expects a lot of people to join initially but long-term he has doubts the



Andrew Smith

system will have a major impact on the current top social media platforms. “I expect things to level and users to shift based on preference,” he said. “For me, I will see how it is adopted before I put much time into it.”

Celebrate your independence with Social Security

By Hillary Hatch,
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Every July, we take pride in celebrating our nation’s independence. For nearly 90 years, our programs have helped provide financial independence to millions of hardworking people. We have useful online tools like the Social Security Statement (Statement) and our benefits-estimator tool that help people not yet receiving benefits. The Statement shows, the benefits that you and your family may be entitled to, includes personalized fact sheets tailored to your age and earnings situation. The benefits-estimator tool allows you to get estimates based on different ages you want to begin receiving

benefits. These tools can help you plan for financial independence in retirement.

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- Request a replacement Social Security card (in nearly every state and the District of Columbia)
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nearly every state and the District of Columbia)

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The Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman’s Club, 8731 West Riverside Dr. Saranac, will be opening their range to the public on the following dates. 6/4, 6/18, 7/2, 7/16, 8/6 & 8/20. There is a \$15.00 hourly fee and availability is on a first come first serve basis. (RSO’s) will be present. Hours of operation are 10 am - 3 pm. You may call 616-642-9800 with any questions.

Riverwalk Festival in photos

All photos courtesy of Bruce Doll





New lock at the Soo - major construction continues

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers new lock at the Soo project remains on schedule, as major construction continues ,with phases 2 and 3 this season. Joint ventures Kokosing-Alberici (upstream approach walls, Phase 2), and Kokosing, Alberici, Traylor (new lock, Phase 3) have a busy construction season ahead of them.

“Since resuming major construction this season, the Phase 2 contractor has placed 13 concrete caps, bringing the total caps placed to 68 and preparation for placement of new steel sheets, steel posts and a concrete panel wall are in progress,” New Lock Senior Project Manager, Mollie Mahoney, said. “The Phase 3 contractor plans to focus on demolition of aging structures, extensive electrical work, bridge construction, and coffer dam construction to allow for dewatering.”

Phase 3 excavation work will include blasting activities, which will be communicated with stakeholders as blasting activities get closer.

“Beginning May 30, the Hydro Plant tailrace closed to recreational boaters. The normal schedule for the tailrace is: closed Mondays at 6 am through Saturdays at 6 pm ,and open Saturdays at 6 pm through Mondays at 6 am” New Lock Chief, Mick Awbrey, said. “The closure is necessary to ensure the safety of all boaters and marine construction workers, as large barges, cranes and construction boats will be working in the area.”

Phase 1 included deepening the upstream approach to the New Lock, from 24 feet to 30 feet deep, so modern vessels could approach the New Lock at the Soo and concluded in August 2022, under budget and ahead of schedule.

Phase 2 includes rehabilitating the upstream approach walls to stabilize the existing approach walls, allowing modern vessels to tie-up and wait their turn to pass through the New Lock at the Soo. The estimated completion date for Phase 2 is summer 2024.

Phase 3 includes demolishing the existing Sabin Lock, excavation of bedrock, constructing the New Lock at the Soo chamber walls and floor, fabrication and installation of miter gates, installation of mechanical and electrical systems, installation of the innovative hands-free mooring system, rehabilitating downstream approach walls and constructing a new pump well. The estimated completion date for Phase 3 is summer 2030.

“The Detroit District is pleased to continue work

with both joint venture contractors on Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the New Lock at the Soo,” said Lt. Col. Brett Boyle, Detroit District Commander. “We recently had a partnering meeting with Phase 2 and 3 contractors and are confident this project will continue safely and on time.”

The Soo Locks are situated on the St. Marys River at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and allow vessels to transit the 21-foot elevation change at the St. Marys Falls Canal. Nearly all (88 percent) domestically-produced, advanced high-strength steel, used to manufacture products like automobiles and appliances, is made with taconite (iron ore) restricted by vessel size to the Poe Lock. The new lock at the Soo project is constructing a second Poe-sized lock (110 feet by 1,200 feet) in the existing footprint of the decommissioned Sabin Lock.

