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The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 26

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Farm land transition solution still eludes Vergennes Township

By Marc Popielek
Contributing Writer

Vergennes Township officials have yet to find a solution to the transition of a farming community to residential and will seek the advice from a professional to help in the matter.

For months, the township

.... Whenever you discuss a family's livelihood, the discussion will get heated.

Mari Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

has tried to find a way of dealing with farm land turned into commercial property for an agricultural purpose, but with little success.

Much of the township's farming land has not been developed for residential land, but is now the home of small family businesses, such as

landscaping enterprises.

The township wants to find a way of allowing that type of transition without it

Farm Land, cont'd. pg. 8

Razing the Ire

.... City officials, council members, planning commissioners and residents becoming annoyed with the delay of Lee's Landing's demolition,

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

While the bricks, mortar, ceiling and floor of Lee's Landing have long begun to separate, it now seems that bureaucratic red tape is the only adhesive keeping Lee's Landing standing.

Bids to have the building demolished were taken in November and awarded in December.

A one-month effort to save the building, ice and now the issuing of permits have delayed what appeared to be inevitable back in November.

With the most recent demolition date of April 21 here and gone, Lowell city manager Dave Pasquale hesitated to throw out another date.

"It now appears that under the best circumstances, we're looking at two weeks before the demolition will begin," said Pasquale.

The issuing of Inland Lakes & Streams' permit from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the most recent stumbling block.

Pasquale said one person within the department
Demolition, cont'd. pg. 8

THE PAJAMA GAME



.... The LHS spring musical will be showing this Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Performing Arts Center.

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

Two leading couples in one Lowell High School spring play!

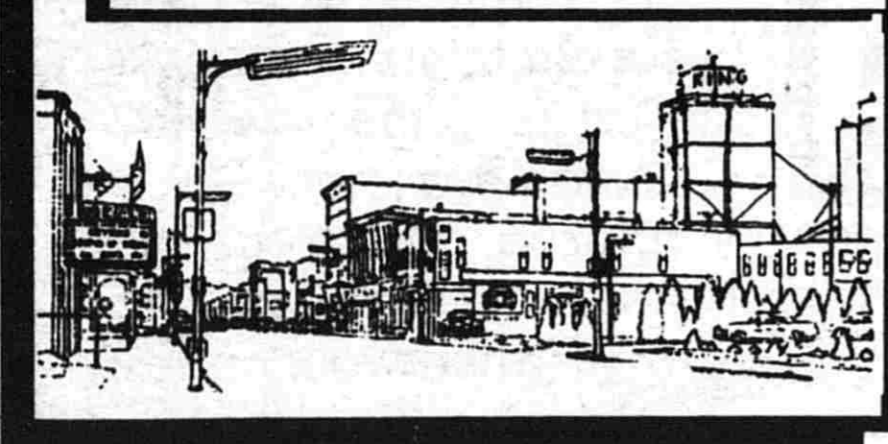
Kathy Wheeler must be playing games. No! Although, she will be directing four performances of Lowell High School's spring musical *Pajama Game* beginning Thursday.

"The reason there are two leading men named Sid and two leading ladies named Babe is the fact the casting department was faced with four wonderfully talented people who could do the roles. Instead of picking just two, we've gone with four and they will share the roles," Wheeler said.

The role of Sid Sorokin will be played by Aaron Skidmore on the Thursday and Friday evening performances.

Play, cont'd. pg. 8

Along Main Street



SPECIAL PROGRAM AT ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY

Visit the library for a day of fun Wednesday, April 30 at 1:30 p.m. featuring the book *If You Give A Moose A Muffin*. Horns and antlers are the fare with that hilarious moose up to his usual antics. The special storytime program includes stories, crafts and a film.

For more information call the Englehardt Branch of the Kent District Library at 897-9596. The Englehardt branch is located at 200 N. Monroe.

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FISH FRY

There will be an all-you-can-eat fish fry at Lowell Masonic

Temple, 119 Lincoln Lake Ave. The cost is \$6.50, adults; \$4, children 6-10 and under 6, free. The public is welcome.

