

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 30 Issue 30

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

The flood of 2004

Last week the Grand River in Lowell was higher than it has been since 1976 when it reached 17.26 feet. By Thursday the Grand had crested at 16.3 (1.3 feet above flood stage) drowning the fairgrounds and turning the football and baseball fields into swamps. In the photo, Bowes Road can be seen disappearing completely.

Plenty of folks remember the 1976 flood but many also remembered back in 1947 and 1948 when much of Main Street was underwater. In those years the river crested at 18.5 and 19 feet respectively. Other historic highs were March of 1942 at 17.80 feet and April of 1960 when it crested at 17.38 feet.

Sporadic downpours over the weekend did little to dry things out but nevertheless by Monday the river was down to 12.6 feet in town. Cooler but dryer weather is expected for the beginning of June.

Aerial photo submitted by Kevin Vezino



Four candidates seek school board positions in June election

By Dan Schneider

The election scheduled for Monday, June 14 will decide two open positions on the Lowell Area Schools board of education.

Four candidates are running for a spot on the board. Seeking re-election is Kate Dernocoeur, who is finishing her first term on the school

board. The other candidates are Dan Brubaker, Maureen Fleet and Melanie Searfoss. Mark Blanding is leaving his seat on the board.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the day of the election. Voting for precinct one, the district's central precinct, will take place at the Runciman Elementary

building, 300 High St. The southern portion of the district, precinct two, will vote at Old Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash Road. Precinct three, the northern portion of the district, will vote at Vergennes Township Hall at the corner of Bailey Drive and Parnell Avenue. A public notice in last week's *Ledger*

indicates specific precinct boundaries.

The school board currently faces difficult budget decisions, with cuts necessary to stay in the black, and an uncertain state funding picture. This is in addition to

School board elections, cont'd., pg. 8

LHS graduation set for June 6

Commencement exercises for the Lowell High School graduating class of 2004 will take place this Sunday, June 6, at 3 p.m. at Red Arrow Stadium.

Look in next week's *Ledger* for pictures, names of all graduates, lists of honorees and scholarship recipients, and highlights from student speeches as Lowell's graduates get ready to take on the future.

Nature photographer sets up shop in Lowell

By Dan Schneider

Lowell now has another place to buy art. This time it's photography. Especially photography of animals and nature, though also of lighthouses and a few old cars.

"Nature, wildlife and lighthouses, and then just a few cars sprinkled in and they tend to be old rusted cars, I guess because they are sort of reverting to nature," photographer Jonathan Shuff said.

It's called Crooked Tree Gallery and Gifts and it has been open nearly two weeks.

The gallery features photographs by Shuff, the store's owner. "I've been doing photography for about 15 years," he said. He was driven by interest shown in his work at weekend art shows.

It started when he was in high school taking pictures for the school newspaper and yearbook. His greatest inter-

est for the past several years has been nature photography. Prominently featured on the walls of the shop are pictures of wildlife and outdoor scenes. The name of the shop comes from a photograph Shuff shot of an actual crooked tree out West. The picture is hung on a wall near the back of the store.

In the past, Shuff has worked as a manager at Target and Bed Bath and Be-

yond. His photography was confined to his free time.

"In 2001, I entered a contest with National Geographic and Ford Motor Company and I won the grand prize and they sent me to Africa," Shuff said. "That really jumpstarted in my mind that this is what I wanted to do full time."

The safari also helped Shuff build up his portfolio

Nature photographer, cont'd., pg. 4

Inside
The Lowell Ledger

Class of 1904
... Page 3

Last Budget Hearing Set
... Page 4

Memorial Parade pics...
Pages 12 & 13

OBITUARIES

JOHNSON - Ross M. Johnson, aged 88, formerly of Lowell, passed away May 28, 2004. He was preceded in death by his wife Ruby. He is survived by his son Jerry (Kathy) Johnson of Grand Rapids; brother Frank (Dorothy) Johnson of Dutton; grandchildren Rev. Bryan (Robin) Johnson, Dwayne (Brenda) Johnson, Wendell (Carrie) Johnson; 10 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Tuesday at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Lowell. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alto Baptist Church Building Fund.

WILCOX - Grace L. Wilcox, aged 75, of Ft. Myers, passed away Saturday, May 29, 2004. She was born October 14, 1928 at Grand Haven, the

daughter of John and Lottie Huttenga. The family later moved to Grand Rapids. In 1946, she married Milton J. Wilcox and lived in Lowell until moving to Ft. Myers Beach in 1960. She is survived by her loving husband of 57 years, Milt; two sons Gerald (Marji) Wilcox, Thomas (Patricia) Wilcox; sister Joy Butindyke; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren. A private memorial service was held at the Ft. Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home. Cremation arrangements were by Ft. Myers Memorial Funeral Home.

Meijer Kidney Walk- June 6

Fact: The number of people with kidney failure is expected to double between 2000 and 2010.

Fact: One in nine Michigan adults (769,000) has chronic kidney disease.

Fact: There were 554 kidney transplants (including cadaver - most of them, living-related and living-unrelated) performed in Michigan in 2002.

Chronic kidney disease can strike anyone at any age. If left untreated,

chronic kidney disease can lead to total kidney failure, requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant for survival.

Michael Usher, of Cedar Springs, received a kidney this past February from his sister, Rhonda Delnick, of Lowell.

The National Kidney Foundation's Meijer Walk will be held this Sunday, June 6 at Fifth Third Ballpark and Delnick will be walking. She wants to make people aware that donating a kidney is not something to fear; her life is probably better now in that she has a healthy brother. Usher went from having his kidneys removed and being on dialysis to receiving a kidney and making a full recovery with normal kidney function, a normal blood pressure, and a normal life in three month's time.

Delnick said, "I want people to know the options of donating a kidney. There are a series of tests that are required and recuperating time from donating my kidney was about 10 weeks," adding that it has not affected her life from the standpoint that her health is in any danger.

The Kidney Walk, with registration at noon and the walk beginning at 1 p.m., presents an occasion for dialysis patients, organ transplant recipients, donor families, the medical communities and the general public to celebrate life and support the foundation's mission.

If you are interested in walking on June 6 or sponsoring, call Delnick at 897-8786 or pick up a registration form at the Lowell Meijer.

REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTION

NOTICE OF REGULAR ELECTION OF THE ELECTORS OF LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS KENT AND IONIA COUNTIES, MICHIGAN TO BE HELD JUNE 14, 2004

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Please Take Notice that the regular election of the school district will be held on Monday, June 14, 2004.

THE POLLS OF ELECTION WILL OPEN AT 7 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING AND CLOSE AT 8 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING.

At the regular school election there will be elected two (2) members to the board of education of the district for full terms of four (4) years ending in 2008.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONS HAVE BEEN NOMINATED TO FILL SUCH VACANCIES:

**Daniel C. Brubaker
Kate Dernocoeur
Maureen A. Fleet
Melanie J. Searfoss**

Write-in candidates must file a Declaration of Intent on or before 4 p.m. Friday, June 11, 2004.

THE VOTING PLACES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PRECINCT NO. 1

Voting Place: Runciman Elementary School, 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan. The first precinct consists of the City of Lowell and those portions lying north of the centerline of Cascade Road in Cascade and Lowell Townships in Kent County, and Boston Township in Ionia County.

PRECINCT NO. 2

Voting Place: Old Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash Road, Alto, Michigan. The second precinct consists of Bowne Township in Kent County and Campbell Township in Ionia County and those portions lying south of the centerline of Cascade Road in Cascade and Lowell Townships in Kent County, and Boston Township in Ionia County.

PRECINCT NO. 3

Voting Place: Vergennes Township Hall, corner of Bailey Drive and Parnell Avenue in Vergennes Township. The third precinct consists of the Townships of Ada, Cannon, Grattan, and Vergennes in Kent County, and Keene Township in Ionia County.

All school electors who are registered with the city or township clerk of the city or township in which they reside are eligible to vote at this election.

This Notice is given by order of the board of education.

Patrick Nugent
Secretary, Board of Education

The Lowell Ledger (USPS 453-830)

Published weekly for \$15⁰⁰ a year in Kent County, \$22⁰⁰ a year outside the county by the Lowell Ledger Publishing Company, 105 N. Broadway St., Lowell, MI 49331

ROGER K. BROWN.....PUBLISHER
JEANNE BOSS.....MANAGING EDITOR
DAN SCHNEIDER.....LEAD REPORTER
TONI BLOUGH.....COPY EDITOR
TAMMY JANOWIAK.....CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING
JAY VEZINO.....ADVERTISING SALES

(616) 897-9261

E-Mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Second Class Postage Paid at Lowell, MI

Published every Wednesday

POSTMASTER: Send address change to:

The Lowell Ledger

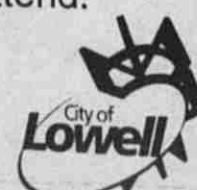
P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

www.lowellbuyersguide.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Foreman Street Reconstruction Project PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING 7 P.M. THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2004 Lowell City Hall - Council Chambers Second Floor

The City of Lowell will be conducting a public meeting to inform local residents and other interested parties about the upcoming road and watermain construction project on Foreman Street and a portion of Gee Drive. Representatives from the engineering firm will be present to explain the scope of the project, traffic detours, local access and to answer any questions you may have about the project. Residents of Foreman Street are especially encouraged to attend.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk



LHS grads a century ago

The Lowell High School graduating class of 1904 is pictured at the top. Fuller's mother, Lila Lawrence, is fifth from the left in the back row. His father, Harry Fuller, is fourth from the left in the third row. The bottom picture shows the same class at its 50th reunion. Fuller is interested in finding out who some of the other members of the class were. If readers have any idea, they may contact him at 956-6170.

This year, 100 years later, there are 293 students in the graduating class at Lowell High School. Commencement exercises for this year's graduates will be Sunday, June 6, at 3 p.m. at Red Arrow Stadium.

Charles Fuller of Grand Rapids submitted these photographs.



IN THE SERVICE



Justin R. Doyle

The United States Navy awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal to seaman Justin R. Doyle. The award was given on April 14 in

recognition of Doyle's professional achievement while serving in first division aboard the USS Russell. Doyle was stationed in Pearl Harbor from September of 2002 to April of 2004. During that time he helped the Russell successfully complete certifications for aviation and search and rescue as well as prepare the ship for a visit from President George W. Bush. Doyle is currently stationed in Meridian Mississippi for yeoman training. He is the son of Robert Doyle of Columbus, Ohio, and Patti Livingston of Saranac. His grandparents are Charlie and Dee Doyle and Connie Phillips, all of Lowell.

Maplewood Square Apartments

New-Upscale-Energy Efficient
All apartments on one level, laundry room, attached garage, covered porches, all appliances included.
**Now Available: 2-bedroom, 1-bath!
3-bedroom, 2-bath available in June!**
**Contact: Michael Nosko at
Maplewood Square Apartments • Ph: 616-682-1581**

A TRUSTED TRADITION OF AFFORDABLE, PERSONALIZED, AND COMFORTABLE CARE



GILLAN
DENTAL EXCELLENCE

TODD GILLAN, DDS, PC
2186 MAIN STREET • LOWELL
LOCATED ACROSS FROM ARBYS

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO CALL
(616) 897-8491

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN LOWELL

We have "No Problem" saving you money.

When you insure both your car and home with us, through Auto-Owners Insurance Company, we'll save you money! Stop in, or call us today for a "No Problem" insurance check-up.

Auto-Owners Insurance
Life Home Car Business
The "No Problem" People®

Regal Insurance Agency
835 W. Main St. • Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-9259
DALE TRIPLETT
(800) 804-3322

Lowell City Council hosts final public hearing on 2004-2005 budget before approval

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

Monday night will be the last time Lowell city residents will have a chance to comment on the city's 2004-2005 budget which will include an increase in trash and yard waste bags to residents. That increase, which is proposed to go up to a dollar on each, would help offset costs for the city's recycling program.

Trash service, recycling and yard waste are all handled by Waste Management for the city. In the past, the city has

contributed a portion of the cost of the bags, but under this proposal, the city would charge more than the cost of the bags, but not charge city for any of the recycling costs. The extra money generated from the bags would help cover the recycling costs.

It is the only cost increase residents will see to help with the city's general fund in 2004-2005. The budget, according to city manager David Pasquale, is about five percent less than the 2003-2004 budget. Revenues for the city

are expected to be down in 2004-2005 from \$2.384 million to \$2.345 million.

State actions could affect the city's revenues and will be watched, Pasquale said. The city is expected to end in the black with a fund balance of \$48,274.91, almost two percent of the city's expected expenditures, which will be about \$2.427 million.

To help keep the general fund balanced, city employees will receive a one percent cost of living increase with no merit awards planned for the

year, Pasquale said. Another item that has been on the chopping block are two police cruisers for the police department; however, city council felt that eliminating the cars could hamper the function of the department.

The council has also looked at itself to help trim the budget, especially in dealing with seminar and conference costs. Several of the council members noted that this year's Michigan Municipal League conference is scheduled to be held at Mackinac Island,

which could be quite costly to the city. The council plans to review whether the costs should be shared by those planning to attend or limit the opportunity to a couple of council members attending.

The general fund isn't the only fund proposing increases for the 2004-2005 year. The wastewater fund proposes an increase to the readiness to serve charge from \$11.50 to \$12.50 per residential unit per month. The user rate of \$1.80 per 1,000 gallons will remain

the same. Also going up is the readiness to serve rate for water, increasing by a dollar from \$18.75 to \$19.75 per month. The consumption charge of \$1.68 per 1,000 gallons will remain the same.

The city council meets at 7 p.m. Monday night at City Hall. After the last public hearing on the budget, the council is expected to review all of the city's funds for the 2004-2005 year and make a final decision.

Nature photographer, continued...From Page 1

of wildlife images. He has done some commercial photography around the Grand Rapids area as well.

Now he hopes to use his retail experience to make the gallery into a venture that will allow him to pursue his photography to a fuller extent.

"We had so many people asking, 'Where could we see more of the work?'" Shuff said.

Shuff's photographs in the gallery are mostly recent work...images taken since he switched to digital photography about a year ago.

His wife, Brooke, works at the John Ball Park Zoo, which has been helpful. They

have also traveled extensively around the country, though Shuff does a lot of his photography on the east side of Kent County.

In addition to the photographs, which are mostly printed in editions of 250 prints, Shuff sells notecards that feature his work. He also sells work by a few other artists on consignment. The store carries a line of handmade candles. These Shuff gets from a friend of his in Pennsylvania, the state he himself is from. Shuff also offers custom framing and matting at the store.

Crooked Tree Gallery and Gifts is located at 219 E. Main Street in downtown Lowell. It replaces Daisy's Floral Shop, which has moved to a larger, more permanent location at 505 W. Main St.

Shuff hopes to move to a larger downtown space in the future.

"I'd like to find a place that's big enough to have the gallery up front and since we do the custom framing and matting, have space in back to do that as well."

Shuff chose Lowell over Rockford and Grand Rapids' Eastown.

"Lowell seemed to be the right place," he said. "We wanted to find a place that had

a real nice downtown that people could walk around in."

The gallery and gift shop is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

As the sheriff made these comments, it occurred to me that there was something missing from the Memorial Day ceremonies I remember as a kid. There was always a rather large contingent of WWII vets marching in the parade and assembled at the cemetery. Like my father, most of them have gone on. The few that are left are too old to walk the parade route.

The veterans that have come along since are much fewer in number and served in unpopular wars like Korea and Viet Nam.

As a Viet Nam era veteran, I'm proud of my service to our country, but I also know a great many of my generation openly scoff at those who served in such an unpopular war. That may be a partial explanation of why we're reluctant to step in and fill the ranks of those WWII vets who used to march in the Memorial Day parades.

I can only hope those currently serving our country don't feel the same way when they are veterans. Whether the decisions of our leaders are right or wrong, those serving in the military still need our support.

Buglers played "Taps," the firing squad fired their old Enfields, there were closing comments, a benediction, and it was over.

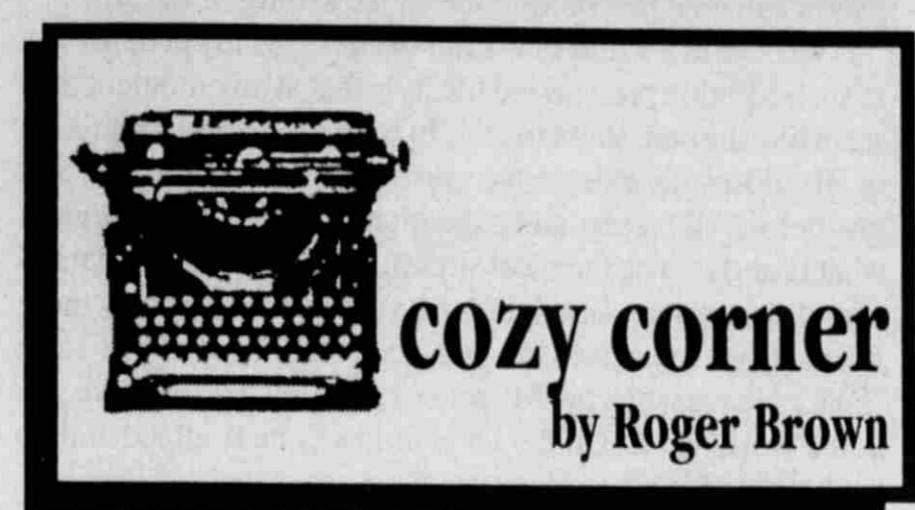
In closing out my thoughts, I hope the sheriff isn't right about our military becoming an abstraction. I hope we all realize our freedoms and lifestyle are directly linked to our military. I hope there will always be a Memorial Day observance in Saranac and hundreds of towns like it across this great nation.

P.S. I just wanted to credit the Saranac Boy Scouts. They had two burn barrels going at the entrance to the cemetery. As people left the ceremony, they were handed strips of retired American flags to place in the fire. I just wanted to add that this was a very, very nice addition to the Memorial Day services I remember as a kid.

Nervous high school seniors recited works like "The Gettysburg Address," "The Unknown Soldier" and "In Flander's Field." Members of the American Legion Auxiliary placed a wreath at the old cannon which guards the cemetery.

It was now time for the Memorial Day Address. I remember this part from my years as a Boy Scout, standing there in the heat, waiting for one of my compatriots to pass out. It

Viewpoint . . .



I had the chance to attend the Saranac Memorial Day ceremony on Monday. I chose Saranac because the little village is still my "home town." I graduated from high school there. Most of my family still lives there. Terese and I built our first home there. Our children were born there. And now, the family is beginning to put our loved ones to rest in the cemetery there.

My brother-in-law, a Viet Nam era U.S. Army veteran, was buried there five years ago. Just a few feet away lies my father. He was a World War II Marine. He left us just under two years ago. Their graves are marked with bronze plaques proudly denoting their military service. The American Legion Post diligently placed flags on their graves, as they did for the hundreds of other veterans buried there.

I purposely arrived at the cemetery a little early. I wanted a quiet moment at my father's grave. The weather was cool and rainy. A stiff breeze fluttered the flags marking the graves of all the veterans. The cemetery grass was lush green from our abundant rain, but was neatly mowed. Red geraniums and other floral arrangements decorated many graves. Tears came easily.

At the ceremony things went pretty much as usual. At least "as usual" from my perspective, which goes back to participating in the event as a Boy Scout more than forty years ago. The Saranac High School Band, the Boy Scouts, the American Legion color guard and firing squad all marched into the cemetery and took up their positions. The rest of us quietly crowded around.

The speakers began. The township supervisor welcomed everyone, the Scouts led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, a pastor offered an invocation, the band played the Star Spangled Banner. We all sang along. Even this old tone-deaf observer joined in.

Lowell Cable, Lowell DPW and firemen from both Lowell and Oakfield were all pitching in to help prevent damage to the building or its contents.