The Soo Locks are a nationally-critical infrastructure, and this critical node’s reliability in the Great Lakes Navigation System, is essential to U.S. manufacturing and National Security. An unscheduled Poe Lock outage would have significant impacts to the U.S. economy, especially the steel industry, according to a 2015 Department of Homeland Security study on impacts of an unexpected Soo Locks closure.

“Keeping the existing facility operational, while constructing the New Lock, is a high priority for the Detroit District,” Soo Locks Operations Manager, LeighAnn Ryckeghem, said. “Our world-class team at the Soo Locks tirelessly work to ensure continued reliability.”



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MDHHS recommends Michiganders and visitors avoid foam on waterbodies

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reminding Michigan residents and visitors to avoid foam on Michigan waterbodies such as lakes, rivers and streams.

Foam can form on any waterbody. Natural foam is usually off-white and/or brown, often has an earthy or fishy scent and tends to pile up in bays, in eddies or at river barriers such as dams.

Sometimes foam can contain harmful chemicals or bacteria. This can include high levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS-containing foam is usually bright white in color, lightweight and may pile up along shores or blow onto beaches. Some studies in people have found that that repeated high PFAS exposure is linked to liver damage and thyroid disease, among other health effects.

If you come in contact with any foam, MDHHS recommends you rinse off or bathe as soon as possible. According to current science, the risk of PFAS entering the body through skin contact is low. However, coming into contact with foam without rinsing off or bathing can lead to accidentally swallowing foam or its contents.

“We advise you to avoid contact with foam if you can, but if you accidentally come into contact with foam, you should rinse off as soon as possible,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. “Rinsing off in general after water activities is always a good idea.”

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) also recommends that people do not allow their animals to come into contact or swallow foam on waterbodies. Animals are at risk of swallowing foam built up in their fur when grooming themselves. If animals do come into contact with foam, they should be rinsed off and bathed with fresh water. Pet owners with questions related to animals and foam ingestion should contact their veterinarian.

Anyone with questions about exposure to PFAS or foam can call the MDHHS Environmental Health hotline at 800-648-6942. More information is available on the MPART website.



Libby and other online apps bring the library to the patrons

By Justin Tiemeyer
contributing writer

The Englehardt Library, with its majestic view of the Flat River, is just one branch within the Kent District Library (KDL) system, which boasts 20 branches and a Bookmobile. KDL is a popular materials library, which means that it is constantly seeking new ways to meet the public where they are, including digital apps like Libby, Hoopla, Kanopy, and Freegal. Alison Kuchta is a collection development librarian at the KDL service center in Comstock Park. “I really feel like there’s something for everyone at the library,” Kuchta said.

In September of 2023, Kuchta will celebrate 22 years with KDL. She is both a quantity and quality type of person; her exuberance for the services KDL offers could fill an entire day with conversation, with plenty left for the next, but she is also intensely meticulous, showing discomfort for imprecise statistics, figures, or characterizations. The phrase “stewards of taxpayer dollars” rolls off her tongue as if it is a pledge of allegiance she and her colleagues profess every morning as they enter the building.

The Libby app by OverDrive Inc. is by far the library’s most popular online resource, offering eBooks, audiobooks, and eMagazines at no cost to the end-user. According to data that Kuchta has gathered, most patrons primarily use Libby for eBooks, but audiobooks are a close second. Audiobooks have seen a global circulation growth of 21 percent year-over-year, and KDL audiobook usage increased by 24.5 percent from 2021 to 2022.

“It’s just so convenient,” Kuchta said. The rise in popularity has an obvious cause. Audiobooks demand little from library patrons and can be enjoyed while working around the house, caring for children, or commuting to and from work.

Hoopla is another popular app available to KDL patrons. While Libby specializes in newer content, Hoopla focuses on mid- and older content. Its niche is comic book reading, though, as new collected editions post the same day as Comixology, *Marvel Unlimited*, or *DC Universe Infinite*. Hoopla is also great for music and movies, allowing users to catch up on John Coltrane’s discography or Ken Burns’ documentary series *The Vietnam War*. Not to be outdone, OverDrive acquired the video streaming app Kanopy, which offers critically acclaimed films like *Moonlight*, *I Am Not Your Negro*, and *Lady Bird*.

