Jim Jones, a paramedic with Life EMS in Belding, checks for a bag of medical supplies while sitting inside an ambulance.

Jim Jones, a paramedic with Life EMS in Belding, sits in the carpool parking lot on the corner of M-66 and M-44. Jones has been working since 7 a.m. By 8 p.m., he still has 11 hours until his shift is over.

While he sits, he waits for an emergency call or the all clear to go back to the station.

A call from dispatch could send him to the scene of an accident or lift assist, but recently Jones has been responding to a fair number of calls for heroin and opioid overdoses. Between January and the beginning of March, Jones responded to three to four overdose calls in the 10 days a month he works.

“Most of my career, I could go a couple years without giving Narcan (the brand name for naloxone), and now, it seems like it’s a couple times a month I’m giving it,” Jones said, about responding to heroin and opioid overdoses. “This year, just in Ionia County, we’ve given Narcan about 15 times, and that’s not counting where the fire department or police department gave it before we got there.”

When Jones began working at Life EMS 25 years ago, he said it would be once every few years the department would get an opioid overdose call, not several times a month.

Mandy Van Buskirk is a specialty care paramedic with Montcalm County Emergency Services. As she pulls out of her Stanton station, the possibility of responding to an overdose is in the back of her mind as well.

Fortunately, neither of the paramedics responded to heroin overdoses when The Daily News joined them on their shifts, but both paramedics are familiar with the procedure if they are called to the scene of an opioid overdose.

Above, Mandy Van Buskirk, a specialty care paramedic with Montcalm County Emergency Services, opens a box of naloxone. Below from left, Van Buskirk holds up a single dose of naloxone used in IV or intramuscular treatment, demonstrates how she puts naloxone into a syringe and holds up a package of naloxone, which includes a single dose and a syringe.

Spectrum Health United Lifestyles, 701 S Greenville West Drive, Suite 1, Greenville, MI 48838
616.754.6185

Health for those who have Commercial PH or PH Medicare coverage. Self-pay is an option for those without this insurance.

The program involves 16 weekly sessions and 6-8 monthly group follow-up sessions. The program goal is for participants to lose 5-7% of their body weight and achieve 150 minutes of physical activity weekly. This class will be reimbursed by Priority Health.

This is a year-long lifestyle change program for those who are at risk for diabetes or have been diagnosed with pre-diabetes.

T uesdays, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.  | Info session:  April 18, 2017 | Class begins: April 25, 2017

HEROIN HITS HOME: PART 3

Jim Jones, a paramedic with Life EMS in Belding, sits in the carpool parking lot on the corner of M-66 and M-44.

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Jim ... Prevention Program United Hospital
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It's a Russian roulette

It's a Russian roulette

'SEE IT'S A RUSSIAN ROULETTE', PAGE 8
**HEROIN ADDICTION RESOURCES**

**Morpine antecedents**

- [Michigan State Police (MSP)](http://www.msp.state.mi.us/)
- [Michigan Department of Public Health](http://www.michigan.gov/)
- [Mid-Michigan Community Counseling](http://www.mmccounseling.com/
- [Montcalm Care Network](http://www.montcalmcarenetwork.org/

**HEROIN AND OPIATE USE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY BROKEN DOWN**

**Number of deaths**

- 2016: 14 opioid-related deaths
- 2017: 12 opioid-related deaths

**Deaths per age group**

- Ages 18-24: 4
- Ages 25-34: 8
- Ages 35-44: 2
- Ages 45-54: 1

- **Addicts and overdoses**

- 2013: 14 addict deaths
- 2014: 13 addict deaths
- 2015: 18 addict deaths
- 2016: 12 addict deaths

- **Mortality rates**

- 2013: 1.4 per 100,000 people
- 2014: 1.4 per 100,000 people
- 2015: 1.4 per 100,000 people
- 2016: 1.2 per 100,000 people

**Overdose**

- **First step**

- Call 911 immediately
- Activate the emergency system
- Lay the victim on their back
- Keep them from doses and withdrawals to the world of medicine.

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