Even local citizens and their children came to help with the effort. Local businesses including Faro's Pizza, Meijer, and Little Caesars did what they could to keep the volunteers supplied with food and drink. For everyone who helped (especially those we may have neglected to mention) ... Lowell couldn't ask for better neighbors.

Thank you all for seeing a problem and helping to make it better.

Tom Richards
General Manager
Lowell Light and Power/Cable TV

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:
The rising waters in Lowell probably had some impact on all of us, but we were most affected by the generous outpouring of help and support when it was needed.

When business leader Brian Doyle recognized the potential of flooding on the Riverwalk, before we knew it, help was coming from all directions to protect the building containing the chamber of commerce, DPW storage and Lowell Cable. Department of Public Works management and staff were quickly filling and delivering sandbags.

A quickly assembled team from Lowell Light and Power,

seems like one always did. Nobody had to worry about the heat on this Memorial Day.

This year's speaker was Ionia County Sheriff Dwain Dennis. He came well prepared and I found his comments very interesting.

The sheriff cited the fact our military is the smallest it has been in over fifty years. He noted that an ever increasing number of Americans go through life with no personal contact with the military. Many Americans have no family, friends or neighbors in the military. He went on to say that military service and the commitment to this country that comes with it is becoming an abstraction. He said that for all too many Americans, Memorial Day is simply a long weekend used to open the cottage, get out the grill or get a free hot dog at Art Van's.

As the sheriff made these comments, it occurred to me that there was something missing from the Memorial Day ceremonies I remember as a kid. There was always a rather large contingent of WWII vets marching in the parade and assembled at the cemetery. Like my father, most of them have gone on. The few that are left are too old to walk the parade route.

The veterans that have come along since are much fewer in number and served in unpopular wars like Korea and Viet Nam.

As a Viet Nam era veteran, I'm proud of my service to our country, but I also know a great many of my generation openly scoff at those who served in such an unpopular war. That may be a partial explanation of why we're reluctant to step in and fill the ranks of those WWII vets who used to march in the Memorial Day parades.

I can only hope those currently serving our country don't feel the same way when they are veterans. Whether the decisions of our leaders are right or wrong, those serving in the military still need our support.

Buglers played "Taps," the firing squad fired their old Enfields, there were closing comments, a benediction, and it was over.

In closing out my thoughts, I hope the sheriff isn't right about our military becoming an abstraction. I hope we all realize our freedoms and lifestyle are directly linked to our military. I hope there will always be a Memorial Day observance in Saranac and hundreds of towns like it across this great nation.

P.S. I just wanted to credit the Saranac Boy Scouts. They had two burn barrels going at the entrance to the cemetery. As people left the ceremony, they were handed strips of retired American flags to place in the fire. I just wanted to add that this was a very, very nice addition to the Memorial Day services I remember as a kid.



Ledger Entries of 125, 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago

125 YEARS
THE WEEKLY JOURNAL
JUNE 4, 1879

The Legislature was in session 151 days before its adjournment Wednesday.

The rear of the Flat River log drive is not far from Greenville.

The local band is in Port Huron this week for the Band Tournament.

A Texas rancher has 110,000 cattle grazing inside 75 miles of fence.

There were 353 pupils enrolled in the Lowell Schools in May.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
JUNE 2, 1904
Commencement programs can be picked up at the Ledger office.

Weekly concerts of the Lowell Military Band will be resumed for the summer on Wednesday, June 15.

The Lansing street cars are so slow that conductors can wear wide brim straw hats without fear of losing them.

Game warden Jacobi warns that action will be taken against boys who rob birds' nests of their eggs.

The current serial is "Darkest Russia" by Grattan Donnelly.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
AND THE ALTO SOLO
JUNE 6, 1929

A contingent of Lowell and other Kent County towns asks Gov. Green to extend M-66 to Freeport, Hastings and eventually Battle Creek.

St. Mary's celebrates the 50th anniversary of their church building.

The Charles W. Clark Post of the American Legion band will give several concerts this summer, here and in nearby towns. C. Howard White is the conductor.

The annual Kent County Schools track and field meet will be here next week. C and D classes will be used this year for the first time.

Florence Lewis purchases the Yeiter Restaurant and will continue 24-hour service, plus rooms to rent.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
JUNE 3, 1954
A "terrific storm" earlier in the morning does not halt the 85th observance of Memorial Day at Oakwood Cemetery.

The storm knocks down three large trees on M-21 west of Lowell, killing a car driver and injuring his family.

The front page is full of graduations, from kindergarten through college. LHS will graduate 76 next week.

An army dentist develops an electronic thermometer that takes a patient's temp in five seconds.

Michigan Bell's ad encourages calling the operator in a medical emergency.

25 YEARS
THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER
JUNE 6, 1979

Stanley Johnson of Riverside Fireplace steps out on his porch over the river with a friend. Wind blows the door shut. They are rescued by workers on the Showboat who notice their plight.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new St. Mary's Church will be this Sunday.

This year's graduation class of 215 is pictured. Next Monday be sure to vote; four candidates are vying for two school board positions.

Saranac lays the cornerstone for its senior housing project, Mill Creek Meadows.

Save GAS Money...
Do your banking from home!

ICNB offers the ultimate in banking convenience! It's FREE and you don't have to leave home. Start saving today — visit www.icnb.com to enroll in iBANK with Bill Pay.*

FREE!
iBANK @ICNB

Free iBANK on new and existing ICNB Checking Accounts.
* First 10 transactions per month are free, \$0.50 for each additional transaction.

Ionia: 616-527-0220
Belding Downtown: 616-794-1195
Belding West: 616-794-0890
Lowell: 616-897-6171
Southside: 616-527-9250
Sunfield: 517-566-8025
Woodland: 269-367-4911

ICNB
Hometown Banking
www.icnb.com



Businesses thanked for community participation

Pictured, left to right, are: student Charlie Fetterhoff, employment training specialist Rose Bruinsma, Hooper Printing owner Mike Hooper, high school student Saftet Avdulahaj and teacher Keith Boeve. Lowell High School students are in the Community Based Instruction (CBI) class taught by Boeve. The class integrates classroom job skills training with actual work experience for special needs students. Hooper Printing is among 22 workplaces in Lowell that has hired CBI students. Avdulahaj has been working there for three years. On May 20, the businesses were given plaques recognizing them for their participation in the program.

Arctic Inc.
1301 Bowes Rd.,
Lowell • 616-897-4123

1984 - 2004
20 YEARS OF GREAT SERVICE

Call us for all your heating, air-conditioning needs.
Replacements, New Homes or Upgrades

- Rebates up to \$1,050.00 on high efficiency furnaces and air conditioning (ends May 31, 2004)
- Free humidifier with complete system installed (Value of \$350.00)
- Furnace and air conditioning inspections \$10.00 off
- Serving the area since 1984. Licensed and insured
- Visit us at www.heatingcoolingonline.com

MasterCard VISA

Call Bryant to the rescue

Letters, Letters, Letters...

The Lowell Ledger welcomes all "Letters to the Editor" for publication on its "Viewpoint" page. Letters can be typed or written. However, we ask that they do not exceed one written page or one typed, double-spaced page. "Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O. Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or emailed to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

Letters must be signed and please include a phone number when emailing. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy.

The Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

Reflections Of Faith

Robert W. Holmes
Senior Pastor
Christian Life Center

I was the first one awake that cold morning, as I scampered out of bed to check the thermometer. To my amazement it read 55 degrees. As I went downstairs to check the furnace, I wondered what in the world had happened. It sat there like it was frozen, no noise, no flame, nothing! I called the repair service and told them of my plight. They responded quickly and finally figured out where the problem was. You see the problem was with the thermostat, not the thermometer

— that just reflected the temperature. It was the thermostat, which, of course, controls the temperature!
Are you a thermometer or are you a thermostat? Thermometer people tend to reflect the temperature of the people around them. "If you're hot, I'm hot. If you're cool, I'm cool. If you're nice, I'm nice. If you yell, I yell." Thermometer.
What most of us would like to be is a thermostat— someone who controls the temperature in our situation. Your family sure needs for you to be a thermostat; if everyone's a thermometer, it's chaos there. The people you work with, your friends— they need someone who is under control, who doesn't go off with the stress, who's steady and caring and peaceful. Those thermostat people are rare - and valuable.

The book of Esther contains one of my favorite stories. It's the story of a young girl who decided to be a thermostat instead of a thermometer— and in so doing, she avoided an ancient holocaust. Through treachery and deceit, Haaman had gotten the King of the land to go along with his plan to have all the Jews put to death; unaware that Queen Esther was herself a Jew. Word came to Esther of Haaman's devious plot with a plea to intercede to the King on behalf of the Jews. Her initial reaction was like a thermometer, "I can't do anything about this, the King hasn't called for me and if I go to him

uninvited, I may be put to death." Esther's uncle, Mordecai, responded to Esther and said, "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" (Est. 4:13-15)

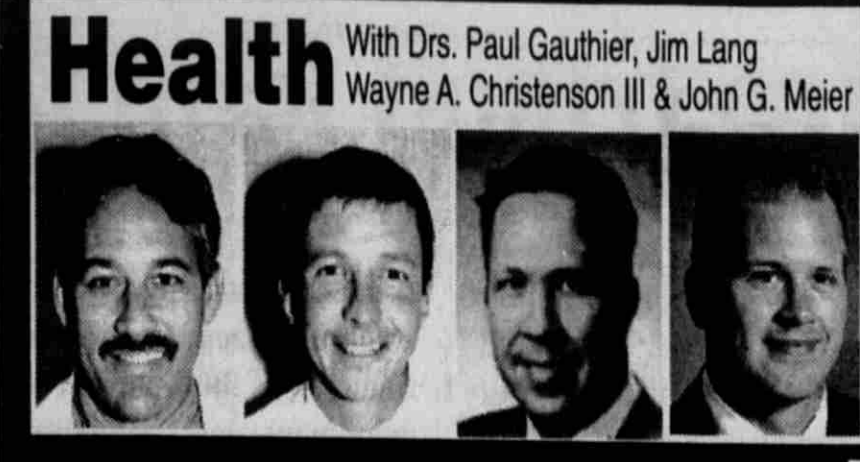
That was all it took. Esther became a thermostat— she set in motion a plan that would turn the whole plot upside down and in the end, Haaman was the one who was hung on the very gallows that he had built to use in the killing of the Jews.

We live in a world that's full of stress. Many people exist in such a highly pressurized lifestyle that at any moment they seem like they are about to pop. In John 14:27, Jesus is talking to His closest friends on the most stressful night of His life, just before His arrest and execution. And it's on the eve of what is about to be the most stressful chapter in their lives. If stressful is a fair description of your life right now, these words from Jesus are for you, too. Here's what He says. "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

I'm sure I don't have to make a list of the uncertainties in our world that could make any of our hearts "troubled" or "afraid" right now. But in the midst of combat conditions, Jesus says, "I give you My peace - like nothing, like no one on earth can give you." A love-relationship with the Son of God is the secret to experiencing peace in the midst of pressure. It's a peace that I have experienced over and over again ... and it's anchored in my relationship with Jesus Christ.

When you know you belong to Him, you can be a thermostat instead of a thermometer because you know you have an identity and a security that is rooted in something that cannot be shaken.

Now, more than ever, we need Jesus to turn us from a thermometer person into a thermostat. Instead of reflecting the despair and uncertainty that's in our world, we can turn the dial to positive and, like Esther, change our environment and radiate a peace that can only come from a relationship with Jesus Christ.



Health With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang, Wayne A. Christenson III & John G. Meier

Bee and wasp stings are common occurrences this time of year. Most reactions are localized pain, swelling and redness at the site of the sting. First check to make sure the stinger is still not in your skin. Some species will lose their stinger and some do not. Local ice application will help the swelling. Take Benadryl (over the counter) immediately after. This will decrease the skin reaction and help with pain. Continue to take Benadryl for the next several days.

Some people are truly allergic to bee stings. These people will experience swelling and an itchy rash over their body. The swelling can occur in the throat, blocking off the airway. This is a true medical emergency. Benadryl should be given immediately, and emergency services called. Some people who know they are allergic should have a bee sting kit. This contains an epinephrine injection that should be given if the person experiences airway compromise.

AREA BIRTHS

Tom and Tammie (Knottnerus) Blackport are happy to announce the birth of their son, Owen Harrison, born March 15 at St. Mary's Hospital. He weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measured 21 inches. He is welcomed home by older brothers, Thomas and Nolan.

Proud grandparents are Gary and Marlene Knottnerus of Lowell and Ron and Donna Blackport of Byron Center. Great-grandparents are Bill and Sophia Knottnerus of Walker.

Ben and Karen Richmond are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Anna Marie, born May 23. She weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz. Welcoming her home are big brothers Alexander and John-Luc and big sister Olivia.

Proud grandparents are John and Pierrette Olinger of Heath, Ohio, and grandfather Jerrold Richmond of Lowell. Great-grandmothers are Virginia Uzarski of Grand Rapids and Alice Olinger of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Greenridge Realty announced that Laura Evans received Realtor of the Month in May.

This award recognizes Laura for her outstanding success and achievements.

When ideas fail, words come in very handy. —Goethe

Praise is warming and desirable, what the human race lives on like bread. But praise is an earned thing. It has to be deserved like an honorary degree or a hug from a child. A compliment is manna, a free gift. —Phyllis McGinley

IMPAC is a real estate company located at 1070 North Hudson Rd, Lowell, MI 49331, (616) 897-8304.

Lowell NARFE members attend state convention

Charles and Dee Doyle, of Lowell, attended the state convention of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) on May 24-29 in Troy.

The NARFE support those now and in the past who have served the nation through their federal employment. NARFE is committed to securing the future that federal and postal employees have worked to achieve for themselves and their families. The Doyles and other guests heard national treasurer Michael B. Hoyman and field vice president Owen R. Kirby as well as other speakers.

Dairy foods have a positive impact on weight loss

A 24-week study was published in the April issue of *Obesity Research*, indicating that adults on a reduced-calorie diet who ate 3-4 servings of dairy foods each day lost an average of 24 pounds, significantly more than those who also cut calories but consumed few or no dairy foods.

metabolism and improve the body's ability to burn fat. Michael Zemel, Ph.D., professor of nutrition, University of Tennessee, said, "The practical significance of this research is simple—people lose more weight on diets that include three servings of dairy than on diets that don't. By reducing body fat in the abdominal region, people may also reduce their risk of developing several chronic diseases, including heart disease and hypertension."

In fact, the study indicates that 3-4 daily servings of milk, cheese or yogurt help people lose more weight by burning more fat in the abdominal region when compared to those who just cut calories or took calcium supplements. The mix of essential nutrients in dairy foods, including calcium and protein, appears to speed up

those who consumed at least two servings of yogurt daily lost an average of 11 pounds during a one-year study without reducing calories. Similar findings have been documented by other researchers and more research is underway to better identify the role dairy foods play in weight loss. To learn more on this topic, visit www.healthyweightwithdairy.com.



Greenridge Realty announced that Laura Evans received Realtor of the Month in May.

Thomas & Jennifer Coviak are pleased to announce the arrival of **Madison Claire** born March 18, 2004. She weighed 6 lbs. 8 measured 19 inches. Welcoming her home is her big brother Ethan. Proud grandparents are Ron & Katie Alderink of Lowell, Jerry & Jeanette Coviak of Howell and great-grandma Helen Alderink of Lowell. Many thanks again to all who helped with her arrival.

ENGAGEMENTS

Reimbold/Traore

Richard and Rita Reimbold, of Ada, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Ann to Adama Traore, of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, West Africa.

The future groom is the son of Amadou and Massara Yatassaye and Minimian and Nassoun Traore. He graduated from Lycee Municipal and Ecole Nationale des Enseignants Primaires. He is currently a primary school teacher in Burkina Faso, W. Africa.



Adama Traore and Elizabeth Ann Reimbold

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Lowell High School and Michigan State University. She is currently attending Johns Hopkins University, working on her master's in public health.

The couple are planning a June 26, 2004 wedding.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE 3: Ron Nead.

JUNE 4: Becki Brown, Karen Roudabush, Dwight Nash.

JUNE 5: Amanda Vezino, Judy Rosenberger.

JUNE 6: Daniel Thaler, Jessie Stephens, Mark Newhouse.

JUNE 7: Amber Metternick, April Metternick, Zachary Beachum, Ryan Kennedy.

JUNE 8: Barbara Brown, Mark Essich.

JUNE 9: Dimpna Hill Brown, Kristina Parish, Doris Plummer, Jerry Spencer, Josh Felling.

Congratulations On Your Engagement! Lowell Fine Jewelers is your smart choice for purchasing diamonds or wedding bands & unique gifts for your bridesmaids & groomsman!

Lowell Fine Jewelers
Chimera Design
208 E. Main • Lowell, MI
897-9480

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell</p> <p>Across the street from the Vermont Dodge dealership. 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>St. Mary's Catholic Church Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmarys-lowell.com</p> <p>Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDA BERG 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, ENVI FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. William J. Renkema - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A. M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936</p> <p>Summer Worship Services 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH 10501 Settlemore • Ph. 897-7185 Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....11 A.M. Evening Service.....6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Prayer and Praise - Wed., 7:00 P.M. Rev. Rick Ferguson - 987-6475 ALL ARE WELCOME! (Barrier-Free)</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor Stacy Holmes, College & Twenties Brian Baber, Youth Pastor</p> <p>SUNDAYS: Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (For All Ages) 7 p.m. Generation Jacob Youth: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmarys-lowell.com</p> <p>Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDA BERG 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, ENVI FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org</p> <p>Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. At 215 1/2 W. Main, Lowell (entrance in rear of building) CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES</p> <p>Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:50 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M.</p> <p>PASTOR TIM DESHAW Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	<p>SOUTH BOSTON BIBLE CHURCH (Kyser Road SE at Grand River Ave.) WE ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS • WE CARE ABOUT YOU Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. Word of Life (for all ages).....6:30 P.M. Evening Praise.....7:00 P.M. Wednesday Kids Klub (ages 2-5).....7:00 P.M. Olympians (1st-6th grades) Prayer and Bible Study Library, Nursery, College & Children's Services provided - Wheelchair Accessible Church 897-7623 • Parsonage 897-5464 • sbcbcc@juno.com</p>
<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. W. Lee Taylor & Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service, 9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA.....Wed. 6:15 & 7 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free "You Matter To God"</p>	<p>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906</p> <p>Worship and Church School.....10:00 A.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Megan MacNaughton.....Music Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>	<p>Rebecca Keyworth is the recipient of a \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship for 2004. She was chosen from a group of about 15,000 finalists in the 2004 scholarship program.</p> <p>Keyworth, the daughter of Charles and Della (Rogers) Keyworth, and granddaughter of Verna V. Rogers of Lowell, plans to attend Ohio State University to study aeronautical engineering and flight.</p>

AUCTION

Saturday, June 5, 2004

5:30 Dinner & Registration
Silent Auction Opens

6:30 Live Auction Opens

7:00 & 7:45 Silent Auction Closings

All proceeds will support the *Student Ministries* of Impact for future events, retreats and activities.

Packages, Services & Products Available
(More will be available on the day of the auction)

- Baby Grand Piano
- Custom Designed Playhouse
- Oil Changes
- Personal Trainer
- Catered Dinner
- Lift Baskets
- Lawn Mower Tune-Up at Stack Cycle
- China Dishes
- Fireplace Screen
- Quietum Consulting
- Day on the Lake
- Landscaping Packages
- Hot Tub Weekend
- Bit Bull Set
- Cooking Lessons
- Ice Cream Rental
- Voyage's Gift Certificates
- Writing Coach
- Custom Made Fishing Rod

**1070 North Hudson Rd
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-8304**

JOIN ME AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU JUNE 21 TO 25
9 AM till NOON

CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
1125 West Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331
Across from Burger King

Please register at (616) 897-7060; E-Mail calvarycrc@juno.com

AGES: 4 YEARS TO 6TH GRADE

We have a class for moms with nursery provided too!