From the perspective of a collection development librarian like Kuchta, the differences between Libby and Hoopla are much more complex. Hoopla, for example, curates its own selection, and libraries choose which type of license they wish to purchase and how many uses. Libby, on the other hand, has an online marketplace that gives librarians the freedom - and responsibility - to choose materials that best fit their community’s needs. The content is provided at no extra cost to card-carrying library patrons, but libraries do pay for its use, ensuring that artists are properly compensated for their work. “Publishers are not giving this stuff away,” Kuchta said. “It is

sometimes challenging to manage.”

Though Kuchta is clearly fond of Libby, Hoopla, and Kanopy, she is most excited to talk about Freegal Music+, an audio-streaming platform similar to Spotify, except without the subscription cost. Like Spotify, Freegal offers millions of streaming songs at the touch of a finger, but unlike Spotify, Freegal users can download five DRM-free songs per week. “This is music that you can keep,” Kuchta said. “You own it.”

From Kuchta’s perspective, Freegal is all upside. The library pays a subscription fee, and this grants unlimited hours of listening to an unlimited number of users. A particularly powerful newspaper article might garner such an increase in Libby, Hoopla, and Kanopy usage that the services become too costly to continue without an increase in library budget for online resources. Admittedly, this is unlikely, and Kuchta is good enough at her job to forestall such a conclusion, but the same impossible spike in Freegal usage would not affect the library’s bottom line by a single cent.

“Convenience” is one of Kuchta’s favorite words, as a steward of taxpayer money. Online tools like these bring powerful library resources to a patron’s smart phone or personal computer. Users can bring an entire library with them on an exotic vacation without additional baggage fees. Libby, Hoopla, Kanopy, and Freegal are also much more handicap accessible than trips to brick and mortar libraries, allowing those with limited movement to

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ONLINE RESOURCE
Freegal Music+

Create playlists, listen to channels, or download your music (and keep it!). Cardholders get 5 downloads per week and unlimited streaming.

Kent District Library (KDL) patrons can start their journey with online resources like Libby, Hoopla, Kanopy, and Freegal at the web page kdl.org/downloads.

take advantage of library resources. However, not everybody in the KDL service area knows about these resources, which means that word-of-mouth, an incredibly analogue method of interaction, is vital to the proliferation of these digital benefits. “If you love one of our services,” Kuchta said, “tell everyone you know.”

Libby, Hoopla, Kanopy, and Freegal can be found in a wide variety of app stores for a wide variety of devices, as well as in-browser. For more information on KDL’s library online resources, head over to the web page kdl.org/downloads. There you will see the fruit of Kuchta’s labor, and you may just find a new way to interact with some of your

favorite streaming content outside of Audible, Netflix, or Spotify. Whatever the case, all of these apps are free to use so long as you have a library card.

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obituaries

POWELL

Thomas Lynn Powell, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, passed away peacefully on July 2, 2023, at 67 years old. Tom was the youngest of four children. The true baby of the family, Tom was the most loved and treasured child who could do no wrong, much to his siblings' dismay. Tom leaves behind his loving wife, Karen; daughters, Danielle (Jeff) Mier, Victoria (Kevin) Siko; son, Christopher (Caitlin) Powell; stepsons, Russell Richter, Charlie Rogers; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his stepson, Evan Richter. Tom was a loving and dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. He loved spending time with his family and loved to harness the power of being a father to get difficult chores around the house done by his unsuspecting sons and sons-in-law. Tom enjoyed going to movies and taking his family out on the boats, whether for a leisurely pontoon ride or a wild tubing ride. His zest for life meant he always had energy to rile up the grandkids and attend sporting events. Tom was very competitive and loved playing games, entering contests and frequently came out winning. He always attributed his wins to his "Powell Luck", which he promised would pass to his descendants. Tom grew up in Chicago, Illinois as an avid Bears fan. In 1984, he moved to Grand Rapids and shortly thereafter began work at Attwood. He worked at Attwood for 35 years and retired as Vice President of Human Resources. Tom had a very strong work ethic and worked hard to make sure his company and employees were taken care of. Tom loved classic cars. He enjoyed boating and loved being near and out on the water. Tom always had at least one saltwater fish tank in his home. His favorite pastime was traveling. He loved to go on excursions and explore new places. Tom's favorite vacation spots included Hawaii and Key West. Funeral Services were held at 11 am on Thursday, July 6, 2023, at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson, Lowell, Michigan 49331, with visitation one hour prior. Memorial contributions can be made in Tom's honor to PKD Foundation, <https://pkdcure.org/give/>.