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUES

Attention all interested softball players. Summer is right around the corner and so is the 1997 softball season. Registration is going on now. "New" Monday coed churches division, Monday coed open division, Tuesday men's over 30, Tuesday women's, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday men's leagues available.

Leagues start in early May. Call the YMCA now to reserve your team's spot at 897-8445. Space is limited.

SPORTSCARD SHOW

There will be a sportscard show Saturday, May 10 at Cherry Creek Elementary, 12675 Foreman S.E. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost per table is \$20 with proceeds going to the Cherry Creek Elementary fifth-grade radio station W.C.K.R. (Cherry Creek Kids Radio).

For table information contact Mike Fillman, 897-9257 or 364-8835.

AMATEUR NIGHT

The Lowell Showboat Amateur Talent Night auditions will take place on Saturday, May 17. Call 897-8280 for application and information.

Along Main Street, cont'd. pg. 8

Lowell United Methodist Preschool bursting at the seams as it welcomes new class

By Marc Popielek
Contributing Writer

If success is measured in numbers, then the Lowell Methodist Preschool is a definite winner.

The preschool has had so much response this year from residents that it will add another class for four year olds next fall.

"Things have been great. We were full within the first six weeks of opening enrollment in January," said director Beth Eggleston. "Two years ago, we had to cut a class because of declining enrollment, but things have really picked up this year and I have no idea why."

The popularity of the preschool does not center around just the four year olds. Currently, the school has a waiting list for its three-year-old class as well.

The additional four-year-old class will provide 20 new openings to go with the 55 students who currently attend.

While the preschool is excited about next year's possibilities, it has a full slate of activities planned for the remainder of this year.

The first order of business was extending the school year from May 16 to May 30 to accommodate the numerous snow days witnessed in Lowell.

"When your child only attends two days a week, a few days really start to add up," said Eggleston.

The change also coincides with the ending date of the public school system and the new kindergarten roundup procedures.

Preschool, cont'd. pg. 8

INSIDE THE LEDGER

Rehl To Retire, pg. 20

Interviews Begin For Finance Manager, pg. 22



Customers and Friends Show Appreciation

Friends, family and customers she had served over the past 24 years helped Phyllis Haybarker celebrate her years of employment in the insurance business on Friday at Speerstra-Carr Insurance Agency, 835 W. Main.

Haybarker began her work in the insurance business in Lowell in 1973.

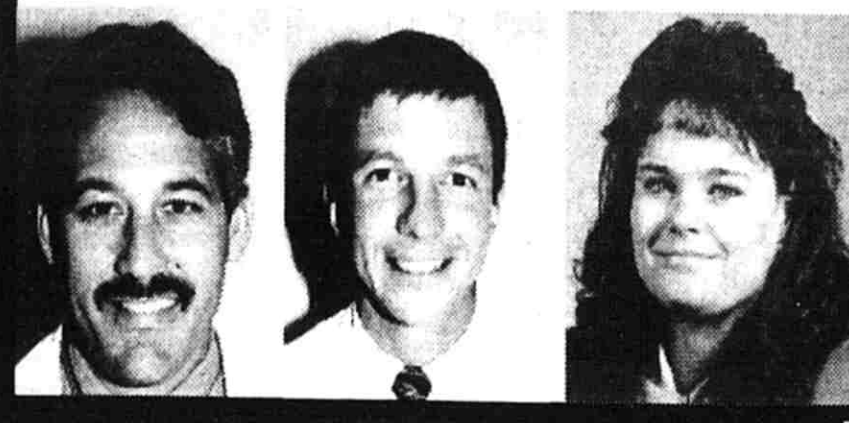
Her work began with the Johnson Carrington Agency. From there, she moved on to the insurance agency of Johnson, Rittenger and Beggs.

Between those two companies, Haybarker worked 14 years. The Lowell resident then spent six years with Patton JRB followed by four years with the Speerstra-Carr Insurance Agency.