BIBLE STORIES

CRAFTS

GAMES

SINGING

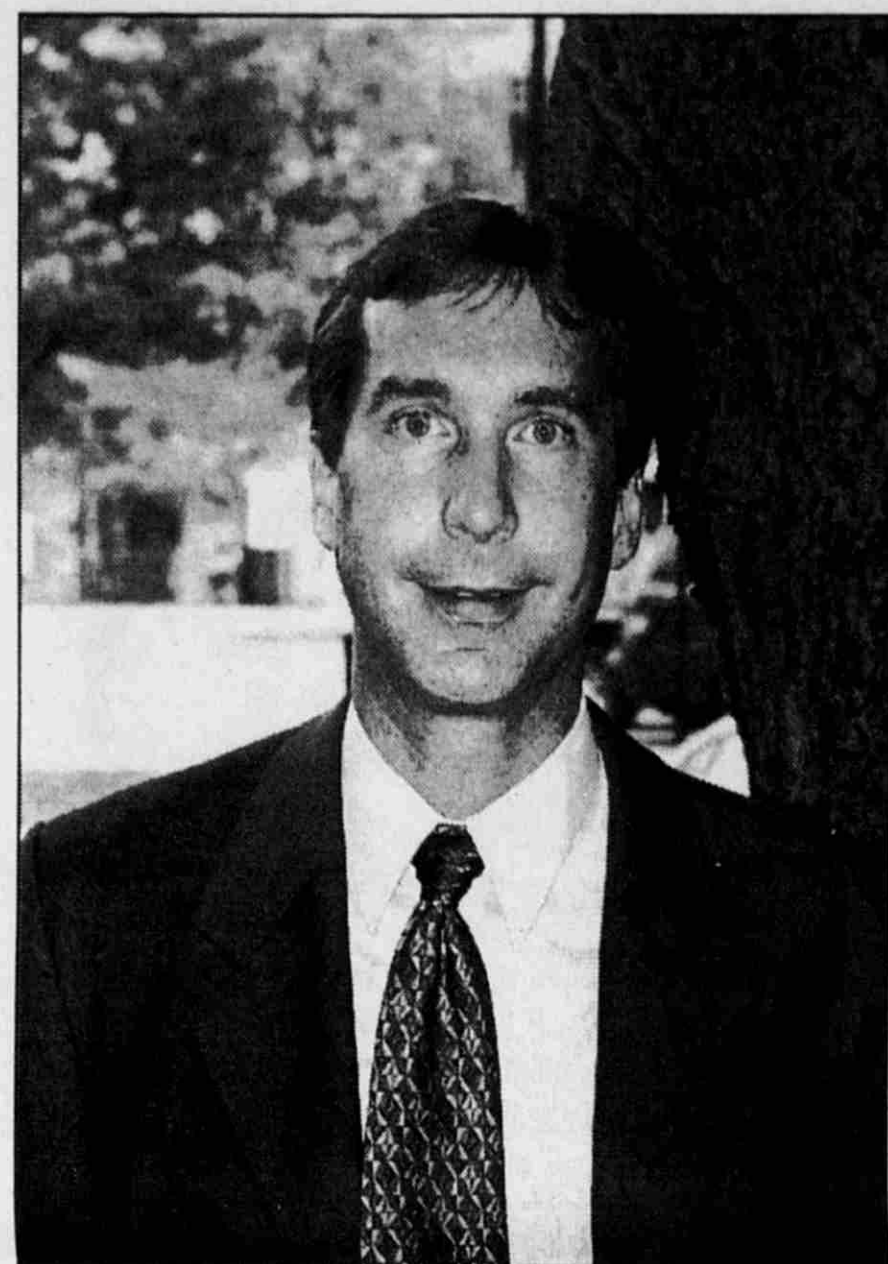
SNACKS

More FUN than you can measure at VBS!

School board elections, continued...From Page 1

long and difficult negotiations still underway with the teachers and support staff unions.

The candidates all come from varying backgrounds. What they have in common is the desire to hold what proves to be a difficult and challenging public office. The following interviews explain who the candidates are and why they are running for the board of education.



Dan Brubaker

Dan Brubaker

Dan Brubaker was born in Howell, Mich. He grew up in Traverse City and Grand Rapids.

He moved to Alto and then Lowell after completing law school at the University of Michigan. Professionally, he was a private practice attorney for 10 years. He helped to establish Mika, Meyers,

Beckett and Jones law office in Lowell. He currently works as a commissioner in the Michigan Supreme Court.

This is the first time he has run for school board but he has held several public offices in Lowell. He was on the city planning commission for many years. He was on the Lowell City Council from 2000 to 2003.

In addition to holding public office, he has done board

work for nonprofit organizations in Lowell. He is former co-chair of the Lowell YMCA board of managers. He was one of the original board members of and helped to incorporate Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.

"I want to make sure that the children in our school system receive the best possible education the district can provide them," Brubaker said.

"And I also want to make sure that the board focuses not just on balancing the books but on spending the resources the district does have wisely."

This is one of the strengths Brubaker already sees present in the district.

"The Lowell School District has been able to provide a wonderful education for the students of this community without spending as much money as some of the wealthier districts," he said.

But the district is currently facing even harder financial challenges than in the past, as well as other challenges.

"The most immediate challenge is negotiating a contract with the employees which is one of the reasons I decided to run for the board," Brubaker said. "This has always been a very close community and watching the dispute between the administration and the employees is almost like watching a couple that you know well going through a divorce."

"The differences are being displayed publicly... and part of my background as an attorney is I've been someone who's been able to go into a situation, determine what the facts really are, and limit some of the obstacles and to help both sides come to a solution for a difficult problem."

Brubaker's goals for the district are to work out "a fair and fiscally sound agreement with the employees," to make sure the district is complying with the No Child Left Behind Act, to make sure standardized test scores improve and to make budget cuts "in such a way that there's the least possible detrimental effect on the quality of education."

Kate Dernocoeur

Kate Dernocoeur is finishing her first term on the school board. Her four years of experience in the position are a big part of why she is running again.

"It would be more beneficial to the district, I think, to have only one person facing that learning curve than to have two," she said. "At least I wanted to give the voters the opportunity to just have one new person at the table instead of two. Really it's not up to me but I thought I'd throw my hat in the ring."

Experience on other boards is what made Dernocoeur decide to run for school board four years ago.

"I know a good board when I see it," she said. "I have served on a variety of boards in the past so I'm familiar with board work."

"I love the school district. I think it's something that I want to make better to the extent that my talents can do that. So that's what drew me in and I think that's what keeps me here."

Dernocoeur was born in Denver, Colorado. She moved to Connecticut at the age of six and moved around the east coast. She earned a bachelor's of science degree in journalism from Boston University.

She spent 25 years as a freelance journalist writing primarily for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) community. Her job also included speaking at EMS conferences around the country and writing scripts for training videos.

She moved to Lowell in 1987. Since that time, she has served on several boards.

Dernocoeur is coming to the end of her second term on the Lowell Area Community Fund advisory committee,

having been chair for two years.

Currently on the advisory committee for the Wittenbach Center, Dernocoeur was on

soundness and high quality, challenging academics, a continuation of the character development, and professional development for our teach-



Kate Dernocoeur

the original demographics committee that proposed the 2000 bond election.

Dernocoeur also served on the LAS Education Foundation Board. She is on the board of directors for the Eventing Association of Michigan, which organizes horse-riding contests throughout the state.

The biggest challenges she sees the board facing are budget problems and the tension in the teacher contract negotiations.

"The financial challenges are really interrupting our efforts at quality and it really frustrates me," Dernocoeur said. "Our goal as a group, we've got to maintain fiscal

ers."

Dernocoeur said the district must deal with its budget challenges and contract tension without losing sight of all the good things in the district.

Maureen Fleet

Maureen Fleet grew up in Belding and attended public school there. She graduated from Aquinas College with a bachelor's degree in business and accounting.

A practicing CPA for awhile, she currently works as a Medicaid auditor for the state of Michigan. She lives in Lowell though her husband Richard's concrete contracting business is based elsewhere.

"His business is in Cedar Springs but we always opted to stay in Lowell because of the schools," she said.

Fleet volunteers with the Lowell Area Schools academic boosters and music boosters. She decided to run

School board candidates, cont'd., pg. 9

School board candidates, continued

for a school board seat out of a desire to do more for the district.

"I want to run for the school board because I've been very concerned with what I've seen happen in the last year and if I care so much about it, I have to make the effort and do something about it," she said.

Fleet wants to restore collaboration she feels is currently missing between the administration and teachers and support staff. "I think that trust has to be re-established," she said.

Fleet said the contract negotiations are a subcategory of the broad financial challenges the district is facing along with other districts in Michigan. She said her financial experience would be helpful in making decisions regarding these challenges.

The strained contract negotiations are a short-term problem that could have long-term consequences depending on how it is solved.

"How this situation is dealt with is going to affect how we are perceived as a school district and as a community," she said.

Fleet counts community involvement in the schools among the important assets the board must work to preserve.

"It has a huge parental involvement," Fleet said. "That's really wonderful and you don't find that in all school districts. And they have wonderful teachers. The majority of the teachers do a lot more than they have to."

Fleet would hope to foster more communication between

the administration and the teachers and support staff.

"I'd like to see an opportunity for the board members to jump in and ask more questions," Fleet said.

Another goal she has for the board is to make it more accessible to the public.

"I just think if you're a member of the board, it's important to be available to the constituency," she said.

Melanie Searfoss

Melanie Searfoss has seen a lot of schools in her life. She was born in Ohio but her father was a pipeline engineer who traveled extensively around the country. She had attended 13 different schools by the time she graduated from high school.

Searfoss graduated from the School of Nursing in Columbus, Ohio.

"I've been working with children since I was 19 years old at the Columbus Children's Hospital," Searfoss said. "I come from a traditionally female-dominated, underpaid profession... so I can identify with the teachers."

She married her husband, Jim, then an Army officer. He is now retired. She received facilitators training through the Officers' Wives Club. Searfoss and her husband traveled extensively during his active duty and experienced many schools through their children.

Searfoss became active in many of the school districts where her children attended. She was a PTA president in California, a teacher's aide in Alaska, helped in kindergarten in Texas and started two after-school programs at an elementary school in Manhattan, Kansas.

Her family moved to Lowell in 1998. Searfoss has

worked on the athletic boosters and class fundraisers for junior and senior prom. Her youngest daughter, Caitie, graduates from Lowell High School this year.

Searfoss left Kansas while the school district in Manhattan was wrangling over contentious issues involving the construction of new school buildings while enrollment was declining in the district. Experiencing that situation made her want to help avoid a similar one with the contract negotiations in Lowell.

"There was a great deal of discord and there was a great deal of distrust between the staff and the administration, and it was hard to work and it was hard on the children... I really want Lowell to avoid that debacle," Searfoss said. "I honestly think we could find an easier solution. I tend to think that open communication is the best way to get change."

"I would like to believe that the next time we do negotiations they are going to be multi-year and not year-to-year."

She says grass-roots efforts are needed to move toward more equitable school funding from the state and federal governments. "I think

there has to be a very vocal group of people."

Her goals for academics in the district are to offer more advanced placement courses, 100 percent literacy rates by eighth grade, and

more emphasis on the arts. "I'd like to see our Odyssey of the Mind, Science Olympiad and Model United Nations teams be recognized as our football team," she said.



Melanie Searfoss

SCOTTY'S Auto & Performance

36 Church St., Saranac • (616) 642-3000
Owner: Scott Canfield

- * Complete Auto Repair
- * Custom Exhaust
- * Diagnostics - Computer & Electrical
- * Computerized Alignments
- * Major Engine Repair
- * Performance Parts & Accessories
- * A/C Repair

NEW SPECIALS MONTHLY

- BUY 4 COOPER TIRES -- GET FRONT-WHEEL ALIGNMENT FOR \$9.95
- BUY 2 COOPER TIRES -- GET FRONT-WHEEL ALIGNMENT FOR \$19.95
- ALIGNMENT SPECIAL \$29.95

SAVE GAS!!! TUNE YOUR CAR

- TUNE-UP SPECIALS STARTING AT \$49.95
- FREE A/C SYSTEM CHECK
- A/C SPECIAL \$49.95 + FREON
- OIL CHANGE \$14.95 (MOST VEHICLES)

SCOTTY'S Auto & Performance

36 Church St., Saranac • (616) 642-3000

TIRE SPECIAL GOOD WITH THIS COUPON

52904BG

We Offer Senior Citizen and Full Time Student Discounts
Most Major Credit Cards Accepted

A CROWN

IN ONE VISIT ...SIMPLE!

"If I had known it would be this easy, I wouldn't have put off getting a crown for so long. One visit and it was done. The crown fits and looks great. I have my smile back...simple!"

Family Dentistry of Lowell
- ANN WILSON, D.D.S. -
Tel. 897-4835 • 147 North Center Street • Lowell

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS 897-4835

"SWISS STEAK"
Family-Style Dinner
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9
Starting at 5:30 • Adults \$8, 5-12 \$2

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3189 SNOW AVE. SE.

LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS

NOTICE OF TESTING

OPTEC COMPUTER PROGRAM

FOR THE JUNE 14, 2004 REGULAR ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the OPTEC Computer Program testing for the June 14, 2004 Regular Election will be conducted on June 7, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at the Lowell Area Schools, 300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan.

Magnificent Lake Home

8707 36TH STREET

3 Bedroom, 3 Bath, Den/Study. Spacious open floor plan with many comfortable features. Main floor is like a newly constructed home. Master Bedroom with custom built cherry entertainment center, skylights, private deck overlooking the lake. Jacuzzi style tub that overlooks the lake. Family friendly Kitchen, Dining Area and Great Room. Two fireplaces. Decks along entire length of house overlooking lake. A Majestic view of the lake from nearly every room. 200± of lake frontage!

A great opportunity to own at \$369,900 or Lease Terms.

Jim Heglund, GRI, Heglund Realty,
Office 942-6636 • Cell (616)540-5770 • Fax 942-6376

COMING EVENTS

Notices in The Ledger's "Coming Events" are free of charge to any nonprofit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto & Saranac areas. We prefer such notices to be kept brief and to be submitted by mail, but will accept notices by phone at 897-9261.

SUNDAYS: Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 12-5 p.m. Call Larry at 754-7104. Public welcome.

EVERY MON.: LHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes & Friends, 7-8:30 p.m. in members' homes. 676-1355.

EVERY MON.: Women's over 30 drop-in basketball, 7-9:30 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary. Call Dave (YMCA) 897-8445. Fee \$3.

3RD MON.: Fallsburg Historical Society board meetings at chamber of commerce or Fallsburg, 7 p.m. All invited. Call 897-7161 for info. or location.

2ND MON.: Lowell Board of Education meets 7 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

2ND MON.: Bowne Township Historical Society meeting at Historical Museum, 84th and Alden Nash, 7:30 p.m.

3RD MON.: Lowell Showboat Garden Club, 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of Nazarene Church. Call Dave, 897-2533.

MON. OR TUES.: Cub Scouts, boys in 1st - 5th grades. Alto or Lowell. Call school for more info.

4TH MON.: Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152, 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

3RD MON.: Women of the Moose business meeting at 7:30 p.m.

1ST MON.: V.F.W. Post #8303, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 7 p.m.

EVERY MON.: Boy Scout Troop 102, 11 & up or completing 5th-grade, meets 7-8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin. Call Terry 868-6481.

1ST TUES.: Grattan Historical Society meets in O'Brien Room of Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. Public invited.

1ST & 3RD TUES.: Diabetic Support group, 9:30 Schneider Manor Community Rm., 725 Bowes Rd.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers

...because mothering matters. 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Impact, a Wesleyan Church, 1070 N. Hudson. Call 897-8304 for details.

2ND TUES.: G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, D.W. Richardson Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. 6:30 social time; 7 p.m. meeting & program. Olga, 975-9977.

EVERY TUES.: Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops M#372 meets at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Bldg. Weigh-ins 5:45 p.m.

EVERY TUES.: Flat River Woodcarvers, LAAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

1ST TUES.: Adults with AD/HD at Calvin College, 7-9 p.m. Call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-2423.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: Saranac Needlers, needleart/quilting bee meets 5-8:30 p.m. at 4 Health Wellness Center in Saranac. For all or part time: Anyone is welcome. Contact Bev or Melissa, 642-6466 for info. A light dinner will be provided.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: Knights of Columbus #7719 meets St. Mary School, 7:30 p.m.

2ND TUES.: Lowell Masonic Lodge meeting, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake.

1ST & 3RD TUES.: Lowell Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., Look Memorial Fire Station, 315 S. Hudson St.

3RD TUES.: Saranac Scrappers, scrapbooking/journaling group meets at 4 Health Wellness Center, Saranac, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Light refreshments served. Bev or Melissa, 642-6466.

3RD TUES.: Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE/ E. Beltline at 7 p.m. Call Linda: 874-5662; teen group: Sarah 281-6588.

EVERY OTHER WED.: 6:45-8:45 p.m. G.E.M.S. Girls Club - Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Ages 8-13. 897-8694.

EVERY WED.: 8 p.m. ALANON meets at Lowell Congregational Church upstairs.

EVERY WED.: Rotary meets at noon at Lowell Masonic Temple, 119 Lincoln Lake Ave.

EVERY WED.: Lowell Church of the Nazarene Caravan children's program at 7 p.m., ages 5-12 years. Call 897-8800.

EVERY WED.: Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 6-10 p.m. Call Larry 754-7104. Public welcome.

2ND WED.: Kent County Youth Fair Board meeting at 7:30 p.m., King Memorial Youth Center at 4-H Fairgrounds. 897-6050.

2ND WED.: Lowell Women's Club meets at 12 p.m. in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

2ND WED.: Support group for Peripheral Neuropathy, 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, Grand Rapids. Dorothy 897-9794.

EVERY THURS.: Weight Watchers at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St. 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before the meeting. For info., 800-651-6000.

EVERY 2ND THURS.: Loyal Order of the Moose, men's meeting 7:30 p.m. - ? All members in good standing are invited.

EVERY THURS.: Saranac Area Musicians and Singers practice at Saranac High School Band Room. Choir: 6-7 p.m./band: 7-8. Call Kathy Maatman at 897-5981.

EVERY THURS.: Pottery classes at Franciscan Life Process Center, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call 897-7842.

EVERY THURS.: St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis Center, 402 Amity St., non-denominational help for pregnant women / adolescents at the school: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Mondays: 5:30 - 8 p.m. 897-9393.

1ST THURS.: Michigan Hepatitis C Foundation support meetings, 7-8:30 p.m. at Spectrum Health Kent Community Campus Multipurpose Rm. 750 Fuller Ave. NE

1ST THURS.: 4-H drama club meeting, Lowell Middle School choir room. Call 897-1502 after 5 p.m.

2ND THURS.: Ada Historical Society at 7 p.m. Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

3RD THURS.: 4 Health Wellness Center in

Saranac, Parent Support Group meets 7-8:30 p.m. Parenting issues, educational topics. Call 642-6466 for information.

1ST & 3RD THURS.: Alto Lions Club meets at Annalaine's on S. Alden Nash Ave. at 7 p.m.

2ND THURS.: N.A.R.F.E. at 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton.

3RD THURS.: Rubber stamping at Christian Life Center 6-9 p.m. Create scrapbooks, share supplies. Dawn 862-8841.

3RD THURS.: VFW #8303 Ladies Auxiliary, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 3 p.m.

3RD THURS.: Parents Supporting Parents group, Franciscan Life Process Center. 897-7842.

3RD THURS.: Royal Arch Masons, 7:30 p.m., Lowell Masonic Center, 119 Lincoln Lake. Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

3RD THURS.: LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade, Lowell 6:30 p.m. socializing; meeting 7 p.m. Support for pregnant/breastfeeding women; Ada church, 752-8300.