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CLOUS

Linda Lu Clous, age 76 of Alto, passed away Sunday, July 2, 2023. She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Gerard "Dick" Clous; sister, Judy (Andrew) Grovo; brother-in-law, Willem Clous (Sarah Heed); niece, Mandra Grovo; nephews, Curtis Grovo, Willem Clous Jr.; great nieces and nephews, Lucas, Logan, Riley, Gage, and Kinsley. Linda's true passion in life was animals. She loved all animals, especially her horses, dogs and cats. She was a natural crafter and gardener. Linda had many flower gardens and she loved making floral arrangements, even working for a florist at one point in time. Linda and Dick enjoyed traveling together, they visited Europe several times, always being sure to make a stop in Holland. Per Linda's wishes, cremation has taken place, and no formal services will be held.



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Roth-Gerst

DEVORE

Michael K. DeVore, aged 69, of Lowell, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at his home. Mike was born on July 18, 1953 in Dearborn and graduated from Dearborn High School. He moved west for work and has made Lowell his home since 1989. He worked for Senco, Hahn Systems and eventually retired from his favorite career, for the Lowell Area Schools. Mike was preceded in death by his parents, David and Marcella. He is survived by his loving children, Mike Jr., Jason (Jami), and Brandon (Sarah), his six grandchildren (Alyssa, Gavin, Brady, Raini, Jalen and Ashton) and his great-granddaughter Kehlani. A memorial luncheon will take place on Sunday, July 30, 2023, at 4 pm, at the Lowell Area Fire Station at 315 S. Hudson St., Lowell. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Lowell Area Fire Department, in Mike's name, care of Chief Shannon Witherell.





Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones
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Retirees: Talk finances with your grown children

When you're retired, you'll likely have some financial concerns - just like all retirees. However, if you've invested regularly and followed a long-term financial strategy, you should be able to address most issues that come your way. But there's one important action that's sometimes overlooked by retirees: sharing their financial situation with their grown children. And this knowledge can benefit everyone in your family.

You might be surprised by the concern your children have for your financial well-being. Consider these findings from a 2023 study by Age Wave and Edward Jones:

- 66 percent of millennials (generally defined as ranging from 27 to 42) worry that their parents or in-laws may not have enough money to live comfortably in retirement.
- 83 percent of millennials would rather know their parents are financially secure in their retirement, even if it means their parents pass on less money to them.

If you have children in this age range or older, or who soon will be, how can you address their concerns and potentially improve your financial outlook? Communication is the key. By openly communicating with your family about your financial status, you can reduce anxieties and misperceptions. If you're

in good financial shape, your adult children may be reassured that you won't be needing their assistance. And if you are feeling some financial pressures, you can inform your children of the steps you are taking to improve your situation.

One such step may be to reduce your cost-of-living - the less you spend day-to-day, the better your ability to preserve your investment and retirement accounts. You may be able to reduce costs in many small ways, such as ending streaming services you no longer use, but you could make an even bigger impact by downsizing your living arrangements. In fact, 72 percent of today's retirees have downsized or are willing to downsize to reduce their housing costs, according to the Age Wave/Edward Jones survey. Downsizing isn't for everyone, but if it's a possibility for you, it may be worth considering because the savings could be significant.

