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# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 23, Issue 29

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

## Friends' gesture strums at Vaught's heart strings

By Thaddeus J. Kraus  
Lowell Ledger Editor

Ben Vaught really wanted to have a tuxedo show... instead his friends gave him a guitar.

Vaught and a number of students gathered in Heather Kohtz' room during seminar on Friday for what was supposed to be a Dunhill Tuxedo Show.

Well, at least that's what Vaught thought. The rest of the classmates were there to surprise the senior with a Dean Exotica RSE guitar.

"I feel so dumb right now," explained a disbelieving Vaught after Brad Eldridge presented him with the guitar. "I really appreciate this. This is awesome, but I really wanted to have a tuxedo show."

Eldridge and roughly 50 other high school students who consider Vaught a friend made monetary donations totaling a little more than \$500 so they could surprise their friend.

"Ben is so nice and does so much for everybody,"



Eldridge explained, "He puts so much energy in giving back to others that we all felt we wanted to do something for him."

Eldridge pieced together the scheme while on spring break with his parents and then with his friend, Jason Craig put the plan into motion the Monday following spring break.

"Everyone (50-plus students and parents) gave a little," explained Craig. "I wasn't surprised by the response. Ben deserves it. He's a friendly guy and nice to everyone."

Vanessa Beddows, sitting on the floor in the front row with a handful of friends, play-

ing up the excitement for a tuxedo show, concurred with Eldridge and Craig.

"We're all here because we're pretty good friends with Ben. He's just a nice guy."

Vaught, worried about tears, controlled his emotions so that he could thank his many friends.

"I'm just in awe. I'm a very lucky guy who has some of the best friends a guy could have," Vaught explained.

"I'm glad that I surrounded myself with such great people. I am so flattered."

After getting past the shock, Vaught's friends requested a song. The senior didn't disappoint as he did a verse or two of "Friends are Friends Forever."

So much for nice guys finishing last.



## Organizers put heart and sole into 8th CROP Walk

The eighth annual Lowell Area CROP Walk, which raises funds to fight worldwide hunger, will host roughly 300 walkers on Sunday, May 5.

Last year, just over \$27,000 was collected by 230 walkers. Of the funds collected, a little more than \$6,000 remained in the community. Lowell's Flat River Outreach Ministries received \$4,989 and the Lowell Senior Neighbors Center was given \$1,663.

Area residents in need of "walking papers" or those who just want to sponsor a walker may call 897-5936.

General contributions may be made by check to Church World Services and sent to Lowell Area CROP Hunger Walk, c/o First United Methodist Church, 621 E. Main, Lowell, MI 49331.

This year's grand marshals are Jody and Craig Haybarker.

Participants will be able to choose from a six- and two-mile walk.

Lowell's CROP Walk and others throughout the country support long-term development in more than 80 countries; assist in disasters and famines; help meet special needs of refugees and share more than \$4 million annually to support local hunger fighting efforts across the U.S.

Each year more than a quarter million CROP walkers put their heart and soles in motion to help stop hunger, one step at a time.

## Abuse charges surface at adult foster home

Despite failing to ensure resident protection and safety, a Lowell adult home will remain.

A March citation alleged molestation of two residents by Joel Eugene Cooley, a former Hope Network instructor. He faces charges of second-degree criminal sexual conduct. It was also learned that Cooley allegedly molested one of the men in the Lowell home in a bathroom.

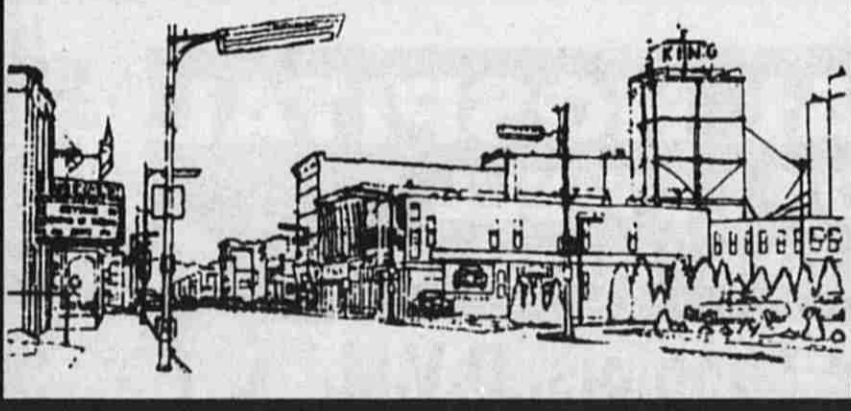
Cooley was also charged in a second incident at a Hope Network in Wyoming on charges of raping a mentally impaired man in October. The charge carries a potential life-in-prison penalty.

Hope Network officials said Cooley worked primarily at Lowell and Wyoming sites but sometimes worked at other Hope facilities. Officials said there was no indication in Cooley's past that indicated he would be a threat to residents in the home.

Cooley was fired by Hope Network on Nov. 11 for policy violations including attendance, poor use of supervision that

Foster Home, cont'd. pg. 8

## Along Main Street



### A NIGHT OF JAZZ

The Lowell middle school and high school jazz bands will be performing at the annual Night of Jazz on Wednesday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the performing arts center at Lowell High School. Featured group will be the Central Michigan University Jazz Lab 1 ensemble. \$4 for adults/ \$3 for students. Tickets may be purchased from any jazz band member, at the middle or high schools, or at the door.

### BENEFIT CONCERTS FOR LAAC

Several Lowell rock-n-roll bands from the '60s and '70s will perform at Larkin's The Other Place on April 19 and 20 from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. as a thank you to the LAAC. Call Loraine at 897-8545 to purchase your tickets.

Main Street, cont'd. pg. 8

## Lowell superintendent to seek post with GR Public Schools

Deciding that a straight forward approach was the best manner in which to handle the question, Lowell superintendent Bert Bleke broke the silence Friday when he confirmed his name was one of 38 on the list of those interested in the Grand Rapids Public Schools' superintendent position.

"It's a decision that had been growing on me for the last six weeks," Bleke said.

His decision became official at 4 p.m. Wednesday afternoon when he officially submitted his application.

The search for a new Grand Rapids' superintendent became necessary when Patricia Newby announced in January that she would leave at the end of this school year.

The field of 38 will be narrowed down on April 29th to



Bert Bleke officially joined the list of 38 who are interested in the GR position.