3RD THURS.: Parent Support Group meets 7-8:30 p.m. at The 4 Health Wellness Center in Saranac. Many educational topics related to parenting and parenting issues are discussed. Call Bev or Melissa at 642-6466 for more information.

2ND THURS.: Genealogy-Alto Fam. Tree Club, Alto Library 6:30 - 8 p.m.

EVERY FRI.: Arts/Crafts volunteers meet at Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call Pat or Judy at 897-7842 to meet new friends, share your talent.

2ND SAT.: Lowell Amateur Radio Club, Lowell Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake NE. 9 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

FRI., SAT. & SUN.: Averill Historical Museum of Ada, 7144 Headley, 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. 676-9346.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM OPEN-Tues., Sat./Sun.: 1-4; Thurs., 1-8. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; 5-17 \$1.50; members: free.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP HOURS: Wed. - Fri. 12-6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 519 E. Main St. Call 897-2037.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY HOURS: Mon.-Wed., 12 - 8 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri.: 9:30-5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30 - 2:30 p.m. 200 N. Monroe. Call 647-3920.

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 12-5 p.m.; Thurs.: 12-7 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. 149 S. Hudson. Call 897-8545.

LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS: (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues./Fri: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 & 8-9 p.m.; Sat./Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m.; (NA) Mon./Thurs., 6:7-30 p.m. 101 W. Main. For information call 897-8565.

WED., JUNE 2: Lecture series at Metro Health Lowell Plaza, 2550 W. Main, 7-8:30 p.m. Diabetes and stress. Free admission; open to the public; no registration required.

THURS., JUNE 3: Last Academic Boosters meeting of the school year at 8:30 a.m. in volunteer

room of Lowell High School. Everyone is welcome.

THURS., JUNE 3: TOTS summer picnic and school bus ride, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at 300 High St. Free. Call 897-1232, ask for Kathy Cole. Held in Bright Beginnings gym location if rains.

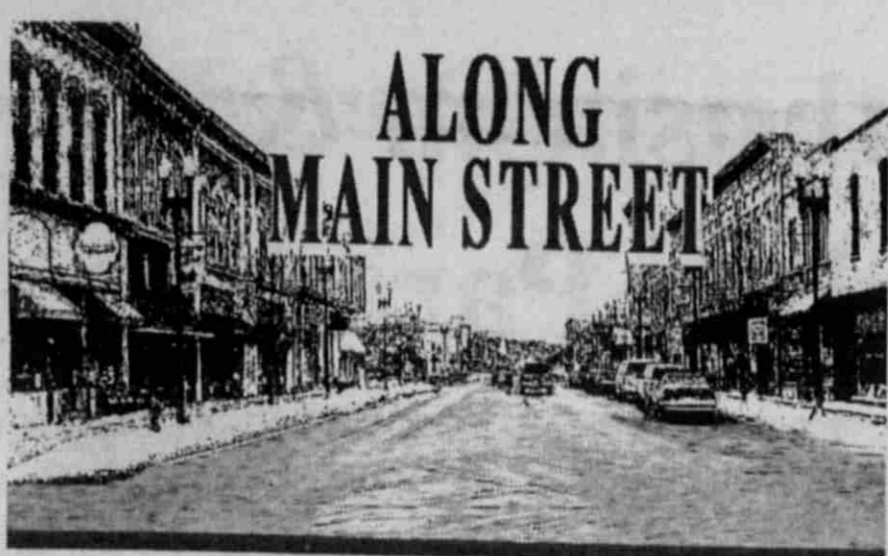
THURS., JUNE 3: Free food commodities for low income families, 8-5 p.m. at Moose Recreation Hall, 1320 E. Main. Kent County residents only. Call 897-5150 or 897-8754 with questions. Bring proof of income and social security number.

THURS., JUNE 3: Vergennes Club will meet at Schneider Manor activity room at 1 p.m. Sponsor: Marie Rickert; program is "Eating Well" by Kathie

Hawn, dietician; hostesses are Mary Myers, Dorothy Byrne and Char Siciliano.

WED., JUNE 9: Natural Features Inventory for Vergennes Twp. kick-off Bar-B-Que, at Vergennes Twp. Hall, 6 - 8:30 p.m. Call 897-5671, ext. 2. Open Space Committee if you can help with food or just bring yourself.

SAT., JUNE 12: Foodmobile free food at Foreman Bldg., 10-11 a.m. Distributed by FROM.



WATERCOLOR EXHIBIT

Huntington National Bank is featuring a watercolor painting exhibition by Lowell artist, Mary Bommarito now through June 21 during regular business hours.

FREE COMMODITIES

Low income families will receive free food commodities on Thursday, June 3 from 8-5 p.m. at Moose Recreation Hall, 1320 E. Main. New and re-registrations

Granholtm will visit Ionia Free Fair

Ionia has been added to the list of West Michigan cities Gov. Jennifer Granholm will visit this summer. The governor's office has confirmed that she will attend the 7th annual Governor's Law Party on Friday, July 23 at the Ionia Free Fair, according to Anne Bales, president of the fair board. "We are so excited that our state's new chief executive officer has agreed to attend this year's Governor's Law Party," Bales said. "We in Ionia are extremely proud of our fair and look forward with much anticipation to the opportunity to show off both our city and our fair to the governor."

Bales said Gov. Granholm's visit will be particularly interesting since she

must have proof of income for entire family and social security numbers for each person; Kent County residents only. Call 897-5150 or 897-8754.

ACADEMIC BOOSTERS

The last academic boosters meeting for this school year will be June 3 at 8:30 a.m. in the volunteer room of the high school. Call Julie at 897-6353 with questions.

TOTS BUS RIDE

Tots on Track for School will have their picnic and school bus ride on Thursday, June 3 at 300 High St. from 11:30-1 p.m. It's free; bring a blanket and sandwiches. Call 897-1232 for information. Rain location: Bright Beginnings gym.

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS MEETING

The Lowell athletic boosters will meet on June 7 at 7 p.m. in the high school staff lounge.

BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM

Lowell Area Schools candidate forum will be on Tuesday, June 8 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the administration building board room, 300 High St. The public is invited to attend and hear remarks from each of the four candidates. Election day: June 14.

FOODMOBILE

Flat River Outreach Ministries volunteers will be distributing free food (mostly produce) at the Foreman building on Saturday, June 12 from 10-11 a.m. Bring your own box or bag.

68TH LHS REUNION COMING IN JULY

The Class of 1936 will celebrate its reunion on July 9 at Schneider Manor. Classes of 1929 - 1939 are also invited to the potluck at 1 p.m. RSVP to Irene Osborne at 691-8939 or send confirmation to 4076 Murray View Dr., Lowell.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR FOOD PANTRY

The FROM food pantry needs peanut butter, jelly, instant potatoes and juices.

WILKINSON SCHOOL REUNION

Fallsburg Park will be the location for the Wilkinson School reunion on July 25 at noon. Bring dish to pass, pictures and stories. Call Edwin Roth at 897-7817 for more information.

WE SHIP UPS
Just bring your prepackaged boxes into our office. UPS picks up each day at 4 p.m. No PO Box or AFB addresses.
The Lowell Ledger
105 N. Broadway • 897-9261

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES 897-5949

MON.: 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall. **THURS.:** 9:00 a.m. Walk/Shop at Malls; 9:30 a.m. Crafts; 1:00 p.m. Euchre.

TUES.: 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall; 12:45 p.m. Bible Study **FRI.:** 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

SPECIAL EVENTS

WED., JUNE 2: 10 a.m. Blood Pressure; Eye Glass Adjustment; White-caps game. **WED., JUNE 9:** 8:30 a.m. Traveling Breakfast Cheshire; 12:45 p.m. Shop Meijer.

THURS., JUNE 3: 9:30 a.m. Salvation Army Camp; 10:30 a.m. Discussion On Medicare. **THURS., JUNE 10:** 11 a.m. Jessica Johnson Community Wellness Program.

FRI., JUNE 4: 12:45 p.m. Bingo. **FRI., JUNE 11:** 10 a.m. Community Senior Neighbor Lunch.

TUES., JUNE 8: Noon Potato Bar Lunch; 12:45 p.m. Shop Wal-Mart & Dollar Store. **MON., JUNE 14:** Noon Pizaza Lunch; 12:45 p.m. Travelogue By Jim Doyle.

AAA tips for conserving gas

With the summer travel season quickly approaching, higher gas prices may spur motorists to conserve fuel. The benefits of fuel conservation are a healthier environment, financial savings and improved safety on roads. For energy-conscious consumers, AAA Michigan offers a free brochure: *Gas Watcher's Guide*, available for all motorists at participating AAA branch locations statewide. To find your local branch, go to www.aaa.com and enter your ZIP code information. Motorists planning a summer driving trip may also take advantage of another free AAA service: *The AAA Fuel Cost Calculator*, available online at www.fuelcostcalculator.com. The Web site features current regional fuel prices and estimates the amount and cost of gasoline needed to complete a vacation trip.

PEBBLE BEACH APARTMENTS
1102 - 1116 Bowes Road
Lowell, MI 49331
Call Penny (616) 897-6880

\$995⁰⁰
Move In Special
13 Month Lease
Includes: Security Deposit,
Cleaning Fee (Non Refundable),
1st Month's Rent

Following are some gas conservation tips:

- Slow down. Even a five-mile-per-hour decrease in speed can affect your gas mileage.
- Keep tires properly inflated.
- Give your car a full-tune-up including a regular oil and oil filter change.
- Do not purchase mid-grade or premium gasoline unless it is considered necessary by the vehicle's manufacturer.
- Don't let the vehicle idle for more than a minute. Idling consumes half-a-gallon to one gallon of gas per hour and wastes more fuel than restarting the engine.
- Accelerate gently, brake gradually and avoid hard stops.
- Combine errands into one trip as much as possible.
- When traveling, avoid excess weight and reduce use of car top carriers and trailers. Additional weight and vehicle

add-ons have a negative effect on aerodynamics.

- Car pool when possible.
- Travel during off-peak times, avoiding rush hour.
- Check the engine oil level to be sure the engine is lubricated properly.

Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids is seeking experienced, part time and full-time retail staff to work in our new location in Lowell. We are looking for individuals to fill the following vacancies:

Assistant Managers
Cashiers
Lead Cashiers
Stockroom Processors
Janitorial
Donations Clerks

Applications/Resumes are now being accepted. You may apply in person at our corporate office located at 3035 Prairie SW, Grandville, MI 49418, send a resume indicating preferred position to Retail Director, Goodwill Industries, 3035 Prairie SW, Grandville, MI 49418, e-mail to employment@goodwillgr.org or fax HR at 616-532-3044. Competitive benefit package. EOE/MFH

Want real security for your family? First you need life insurance.

You hear a lot about security these days, but first make sure you have the security of life insurance. It's the foundation of your family's future. Call today.

Making Your Future More Predictable

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

MARK JOHNSON
6095-28th Street Ste. 4
Grand Rapids, MI
49546 - 940-8181

www.farmbureauinsurance-mi.com

Happy Birthday "68th" NICK

Hi, my name is Patti, wife of Nick Gent, and I just wanted to tell you a bit about this man from England. We met, believe it or not, on the Internet. Finally after a long drawn out conversation, the phone calls began and then Nick decided to visit the USA and meet me. Well, this was accomplished on September 20, 2000 and to the amazement of friends and relatives, we were married on September 29, 2000.

At the time we were married, he could hardly count the U.S. dollars and cents. But since then I have to say, as many of you will agree, he has come a long way. He even has a driver's license.

Nick is a very talented man. He is musical, does painting, and has hobbies so varied it would be difficult to mention them all and, to top it off has succeeded on maintenance at a local apartment complex and aided with management. All this and in addition, he went to real estate school, acquired a real estate license on the first try and was placed with a great reputed company. To top it he off he has helped loads of people, is well respected and liked, and is one of the most honest people I know. (White is white, no deviation).

A good hubby (most of the time), he loves our cocker spaniel Annie and cat Maxwell; he cleans up nicely when necessary and just a good, all-around talented Gent from the U.K.

Foul weather fails to dampen enthusiasm & patriotism for annual Memorial Day Parade



The Lowell Veterans of Foreign Wars color guard led the Memorial Day Parade along Main Street.

By Dan Schneider

Lowell's Memorial Day observances were not spared from the seemingly incessant rainfall of the past two weeks. But this was not enough to keep people from honoring and remembering those who died serving our country.

Despite intermittent showers and a generally gray sky Monday morning, there was a good turnout of people at the annual Memorial Day parade.

"People die in the cause of freedom no matter what the weather," Rev. Dean Bailey, of Alto and Bowne Center United Methodist churches, said during his speech at the Civil War Memorial at Oakwood Cemetery.

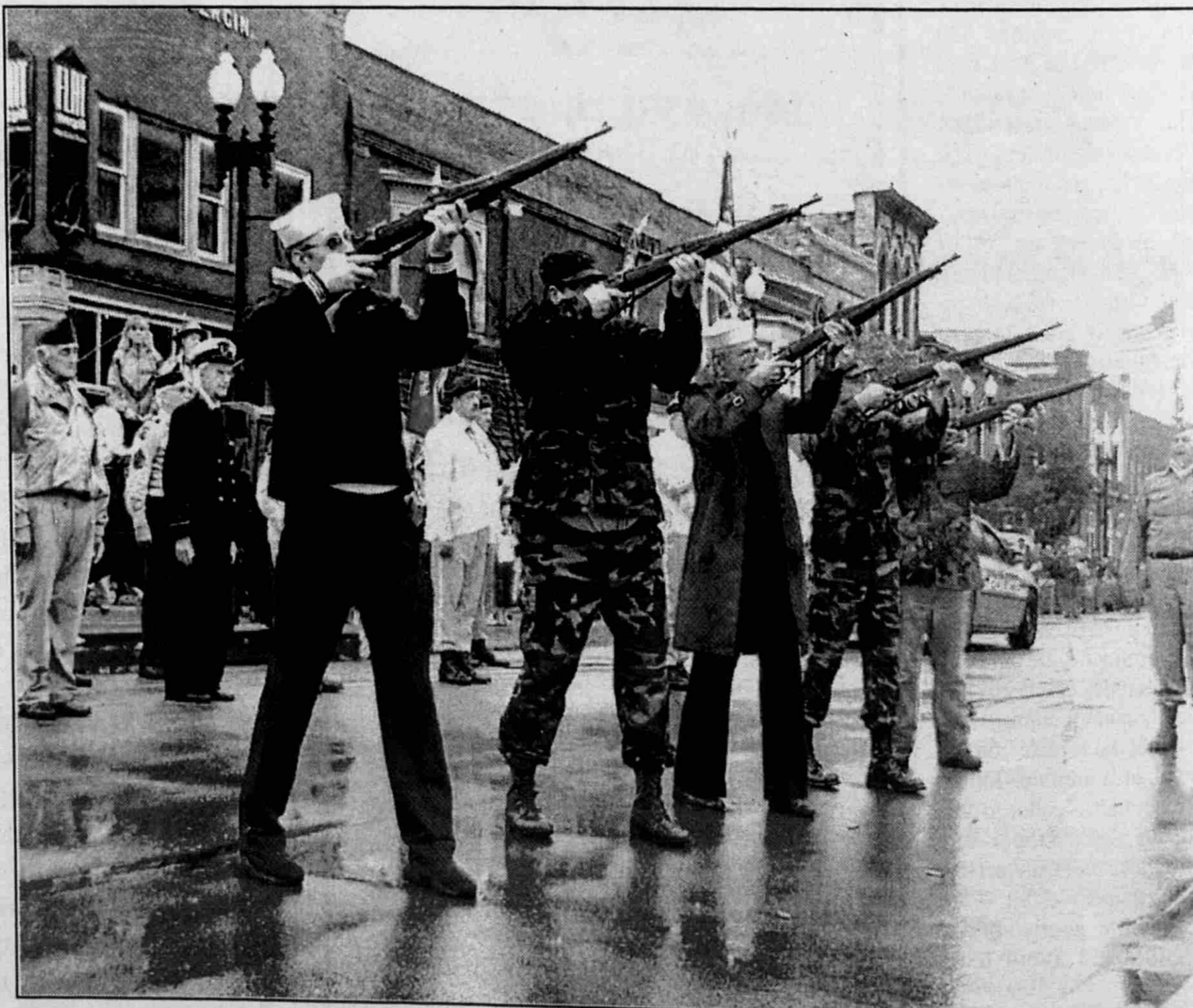
Bailey pointed out that the people remembered on Memorial Day served under far worse conditions and made great sacrifices.

With American flags lining Main Street, the parade started at about 9:30 a.m. The procession paused at the Veterans Memorial to honor those who died and were buried at sea. Margaret Gardner, chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars post 8303 Auxiliary, placed a floral wreath in the Flat River. Veterans gave a 21-gun salute and the Lowell High School marching band played the Star Spangled Banner.

Led by the VFW color guard, the parade continued on N. Monroe to Oakwood Cemetery passing groups of people on its way.

A brief service was conducted at the Civil War Memorial, including Bailey's speech, a benediction by VFW and American Legion chaplain Glenn Lyons, and remarks by parade marshal Gordon Marshall. The 4-H Kent County Youth Fair Court placed a floral tribute at the base of the memorial. Two LHS trumpeters played taps while the veterans gave another 21-gun salute.

Continued next page



Lowell war veterans gave a 21-gun salute at both the downtown Veterans Memorial and at the Civil War Memorial at Oakwood Cemetery during Monday's parade.

Parade, continued...

Lowell veterans of wars back to World War II marched in the parade. There was a vintage Army jeep and a modern humvee. Marching bands from Lowell high and middle schools played in the parade; Lowell boy scouts and cub scouts walked as well.

Ed Barrus and his granddaughter, Larissa Thomson, traveled from Indiana for the parade. Natives of Lowell, they have made the trip for the past several years. This year was different for Thomson, though, as she marched in the parade this year. She left Tuesday for her Army basic training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina.

The 17 year old will go into active duty after completing her senior year of high school next year.

"I needed to go somewhere, I needed to do something in my life I could be proud of," she said. "You're representing something when you put a uniform on."

She follows in the footsteps of her grandfather. Barrus was a sergeant, first class in the Army and served in the Pacific theater of World War II and in the Korean War. She said she grew up in a family with a tradition of military service.

"That's her, she's always liked it and that's her," Barrus said.

Memorial Day has been observed in the United States for 139 years. According to Marshall, the Lowell Memorial Day parade has been going on for nearly that long.

It goes back to when Lowell Civil War hero Benjamin Morse led the parade as commander of Lowell's Grand Army of the Republic post.



The Lowell High School marching band makes the turn onto N. Monroe during Monday's parade.