You may also be able to reduce or consolidate your debts. Start by understanding how much and what kinds of debt you have. Then, consider ways to lower your payments, such as refinancing. For example, if you're carrying a balance on multiple credit cards, you might be able to transfer the amounts you owe onto a single card with a more favorable interest rate.

Here's another move to consider: Adjust your investment mix to possibly provide you with more income in retirement. During your working years, you may have invested primarily for growth - afterall, you could be retired for two or more decades, so you'll need to draw on as many financial assets as possible. But once you're retired, your investment focus may need to shift somewhat toward income-producing opportunities. Keep in mind, though, that you'll still need some growth potential to help keep ahead of inflation.

One final suggestion: Let your children know if you already have a strategy in place to meet the potentially high costs of long-term care, such as a nursing home stay. This burden is certainly something you won't want your children to take on.

By informing your children about your financial picture, and how you're trying to improve it, you can ease everyone's minds - so keep the lines of communication open.

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

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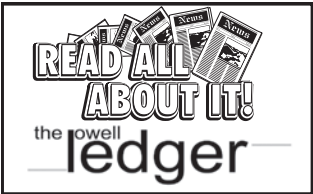
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misc.

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7	3	5	1	6	4	9	2	8
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P	M	B	C	A	M	Y	V	P	E	H	P	O	R	X	T	G	C	S	G
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T	E	T	A	T	O	R	O	R	R	S	S	A	O	X	B	E	N	S	M
I	I	C	D	R	S	W	C	A	A	M	R	O	S	R	T	W	T	K	W
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K	I	L	U	N	C	E	P	O	S	S	D	O	B	M	C	B	F	P	X
R	E	R	I	F	K	S	L	A	W	H	R	W	C	S	E	T	L	D	S



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~ Waugoshance Lighthouse

by Martha Hayden

The loneliest lighthouse, Waugoshance, located 15 miles west of Mackinaw City, crumbles under feathered friends. After standing guard for over 170 years, Waugoshance Crib Light is now slowly collapsing into Lake Michigan. Join us on our exploration in Thor as we take an up-close look-see at this magnificent piece of history and answer the question, “Why did the United States bomb this lonely crib light?”

The Cormorants greeted us with ceaseless calls. As we neared the lee side of the monolith, their penetrating odor stung the back of my throat. I coughed as I pointed out shallow rocks to my husband, Chuck, as he navigated over the shoal. How did people

1832. I marveled at this 172-year-old structure and the people who had brought her to life. They did this without the benefit of cranes or large machines! Wow!

The base, called a ‘crib,’ had been built on nearby St. Helena Island under the direction of Captain Augustus Canfield. The wooden crib was floated to the location, over the shallow shoal, and then sunken using large boulders. The cement crib was built over this foundation. Bricks were used to construct both the tower and the keeper’s quarters. By 1851, the light was put into service, protecting ships from the dangerous shoal.

A head keeper, and

two assistants, worked tirelessly to keep the lights burning. Sadly, one head keeper, Thomas Marshall, drowned in 1886. John Herman, another head keeper, was known for shenanigans. He even locked an assistant in the lantern room as a joke. When the assistant finally managed to free himself, he couldn’t find John. It was suspected that after indulging in ‘spirits,’ John had fallen off the crib and drowned. John was never found. Since then, “John Herman’s ghost” has been blamed for any

build this lighthouse in the middle of Lake Michigan? Why would the government choose to bomb it’s own structure? I needed to know more about this impending monument standing alone in Lake Michigan.

The history of Waugoshance

Built in 1850 (That’s BEFORE the Civil War!) and first lit in 1851, Waugoshance Light replaced the Lois McLain. She had been the “light vessel”, anchored over this shoal, beginning in



noises or disturbances at Waugoshance.

With the winter ice and contrasting summer heat, Waugoshance was already showing wear by 1879. Steel wrappings were added to the structure. Plans were being drawn-up to build White Shoal Lighthouse nearby. On September 1, 1910, White Shoal Crib Lighthouse had been activated. By 1912, Waugoshance was deactivated and abandoned.