Bleke, cont'd. pg. 8



## OBITUARIES

**BOYD**-Mr. Fred Boyd, aged 88, passed away Saturday, April 13, 2002. He was a 1931 graduate of Rockford High School and attended Davenport College. Since 1948, he

was a member of First Congregational Church of Rockford and a charter member of the Rockford Lions Club and a past president. In 1951, Fred purchased Boyd's Recreation,

in Rockford, and operated it until October 1980. Mr. Boyd was a gentleman who gave a lot of good advice to the many young people in the community. He is survived by his wife, the former Kathryn Kies whom he married May 29, 1937; his children Bonnie and Harold Braman of Greenville, and William "Bill" and Jean Boyd of Rockford; his grandchildren J. R. Braman of Ann Arbor, Sarah Braman-Smith and her husband Jamie of Interlochen, Andrew Braman of Greenville, Scott and Heidi Oostdyk of Jenison, Randy and Sandra Oostdyk, and Sandy Oostdyk all of Grand Rapids, and Nancy Oostdyk of Belmont; six great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law Doris Boyd of Lowell, Helen and Robert Hessler of Rockford; nieces and nephews James and Dee Boyd of Utah, Robert and Carlinda Boyd of Lowell, Janet Boyd of Lowell, and Mrs. Bruce (Dianne) Skiver of Rockford. Mr. Boyd was preceded in death by his brother Edward. The service was held Tuesday at the Pederson Funeral Home in Rockford with Pastor Laurel TenHave-Chapman officiating. Interment in Rockford Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church of Rockford, UCC.

**COURT** - Evelyn Rollins Court, aged 91, of Grand Rapids, formerly of Lowell, died Friday, April 5, 2002. She was

preceded in death by her husband Maurice in 1992 and daughter Susan in 1992. She is survived by her daughter Joanne and Lawrence Witte; brothers Gerald and Elenor Rollins of FL. Rev. Roger Rollins of Dayton, OH; sisters Lorraine Page of Saranac, Ruth and Eugene (Bud) Rifenberg of FL. Theresa and Charles Posthumus of Grand Rapids; nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Evelyn was a 1931 graduate of Blodgett Hospital School of Nursing. Memorial services will be on April 18 at 1 p.m. at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Rev. Roy C. Meyers officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 5333 Clyde Park, SW Wyoming, MI 49509.

**MALONE** - Mrs. Irma R. Mooney Malone, aged 87, of the Parnell area, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 13, 2002 at her home. She was born in Ionia County on February 23, 1915, the daughter of Joseph and Marie (nee Freeland) Heether. Mrs. Malone was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Parnell and the First Friday Club at the church. Her involvement in the Parnell area ran far and wide. Whether it was preparing food for her family, friends, or the school-age children at St. Patrick's School, or cooking at one of the local restaurants, you could taste the special touch of TLC. She enjoyed playing a good game of cards, usually euchre. At 87, she was very active whether it was

blue gill fishing in her boat or bowling in the many leagues of which she was a part. Many family and friends throughout the years have enjoyed her craft work - especially her gift to make quilts or crocheted pieces which were often raffled or auctioned at the festival at St. Patrick Church. Mrs. Malone is survived by her children Michael and Kay Mooney of Belmont, Maureen and Russ Goodmoot of Belding, Donna Jaquith of Grand Rapids, Ed and Terri Mooney of Lowell, Marti and Jim Jaquith of Grand Rapids, Ed and Terri Mooney of Lowell, Marti and Jim "Redeye" Goggins of Lowell, Dick and Sue Mooney of Seattle, WA. Betty and Tom Jonker of Grand Rapids and Marilyn and Terry Conley of Lowell; 22 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren plus the anticipated arrival of at least one more; sisters Mrs. Florence Wosinski of Lowell, Mrs. Kate Frazee of Portland, and Mrs. Margaret Skinner of Greenville; sister-in-law Sister Mary Dennis, RSM of Farmington; step-children Pat and Joan Malone of Rockford, Dan and Carol Malone of Rockford, John and Kris Malone of Grand Rapids, Bob and Betty Malone of FL, Brian and Nancy Malone of NJ, and Karen and Larry Schoenborn of Ada; 22 step-grandchildren; 22 step-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husbands Charles Mooney and George Malone; sons Roger Mooney and James "Jim" Mooney; grandson Sean; brothers Leonard, Lawrence, James and Al; sisters Helen, Rose and Lucille. The Liturgy of Christian Burial

will be on Thursday at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Parnell with the Rev. Ronald Hutchinson, Presider. Interment in St. Patrick Cemetery. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider the Building Fund at St. Patrick Catholic Church. Visitation is Wednesday 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. at the Pederson Funeral Home in Rockford and one half hour before the time of Mass at St. Patrick Catholic Church.

**SHIMMEL** - Thomas (Tom) E. Shimmel, aged 56, of Lowell, died unexpectedly Thursday, April 11, 2002. He was born November 9, 1945. He was preceded in death by his father Hubert and his daughter Betsey Jo. He is survived by his maternal grandmother Margaret Geelhoed; his mother and step-father Jean and Bud Acheson; daughters Carol and Lee Ann; son Christopher; grandchildren Chase, Cheyenne, Dallas and Kelly; aunts, uncles, cousins and many good friends. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 20 at 1 p.m. at 767 Foreman Rd. in Lowell. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the family at 1246 Euclid SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507.

**TORTELLET** - Mr. Donald C. Tortellet, aged 89, of Gray, TN, formerly of Michigan, passed away on Tuesday, April 9, 2002. After retirement, Mr. Tortellet moved to Tennessee where he had made his home for 22 years. Preceding him in death was his sister and brother-in-law Margaret and George LaFave; brother Dale Tortellet and brother-in-law Ernest LaFave. He is survived by his wife Eleanor; daughters and their husbands Carol and Carl Van Heck of Kentwood, Karen and Robert Meneghini of Lowell and Cheryl and Wade Guisewite of Colorado; 21 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; sister Mary Jane LaFave of Cedar Springs; several nieces and nephews. The service was held Tuesday at Pederson Funeral Home in Rockford with his nephew Pastor Jerry LaFave officiating. Burial in Sand Lake Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

**MEETING NOTICE**  
**Lowell Wrestling Club Annual Club Meeting**  
**April 23, 2002**  
**Cherry Creek Elementary School**  
**6:15 - 7:00**  
 • Agenda Bylaw • Changes  
 • Board Elections • New Business  
**Required Attendance: Regular Club Members**  
 (Parents of Youth Wrestlers)

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## LHS DI team wins bronze

Lowell High School's Destination ImagiNation team placed third among the teams competing in the state competition at Central Michigan University over the weekend.