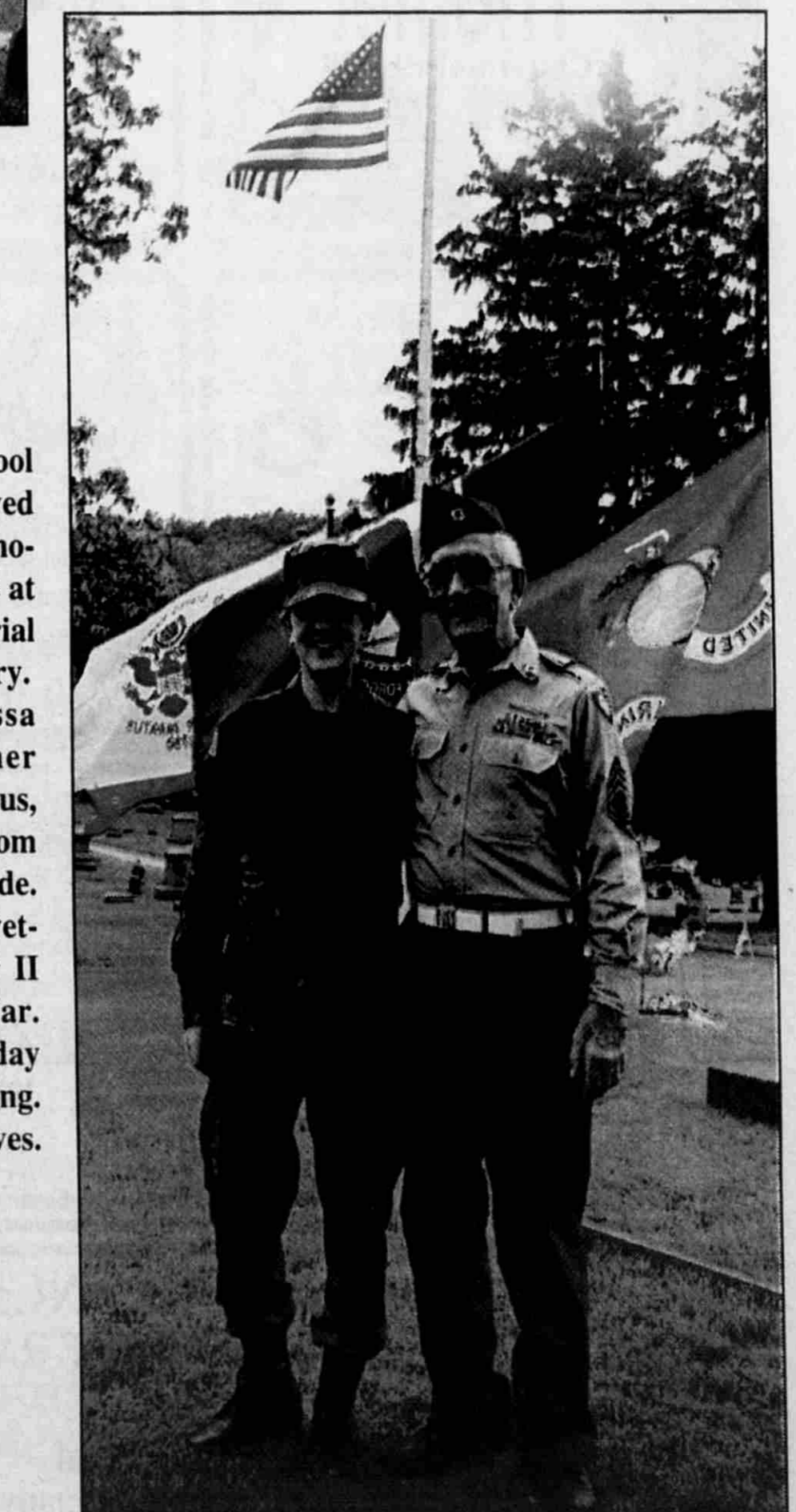


Lowell High School trumpeters, left, played taps during the Memorial Day observances at the Civil War Memorial at Oakwood Cemetery.

At right, Larissa Thomson and her grandfather, Ed Barrus, traveled to Lowell from Indiana for the parade. Barrus is an Army veteran of World War II and the Korean War. Thomson left Tuesday for Army basic training. Both are Lowell natives.



Jared Lezan, 4, waves an American flag Monday along the parade route.



Sharing The Vision

NANCY HOPKINS
Board of Education President



Recently I have been asked several times about the process the board goes through to reach its decisions that are acted on by motion and vote during a regular monthly school board meeting. It is a good question and perhaps especially valid during the current difficult times that are challenging public school districts and their communities.

What is seen during the motion and voting process at a school board meeting is the end result of an in-depth and critical process that, during my experience as a board member, can run from several weeks to several months depending on the nature and immediacy of the issue at hand.

An issue in the form of a question or recommendation, etc., is generally brought to the board by the superintendent or a member of the administrative team, or one of the board members at a monthly board workshop.* At that point, the board begins to critically review all available information and identify a decision-making process. Many times the board asks for additional information from the superintendent, administrator, teachers or outside resources, including community members. An ad hoc committee (consisting of 2-3 board members) is sometimes formed to investigate the issue and present their findings to the whole board.

During the entire process it is the board's responsibility to identify and consider all the "audiences" that will be affected by either a decision not to act, or deciding to act on the issue, and then, when and in what form the action will take place. Audiences include students, parents, teachers, staff and the community. It is not unusual for one issue brought to the board's attention to force another issue to the surface.

As a publicly elected body the board is charged with maintaining a broad perspective when performing its duties. The board cannot look at an issue from any one single viewpoint. Board members question the superintendent and

administrator, review data, argue, share opinions, present opposing views, bring comments and questions from the community, parents, etc. It is not always an easy process. Board members do not always agree with each other. Sometimes we have to stop and start over. But, the focus is always on doing what is best for our children, our students.

It is only when the board is satisfied that it has thoroughly and critically examined the issue that formal action is taken at a monthly board meeting. The motion and voting process represent the best effort and highest commitment from the board to do what is best for the kids in Lowell Area Schools.

The board welcomes comments from concerned individuals. Please contact the Central Office at 897-8415. Your comments will be forwarded to the board president. In the near future you will be able to contact the board through a link at the district's website.

* Board workshops are generally scheduled for the last Monday of the month and begin at 5:30 p.m. in the board room at Central Office.

Meeting notices are posted as required by law at least 18 hours in advance.

Financial Focus

Edward Jones
Serving Individual Investors Since 1871



With Christopher C. Godbold

START STUDYING COLLEGE SAVINGS STRATEGIES

Very soon, students will be heading to college—and their parents, with varying degrees of gloom, will be reaching for their checkbooks. Higher education carries some high costs - so, if you have children or grandchildren, you'll want to prepare yourself.

Just how expensive is college? During the 2003-'04 academic year, the average total charges—tuition, fees, room and board—at a four-year public institution was \$10,636, while the comparable average cost for a four-year private school was \$26,854, according to the College Board. And college costs have been rising faster than the general rate of inflation; when your child is ready to move into the dorm, you could be looking at numbers considerably bigger than these.

To help pay these hefty bills, you may want to consider a couple of college-funding vehicles:

• **Section 529 plans** - Section 529 plans are offered as prepaid tuition plans or college savings plans. Many states now offer both options.

If you choose a prepaid tuition plan, you can lock in future tuition at in-state public schools at today's prices. So, if you're certain your future collegian will be attending State U., a prepaid tuition plan may be right for you.

Most people, however, find that a college savings plan offers greater freedom. You can use the plan to pay for tuition at virtually any college or university, in any state.

In a savings plan, you put money into specific investments that are managed by the plan administrator. If you participate in your own state's Section 529 plan, you may be able to deduct your contributions from your state income taxes. Savings plan contribution limits are typically quite high, and all withdrawals are free from federal income taxes, as long as the money is used for qualified college or graduate school expenses. Withdrawals for expenses other than qualified education expenditures may be subject to federal state and penalty taxes.

(Section 529 tax benefits are effective through 2010, unless extended by Congress. Also, a Section 529 plan could reduce your child's or grandchild's ability to qualify

THE LOWELL LEDGER-WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2004 - PAGE 15
for financial aid. Because tax issues for Section 529 plans can be complicated, please consult your tax adviser.)

• **Coverdell Education Savings Account** - Depending on your income level, you can contribute up to \$2,000 annually to a Coverdell Education Savings Account. Your Coverdell earnings and withdrawals will be tax-free, provided you use the money for qualified education expenses. (Any non-education withdrawals from a Coverdell account may be subject to a 10 percent penalty.) You can fund your Coverdell Education Savings Account with virtually any investment—stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, etc.

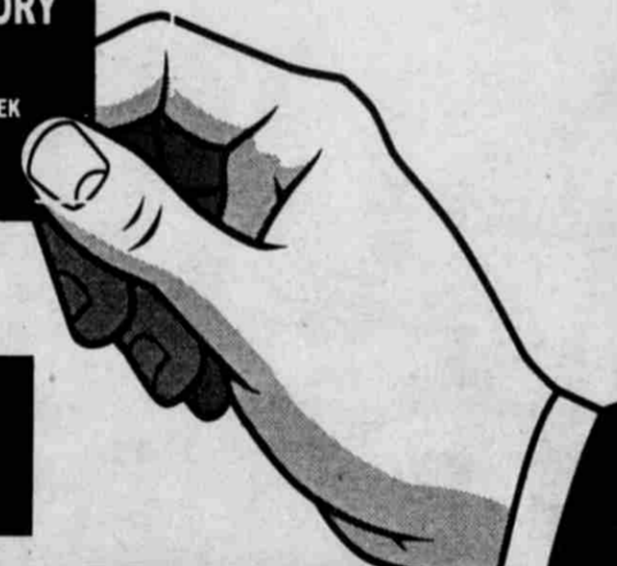
You can open Coverdell accounts for all your children or grandchildren, although you cannot contribute more than \$2,000 per year to any one account. Other people also may establish Coverdell accounts for your children or grandchildren, although the total annual amount contributed must not exceed \$2,000 per beneficiary.

—Start Saving Soon—

By investing in the savings vehicles described above, you can go a long way toward insulating yourself from the "sticker shock" you may feel when you send your kids off to college. As with virtually all investments, however, these work best when you put a lot of time in them - so start saving soon.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ADVERTISE
IN THE
LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY
As Low as \$750 PER WEEK
Call 897-9261



AT YOUR SERVICE
Thomet
Chevrolet BUICK
SERVICE HOURS: M, T, TH & FR • 8-5; WED • 8-8
Phone 897-9294

SHOWBOAT
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.
1450 W. Main St., Lowell, MI
(616) 897-9231
HOURS: MON-FRI 8-7; SAT 8-5:30; SUN 9-3

Buy life insurance and save on your home and car.
When you buy your life insurance from us through Auto-Owners Insurance, you'll receive special discounts on your home, mobile home or car insurance. We'll save you money. As an independent Auto-Owners agent, we take great interest in you - as well as your home and car. We are specialists in insuring people and the things they own.
835 W. Main St. Lowell, MI 49331
897-9259 (800)804-3322
Dale Triplett

STOP SUFFERING!
We Successfully Treat:
□ Whiplash
□ Neck Pain
□ All Headaches
□ Auto Injuries
□ Back Pain
□ Numb Hands/Arms
□ Sports Injuries
□ Work Injuries
See a Specialist and See Results!
897-4999
DOCTORS CHIROPRACTIC
Dr. Anthony Trombly

Rich's Service Co.
In-Home Appliance Repair
INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS
GARBAGE DISPOSALS • STOVES
209 E. Main St. RICH CURTIS
Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686

IRRIGATION STATION
Jay G. Hobbs
1375 E. Main St. Lowell, MI 49331
616-897-0563
FAX: 616-897-2773
New Installations, Spring Activations, Mid Summer Inspections, Winterizations, Repairs And Trouble-Shooting For Residential And Commercial Underground Irrigation Systems.
Call the Station for Irrigation!

REAL INSURANCE AGENCY
835 W. Main St. Lowell, MI 49331
897-9259 (800)804-3322
Dale Triplett

BILL WHEELER
Certified Public Accountant
103 Riverside Dr. Lowell, Michigan 49331
616-897-7711

Your "Close to Home" Rehab Center
The Laurels of Kent Comprehensive Rehab Programs Include:
• Post hip fracture rehab • Stroke Rehab • Balance Training • Home Reentry Program
How can you stay closer to your family, friends and home when needing inpatient rehabilitation care or transitional care between hospital and home? State to your doctor or hospital personnel that your first choice is to be closer to home. Choose The Laurels in Lowell.
LAURELS OF KENT
350 N. Center • Lowell, MI 49331
Call us at 897-8473
for information on how Medicare can cover your rehab stay.

PREVIEW PROPERTIES.COM
CALL **JERRY HALE**
897-0229
or 1-800-515-7763
JERRY IS A FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL WHO WILL SERVE ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS.

JB HARRISON INSURANCE AGENCY
COMPETITIVE HOME RATES
Daniel Ulrich
Judy Harrison
6661 Alden Nash, Alto 868-0050

RE/MAX SunQuest
Peter Smith, Realtor
Call For Immediate, Professional, Committed Service
(616) 949-6980 Ext. 27 • (800) 800-3915 Ext. 27
(616) 460-6634 Cell
www.realtybypetersmith.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ADVERTISE
IN THE
LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY
As Low as \$750 PER WEEK
Call 897-9261



Noon Tire
STEVE NOON
11930 E. Fulton (M-21) Lowell, MI 49331
Dealing In Most Brands
(616) 897-5925

Durkee Lumber, Inc.
Lumber and Building Materials
868-6026
6071 Depot St. Alto, MI

24 Hour Towing & Road Service
Flat Bed Service
Jump Starts
Lock Outs
Tire Changes
Lincoln Lake Auto's
Cell #446-5909

bryant
Heating & Cooling Systems Since 1904
Arctic, Inc.
HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING
1301 Bowes Rd., Lowell, MI 49331
897-4123
www.heatingcoolingonline.com
Licensed & Insured

MIKA MEYERS BECKETT & JONES PLC
ATTORNEYS
John T. Sperla
Mark A. Kehoe
Ross A. Leisman
Benjamin A. Zainea
Heidi A. Lyon
Daniel J. Parmeter, Jr.
307-A E. Main Street Lowell, Michigan 49331
(616) 897-3111 www.mmbjlaw.com

AUTO INJURY? WHIPLASH? Do You Need PAIN RELIEF?
Free 1/2 Hour MASSAGE!
• Doctor Supervised • Certified Therapist
• Relieves Tight Muscles • Speeds Healing
897-4999
DOCTORS CHIROPRACTIC
Dr. Steve Brown

MARY KAY.
Lisa M. Brown
Independent Beauty Consultant
13451 Burroughs Street N.E. Lowell, MI 49331
616.813.7769
616.897.1711
lisambrown@marykay.com
www.marykay.com/lisambrown

STORMZAND ASPHALT MAINTENANCE
Seal Coating with Sand
Hot Rubber Crack Repair
Cut & Replace Patching
Paving • Striping
Parking Lots & Driveways
Licensed & Insured
Serving West Michigan Since 1989
(616) 897-9872 Free Estimates

CUMBERLAND Retirement Village
A Leisure Living Managed Community
www.leisure-living.com
11535 E. Fulton • Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-8413 • Fax 616-897-7839
e-mail: cmbld@leisure-living.com

BASIC
HERBERT PETT
Telecommunications Consultant
Phone 616-897-2045
NexTel 616-262-6102
Fax 616-647-4001
Email: hpett@basiccom.com

CALL US!
The Lowell Ledger
TO ADVERTISE!
897-9261
AN AD THIS SIZE ONLY
\$750 PER WEEK!

Curtis Accounting & Tax Services
209 E. Main St. - Suite A, Lowell, MI
Complete accounting, payroll and tax services
(616) 897-4120 • (616) 262-4873

The GARAGE of Lowell
"Complete Automotive Service"
★ 897-9269 ★
Service With A Smile
2400 W. MAIN STREET • LOWELL, MI 49331
616-897-9269
fax 616-897-9819

Lowell Little Leaguers visit the Whitecaps



Lowell Little League baseball players participated in the Pepsi Pitch, Hit and Run competition. It was held over the past several Saturdays at Creekside Park. West Michigan Whitecaps Jordan Tata, Virgil Vasquez and Damion Myers gave a clinic on the first day of the event.

Forty-five young baseball players from Lowell competed in three events (pitching, hit, and run). The overall champion for the 7/8 age group was Sam Thomet. Jordan Drake took top overall honors in the 9/10 age group. In the 11/12 age group, it was Josh Drake. Jordan Boon won the overall championship in the 13/14 age group. This was the first year local competition was held in Lowell. The winners will go to Portland Saturday for sectional competition.

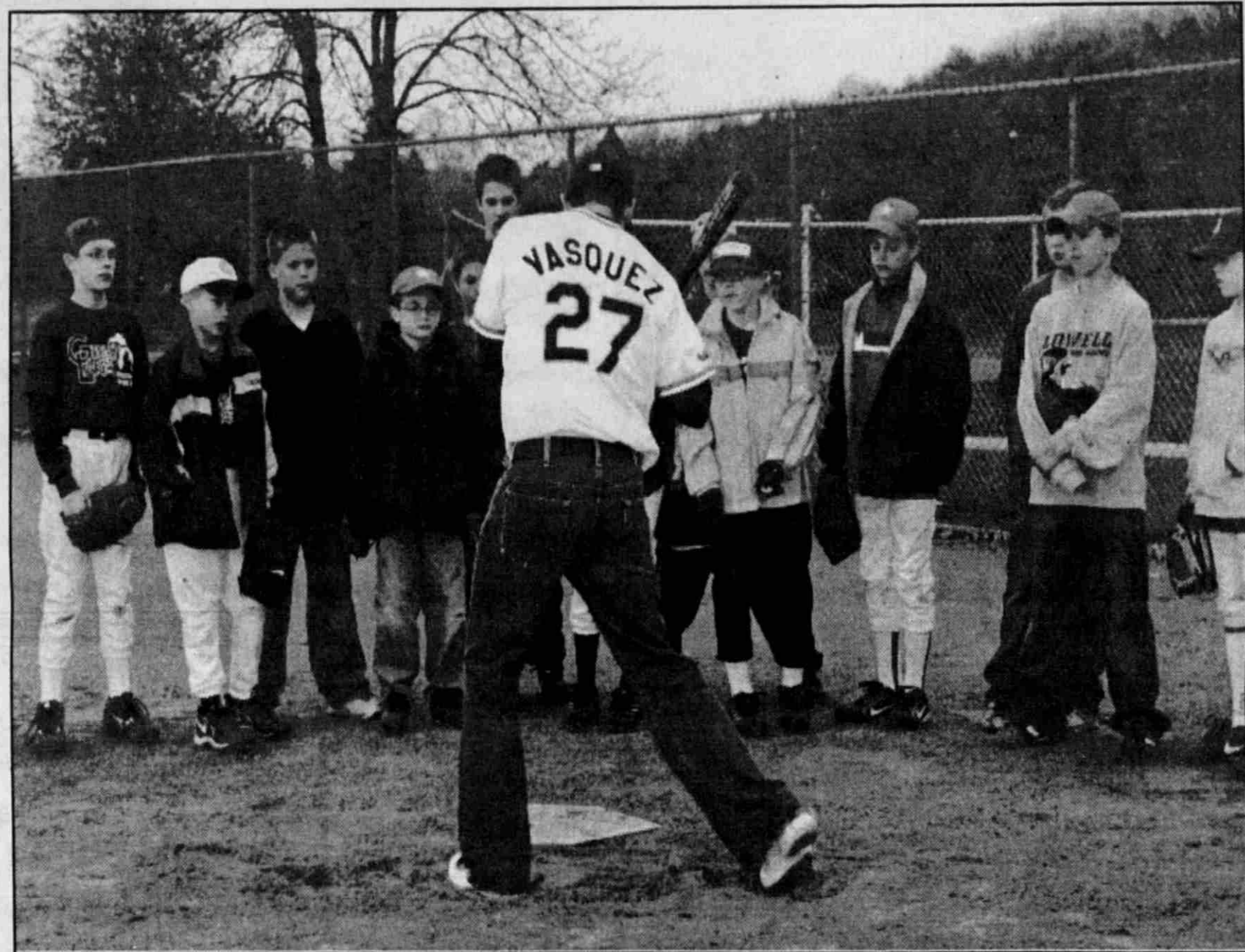
Call 897-9261 to
Subscribe to the Ledger

**COMPLETE MEDICAL
CARE FOR CHILDREN
AND ADULTS**

LOWELL MEDICAL SPECIALISTS, P.C.
1150 N. Hudson, Lowell - 897-8436

MARK EVENHOUSE, M.D.
JOHN MOGOR, M.D.
JOAN MIEDEMA, M.D.
JOEL VANDERJET, M.D.

All Physicians Board Certified In Both
Pediatrics And Internal Medicine



2004 Midyear Review
**Investing
in an Election Year**

You're Invited...