The forgotten flight decks of the Great Lakes

So, when did we start bombing Waugoshance? Well, it all began with the catalyst of Japanese Kamikaze pilots during World War II. These Japanese men would fly directly into the flight deck of our aircraft carriers, destroying them, as well as themselves. The United States needed a plan to combat this new type of warfare.

Due to U-boats, the oceans were unsafe for training. So, it was decided that Lake Michigan would be ideal. However, the aircraft carriers at that time wouldn’t fit through the Erie Canal. Something needed to be done quickly!

Within four months, the top cabins of two luxury liners were removed. Each ship received a 500 foot, wooden flight deck.

Pilots would take off from Glenview Airport (just outside Chicago) and practice landing on these short, wooden strips bobbing in the middle of Lake Michigan. The pilots would taxi to an elevator platform, fold their plane’s wings and be lowered to the ‘hanger deck’, where they could be transported back to shore.

Seven days a week, 17,820 qualified pilots worked with the wind and the waves to navigate 116,000 successful landings. This included future President George H.W. Bush.

Sadly, there were 130 crashes. Over 100 aircraft sank to the bottom of Lake Michigan. Since 2016, only 27 airplanes have been recovered. One is displayed at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo.

So how does Waugoshance Lighthouse fit into this story? Well, these pilots needed to practice bombing a target. Waugoshance, which had

been abandoned and was located off shore away from populated areas, made a perfect objective!

The secret Stag-1 Drone Program

David Sarnoff, of RCA radio, had come up with the idea to construct remotely-operated, unmanned planes full of explosives; the first drones. This program was given the secret codename, “STAG-1.”

The USS Sable and the USS Wolverine played an integral role in training pilots to steer these

missiles were fired, in the name of practice, toward Waugoshance and the surrounding area. This zone had been labeled “Range 6903.”

Fast Forward to 1990, when a fishing vessel from Sheboygan, Wisconsin, was about eight miles offshore and pulled-up an unusual metal cylinder in their net. The crew set the eight-foot-long item on the dock. Soon, some men moved it out of the way to the shore, where it sat for nearly a year.

Finally on April 25, 1991, an Army ordnance

located and detonated safely.

It was unsettling to think about ‘viable bombs resting’ along these routes! This made me shudder, as we’d traveled this area many times with our children, Charlotte and Noah. Not to mention, many other boaters who enjoy Lake Michigan! YIKES!

Our visit in July, 2022

With costs soaring and repairs being extensive, the Waugoshance preservation group disbanded in



Cormorants, a diving bird species, have taken-up residence on the remains of the Waugoshance Crib Light.

drones. Their target was Waugoshance Lighthouse.

One bombing of Waugoshance had caused a fire, which thoroughly damaged the time-honored structure.

For three months, this highly secretive program was rehearsed in Lake Michigan. However, drones were only used a few times in the Pacific Ocean before World War II ended.

Sidewinder missiles

But the bombings didn’t stop there. Between September 1966 and October 1970, at least 279 AIM-QB Sidewinder