"You won't ever find a more loyal and efficient worker," said Dale Triplett, managing agent for Speerstra-Carr Agency. "Phyllis always took time to sit down and make sure the customer understood."

Pictured is Phyllis Haybarker (seated). Standing, left to right, are: Stacey Hopkins, Shannon Wingeier, Dale Triplett and Nancy Triplett.

Health With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang & Donette Bish



HOME BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORING

There are many occasions when we detect elevated or borderline blood pressure values in our office. Unless the blood pressure is markedly elevated, we rarely elect to use medication based on one blood pressure reading obtained in our office. We may have the patient return on several occasions to have one of our medical assistants take their blood pressure or, in many cases, we make the suggestion that the patient purchase a blood pressure cuff for home monitoring. Home monitoring has many advantages, and in many instances is more informative than blood pressure readings obtained in the office setting.

The so-called "white coat" or "office" hypertension syndrome is avoided. In other words, some people tend to have

elevated blood pressure simply because they are in the stressful environment of a medical office. Blood pressure values obtained at home, then, may be more reflective of the patient's actual pressure.

Blood pressures may be taken at any time of the day, but we recommend that they be taken in the morning. If blood pressure is going to be elevated, it most often occurs in the morning hours.

If your doctor feels that home monitoring is appropriate, he or she can write a prescription for a blood pressure device and your insurance may reimburse you for the purchase when you

buy a good reliable device. Two types are available: aneroid and digital. Try them out and see which one you are most comfortable using. Both have advantages and disadvantages. We advise that you bring your device with you to your doctor's office and check it for accuracy with a mercury blood pressure cuff that your doctor probably uses.

Since high blood pressure is typically a silent disease and because it can cause such devastating problems long term, we strongly recommend that you make sure your pressures are normal. Many times this reassurance may involve home blood pressure monitoring.

To The Editor, continued...From Page 5

dence upon the creator. It is a God given opportunity for us to call on the name of the creator of the universe at this critically decisive moment in America's history. Prayer has made all the difference in the past; it is time to prove that it can make the same difference today.

Abraham Lincoln put it this way. "Unless the great God who assisted (President Washington) shall be with me and aid me, I must fail. But if the same omniscient mind, and Almighty arm, that directed and protected him, shall guide and support

me, I shall not fail...Let us pray that the God of our fathers may not forsake us now."

Please join us on May 1 as we intercede for America. We would be grateful for your presence.

Sincerely,
James and Judy Sterling
National Day of Prayer Task Force

Everyone is in awe of the lion tamer in the cage with a half dozen lions - everyone but a school bus driver
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Jim Bosserd, FMB State Savings Bank president, presents Fern Lamb, Lowell Senior Neighbors, with a benefit check for \$221.



Lunch was served to 115 senior citizens at FMB's senior appreciation day at Lowell Township Hall. Lunch was catered by Jimmy's Grill.

FMB extends a hand of appreciation to Lowell seniors

FMB State Savings Bank held a senior appreciation day at Lowell Township Hall on Tuesday, April 22.

"We held the day to show the bank's appreciation for their business and for their contribution to the community," said the bank's business development coordinator Marj Harding.

There were 23 organizations/business set up at information tables from 9 until 11:30 a.m. Those represented included

Kent County Health Department, YMCA Fitness, Lowell Friends of the Library, Butterworth Hospital Senior Nutrition and Hospice of Grand Rapids.

There were 115 senior citizens in attendance. Lunch was catered by Jimmy's Grill.

Following lunch, Bill Schaefer entertained with his accordion and song. Schaefer's two-year-old grandson, Ryan Schaefer,

accompanied him as he played the harmonica and danced in his native German costume.

Following the entertainment, Barbara Krzemien, Better Business Bureau, spoke to the senior citizens on "Scams to Seniors."

Vergennes farmer seeks to keep framing life-long pursuit

By Marc Popielek
Contributing Writer

While most of Vergennes Township is considered prime residential living, at least one farmer wants his land to remain agricultural.