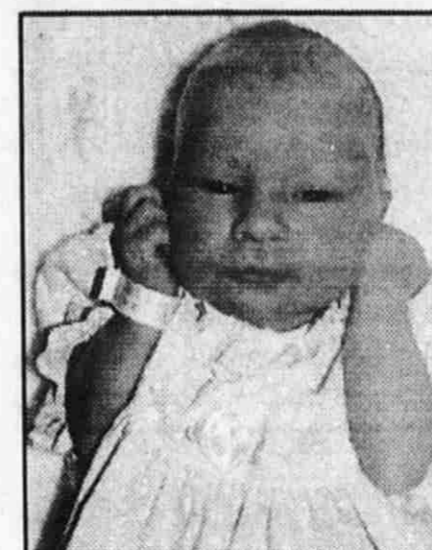
Of the 20 teams competing in their problem, Lowell earned a bronze medal, set-

ting itself up as an alternate for the Global finals (international competition).

Following the regional competition, the Lowell team

iors have only been involved with the creative problem-solving competition for the last three years," said one of its coaches, Sally McAlpine. "All these students are among Lowell's highest academic achiev-

### AREA BIRTHS



Scott and Evelyn Zalis are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Stephanie Ellen, born on January 30, 2002 at Metropolitan Hospital. She was born at 1:43 p.m. weighing 6 lbs. 8 oz. and measuring 19 inches long.

Welcoming her home are big brothers, Scott Edward and Joshua Ray.

Proud grandparents are Mary Barrix of Lawrenceville, Ill., Barb Zalis of Wayland and Edward Zalis of Branch; also great-grandmother Barbara Hemmer of Ludington and her adopted grandmother Gloria Hutfilz.



Members of the bronze-winning high school Destination ImagiNation team are Kelsay Myers, Anna Vanderhart, Amanda Oracz, Coach Sally McAlpine, Tony Pedley, Andy Hewitt, Katie McAlpine and Mark Hyzer.

chose to redesign and add complexity to its technical device, requiring a combination of three or more simple machines and adding an independent power source to its solution.

The team also revamped its script - a spoof on the movie "Jumanji."

This was all done in four short weeks.

"What makes this team unique is that its core of jun-

iors, but also represent Lowell in track, cross country, tennis, soccer, basketball, Model UN and band."

The season began with a trip to the Civic Theatre for a performance and a staff tour of the backstage and prop areas for background information.

McAlpine recognized the parents of students for their support. "They arranged for trucks and trailers to transport props to competition sites and made meals for the team when working long nights," she explained.

Serving as McAlpine's assistant was Shiril Oracz.



## LMS DI students fifth among 27

In a field of 27 middle school teams from across the state, Lowell's hardworking creative Destination ImagiNation team of (standing, left to right) Adam Ingraham, Tim Hollister, Abbot Kastanek, Andrew Wilterink and (front, left to right) Cassie Oracz and Melissa Zuiderveen earned fifth place honors for their humorous "StranDId" performance, technical achievements, clever side trips and "on the spot" creative thinking and problem-solving. Appraisers (judges) at Saturday's state finals at CMU commented on the group's humor, teamwork, trombone sound-effects and artistic scenery. Team managers Bill and Lori Ingraham noted the six young people's creativity, dedication and attitude as key to their success.

## Show Us Your Smile!

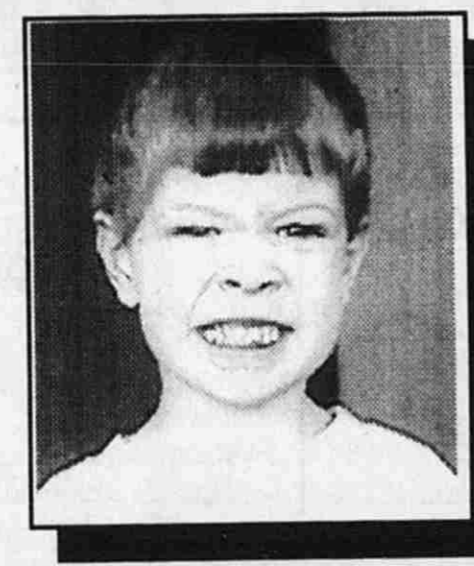
### MARCH SMILE OF THE MONTH:

NAME:.....Kurtis Hogle

AGE:.....3 years old

BIRTHDAY.....8/25/98

HOBBIES.....Kurtis enjoys playing outside and loves fishing with his dad  
 He receives a prize for his great checkup.



### March "No Cavities" Club Members

Dylan Vanderwarf	Justin Young	Todd Smith
Luke Smith	Chris Smith	Nicole Hough
Kurtis Hogle	Ryan DenBraven	Johnathon Nichols
Molly Clarke	Margaret Griffith	Jacob McVey
Bradley Baker	Jeremy Kaminski	Zack Diamond
Kelsey Mankel	David Durkee	Spencer Lyon
Melanie Homrich		

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**Advanced Tickets:**

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 Larkin's, 301 W. Main St, Lowell --- 897-5977

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**NOTICE**  
**Aerial Spraying for the**  
**Suppression of Gypsy Moth Larvae**  
**in Selected Areas of Vergennes Township**

Public Notice is hereby given that certain selected areas of the Township of Vergennes are scheduled to receive aerial application of the insecticide Bacillus thuringiensis (B.t.) for the suppression of Gypsy Moth larvae. Maps of these areas are available for viewing at the Township Office located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell. The office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 3pm. The map is also posted on the township website at www.vergennestwp.org under the heading "Current Events".

The applicator for the program is Mid-Michigan Helicopter Service, 7480 Backus Road, Greenville, Michigan, 616-754-5184. The B.t. brand will be Foray 48B and Foray 76B supplied by Valent BioSciences Corporation and Thuricide 48LV supplied by Thermo Trilog Corporation. The spraying will be done by aircraft when weather conditions are suitable. The exact dates and times cannot be predetermined as application is weather dependent. The application is tentatively planned for May 15, 2002.

Because of the success of the program in the past, the number of acres requiring suppression efforts has been greatly reduced. Landowners not included in this years spray program but wishing to be sprayed may choose to participate on their own. A minimum of 10 acres is required, at a cost of \$18.50 per acre. Please contact the applicator directly at 616-754-5184. For questions regarding the township program, please contact Tim Wittenbach, Supervisor.