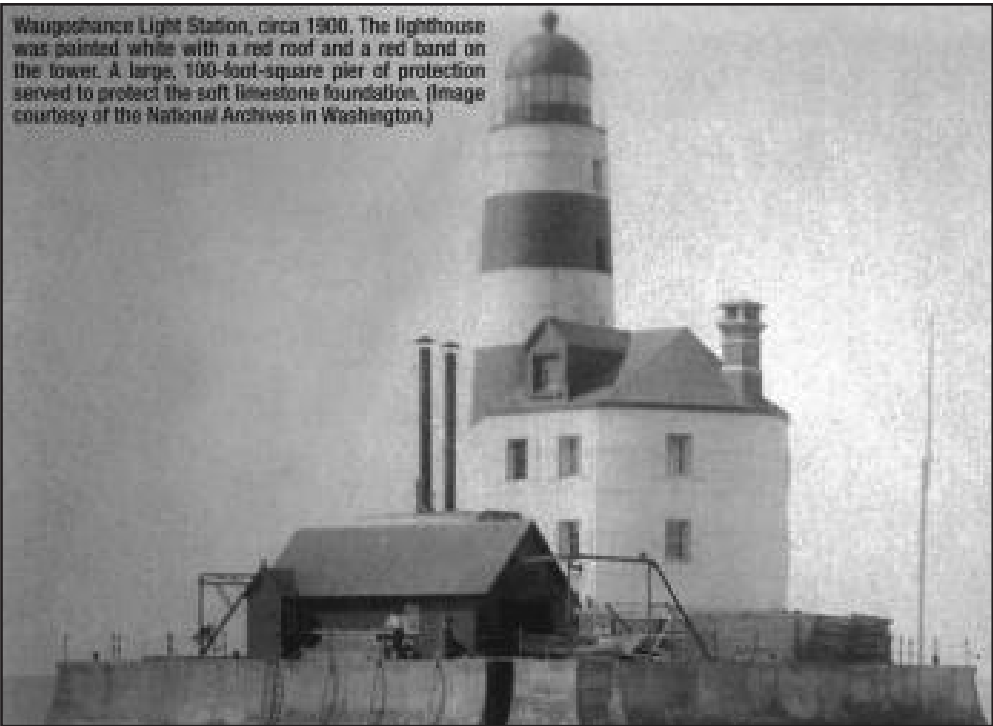
disposal team from Fort Sheridan, Illinois, inspected the mysterious specimen. It was deemed still viable. The team quickly packed it up and took it with them. Police Captain, John Theune, reported that the “officials had no idea where the Sidewinder missile had come from or how it had gotten into the lake.”

Clean-up, 2005

A decade-and-a-half later, teams came to ‘clean up’ the area surrounding Waugoshance, “Range 6903.” Using metal detectors and disarming equipment, bombs were

January, 2021. DaViking and I wanted to venture out to witness this marvel of endurance. At nearly two centuries old, built before the Civil War and tolerating bombings, Waugoshance still stands proudly, against all odds.

Resources:
Terry Pepper’s article: terrypepper.com/lights/michigan/waugoshance/waugoshance.htm
Sidewinder Missile Found By Fishermen in Sheyboygan, Wisconsin article
Lighthouse Friends <https://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=211>



Waugoshance Light Station, 1900.

FUN PAGE

SUDOKU

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

ON THE GRILL WORD SEARCH

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

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

Puzzle solutions
on page 13

ON THE GRILL
WORD SEARCH

ASH
BACKYARD
BARBECUE
CHAR

CHARCOAL
DELICIOUS
ENTERTAIN
EXTINGUISH
FIRE
FLAVOR
FLIP

GRATES
GRILLING
HARDWOOD
MARINATE
OUTDOORS
PATIO
ROTATE

SEAR
SMOKE
SPIT
TEMPERATURE

Guess Who?

I am a comic actor born in Michigan on July 13, 1969. Before I went into performing, I attended Duke University with the intention of getting a medical degree, and succeeded. In addition to movies, I’m also a judge on a singing talent show.

Answer: Ken Jeong

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8	9	10								
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56		57					58				59								
60						61	62				63								
			64								65								

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to grilling.

ERIF

--	--	--	--

Answer: Fire

CLUES ACROSS

1. Database management system
5. Medical procedures
11. ___ Clapton, musician
12. Defender
16. Exert oneself
17. Indicates position
18. Prevents river overflow
19. Atrocities
24. Mister
25. Ends
26. Slope or tilt
27. Taxi
28. The very ends
29. Actor Sean
30. Japanese persimmon
31. Sours
33. Beneficiary
34. Baseball official
38. Muddy, boggy ground
39. Not worldly
40. Actress Lathan
43. Soil
44. ___-Cola
45. Asleep
49. ___ Angeles
50. Give birth to a child
51. Beach shelter
53. Commercial
54. Taste property
56. Local jurisdictions