Steven Koning applied and was granted a resolution from the Vergennes Township Board to keep his 155-acre property, on 4 Mile Road, agricultural for the remainder of his existence.

The board approval was just a formality for Koning to receive the official word from the state.

Koning is one of many West Michigan farmers taking advantage of the state's newest agricultural preservative act, Public Act 451 of 1994, the purchasing of developmental rights.

The act provides farmers with income and tax breaks if they agree not to develop the land.

Although approved by the township, the state could deny the request if they deem the land is not essential to preservation.

If approved by the state, the land will be assessed for its agricultural value and developmental value. The difference between the two values, which is determined to be the farmer's

developmental rights, will then be compensated to the farmer out of funds collected under the old land preservation act, Public Act 116, which currently holds \$12 million.

The state put a cap of \$5,000 per acre on reimbursements and set up strict guidelines that penalize farmers for dropping out of the program.

By approving his request, the township has guaranteed, for the time being, that one of its two dairy farm operations will remain intact as they try to balance residential growth with agricultural practices, said clerk Mari Stone.

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A huge vote of appreciation goes to the following who in the last year and a half have become Lowell Performing Arts Theatre Patrons. Their contributions have helped to put on in 1996, "Little Mary Sunshine," and this year's "Pajama Game."

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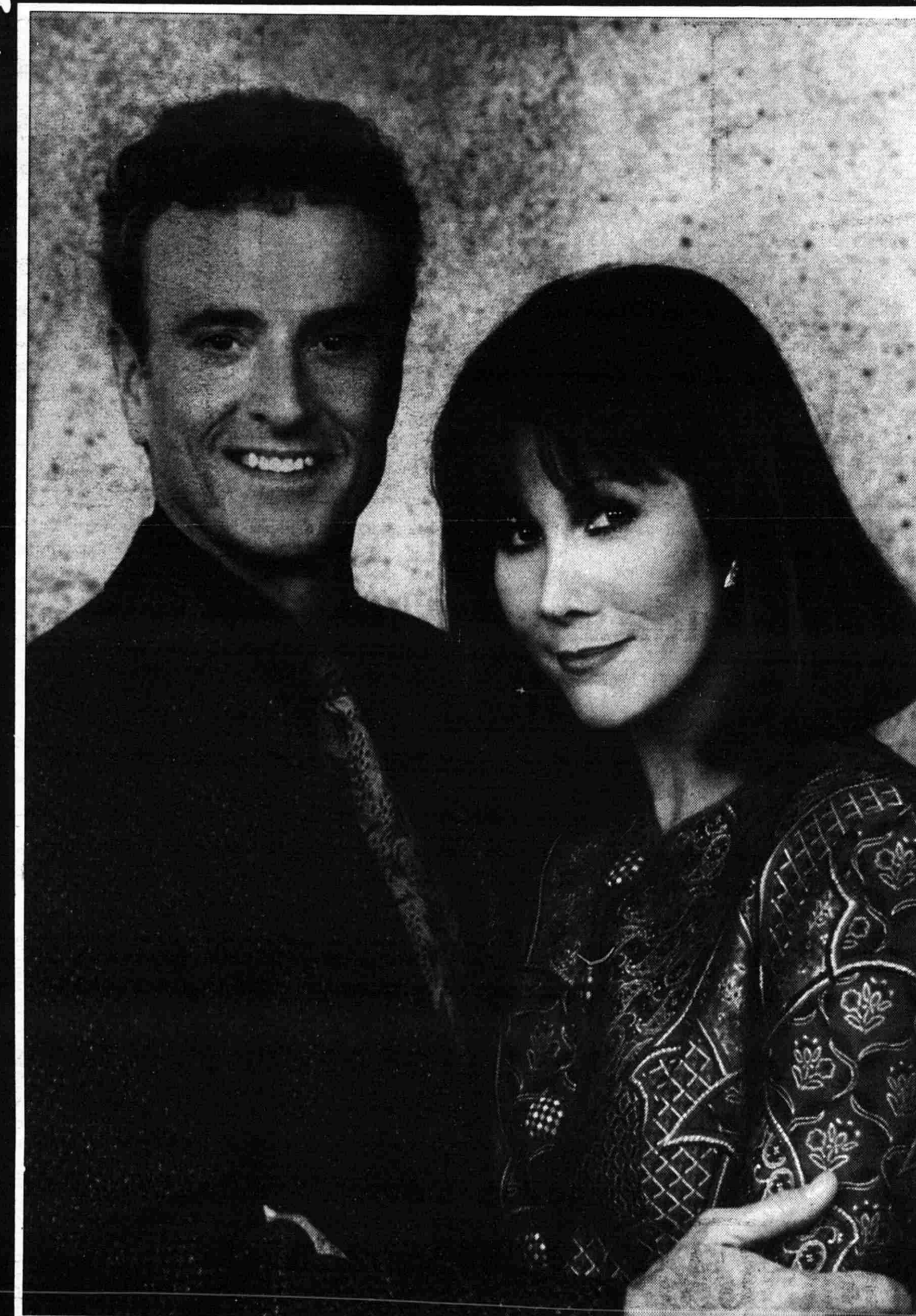
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9*	WLNS-6
10*	WILX-10
11*	WTLJ-54
12	WKAR-23
13	WZZM-13
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15	WSYM-47
16	HBO**
17	WTBS
18	C-MAX**
19	FAM
20	FX
21*	M-TV
22*	LOCAL
23	USA
24	DISCOVERY
25	WGN
26	ESPN
27	CNN
28*	HN
29	NICK
30	A&E
31	PASS
32	TNT
33*	DOPLAR RADAR
34*	EWTV
35	TNN
36	TRAVEL
37	LEARNING
38	SCI-FI
39*	VH-1
40	WEATHER
41	HISTORY
42	AMC