The first half of 2004 has seen interest rates remain low, the presidential race heat up, and concerns over health care continue. Our program will present a panel of industry analysts who will look at these and other issues confronting individual investors in the second half of the year.

Please join our panelists as they discuss:
The upcoming presidential election and its impact on the economy.
Why more companies are paying dividends.
Industries that are likely to prosper regardless of election results.

To reserve a seat for yourself and a relative or friend, please call or stop by. If you are unable to join us for this free special video presentation, please contact our office for other viewing opportunities.

Thursday, June 10
11:30 a.m.
Office

Christopher C. Godbold
2050 W. Main St.
Lowell, MI 49331
616-987-9515

www.edwardjones.com/midyear

Edward Jones
Serving Individual Investors Since 1875

These children achieved
DENTAL HYGIENE EXCELLENCE
For The Month of May 2004
DR. J.E. REAGAN
207 W. Main - Lowell 897-7179

Corinne Alberts
Isobel Alberts
William Athmann
Jacob Bennett
Sarah Brearley
Leah Brogger
Bradley Canfield
Cody Chambers
Naomi Evans
Thomas Fleet
Alexis Foster
Kacie Foster
Danielle Fron
David Fron
Marcus Fron
Lin Gallagher
Luke Gallagher
Phillip Getzen
Leevi Hansen
Bradley Plaat

**DENTISTRY:
HEALTH CARE
THAT WORKS!**

**REMEMBER:
One ounce
of prevention is worth
a pound of cure.**

**ARE YOU DUE FOR
YOUR SIX-MONTH
CLEANING?**

Kara Rasch
Haley Talcott
Jakob Thompson
Jonas Thompson
Emma Tompkins
Katherine Tompkins
Kelsey Wittenbach

Got A Story Idea?
Call Dan 897-9261

**CITY OF
LOWELL
PUBLIC NOTICE**

UPCOMING STREET CLOSING NOTICE
Foreman Road (Hudson to Gee Drive) will be closed to through traffic from mid-June until August 20th for street and water main improvements. Traffic will be limited to local access only. Through traffic will be detoured.

Prior to the beginning of construction, the City of Lowell will meet with local residents and businesses to discuss project staging and local access.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience.



Dan DesJarden, Director
Department of Public Works

Girls soccer wins first-ever conference soccer championship

By Dan Schneider

Thunder, lightning, rain, Pioneers and Crusaders all failed to stop the Red Arrows from claiming Lowell's first ever conference soccer championship.

On Friday, May 21, Lowell was tied 1-1 at East Grand Rapids when a thunderstorm halted the game with 5:29 left in the first half.

Rebecca Underwood scored what would become the only goal of the game for Lowell. She shot the ball in from the top of the goal box, rebounding Abbie Debiak's deflected shot.

"Friday night gave us a lot of confidence for Saturday," Lowell's Amy Oberlin said.

When the game continued the following day, it was a defensive contest.

"What a great match, both teams just back and forth," Lowell coach Paul

Legge said. "It was like a track race."

"As the game went on, we saw that we could play with them," Lowell sweeper Erin Beddows said. "They got a goal and we were able to counter, so we knew we could stay with them."

Legge gives Beddows a lot of the credit for Lowell's defensive performance against East and throughout the year.

"She was just so smooth and so composed in the back," Legge said. "She really got the whole back to gel. It's really quite a feat for a sophomore to be able to pull a group of girls together like that."

The score stayed 1-1 as the clock ran out in East Grand Rapids. Then Lowell won decisively in the shootout.

Debiak, Emily Gerard, Beddows and Jessica Visser all put shots into

the East goal. East's first shooter missed. The second made her shot. Then Lowell's Chelsea Smit made a diving save against East's third shooter. That allowed Visser's shot to seal the win for Lowell.

"That was the first time we've beat East in program history," Legge said. "I think we've had the program for seven years and that was the first time we beat East and it was a big one."

It was also East Grand Rapids only loss this year to a conference opponent.

The championship final was against Unity Christian. The Crusaders had stunned the Red Arrows earlier in the season, scoring more goals than any other opponent and winning 5-0.

Lowell came into the game still feeling the effects of the long, tough,

emotionally draining victory against East Grand Rapids. "We came out a little sluggish," Legge said.

The Crusaders scored a goal in the first five minutes of the game. Emily Gerard scored a long-range goal to tie the score at one each. "She hit a bomb," Legge said. "Probably 30 yards out and top shelf to tie it up."

Debiak was credited with the assist on that goal.

It left the Arrows feeling confident going into halftime. But the Crusaders would test that confidence again with another goal early in the second half. But Gerard scored another goal to tie the game up again. This time it was Visser with the assist.

"The girls just didn't give up," Legge said. "They wanted it and they knew they could win the league championship."

"We just worked hard to beat East and it just

wasn't worth it to end up losing to Unity," Beddows said.

The clock wound down under a minute. Oberlin took the ball at mid-field, dribbling past defenders in what was ultimately a successful drive to the goal. The score with 44 seconds left put the Arrows on top and won them their first conference championship.

"It was like deja vu for me because we had to play U.C. in the boys conference final," Legge said, recalling when Oberlin's brother, Sam scored a last-minute goal to win the conference tournament.

But that was just the tournament championship.

For the girls team, beating Unity tied them with East for the overall OK-White conference championship. It was the first time any soccer team from Lowell had accomplished that

feat.

In the OK-Gold cross-over game, Lowell defeated Middleville 4-0.

The conference championship left the Red Arrows excited and hungry for more with district rounds of the state tournament beginning. Lowell faced Ionia Tuesday in the first round of district action.

"I think we're peaking right now," Oberlin said. Lowell is hosting the district tournament at Red Arrow Stadium. A win Tuesday night would mean Lowell faces Greenville on Wednesday at 7 p.m. The Yellow Jackets had a first-round bye.

"It's fun to be the underdog because I don't think even we know how far we can go," Beddows said. "I'm looking forward to Friday."

That's the day of the district final.

Red Arrow track team struggles at regionals

By Dan Schneider

Division I competition was hard on the Red Arrow track teams at this year's regionals.

Both boys and girls teams competed at Houseman Field in Grand Rapids on Friday, May 21 and Saturday, May 22.

The girls team placed in the top seven of enough events to score 14.66 points in the meet.

Heather Becker qualified for the state meet in discus. Her throw of 105'4" put her in second place in the regional. The state meet will be held this Saturday at Rockford.

Mary Calvi and Malley Cahoon tied for fourth place in the high jump, both clearing 4'9".

Morgan Olin took sixth place in the long jump, clearing 15'3 1/2".

The 3200 meter relay team of Karen Judd, Hayley Getzen, Monica Fitzpatrick and Brittany Dietz finished sixth with a time of 10:47.2.

"The competition is really tough," Lowell coach Robin Briggs said. "They really did well for being in Division 1."

The top seven finishes, Briggs said, reflected the work the young team has been doing this season.

"They definitely developed their skills during the year," Briggs said. "The girls did what they were supposed to do ... they grew through the year and got better and better."

Despite some good performances, the boys team was unable to compete with the larger schools well enough to finish any events in the top seven.

Tom Doll did make it to the semifinals of the 100 meter.

"We had some of our

better times but there were some fast kids out there," Lowell boys coach Russ Stevens said.

Stevens sees in this year's team the building blocks for the future. "It was a good season and I think this is the group that's going to turn around the track program," he said. "They have a lot of heart and a lot of desire and they really work hard."

The Friday meet was split into two days due to weather. Rain ended the meet with the 3200 meter run and 1600 meter relay left to be run.

OPEN HOUSE
7077 BLISS RD., SARANAC
JUNE 6 • 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
NEW HOME FOR SALE

1500 sq. ft.,
3 bd., 2.5 bath,
country setting,
hardwood floors
I-96 to Exit 59
Clarksville
N. to Gr. River,
East to Bliss,
South to home

Travis Miller
616-292-6826

**Lasso 2004-2005
FALL & SPRING
SEASONS
SOCCER TRYOUTS**
SATURDAY, JUNE 19
Grand River Riverfront Park
(West off Alden Nash on Grand River Dr.)
If Township Park still flooded, tryouts will be at Lowell High School. For your convenience registration forms are available on line at www.lassosoccer.org

TEAM AGE AND GROUPS • GIRLS & BOYS
U-14-----Under 14 years of age after July 31, 2004 @ 9:00
U-13-----Under 13 years of age after July 31, 2004 @ 9:00
U-12-----Under 12 years of age after July 31, 2004 @ 10:30
U-11-----Under 11 years of age after July 31, 2004 @ 10:30
U-10-----Under 10 years of age after July 31, 2004 @ 12:30
U-9-----Under 9 years of age after July 31, 2004 @ 12:30

PLAYERS MUST BRING:
1) Soccer ball, cleats, shin guards
2) 1" Photo
3) COPY of birth certificate, new players only
4) Insurance and Physician information
5) Payments are appreciated.

**PARENT TO BE PRESENT FOR
ENTIRE TRY OUT - APPROXIMATELY 2 HOURS**
MAKE UP DATE: Tuesday, June 22, 2004 • 6:30 p.m.
SAME LOCATION

LASSOs goal is to provide a competitive club environment where dedicated players can develop their potential, and receive quality instruction in an atmosphere of fun as their commitment to the sport of soccer grows.

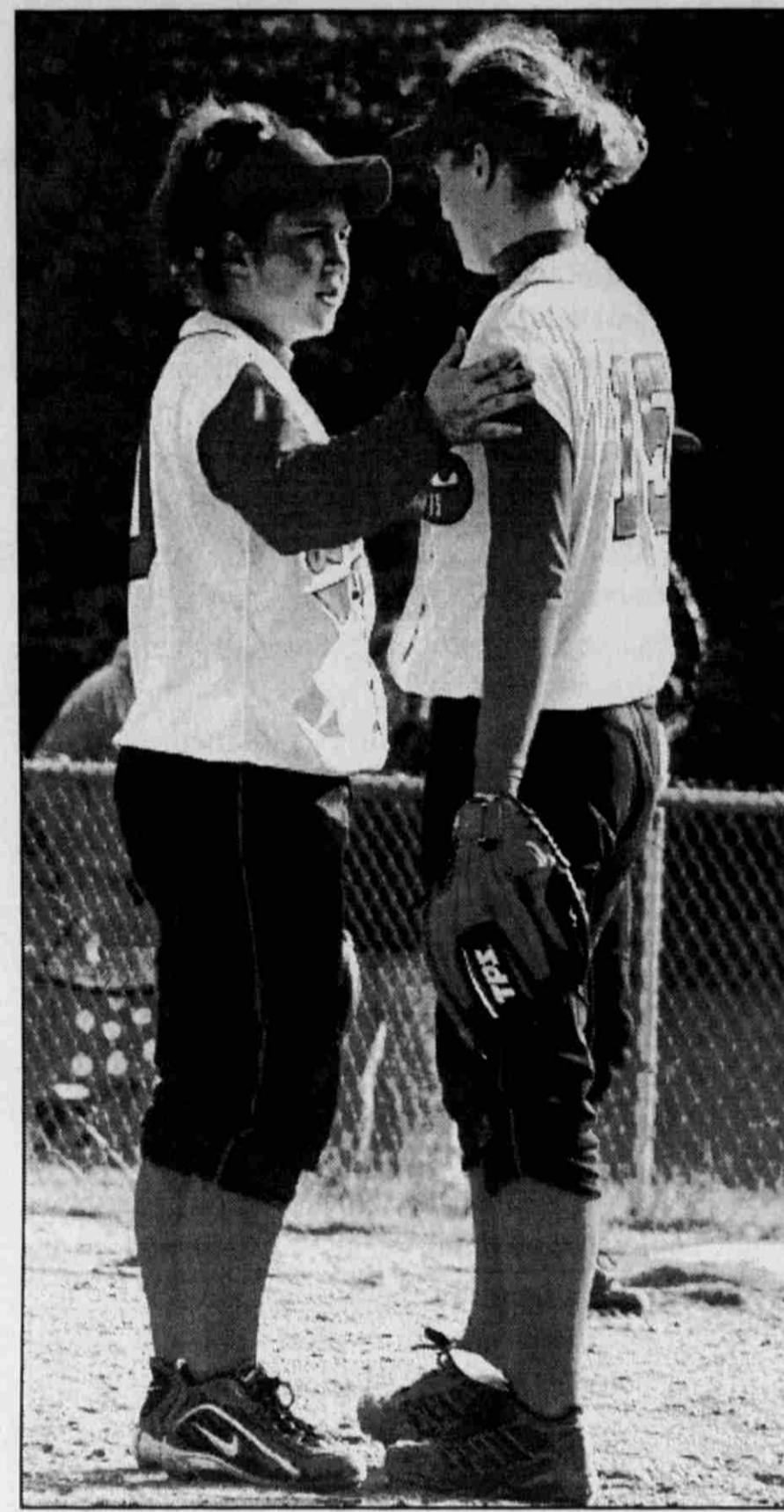
LOWELL AREA SELECT SOCCER ORGANIZATION
P.O. Box 360, Lowell, MI Julie Cone, President
www.lassosoccer.org www.InTheLead@aol.com

Red Arrow softball 3 and 3

By Cliff Yankovich

It was a .500 week for the Red Arrows softball team; they won three games and lost the same amount. Coach

Bob Rodenhouse summed it up when he said, "If you don't get hits, then it is hard to win games."



Third base player Inman confers with Red Arrow pitcher Becky Plummer.

Hits were not a problem for Lowell on Monday when they took both games of a double header from Cedar Springs. The Red Arrows won the first game 4-1. Ashleigh Inman hit three singles in four at bats. Becky Plummer gave up only one hit and pitched three strike outs.

In the 9-2 second win over Cedar Springs, Plummer only gave up two hits and struck out nine batters. She smacked three singles of her own from the plate. Rachel Nawrocki got two hits, one of them a double.

Katie Callahan had a good day at the plate. She grabbed a walk in the second inning and fired two singles up the middle in the third and fifth innings. Callahan's single in the third earned her an RBI when she drove Ashley VanderWall home.

Lowell hosted the 9th annual Mandy Tichelaar Memorial Tournament on Tuesday. Close to \$250 was raised for the scholarship fund. This year's scholarship was awarded to Anna Boruta who will attend GRCC in the fall.

Lowell faced Kenowa Hills in the first game. "We split with Kenowa before so I thought it would be a close game," Rodenhouse said. "But we exploded for some runs in that game; the girls were really pumped up."

The tempo for the 8-0 win over Kenowa was set when the first Red Arrow to the plate, Ashleigh Inman, started things off with a double, the first of her three hits. Plummer also had three hits in the game.

Shortstop Brittany Bueche came to the plate with

two outs in the third inning. Bueche got a nice hit that was good for two RBIs.

Grandville defeated Northview 8-2 in their first round, so the Bulldogs and the Red Arrows met for the trophy. The game was tied 0-0 for the first four innings. Lowell exhibited some great defense and had runners in scoring position every inning but could not seem to crack Grandville.

The Bulldogs put a run up in the top of the fifth and went

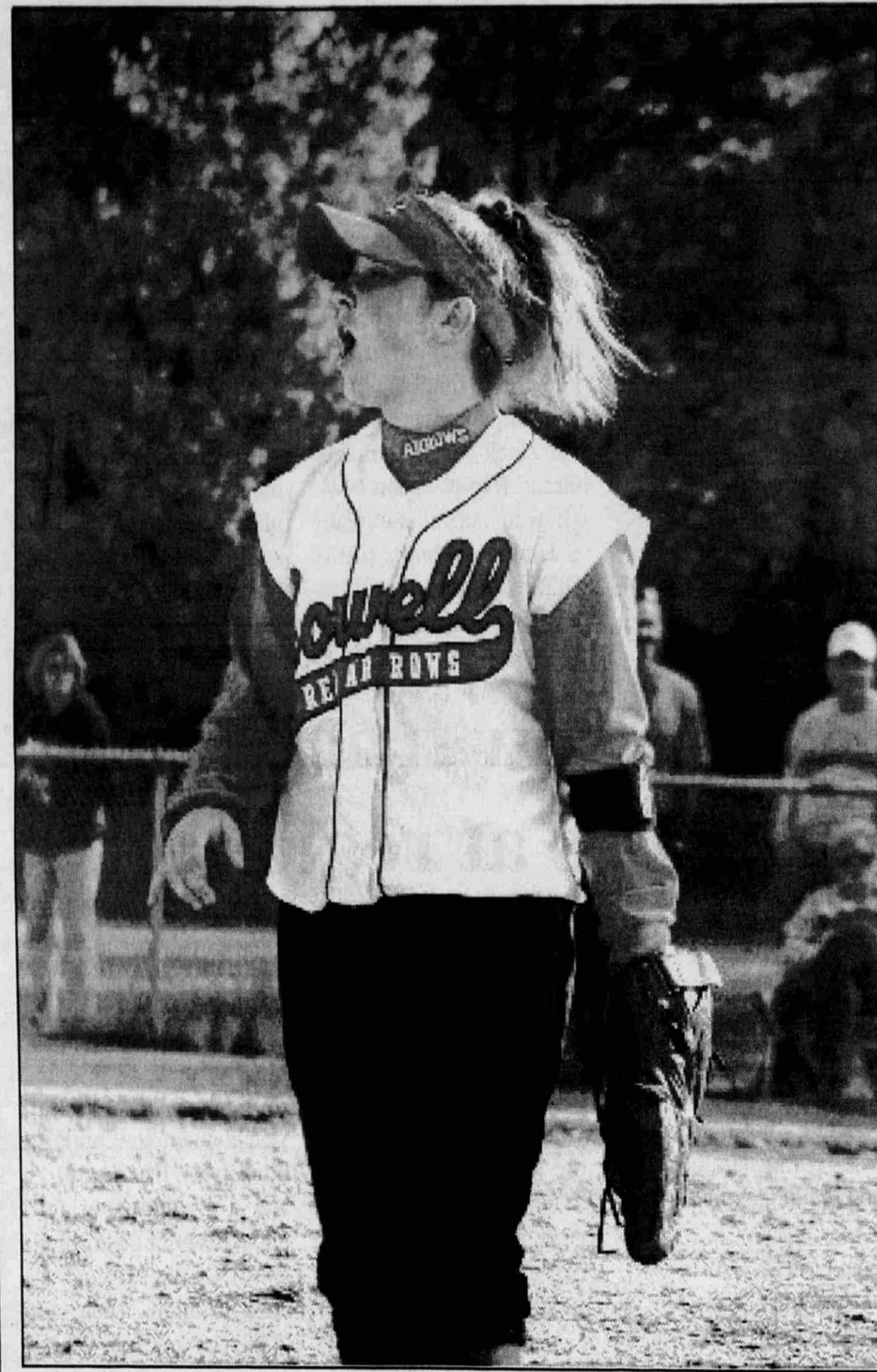
ahead 2-0 in the sixth. Lowell answered with a run that capitalized on two Grandville errors. The Bulldogs loaded the bases in the seventh, but Lowell only allowed one more run to finish runner-up to Grandville 3-1.

Lowell hosted Wyoming Park on Wednesday in a cross-over game. It was a real defensive battle that went nine innings. Plummer allowed only three hits and posted 10 strikeouts. The 2-0 win for

Wyoming came in the ninth on two unearned runs.

"We had five hits," Rodenhouse said. "But we couldn't come up with them when we needed to the most."

The Red Arrows finished 9-5 for third place in the conference behind Northview and Unity Christian. They were 15-18 overall. Next Saturday they host the District Tournament and will play the winner of Northview/Forest Hills Northern at 12 p.m.



Ashleigh Inman shouts some instructions to the outfield during the game against Grandville.