58. It cools your home
59. Dismounted from a horse
60. Charge with a crime
63. Close in
64. Spoke
65. Famed garden

CLUES DOWN

1. Draw a scene
2. Its sultan is famous
3. Unlucky accident
4. A way to ski
5. Abba __, Israeli politician
6. Saw
7. “Westworld” actor Harris
8. Belonging to me
9. Shoelace tube
10. Takes to court
13. Early multimedia
14. In a way, produces
15. Bowlers
20. Of I
21. Equally
22. Gets some sun
23. A place to stay
27. Town in Galilee
29. Aronofsky film
30. Klingon character, “Star Trek”
31. Equal to 100 square meters
32. Atomic #58
33. Arrived extinct
34. Loosen grip
35. A distinctive odor that is unpleasant
36. Membranes
37. Some is poisonous
38. Partner to Pa
40. Small brown gray rail
41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
42. Sodium
44. Military official (abbr.)
45. Lighted
46. Took off
47. All
48. Ohio city
50. More abject
51. A radio band
52. Controversial tech product (abbr.)
54. Monetary unit
55. Passed with flying colors
57. A way to win a boxing match
61. The Golden State
62. Home of the Longhorns

Fat Guy’s Burgers coming to a town near you

by Bill Lee
contributing writer

Steve Misner considers himself “Old School” when it comes to his hamburgers. An olive burger should have olive sauce on it. That’s it. No cheese, no special toppings. And an Oklahoma burger should be two smashed patties with onions pressed in the meat with a bit of salt and pepper. He’ll try and sell you on buying the traditional burger first. “They have the names for a reason,” said Misner. “So I like people to try it the way it is supposed to be, but if they don’t like it then the next time they can add stuff.”

In the end, Misner will make you what you want at his new food truck called Fat Guy’s Burgers. Owned

by him and his wife, Tessa, both from Lowell, Fat Guy’s Burgers opened in May and will be coming to a bar, campground, concert, and town near you. The truck sells all types of specialty and custom-made burgers (meat fresh from Jones Farm Meats), along with brats, baked beans, and French fries.

Misner has always enjoyed grilling for his family and friends over the years, and he has lots of family and lots of friends. A family outing will reach about 35-40 people and each member likes his or her burger cooked in a certain way. Also, he would cook burgers for Tessa’s women’s leadership Bible study, a group that sometimes reached 125 people. He has

heard many compliments about his cooking, so when his granite business went bankrupt during Covid, he began thinking about turning his love of grilling into a business. “A good friend of mine builds food trucks so we decided to have some fun and build one,” said Misner.

Fat Guy’s Burgers became a reality, and even better, it became a family-run business. Along with Tessa, his daughter, Isabelle, works full-time with him while his son, Noah, works when he can and his brother Jason will help at the larger events.

And so far, everything seems to be going very well. “It’s been crazy amazing,” said Misner. “We get great reviews. A



Steve Misner and his daughter, Isabelle, in front of Fat Guy’s Burgers in the parking lot at New Union Brewery. Photo by Bill Lee.

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lot of people come up to the truck and tell us how awesome it is. We have a lot of fun with it and have family that works on it with us. It’s been good.”

With that said, Misner has found out that running a business, like this, comes with its challenges. From the outside it might look like you just show up to your truck and begin cooking and make a bunch of money. “It can be a lucrative business but when you start paying yourself for the hours that you work then it is not as lucrative as you think. I’ve heard people say food truck guys make hundreds of thousands of dollars... well, food trucks also cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. The supplies that you have on it - any given time I’m running around with \$1500-\$2000 worth of buns, burgers, condiments. It’s that that people don’t see, and typically when you go to big events, you have to pay for your parking spots to vend there. Some of those are up to \$1000 for a two-day event.”

Even with all the work, Misner is really enjoying his new profession. He gets to work with his family, meet new people, and watch people enjoy the food he and his family have created.

“You get to go out to different places in Michigan and you get to meet a bunch of people,” said Misner. “Burgers are like my family. It’s one of my favorite foods. My dad would eat a hamburger for breakfast everyday if my mom would let him. It’s something I’ve always loved to do and I’ve been blessed enough to do it. Also, this is all made possible by my wife. She is the brains of the operation. She works a full-time job and works a full-time job with the food truck. It would not be possible without her.”

You can find out where Fat Guy’s Burgers food truck will be each Saturday/Sunday on their Facebook page.



Photo courtesy of Fat Man’s Burgers facebook page.