The insecticide B.t. is derived from a naturally occurring bacteria and is known only to affect caterpillars by destroying their stomachs after they eat the material. It does not affect honey bees or other non-leaf eating insects, birds, fish or mammals. The B.t. formulation has no reentry restrictions. The B.t. is applied at about a quart per acre in a very fine mist that targets the tree foliage. Drying usually takes place within a few minutes.

Mari C. Stone  
 Township Clerk



# Lowell FFA members garner state honors

The Lowell FFA chapter had another outstanding showing at the state convention at Michigan State University.

Over 2500 people attended the convention where many awards were presented and the state finals in 11 leadership contests were held. The Lowell FFA was recognized as one of the top three chapters in the state.

The Lowell Middle School also had the honor of being presented their FFA charter at the state convention. Megan Nyson and Ben Vaught were selected to apply for the National Choir. Voting delegates for the Lowell FFA were Kriste Warren, Cassie Wheat, Holly Young and Jenny Humphries.

Three members of the Lowell FFA - Katie Clements, Kristen Lee, and Katelyn Bush - represented the Lowell chapter in the Marketing Plan Competition at the State FFA Convention in East Lansing and received a gold rating. The members investigated marketing strategies, wrote a marketing plan for the Fallsburg Fall Festival, and presented their plan to a panel of marketing professionals.

"All the students do a fantastic job," said FFA student advisor John Schutt. "It's also nice to be able to expand our

program into the Middle School."

Junior Katie Clements was first runner-up in the Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest and received a gold rating. Her topic of "Global Information Systems and Commodity Production" was drawn 30 minutes before she presented it to a panel of judges. Senior Courtney Perkins received a gold rating in Job Interview. This contest consists of a candidate completing a one-page job application and then being judged on their interview and their resume. Middle school member, Lance Perkins earned a silver rating in the Junior High Prepared Public Speaking contest. Contestants prepare a four- to six-minute speech and present it to a panel of judges. The Middle School Conduct of Meetings Team received a silver rating. The team of Hanna Knudstrup, Adam Baker, Caleb Shores, Megan Vaught, Holly Vaught, Andrew Wilterink and Melissa Blough planned an activity using parliamentary procedure.

Seven members received the proficiency award for their work in a specific area of agriculture. Heather Canfield and Kirk Johnson received gold ratings in Agricultural Sales and Equine Science, respectively. James Bosserd was awarded a

silver rating in Sheep Production. Of those seven, four were state proficiency winners. Matt Oesch was recognized in the area of Dairy for his work at Swiss Lane Farms. Brothers Kevin and Brian Rasch were recognized for their work in the area of Diversified Horticulture and Fruit Production at Rasch Farms. Bill Zook was recognized in the area of Agricultural Mechanics for his work at Zook Farm Equipment. State winners received \$100 and their application will be forwarded for national competition.

Eight students received the state FFA degree, the highest degree of membership in Michigan: Emily Roth, Jen Wisner, Teresa Leasure, Lisa Marker, Courtney Perkins, Brian Rash, Brian Zook, and Lindsay Perkins. Twenty-four students received the Outstanding Junior award: Natalie Kent, Becky Bosserd, Tara Cariano, Jennifer Gunberg, Katie Hettaing, Ruthanne Oesch, Rachel Penninga, Kayla Ritenburgh, Megan Thompson, Abby Vos, Abbie Blanding, Heather Blough, Katelyn Bush, Nathaniel Canfield, Katie Clements, Brandon Gessler, Danielle Nebelung, Megan Nyson, Holly Plattner, Brian Posthumus, Laura Rasch, Pieter Serne, Lisa Wojciakowski, and Tim Zook.

offerings in management and entrepreneurship the most complete anywhere. The university emphasizes the importance of free enterprise and is dedicated to the preservation of the free market and the important relationship between business and the arts.

The art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest amount of feathers with the least amount of hissing.

Jean Baptiste Colbert

# LHS forensics team qualifies for state competition



All seven members of the Lowell High School forensics team who won at the District Tournament will advance to the state finals after placing in the top level of their events at Saturday's Regional Tournament in Holland. The multiple interpretation "The Laramie Project" took third place while Helen Crimmins, who competed in prose interpretation, took fourth.

Lowell forensics members, pictured from left to right, are: Helen Crimmins, Chris Bradley, Christine Getz, Tory O'Haire, Becky Brinkley, Christine Benson and Eric Soules.

"The Laramie Project" was performed by Christine Benson, Becky Brinkley, Tory O'Haire, Chris Bradley, Christine Getz and Eric Soules. The play is based on the Matthew Sheppard case and the effect that it had on the small community where it took place. In addition to performing, O'Haire took on the added job of assistant director to director, Jane Gillespie.

The State Forensics Tournament will be held the first weekend in May at Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

Crimins recreated an excerpt from the novel *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver which is set in the Congo and deals with an attack of army ants. "Helen is competing as a novice this year and has swept up at every competition," says Gillespie.

Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding.

Albert Einstein

## COLLEGE NEWS

Jeffrey S. Nethercot of Lowell has been named to the president's list for winter term at Northwood University. The announcement was made by Dr. David E. Fry, president of the university.

Nethercot is the son of Sharon Nethercot of Lowell. To achieve president's list recognition, students must earn a 3.85 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

Andrea N. Rickert, of Lowell, and Miranda Reimann, of Alto, have been named to the dean's list for winter term. Rickert is the daughter of Jeffery and Julie Rickert of Lowell.

Reimann is the daughter of Charles and Lynne Reimann of Alto.