Lowell hosts Park; splits wins

By Cliff Yankovich

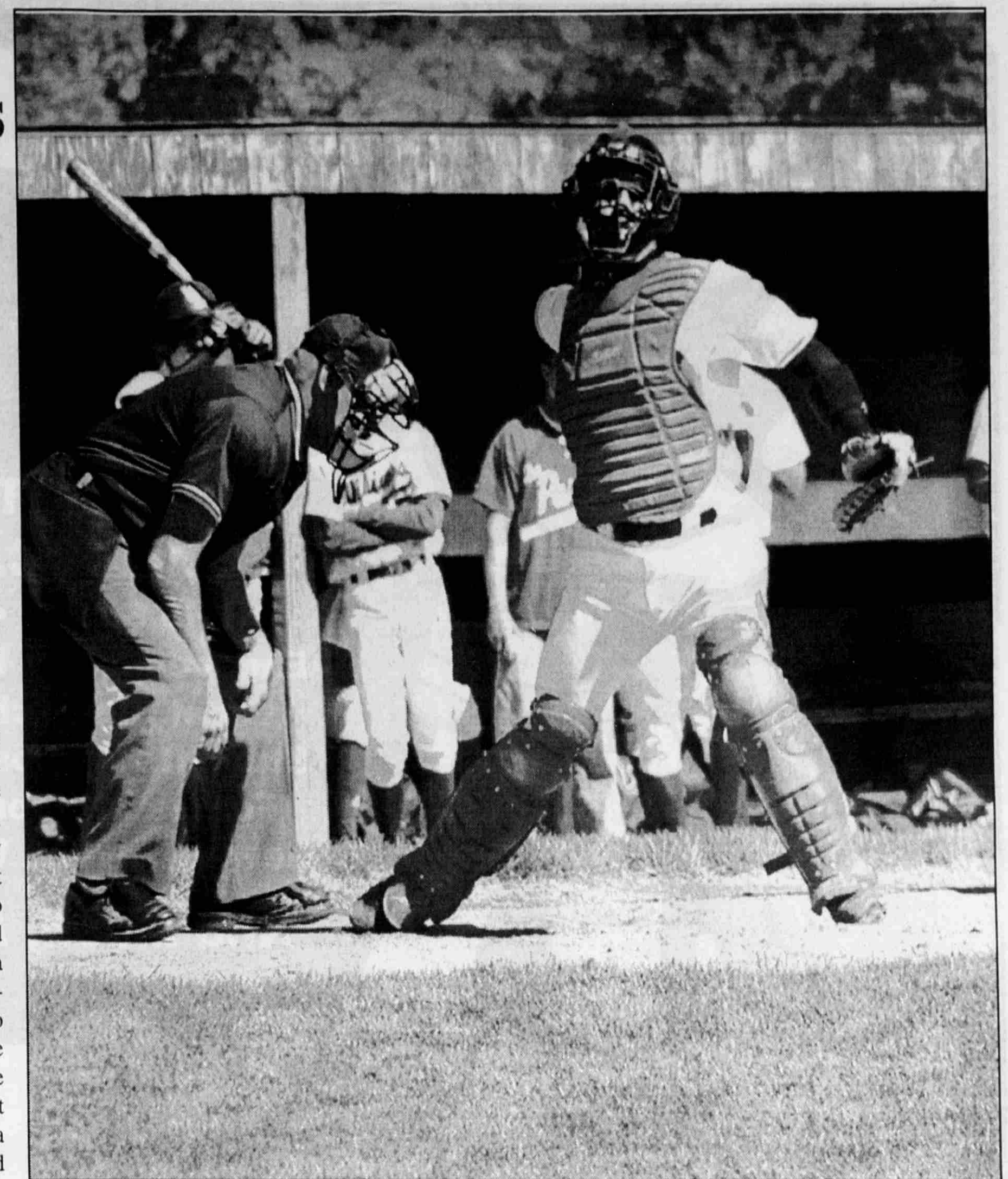
The Red Arrows varsity baseball team hosted Wyoming Park for a cross-over double header last Wednesday. Lowell came from behind to win the first game 5-3 in a very exciting seventh inning effort. They ended up splitting wins; Wyoming came back pretty fired up and won the second game 8-1.

The Red Arrow defense was strong out of the box. The first batter hit a shot right back to pitcher Luke Tomczak and the second one was out on a pop-up to center field. The third out came when Jon Eickhoff snagged a well hit fly ball on the run in right field. Lowell put the pressure on early when Andrew Benedict led off in the bottom of the first with a nice single to center field. Less than two minutes later Benedict put himself in scoring position by stealing second base.

Wyoming retired two batters before junior Tim Droese popped a single in left field to score Benedict for a 1-0 lead. Wyoming tied the game in the top of the third, but Lowell managed to retire the side with the bases loaded. Lowell went ahead in the bottom of the fifth when Alan Nugent followed his single to left

field by stealing second and third base. Then Nugent tagged home for the 2-1 lead on a wild pitch. Wyoming came right back during their next at bat. A single was followed by a stand up double to left field. A single up the middle tied the game and a bobbled high fly gave them a 3-2 lead.

Further scoring was cut short by a one-man double play. First baseman Droese caught a line drive on the fly and tagged out the runner who left the bag at the sound of a hit. Wyoming retired Lowell quickly in the sixth and failed to score in the top of the seventh. Sean Myers got the rally going with a single to left field and then managed to steal second and third bases. Benedict drew a walk and then stole second. Wyoming opted to walk Nugent to load the bases with no outs. Kyle Rozema capitalized on that strategy and whacked a long fly to center field which allowed Myers to tag and score for a 3-3 tie. Wyoming chose to walk Droese to load the bases again. Dustin Osborne came to the plate and drove a rifle shot into right field to score two runners and the game was won for Lowell.



Lowell catcher Dan Palasek chases a Wyoming runner back to first base in the opening game.

**Congratulate your Grad
In our Graduation Supplement
Appearing June 9th
DEADLINE FRI., JUNE 4! AT 4 P.M.
The Lowell Ledger**

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday June 7, 2003 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider a private road application.

Vern and Gay Nauta have requested an application review to construct a private road named Hunters Trace for access to three lots. The property address is known as 10100 Downes St NE, Lowell, parcel number 41-16-18-400-016. The road will be located on the south side of Downes, west of the large Consumers Power lines in the SE quarter of section 18.

The complete application 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@vergennestwp.org.

Vergennes Township
Planning Commission

The City of Lowell wishes to thank the following for their participation in the "Mayor Exchange Day" with the City of Wayland on Thursday, May 13, 2004. We are very proud of our city and this gives us an opportunity to show off our community to others.

- DEER RUN CATERING
- EARTH TECH
- FIFTH THIRD BANK
- HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK
- IONIA COUNTY NATIONAL BANK
- KING MILLING COMPANY
- LITEHOUSE, INC.
- LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM
- LOWELL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- LOWELL CABLE TV
- LOWELL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
- LOWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT
- LOWELL LEDGER
- LOWELL LIGHT & POWER
- LOWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT
- LOWELL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
- LOWELL WATER TREATMENT PLANT
- REGAL (SPEERSTRA) INSURANCE AGENCY
- ROOT LOWELL MANUFACTURING CO.
- STATE FARM INSURANCE
- SUPERIOR FURNITURE COMPANY
- VENNEN CHRYSLER DODGE PLYMOUTH
- JEEP INC.
- YMCA
- HAROLD ZEIGLER FORD, INC.

Woods BUILDERS
Lowell/Vergennes Twp
Corner of Cumberland & Foreman Roads

1175 Cumberland Ave.
\$155,900
* Bi-Level Raised Ranch
* Lowell Schools
* 1 acre wooded lot

Lowell/Cascade Twp
52nd St, 1 mile east of Whitneyville Rd

9319 Clear Meadow Dr
\$198,780 1640 Sq ft
* 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath
* Daylight basement
* Other plans available

For more information contact:
616/262-0424

We want to be your Other Family Doctor.

- Sick or Injured Animals Seen Same Day
- Evenings & Saturday Hours Available
- Early Drop-offs & House Calls
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Science Diet Pet Foods
- Boarding & Grooming

Call 897-8484
11610 East Follen Street • Lowell, Michigan

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL

We Accept

MasterCard VISA

For All Your Advertising, Printing & Subscriptions. Buyers Guide The Lowell Ledger

SHIP UPS

Bring your packages in & we'll ship them out for you!

The Lowell Ledger
105 N. Broadway
897-9261

FAREWELL TO 6 SENIORS FOR 4 SEASONS



Top left: Chris Gallagher (JV-1, V-3), Brendan Harden (V-3), Dustin Pedley (JV-1, V-3), Justin Peterson (JV-2, V-2). Front left: Dave Maylone (JV-1, V-3), Nathan Huisman (JV-1, V-2)

The Lowell tennis program says "Goodbye" and "Thank You" to 6 special players. Best wishes as your journey continues beyond high school.



**EXTRA
EXTRA!**

**DON'T MISS
YOUR LOCAL NEWS!!!**
LHS Sports • Weddings •
Engagements • Births • News of
Local High School & College
Students & Those In The Armed
Forces • Honor Roll • Church
News • Several Weekly Columns
And Much, Much More!

The Lowell Ledger

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

IN KENT COUNTY

1 year... \$15.00

2 year... \$29.00

OUTSIDE KENT COUNTY

1 year... \$22.50

2 year... \$38.00

Senior Citizen Discount \$1.00 per year

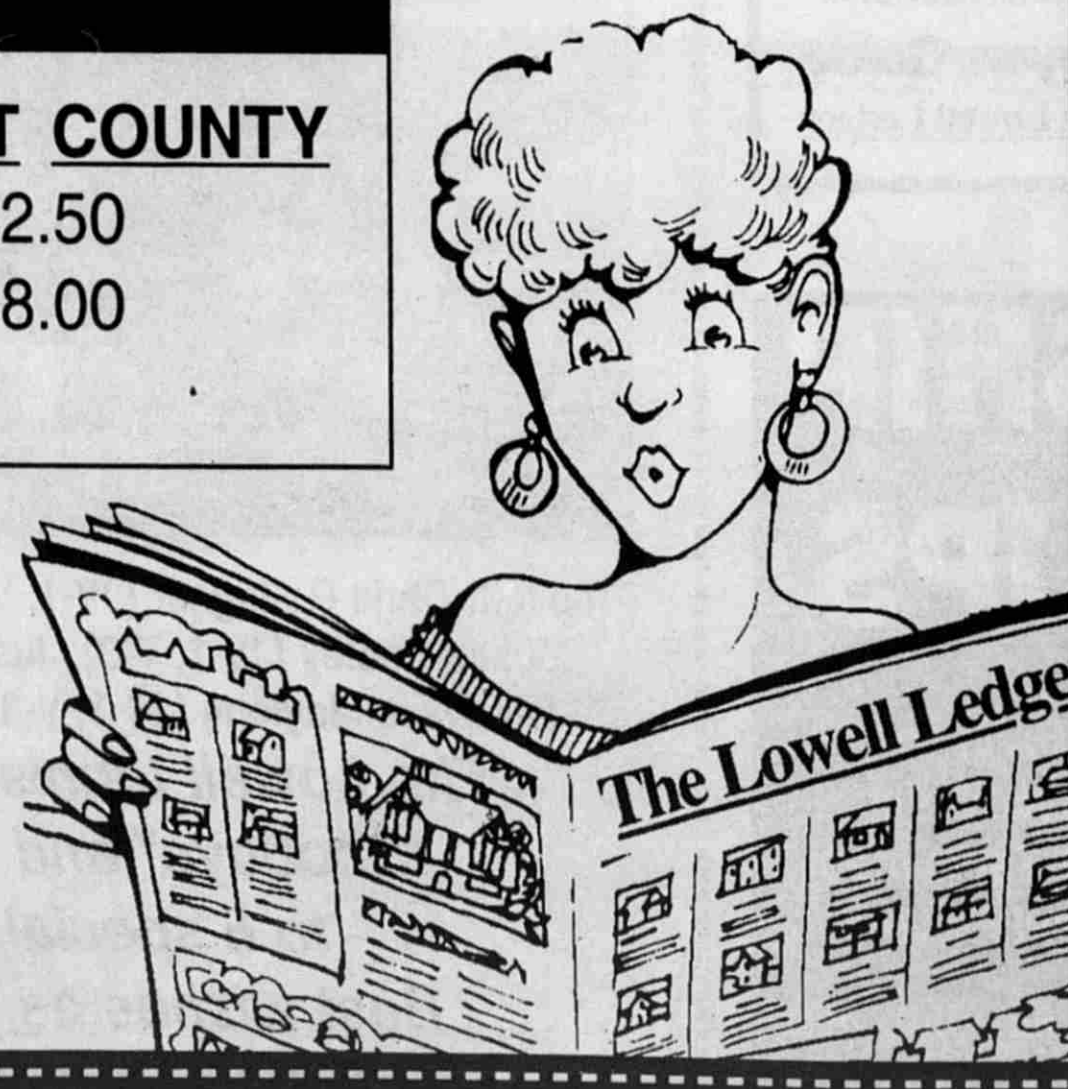
Just Send Your Check to:

The Lowell Ledger

P.O. Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

Or stop by our office at:

105 N. Broadway



Want to tell us
how you feel?
Got a pet peeve
To Get off Your
Chest?

Did someone do
the RIGHT thing
for a change!



The Ledger
(Almost)
Anything Goes
Opinion Forum

897-0787 or
www.lowellbuyersguide.com

Give the truckers a break! They have a hard time just finding Lowell on the map and once they get here, they don't know where they are going. Some better placed signs would help a lot.

We need a good KFC in this place.

I want a KFC or Wendy's.

I'm very disappointed in the Ledger. Our girls soccer team won conference and we're proud. But nothing was in the paper.

(Editor's note: We're proud of them too. Check this week's paper.)

In a weather emergency you should be able to seek shelter with your children in a local mobile home park.

I just want to put in that my boyfriend knows directions. Do you?

Hi - we sure could use a good chicken food place. Hello. I agree with that person 100%, you should not be charged for putting an ad in the paper for memorials.

Hi it would be a miracle to have a KFC.

Let's all remember the veterans who have died for us on Memorial Day. Thank you very much!

Dog owners...pick up the poop. I'm tired of getting blamed for your poop! Dog owners pick it up or don't walk your dog.

Love the new store in Lowell! Everyone should check it out.

How come the same person drives the R.S.V.P. van in the parade? Let someone else have a chance.

When do we get to see the lineup for the Lowell music concerts? When do they start?

Reduce the school budget with part-time administrator positions that have no health insurance. Paraprofessionals interact with students and make a difference in their lives. What's best for the kids?!

People who take items from the parking lot at Flat River Thrift store are taking food from people in need. Items are free only if marked Free. If you need something, just ask. - Sherri Jahnke

Congratulate your Grad In our Graduation Supplement Appearing June 9th

Place your graduate's picture & a greeting in the Lowell Ledger!
Deadline is Fri., June 4 at 4 p.m.

Special Grad Rates!

2x2 w/photo - \$15 2x3 w/photo - \$20
2x4 w/photo - \$30 3x4 w/photo - \$40

All Ads Should Be Paid For When Placing

The Lowell Ledger

105 N. Broadway • PO Box 128 • Lowell, MI 49331

Ph. 616-897-9261 • Fax 616-897-4809

E-Mail Address: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com

No one in health care is more concerned and committed to providing patients with safe, and affordable drug therapy than your pharmacists. I've been a pharmacist since 1976, and have worked in retail, hospitals, and physician office practice settings. Pharmacists spend a great deal of time listening to patients, and trying to help them manage, understand and afford complex drug therapies. However, the most expensive drug is one that patients either do not take, or one that causes harm. No patient should have to choose between paying for drugs they need versus food, utilities or other life essentials. Drug therapy needs to be affordable, but no one can tell me just how much it should cost, or who should pay. Can Senator Stabenow tell us how much drugs should cost, and how we will pay? In the US, we spend close to \$200 billion each year for prescription drugs. This does not include what's spent for over-the-counter items, herbs, or other supplements. In addition to that, we spend over \$200 billion each year on drug misadventures, adverse events, errors, poor adherence. This cost burden is enormous, and still growing. Senator Stabenow and many other politicians have been strangely silent about these costs.

In many instances, drug therapy as a technology is a great value for the health care dollar we do have to spend when compared to other medical technologies, interventions or treatment options. We must have cost models that discern when this is, or is not the case in order to spend wisely. If we continue to only look at isolated drug costs, we will continue to wring out one-half of the financial sponge, wondering why it remains soaking wet, with costs continuing to rise. In any case, patients deserve a realistic solution which will help now, and produce sustained affordability over time. Although politically expedient, and perhaps attractive in the short run, importation is not going to get us there, and has many drawbacks. With all the traveling Senator Stabenow has done, one would think she would have had an opportunity to get input and guidance from pharmacists.

I recently reviewed an interesting article on importation in the April 20th issue of Annals of Internal Medicine (a well respected medical journal). There was an insightful discussion about safety, as well as cost concerns. Importation from Canada may appear to work on a small scale now, but in contrast to what many politicians would like us to believe, it will not work on a large scale. Furthermore, I feel several topics about safety and cost have not been getting enough attention. A modern day "gold-rush" to Canada is not the answer to savings we desire. It may turn out to be a chase for "fools gold" versus a path to long term savings. The past 11 FDA commissioners have recommended against importation because of safety concerns. Could they all have been wrong?

It may come as a shock, but not all prescription drugs are actually cheaper in Canada. Generics are most often cheaper in the US, and that's why many Canadians come here to get them. While visiting our great state to buy cheaper generic drugs, maybe we could get the Canadians to haul some of their own trash back to Canada! Now there's a win-win, especially if they choose to gas up here too!

With a large shift toward importation, manufacturers may choose to limit supply or perhaps raise prices on generics in order to maintain viable profit margins. We may soon find ourselves competing with Canadians for a finite supply of prescription drugs. Nothing comes for free, and the pharmaceutical manufacturers will certainly take actions necessary to maintain profit margins. Isn't that what businesses do to survive? Pharmaceutical manufacturers are not necessarily the bad guys either, and it's wrong to generalize, or demonize the entire industry. There are some great products on the market which save many lives each year. In addition, many manufacturers have patient assistance programs which provide free drugs to eligible patients who have limited financial resources. Unfortunately, America shoulders most of the world's cost burden for drug research and development costs. Although Germany has the world's third largest economy, FDA Commissioner McClellan pointed out that they only pony up about 5% of the world's research and development costs. It's no wonder they drink great beer and can offer German citizens a bargain! We should be asking Senator Stabenow what she is doing to level the playing field between other rich nations with respect to shouldering a more equitable share of the world's research and development costs. US Consumers cannot be expected to absorb such a disproportionate burden any longer, especially when we have to watch more and more jobs move overseas! That's really adding insult to injury!

Furthermore, although some of the brand name prescription drugs are less expensive in Canada initially, they do not always remain less expensive over time. One of the best ways to save on prescription drugs is to rely on generics whenever possible. Drugs go generic at a rate of about 10% of the market each year. Between 30 and 40% of spending in the year 2000 was for drugs which will be going generic in 2004. Annual savings associated with use of generics versus patented drugs is in the billions! Although this has been known for years, generics remain under-prescribed and underutilized. Some of the research dollars in this country support pharmaceutical innovation specifically designed to stimulate market-driven competition between manufacturers. This is beneficial and often leads to faster availability of low cost generics to US consumers. Patent protection is ok for companies to recoup research costs, but perhaps there should be closer scrutiny on requests and litigation regarding patent extension. We should be working this angle much more than we currently are, and its financial benefit to consumers has not been highlighted. Nearly all the major manufacturers are engaged in development of generics. There is intense scrutiny and incentive to maintain high quality in the manufacturing processes. To be released onto the market, generics must meet the same high standards for purity, safety, efficacy and product reliability as any branded product. Swinging the pendulum too far in favor of importation could actually diminish funds available for this type of research, and slow the process which facilitates introduction of low cost generics. This unintended consequence will surely come back to bite us later, costs will continue to rise, and then what?