* Denotes channels not appearing in the grids
** Denotes Premium Channels



FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2 THRU MAY 8

Kevin Dobson and Michele Lee reprise their roles as Mack and Karen MacKenzie in *Knots Landing: Back to the Cul-de-Sac*, airing Wednesday and Friday on CBS. The two-part TV movie, which features several other series regulars, picks up where the popular prime-time soap opera left off four years ago.



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Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing various programs like 'This Morning's CBS News', 'Good Morning America', and 'Sesame Street'.

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing various programs like 'Young and the Restless', 'The Masked Singer', and 'The Price is Right'.

Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing various programs like 'Jeopardy!', 'Wheel of Fortune', and 'The Price is Right'.

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-4:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing various programs like 'Late Show', 'American Journal', and 'Beverly Hills, 90210'.

Table with columns for time slots (5:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing various programs like 'Young and the Restless', 'The Masked Singer', and 'The Price is Right'.

Table with columns for time slots (12:00-6:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing various programs like 'Storybreak', 'PGA Golf: Sprint Championship', and 'Kentucky Derby'.

SATURDAY EVENING MAY 3, 1997. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOTV, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like Star Trek: Next Generation, Wheel of Fortune, and various movies.

SATURDAY LATE NIGHT MAY 3, 1997. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for broadcast stations listing programs like Star Trek: Next Generation, Goode Behavior, and various movies.

SUNDAY MORNING MAY 4, 1997. Table with columns for time slots (5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for broadcast stations listing programs like Wall Street Journal, B.A.D., and various movies.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON MAY 4, 1997. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30) and rows for broadcast stations listing programs like WWTM News, WOTV This Week, and various sports and entertainment events.

SUNDAY EVENING MAY 4, 1997. Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for broadcast stations listing programs like WWTM 60 Minutes, WOTV Funniest Home Videos, and various movies.

SUNDAY LATE NIGHT MAY 4, 1997. Table with columns for time slots (12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows for broadcast stations listing programs like WWTM Star Trek, WOTV In the House, and various movies.

MONDAY EVENING MAY 5, 1997. Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy!, and various news and entertainment shows.