To achieve dean's list recognition, students must earn a 3.25 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

Northwood University is a private, accredited university specializing in managerial and entrepreneurial education offering two- and four-year degrees in a variety of enterprise fields. The university's executive, full-time and managerial MBA programs make Northwood's free market-based degree

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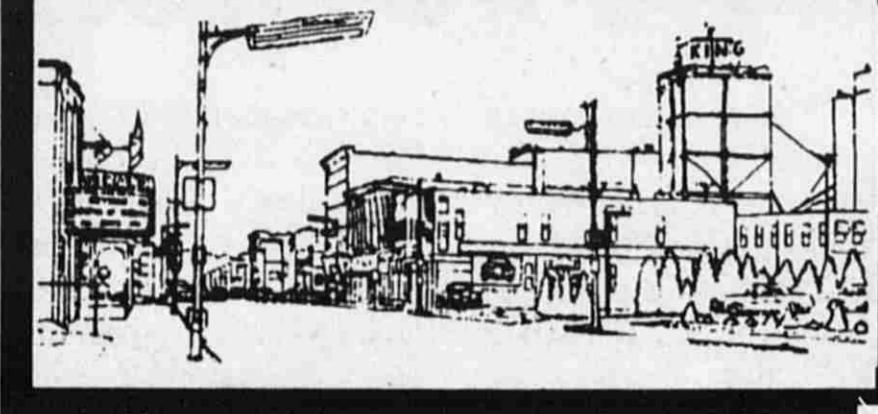
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## Along Main Street



### BOOK FAIR COMES TO BUSHNELL ELEMENTARY

The Scholastic Book Fair will be at Bushnell Elementary from April 22-26. The fair is open daily to the community from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. with a special Family Event on April 25 from 6-7:30 p.m. at which time student art and other activities will be featured during the annual Spring Fling.

### CHERRY CREEK REUNION DAY

All former Cherry Creek students and staff are invited to

### LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIAL DISTRICT 17th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT 180 Ottawa N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49503

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION Case No. 02-03093-DM

TINA THORNE-GRAY Plaintiff

vs.

RICHARD ERNEST GRAY Defendant Address UnKnown

TO DEFENDANT: Richard Ernest Gray

IT IS ORDERED: You are being sued by plaintiff in this court to obtain a divorce. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before June 1, 2002. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.

A copy of this order shall be published once each week in The Lowell Ledger for three (3) consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

A copy of this order shall be sent to Defendant, Richard Ernest Gray at the last known address by registered mail, return receipt requested, before the date of the last publication, and the affidavit of mailing shall be filed with this court.

March 28, 2002

Judge Patricia D. Gardner

Plaintiff's Attorney WESTERN MICHIGAN LEGAL SERVICES By: Miriam J. Aukerman (P63165) 89 Ionia NW - Suite 400 Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 774-0672, ext. 114

stop by Cherry Creek Elementary and reminisce with "old" teachers and friends for the first-ever Reunion Day on Wednesday April 24 from 4-5 p.m.

### APRIL FUN NIGHT

The Lowell Middle School will offer a fun night on Wednesday, April 24 from 2:30 - 4 p.m. at the middle school. For more information, call 897-9222.

### LOWELL HISTORICAL MUSEUM SPRING PROGRAM

A spring program titled "The Stories, Mysteries & Characters That Dwell Within Oakwood Cemetery" will be presented by Don DeLong on Wednesday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Lowell Charter Township Hall. The public is invited to this free program, and light refreshments will be served.

### SPAGHETTI DINNER BENEFIT

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a spaghetti dinner for the Leah Nawrocki Leukemia Fund at St. Patrick's

## Foster Home, cont'd... From Page 1

bordered on insubordination, and improper communication with staff.

The termination took place before information of his prior behavior surfaced.

In response, Hope Network initiated an education program on sexual abuse and assault throughout its foster care

Parish Center on Saturday, April 27 from 4-7:30 p.m. 50/50 raffle; pie sale; silent auction. Adults: \$8; K-8th graders: \$4; preschoolers free. For ticket info, call Diane Brown at 897-7611.

### CROP WALK COMING IN MAY

The 8th annual Crop Walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 5 at 1 p.m. and will start at the First United Methodist Church. There is still time to get pledges for either the 6 mile or 2 mile walk so if you need your walking papers or just want to sponsor someone else, call 897-5936.

### 4-H NIGHT AT THE WHITECAPS

Plan now to spend Friday, July 12 at 5/3 Park, enjoying a Whitecaps game and celebrating 100 years of 4-H. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with Crash & clowns, 4-Her's parade and free Whitecap's hat. Tickets are \$6.50. Call Diane Brown at 897-7611 for more information.

## Bleke, cont'd... From Page 1

the elite few who will be interviewed May 2-4.

Bleke has been with Lowell Area Schools for the past seven years.

"I am totally comfortable with what and how I'm going about this," he explains. "When a person feels a call to do something, from within, then I think they should."

The Lowell superintendent said the challenges that come with being the Grand Rapids' superintendent are greater than Lowell.

"The challenges I faced seven years ago in Lowell are less now, and they ought to be if I've done my job," Bleke explained. "The Grand Rapids' position gives me an opportunity to create a better learning situation for kids in the inner city."

Before joining Lowell, Bleke spent 15 years in the Forest Hills School District where he served as high school principal and assistant superintendent for instruction.

"If I don't get the job, I still love being here in Lowell," Bleke said.

## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 22, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. at the Englehardt Public Library Community Room, 200 N. Monroe Street, Lowell, Michigan.

The purpose of said hearing will be to consider vacating Hill Street, which borders on the south of Lots 106 and 107 of Ellsworth Addition and the City property.

Interested persons may submit comments to Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street prior to the meeting or appear in person at Englehardt Public Library.



Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk 616-897-8457

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Angela Thompson, CFP Investment Specialist 616-527-6196



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# Seaman named ACCA winner for commercial contracting excellence



**Week of 4/22 - 4/26**  
**ELEMENTARY**  
**Lunch: \$1.45**  
**Milk \$ .30**  
 Peanut butter & jelly sandwich & chef's salad are also available daily as lunch options.  
**MON:** Hot dog on bun or chicken patty on bun, dried fruit, sweet peas, pudding.  
**TUES:** Pancake dippers or assorted cereal, scrambled eggs, orange juice, potato wedges!  
**WED:** Soft shell chicken taco or dino pasta & franks, cornbread, cinnamon apple slices, fresh veggies & dip!  
**THURS:** Lucky Tray Day! Grilled cheese sandwich or chili w/soft pretzel, pears, green beans.  
**FRI:** Turkey & gravy w/roll or sausage, egg & cheese on English muffin, whipped potatoes, peaches & cherries, animal crackers.  
 4th graders are selling ice cream bars for 50c during lunchtime at Cherry Creek until the end of April!

The Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA), the nation's largest trade association representing heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) contracting businesses, announced the winner for the association's 2002 Commercial Excellence Award.  
 Seaman's Air Conditioning & Refrigeration of Grand Rapids has won the 2002 Commercial Excellence Award for an unprecedented second year in a row. The annual Commercial Excellence Award recognizes a company that exemplifies ACCA's commitment to high-quality workmanship, high ethical standards, sound business practices and the betterment of the HVACR industry.  
 Celebrating 41 years of servicing Western Michigan with quality service and qualified personnel, Seaman's was also the 2001 Commercial Excellence Award winner, the first company to win the award in consecutive years.  
 Seaman's Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Inc. has been winning over customers since 1961. Based in Grand Rapids, Seaman's motto is "Through high quality goods, service and value, as determined by our customer, we must continually earn and re-earn the right to serve our customers." Its employees are

also discussed. Every associate is exposed to these issues to give each one the knowledge and the confidence to prevent or solve similar situations. In addition to these peer meetings, Seaman's hosts several specialty training sessions to focus on specific installation or repair techniques.  
 The Seaman's atmosphere is truly that of an extended family. Bill Smeda, a design engineer, remarked, "First, Seaman's stands for excellence. Great pride is taken among all the employees in what we do. Second, Seaman's is a family-oriented

company. Seaman's cares a great deal about its employees and their families. Not many companies are like this in today's society. In fact, the "family," spearheaded by assistant general manager, Patricia VanKuiken, entered Seaman's in the ACCA awards competition without Seaman's president and CEO, Randy Seaman's knowledge. VanKuiken joked, "The hardest part was convincing him to come down to the convention in Florida."  
 When describing his reaction to winning the award again, VanKuiken said, "I don't think he'll realize we've won it again until he gets back to see his teammates and all celebrate."

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## Service toll-free number now active at Lowell Post Office

Need a ZIP Code? Are you moving and need a change of address card? Leaving for vacation and want to place a hold-mail request? For quick response to your postal questions or requests, customers can now call 1-800-ASK.USPS (1.800.275.8777).

"The U.S. Postal Service is making it easier for customers to get information and resolve service issues by telephone," said Lowell postmaster, Gil Brown.

Beginning in April, when customers call the Lowell Post Office phone number, they are now given the toll free number for prompt assistance for routine postal questions or service issues. Customers preferring to call their local post office directly will be given a number to make that connection.

"Research indicated that many customers get a busy signal or their calls do not go through when calling a local post office, because of the volume of calls received," said Brown. "Since 80 percent of all calls to a local post office are seeking information on such topics as ZIP codes, post office hours and locations and mailing rates, these calls can more efficiently be handled by a call center agent. Those calls requiring local assistance will be handled by our post office."

To enhance customer service, the 1.800.ASK.USPS call center network, has specially trained agents to provide information about:  
 • ZIP Codes and Addresses  
 • Mailing Rates and Requirements  
 • Hours of Operation  
 • Product and Service Information  
 • Change of Address Information  
 • Redelivery and Hold Mail Requests  
 In addition, call center agents can assist customers with service issues. If an agent cannot resolve a service issue, the local phone number will be provided to the customer.

## Health With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang & Kevin Miller



### Migraines in children and adolescents

Most people are unaware that children and adolescents can suffer from migraine headaches. The symptoms are similar to those in the adult population:

- An intense pounding headache often associated with nausea and sometimes vomiting.

- The pain usually begins in the forehead, the side of the head, or around the eyes.

- The headache usually gets worse over time, if untreated.

- Bright lights or loud noises may make the headache worse.

- Some patients report shadows or patterns of lines in front of their eyes as the headache begins.

As many as five percent of children in grade school have migraines. During high school about 20 percent of adolescents get migraines. Migraines run in families, so some authorities believe that this may indeed be a genetic abnormality.

Seeking a dark, cool place often helps the migraine sufferer. Ice packs or cool compresses to the forehead may help. If your doctor has given you prescription medication for the headaches, it should be taken at the first sign of symptoms. Do not wait - a delay may reduce the effectiveness of the medicine.

For more information on migraines in children, call the National Headache Foundation at 1-888-NHF-5552.

## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday May 6, 2002 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider proposed amendments to the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance. A summary follows for the proposed text amendments.

### Article IV General and Special Regulations: Section 201.416

The proposed amendments are to create a new section pertaining to the permitted uses, application and review procedures and site development standards for manufactured home developments. The standards include such areas as minimum acreage, setbacks, lot size, roads, sidewalks, skirting, screening, street names and house numbering, lighting, open space, utilities, communication equipment, mailbox clusters, school bus stops and other miscellaneous provisions. The Manufactured Housing Commission has approved the proposed amendments.

### Article III Zoning Districts: Section 201.306A - (B) (3)

The proposed amendment removes the language that manufactured home developments shall only comply with the Mobile Home Commission Act and replaces the language with the requirements of the new manufactured home development section 201.416.

### Article II Definitions: Section 201.202:

The proposed amendments are to add the State definition of "Seasonal Manufactured Home Development" pertaining to temporary occupancy and not a campground.

### Article III Zoning Districts: Section 201.306 (F) (3) and 201.311:

The proposed amendments are to change the rear yard setback in the R-2 and the R-3 districts from 50 feet to 30 feet. The bulk table will be updated from 50 to 30 feet.

### Zoning Map Amendment:

A rezoning application of property located at the SE corner of Vergennes and Lincoln Lake, about 3 acres, parcel number 41-16-34-227-001, in the NE quarter of section 34, 432 Lincoln Lake Ave, Lowell by Paul Barron to change the zoning from R-2 to Commercial.

The complete text and map of the proposed ordinance amendments can be reviewed at the **Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, MI 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674]**. Written and oral comments will be received until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Planning Commission Chairman or the Planning Coordinator at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to the Planning Commission at: zoning@vergennewtp.org.

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

## LEGAL NOTICES

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
 61ST DISTRICT COURT**

**JUDGMENT OF POSSESSION AFTER LAND CONTRACT FORFEITURE CASE NUMBER 2002-SP-0000052**

**Kent County Court-house  
 180 Ottawa NW  
 Suite 1400  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
 616-632-5525**

**KATHLEEN M. HIRSCH vs.**

**RICHARD L. SMITH,  
 ETAL.**

**A judgment of possession for breach of a land contract is entered in this case.**

**Further Orders Plaintiff's Complaint as to LAWRENCE A. BRISTOL, whose last known address was 100 Diamond SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, is adjourned for service.**

February 20, 2002

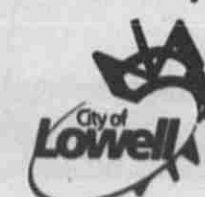
**Kathleen M. Hirsch  
 147 52nd Street SE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49548**

## CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council will conduct public hearings at its regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, April 22, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. at the Englehardt Public Library Community Room, 200 N. Monroe, Lowell, Michigan. The purpose of said hearings will be to receive comments on the following:

- Metric Manufacturing Company (applicant) has petitioned for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate (P.A. 198) on real and personal property (located at 1001 Foreman) real parcel #41-20-03-226-007, personal parcel #41-50-72-004-338. The applicant qualifies for twelve years of abatement for improvements of \$1,510,000 in facilities and machinery.
- To consider vacating Hill Street, which borders on the south of Lots 106 and 107 of Ellsworth Addition and the City property.

Interested persons may submit comments prior to the meeting at City Hall, 301 E. Main Street or appear in person at the Englehardt Public Library.



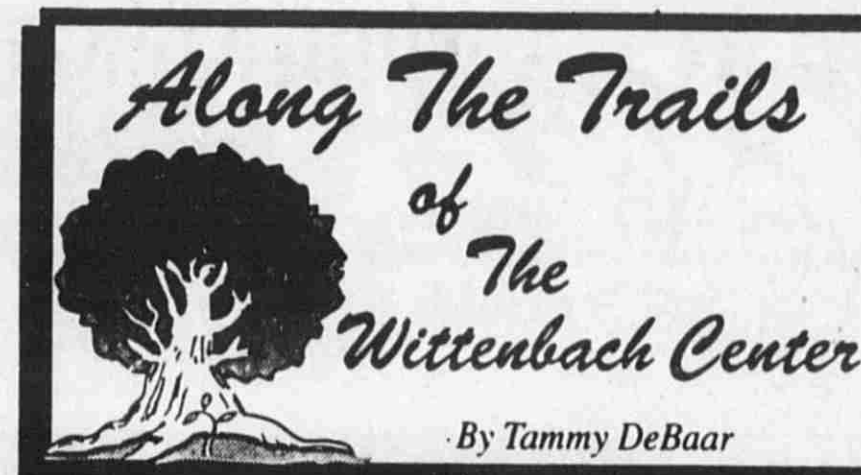
Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk  
 616-897-8457

## SYNOPSIS GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING GRATTAN TOWNSHIP HALL APRIL 8, 2002

MOTIONS APPROVED:

- Motion to approve the agenda
- Motion to approve Consent Agenda
- Motion to approve March 25, 2002 Minutes
- Motion to approve Clerk's report -
- Motion to close the public hearing
- Motion to approve the distribution of the applicant's report and the communication, regarding sewer backups
- Motion to approve the CDBG Program Agreement with the County of Kent.
- Motion to hire Dyna-Clean Inc. for carpet cleaning.
- Motion to buy the 1985 pumper from the county for \$8545.50
- Motion to adjourn
- Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted by  
 Gloria Burns, recording secretary



By Tammy DeBaar

As the weather warms, we look forward to growth in the community gardens as well as some smaller project gardens; we currently have space available in the community garden. The garden will provide guests with a raised and flat bed for \$35, \$10 of which will be returned at fall cleanup. Please call Tammy for an application or send in your check made out to Lowell Area Schools, 11715 Vergennes, Lowell 49331).

We are also looking forward to student aids, Rachel and Susan and their hummingbird garden and the blooms of the butterfly garden which was planted last year by the summer academy kids.

Furthermore, we are looking forward to a labyrinth gar-

den...yes, an actual labyrinth modeled after the myth of the Minotaur, designed by Marj Morrison.

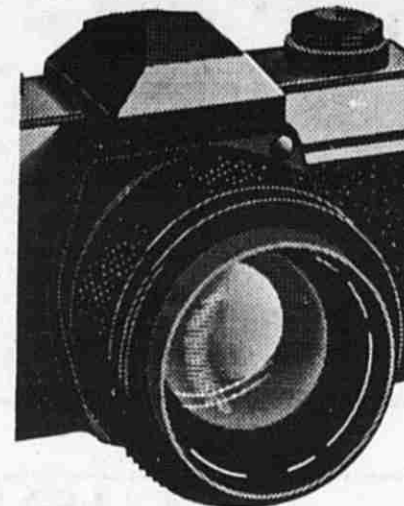
We hope to have some assistance with not only the planting of this, but perhaps some donations of some plants you may have as you

work, in your gardens and split plants. We are hoping to have a sensory area for disabled visitors, a Native American area, a hummingbird area, and various perennial wildflowers and grasses.

Please keep these dates in mind:  
 Week of May 20 - we welcome donations of your plants to be planted May 24.

Saturday, June 1 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., assistance in planting.  
 Please let us know if we can pick up your plants or you would just like to drop them off at the Wittenbach Center during school hours.

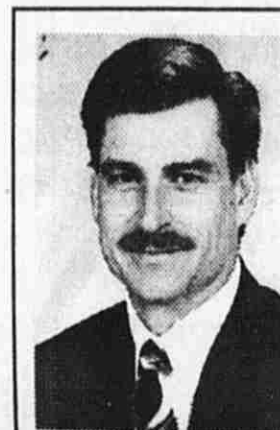
## Attention All Coaches, Proud Parents, Athletes & Others Who Wish To Submit Photos In The Ledger...



It is important that the subject's face not be shaded in order to print your photo clearly in the paper.

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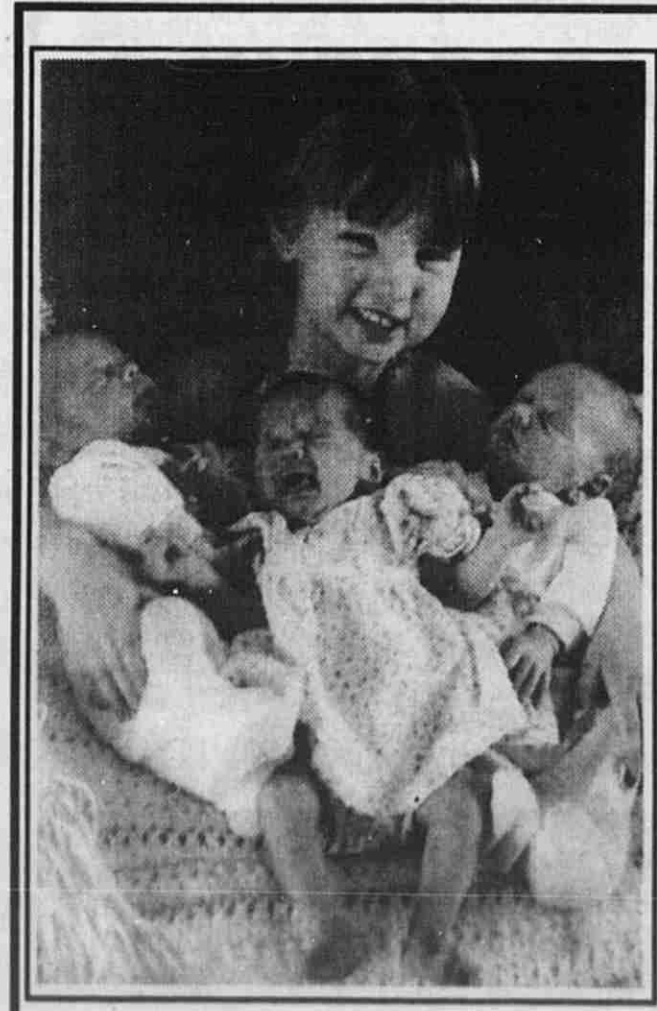
We have been three times blessed.