MONDAY LATE NIGHT MAY 5, 1997. Table with columns for time slots (12:00-4:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like Late Show, American Journal, and various comedy and news programs.

TUESDAY EVENING MAY 6, 1997. Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy!, and various news and entertainment shows.

TUESDAY LATE NIGHT MAY 6, 1997. Table with columns for time slots (12:00-4:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like Late Show, American Journal, and various comedy and news programs.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MAY 7, 1997. Table with columns for time slots (7:00-11:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy!, and various news and entertainment shows.

WEDNESDAY LATE NIGHT MAY 7, 1997. Table with columns for time slots (12:00-4:30) and rows for broadcast stations (WVMT, WOVU, WGVU, etc.) listing programs like Late Show, American Journal, and various comedy and news programs.

City council approves Creekside Park concession stand upgrade

By Thaddeus J. Kraus
Lowell Ledger Editor

The installation of a more visible concession stand service window at Creekside Park will be noticeable to Little League and softball league players and fans.

The current window faces to the south opposite the fields.

"A window facing the softball fields can only help sales and won't hurt," said Don Green, chairman of the

Lowell Parks and Recreation Board.

The service window(s) is part of the new contract between the city of Lowell and Lowell Little League for operation of the concession stand this summer.

Lowell Little League will also keep the concession stand open to softball events during the months of May, June and July.

The cost for the

window(s) is estimated at \$2,000-\$2,300.

Councilman Chuck Myers said his only concern is that the project be a joint effort. "I'm not talking about a financial contribution, but maybe labor to help offset the cost."

Another important part of the agreement states that the city will not allow the use of the stand or any portable stand by others without the approval of the Little League.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

CLAIMS NOTICE
Independent Probate
FILE NO. 97163, 854-IE

Estate of SANDRA R.
VANHEULEN
SSN: 376-88-0069

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS:

Your interest in the estate may be barred or affected by the following:
The decedent, whose last known address was

14135 Covered Bridge Road, Lowell, MI 49331, died December 11, 1995.

An instrument dated has been admitted as the will of the deceased.

Creditors of the deceased are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to the independent personal representative, SCOTT A. VANHEULEN, 14135 Covered Bridge Road, Lowell, MI 49331, or both the independent personal representative and the Kent County Probate

Court, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503 within four months of the date of publication of this notice.

Notice is further given that the estate will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

TUMMINO & TUMMINO,
P.C.

By: Michael J. Tummino, Jr.
(P21618)

311 East Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-5931



It's A Zoo Out There!

Above, Diane Brown plays a little game of keep-away with Cheyenne Brown's rat terrier "Weenie." Right, Sandy Hogan helps four-year-old Hunter Nelson brush Daniel Hogan's pony "Stormy." This was all part of Bushnell Elementary's "Pet Day."



WIN! WHITECAPS TICKETS!

From THE LEDGER

Once a week, through July '97, The Ledger will hold a drawing for 4 WHITECAPS' TICKETS! Just Find The Answer To This Week's Question In The Ledger and get it to the Ledger office to be entered in the drawing!

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

How long did it take to build Old Kent Park?

You can enter as many times as you like but you must have the answer cut out from the Ledger along with this ad to be eligible for the drawing.

No photocopies accepted

One Winner To Be Announced Each Week!

This Week's Winner Is

PAUL SCHRAMM



Tickets are redeemable for any regular season game during the 1997 season!

Tickets are undated, reserved seats and should be redeemed at the stadium box office. All exchanges are made based upon availability!

DEADLINE
FOR THIS WEEK'S ENTRY IS
5PM Monday, May 5, 1997

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE NUMBER: _____

Bring this ad, along with the answer, or mail to:
The Lowell Ledger

105 N. Broadway • P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

Lowell High School

Presents

The Pajama Game

Music & Lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross

Book by George Abbott and Richard Bissell

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Thursday, May 1- 8:00 PM
Friday, May 2 - 1:00 PM and 8:00 PM
Saturday, May 3 - 8:00 PM

Adults \$7.00 - Senior Citizens \$5.00

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