### Announcing the McMillian triplets born to

Travis & Rebecca McMillian  
 Tuesday, March 5, 2002

- Lucas Gregory arrived at 9:42 a.m. weighing 5 lbs. 4 oz. measuring 16 3/4 inches long
- Abigail Rose Ellen arrived at 9:43 a.m. weighing 4 lbs. 14 oz. measuring 17 1/2 inches long.
- Mitchell Allen arrived at 9:44 a.m. weighing 4 lbs. 12 oz. measuring 16 inches long

Welcoming the trio home was the very excited big sister, Henneb; grandparents Virginia & the late Allen Conner of Lowell, Greg McMillian of Cawood, KY and Sue Videan. Great-grandparents Ellen Miller of Lowell, Henrietta McMillian of Cawood, KY and Shirley Cook of Honea Path, SC.; great-great grandmother Cindy Howard of Cawood, KY; aunts & uncle Angela Conner, Shiree Knutson, Greg McMillian and Andrea Videan as well as many other friends & family members.

















# Area kids roll away with \$5,025 for Muscular Distrophy

Rollaway's 24-hour annual Skate-a-Thon to benefit the Muscular Distrophy Association drew 60 area children.

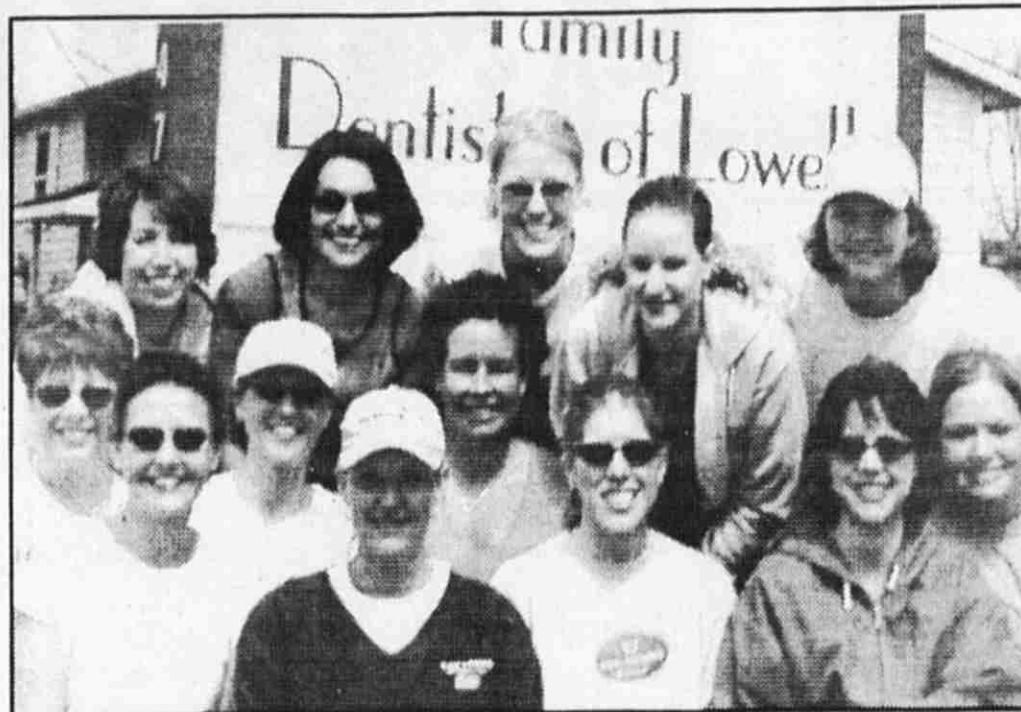
"These kids felt like they are trying to climb Mt. Everest one hour at a time," said Rollaway owner, Bob VanNoller. "With a 10-minute break every hour, skating for the 245 hours is equal to 80 miles."

Of the 60 who registered, 30 completed the Skate-a-Thon. Jim Clark was the oldest to complete the Skate-a-Thon, while Parker Liu (9) was the youngest.

John Doyle raised the most money (\$465.88).

In all, Rollaway kids raised \$5,025 for Jerry's kids Area children who participated in the Skate-a-Thon are Jeremy Miller, Brent Eggebeen, Chris Witherell, Jim Clark, Danielle Balzeski, Matt Witherell, Casey O'Connor, Breon Willingham, Hannah Strzyzewski, Jensen Miller, Andy DeDonado, Elyssa Wilson and Tara Beran; middle row, left to right: Austin Koster, Nicole Smit, Josh Smith, April Johnston, David Rexford, Gary Liu, Zach Muha; front row: Molly Richard, Kim Carrier, Megan Padgett, Sam Lambert, Brook Liu.

Ashleigh Inman, Missy Wright, Kayli Arnett, Sara Boomers, Rexford and Parker Liu. Vicki Balzeski and Craig Warners; hidden: John Drier, Mary



## Walking for MS

Each year, the Family Dentistry of Lowell team gives back to the community by participating in a community service event. This year they will lace up their walking shoes and hit the pavement for the National MS Walk 2002. They will be walking to raise money for the 15,000 Michigan residents affected by multiple sclerosis. The MS Walk takes place on Saturday, April 20. If you would like to be a sponsor for their team, please feel free to stop at 147 N. Center or call Dr. Ann Wilson at 897-4835.

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### CHEVY VENTURE

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