A recent study complete by Marv Shepherd (a respected independent pharmacoeconomics researcher from University of Texas at Austin) concluded the following about importation from Canada.

1. If all US residents purchased their prescription drugs from Canada, the Canadian drug supply would be depleted within 38 days! Folks, Canada simply does not have enough, and can't get enough fast enough to meet our nation's demand in a safe, controlled manner. Senator Stabenow should already know this and be seeking a better option versus a band-aid.
2. Even if half the senior citizens in the US were to remport their drugs, Canada would have to increase their drug supply by a whopping 250%!
3. Canada doubled the value of its imports since 1999 from \$2.3 billion to \$4.7 billion last year. In 2003, 44% of those imports came from the US. If not from our "friendly neighbors to the north", where did the rest come from? They came from over 80 other countries throughout the world which Canada relies on, and imports from. This includes countries like Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, India, Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, and even Guyana.

Furthermore, drugs Canada imports from other countries may not be up to the same high FDA standards we have in the US, or those of Health Canada. Our capability to assure safety and monitor what happens along the long manufacturing, and supply chain is greatly diminished once we decide to extend across international borders on a wide scale. I urge all readers to check the FDA website and review problems that have already been identified with imported drugs. Even I was shocked! There were two major enforcement initiatives last year between FDA and an ICE team across several US cities. Many problems were identified with drugs imported by mail from Canada, as well as other countries. Although nearly indistinguishable in appearance from a US product, some items contained the wrong, or no drug, or incorrect amounts of active ingredient. Some contained animal drugs or were products which had already been removed from the US market. This should give us all cause for concern. Although websites and advertisements show reassuring pictures displaying what looks like a friendly smiling Canadian pharmacist behind the counter, there's no guarantee about how, or who else may have been involved in dispensing drugs downstream in the supply chain, especially if imported into Canada from other countries.

Introduction and distribution of counterfeit drugs has become a huge concern. Counterfeits are indistinguishable from branded products sitting in your medicine cabinet, and they pose a real threat to US consumer safety. Terrorists also see counterfeiting as a lucrative opportunity to fund their criminal endeavors and strike at their enemies. They are motivated, well financed, bold, persistent, and are technologically up to speed in many areas. Terrorists only have to get it right once. Even if there's only a small window of opportunity open to them, it poses a significant threat. What we don't know we don't know, and/or fail to stop could have catastrophic consequences to patients in the US as well as other countries. Terrorists are not going away. Terrorists have nothing to lose. How lucky do we feel? Furthermore, technological innovations like radio frequency identification and tracking tools to make counterfeiting more difficult will also come with a huge price tag that someone downstream (likely the patients, or taxpayers) will have to absorb.

The FDA's Associate Commissioner for regulatory affairs recently pointed out that the federal government would have to spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year to assure the safety of non-US pharmaceuticals, and drug packages entering the US. The Associate Commissioner's cost estimate for this was more than \$1 billion the first year! We should all be asking Senator Stabenow, and other importation zealots who will be asked to bear this additional cost burden. Counterfeits oral and injectable drugs have already been discovered in the US market. Considering increasing potential for counterfeits to be introduced into other parts of the supply chain, importation on a large scale will have unintended consequences, and likely cause new (and potentially serious) problems that we may not be able to detect or prevent until it's too late.

Pharmaceutical companies are already moving to limit supplies. If patients become dependent on cross-border sources, and supplies eventually dry up, or costs rise, what then? Patients will again be left holding the bag, wondering when they can turn to a plethora of Medicare discount cards may also not provide enough help to all those with genuine need. In fact, many of the manufacturers have already made price adjustments to accommodate any discounts which would be provided. Having to sort through all these options may result in patients being even more confused and frustrated about rising drug costs.

Lastly, if it does make good economic sense to keep revenues, and jobs in Michigan, and in this country, why is no one talking about the devastating impact a large swing to importation would have on over 200,000 US pharmacists, as well as thousands of others employed in the pharmacy sector? There are close to 2000 pharmacies in Michigan. Since importation will not produce a long term solution anyway, is it really in anyone's best interest to aggressively pursue this course? Once a decision is taken to go down the importation road, finding our way back may be difficult, or next to impossible.

- For now:
 - Providing incentives which increase use of generics is a better, and safer way to reduce drug costs in the short run, and also in the long run too. However, this has to be done carefully, and in concert with the patient, physician and pharmacist to assure that any product is selected will work for the patient, and also be affordable. We cannot allow financial pressures to take us away from our primary responsibility of doing what's best for the patient.
 - Talk with your pharmacist and physician 2-3x/year about whether a more affordable drug product is available. The market changes rapidly and patients should be asking about opportunities to save frequently.
 - Shopping around is ok, but try and find one pharmacy provider who will give you high quality product and best price. Drug therapy is a tricky business and if patients go to multiple sources, there's no way for physicians or any one source to screen for potentially dangerous interactions. Never sacrifice safety for price.
 - Keeping dollars in the US to fund research which helps get generics onto the market quickly is an excellent way to further reduce drug costs. We don't want to act prematurely and diminish this benefit to all US consumers.
 - If no other options to reduce cost in short run, patients considering importation from Canada, should take all precautions recommended by the FDA, and consult their physician and pharmacist before doing so.
 - If a member of armed forces or an eligible federal employee, seek out assistance to receive free medications from the Veterans Administration.

Summary:
I'm all for more affordable drug therapy, but in my opinion, there are just too many fleas that come with the importation dog... also too many additional disconcerts in an already fractured safety net with importation. Although appearing to be financially expedient in short run, we should not listen to election year "Politricks". We can, and must do better. The patients we serve deserve a long term solution that will not create havoc or destabilize the entire economic equilibrium with respect to drug pricing. If we can put rovers on Mars, and drop J-DAM missiles through smokestacks and keyholes, we should be able to come up with a financially viable option to help patients who are truly needy. As consumers, all of us may need to adjust our own expectations, and realize that drugs will not likely be provided for free, or a zero co-pay any more on a wide scale. It's astonishing to me that many willingly spend thousands of cash dollars on cigarettes, alcohol, fast food, casinos, lottery, as well as for unproven herbs, vitamins, diet fads and other expensive products while at the same time, bemoaning the cost of co-pay for drugs which have been scientifically proven to reduce their risk of death or catastrophic events. We have to decide what matters most. I guess we have to take a decision to think smarter before we can be educated about making better choices. Maybe better living through living better is something we all need to consider thoughtfully.

GARAGE SALE PAGE

MOVING SALE

June 5 & 6, 9 to 4. Some furniture, Home Interiors, household items, toys & misc. 12110 McPherson, west off Lincoln Lake.

GARAGE SALE

June 4, (8-5), June 5, (9-1). Kid - adult namebrand clothing, lots of teen sizes, purses, shoes, sports equip., baskets, frames, desk chair, file cabinet, dresser, games, home decor, LOTS of misc. 6518 Hastings Rd., 1/2 mile north of Jimmy's Grill.

MULTI FAMILY SALE

In Boston Highlands, west of Morrison Lake on MacArthur Road. Thurs and Fri., 8-4. High quality kids & adult clothes, toys, household items and more. 7366 MacArthur Rd. and 5182 Scotch Mist Dr.

GARAGE SALE

Kids clothes, jungle gym, Little Tikes, bikes & lots of misc. 1157 Fernridge, off Hall & Cascade, June 3, 9-4 p.m.

GARAGE SALE

273 Donna Dr. June 4 & 5, 9 a.m. - ? Natural gas stove, micro-wave, antique table, lamp, wing back chair, collectibles, rowing machine, long dresses, clothing, Christmas items, etc.

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE

Computer, Memorex Computer Scanner, Computer Software, Stereo Shelf System, TVs, CD, Cassettes, LPs, Bentwood Rocker, Bar Stool Table Set, Antique Table, Desk, TV Stand, Skis, Fish Tank Supplies, Clothing, Jewelry & Jewelry Boxes, Toys, Puzzles, Board Games, Intellivision & Nintendo Video Games, Houseware items, Misc. Items. Fri., June 4 & Sat., June 5 from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. 8315 Five Mile Road, Ada.

GARAGE SALE

June 3, 9 a.m. - ? 9224 Peck Lake Rd., Lowell. No clothes! Tractor, videos, tools, wide variety of treasures. Cash only!

SALE

Organized our house, barn, greenhouse. Create something new from old chairs, headboard, tins, baskets, blue jars, old bottles, clay pots, country style accents, dishes plus Easter, Xmas, Halloween. Furniture, antiques, 1880 school desk, '60s & '70s antiques, sacred/secular music for piano & guitar, cookbooks; kids, religious, & other books, homeschool books thru H.S., chipper-shredder, go-cart frame, English & Western saddles, waterskis, tires, misc. from all eras! 8A-7P, June 3 & 8A-4P June 4, 2696 Timpson, between Grand River & 36th St.

HUGE GARAGE SALE

Fri. and Sat., June 4 & 5, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. 11100 Bennett SE Antique couches and furniture, Amana microwave, '65 Rebel sailboat (17'), computer, all kinds of household and kitchen items, kids bikes, sewing machines, ceramic kiln & supplies, chairs, beds, tables, clothing (men's & women's size small).

HUGE 3-FAMILY YARD SALE

Fri., June 4 & Sat., June 5. Furniture, organs, clothes, lots of misc. 901 Grindle Dr.

MOVING & GETTING RID OF SALE

June 4th, 9-? & June 5th, 9-2. Household, baby, toddler, toys, books, misc. Something for EVERYONE!!!!!! 1252 & 1273 Laurie Gail Drive.

HUGE CALVARY CHURCH GARAGE SALE

Thurs. & Fri., June 3 & 4, good stuff - good prices! Come on by - buy!

GARAGE SALE

Fri., June 4, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 10660 Bailey Dr. NE, Lowell. Lots of good stuff.

CLARKSVILLE

4 family garage sale. Take Nash Hwy. to 8614 Keim Road, Clarksville. June 3 and 4, 9-5 p.m.; June 5, 9-?

HUGE SALE

3230 Segwun, follow signs from Alden Nash. Men's, women's, teen & children's clothing. Lots of everything & good prices. June 4, 9-5 p.m. & June 5, 9-noon.

GARAGE SALE

Bunk bed set, dresser, table & chairs, queen bedroom set, lots of kitchen essentials, Tupperware, crystal, knick-knacks, bathroom rugs, teen girl clothes, woman's size med. & plus size clothing, some men's med. size, Beanie Babies & loads of good stuff for everyone. Don't miss this sale! 10807 Woodbushe Dr. (Just off M-21 & Cumberland) follow signs. Fri., June 4, 10-7 p.m. & Sat., June 5, 9-5 p.m.

GARAGE SALE

6/4 - 6/6, 8-5. 7871 Shady Brook Dr., (corner of Buttrick). Grill, washer, portable basketball hoop, piano, exercise bike, toys, clothes, etc.

GARAGE SALE

6/4 - 6/6, 8-5. 7871 Shady Brook Dr., (corner of Buttrick). Grill, washer, portable basketball hoop, piano, exercise bike, toys, clothes, etc.

GARAGE SALE

New smoker, snowboard, skis, newer reel mower, TV, cottage screens, woodstove, books, drawing tables, small appliances, household, much more. Sat., June 5, 9 a.m. to ? 3501 Balsam Ave. NE, off Dean Lake Rd. or 4 Mile.

GARAGE SALE

Fri. & Sat., June 4 & 5, 9 - 5. Lamps, rugs, chairs, table, washer & dryer and lots of baby items. 910 Parnell.

LARGE MULTI-FAMILY BARN SALE

Thurs., Fri. & Sat., June 3, 4 & 5. 9112 5 Mile Road, corner of McCabe & 5 Mile. 9-6 p.m.

YARD SALE

Window A/C, bed/computer desk combo. Misc. Thurs. & Fri., June 3 & 4, 9 to 1. 750 Hillside Ct., Lowell.

GARAGE SALE

Thurs. & Fri., June 3 & 4, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Kitchen stuff, clothes, bikes, etc. 775 Alden Nash (1 1/2 mi. N. of M-21).

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

SALE THIS WEEKEND!

6/5 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.), 6/6 (10 a.m.-3 p.m.) 3926 N. Jackson Rd., Saranac. Riding mower, snowblower, furniture, refrigerator, pop machine, clothing (adult 4-10), misc. galore!!

PRICES FOR THIS PAGE!

15 words - \$7

+25¢ each additional word.

Runs as a package deal in the Lowell Ledger & Buyers Guide. Deadline for this page is Thurs. at 5 p.m. for the weekend Buyers Guide.

Ph. 897-9555 - Fax 897-4809

email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

FOR SALE

\$49/SET MATTRESS/BOX SPRING SALE - Queen, full or twin, factory new, delivery available. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

FURNITURE - A piece, a houseful, 10,000 items. Bedroom, dining, leather living room sets & more. All new. Wholesale. Call for selection. 682-4767 or 293-6160. Why pay retail??

APPLIANCES - Maytag, Whirlpool, GE, washers, dryers, refrigerators, over 100 in stock from \$59. Dennis Distributing 989-224-4822.

GOATS FOR SALE - 1 baby male, 1 adult male Pigmy, 1 adult female. Call 616-794-4082 eve till 11 p.m.

\$125 AMISH QUEEN LOG BED - w/pillowtop mattress set. Bought, never used. Still in plastic. 989-227-2986.

FOR SALE - 1989 Kawasaki 550 jet ski, \$500. Call 897-8934.

BUNK BED - Oak, has mattresses (2 mos. old). Sell \$95. 517-719-0451.

SOFA - very clean; 2 end tables & coffee table, all for \$50. Call 897-6096.

\$175 BERBER CARPET - Beautiful oatmeal, 40 yards (new, still in plastic). 517-719-0451.

FOR SALE BY OWNER - 2/3 bedroom, 419 Monroe. Call for more info. 897-0319.

\$25 QUEEN, FULL & TWIN MATTRESS SETS - Previously owned. Hurry for selection. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

1967 CUTLASS CONVERTIBLE - All original - 330 jet fire, new tires, red w/new black top. Great deal! \$6,000. Call 897-7222.

20¢ PER FOOT CARPET REMNANT SALE - Convention center, used briefly. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

KING SEALY MATTRESS SET - with deluxe frame, \$100. Call 517-204-0600.

AIR BED - Selecta Comfort firmness for each of you. As seen at mall or on TV. Dual chambers, fully adjustable, remote control, w/warranty. Must sell. Never used. \$700. Call 682-4767 or 293-6160. Can deliver.

FOR SALE - 1987 Cadillac Seville. Needs some work, \$700 obo. Call 897-8934.

MEMORY FOAM - mattress set, NASA developed, Visco memory cell, relieves pressure points. Never used. Queen \$650, also full & king. Call 682-4767 or 293-6160. Can deliver.

"DON'T RENT" - Stop throwing your money away. Land, improvement and home only \$699 a month. 3br/2bath, all appliances. Be in by July 25th. 1-616-291-2994.

MATTRESS SETS - Brand

FIBERGLASS TONNEAU COVER - Fits Dodge short box. \$300. Call 676-1102.

FOR SALE

PROPERTY FOR SALE - 2.2 acre lots for sale. M-21 to Hayes Rd., Muir, North 1/4 mile. Lots are on West Side of road. Look for signs. For more information call eves 269-367-4900. Phil Bishop.

names. All sizes. Low wholesale prices. Don't be fooled by fake pillowtop, used hotel (yuk) or bait & switch ads. Buy with confidence. Prices starting at \$80. Call 682-4767 or 293-6160. Can deliver.

BACK PAIN! - A new air chamber or memory foam mattress will help. Prices starting at \$650 for queen. Also twin, full & king. Brand new. Can deliver. Call 682-4767 or 293-6160.

FOR SALE - Landscaping rocks. \$35 a truck load. You load. Call 897-8356.

"LONELY HOME" - Owner Must Sell! 3br/2bath. Immediate occupancy. Zero Down if qualified, own for as little as \$499 a month. 1-800-615-1224.

POP-UP CAMPER - 2002 Flagstaff. Furnace, refrigerator, gas range, water system, awning, sleeps 6. Like new. \$3,995 obo. Call 676-1102.

FOR SALE - 1993 Honda CVR 1000 sharp! Must see, \$2,500. Call 897-8934.

"DEALER OUT OF BUSINESS" - 6 new & 10 used homes all 3/4br/2bath. Free Credit Approval, \$1,000 investment. Be in by June 21st. All appliances included. Call 1-800-615-1224.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRY ONE TODAY! CALL 897-9261 or Fax 897-4809. DEADLINE MONDAY AT 5 p.m. for Wednesday Publication. Visit our Website: www.lowellbuyersguide.com

FOUND

FOUND CAT Tan with dark brown tail. Settlewood/Parnell area. Call 897-7898.

EVENTS

ADA TOWNSHIP INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL CRAFT SHOW - Date of Festival is Saturday, July 3rd, 2004. Established 30+ yrs. Booths: \$25. 12'x12' grassy area. 10:30 AM til 3:00 PM, M21 (East Fulton) across from Amway flag display. For application Call Pat Kain, (616) 682-9553.

SOUND OFF PHONE LINE 897-0787 Voice your opinion (good or bad) in our new column!

CLASSIFIEDS

TO PLACE AN AD

In Person: 105 N. Broadway, Lowell

By Mail: PO BOX 128, Lowell, MI 49331

By Phone: 616-897-9261

By Fax: 616-897-4809

By Email: classifieds@lowellbuyersguide.com

DEADLINE MONDAYS AT 5 PM

Classified ad rates:

15 words...\$1

each additional word 10¢

Bold or Box \$1 each

LOOK FOR THE GARAGE SALE

PAGE IN THIS EDITION OF

THE LOWELL LEDGER! ALL

GARAGE SALES ARE THERE!

THIS PAGE RUNS UNTIL

LABOR DAY!

DEADLINE

Mondays at 5 p.m. for Wednesday Publication

The Lowell Ledger

Phone: 616-897-9261

Fax: 616-897-4809

WANTED

LAND WANTED - Developer looking to purchase vacant land. J.T. Scott Co., Broker 616-540-8950.

2 COLLEGE GUYS - looking for extra money, looking to do any job around the house or farm. Call 616-633-5802 for Steve.

PAINTING JOBS WANTED - fair prices, references available, free estimates. Call Nick at 897-5448.

FREE

FREE KITTENS - Burley bike carrier, \$175; classic auto 1976 BMW 2002, \$3,500. Call 897-4925.

FREE - Upright Piano in good shape; you must be able to move it. Call 897-6992

FOR RENT

FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers \$1,000 - \$1,050 to move in. No dogs please. \$400 - \$420 per mo. plus 1/2 mo. rent deposit. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276.

HALL FOR RENT - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050.

HOUSE FOR RENT - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, updated interior, fenced-in yard, garage & carport. \$925/mo. No pets. No smoking. Call 676-9431.

HELP WANTED

FIBERGLASS TECHNICIAN NEEDED - Lowell area, starting wage depends on experience. Will train reliable people. Wage increases depend on skill & dependability. Paid vacation, insurance, retirement plan. Uniforms available. Call 897-7719.

CHILDCARE NEEDED - Female only, for my 11 yr. old daughter. Hours approx. 6 a.m.-3:30 p.m. M-F. Non-smoker, must have own trans. 897-9004.

HOME HEALTH CARE AIDES NEEDED - in Lowell & Saranac immediately. 1-866-835-3385.

LOOKING FOR A FULL OR PART-TIME JOB? - Multiple positions need to be filled. If you are a woman who loves having your hands on the hottest trends, you may qualify. Must be at least 18. Call Brooke at 616-318-7757.

EXPANDING - Local company looking for men and women to fill 28 full time permanent positions. No experience necessary; we train. \$500 per week. Must start immediately. Phone 475-6603. College students welcome.

SUMMER ONLY CHILDCARE - Are you looking for a safe and fun environment for your school aged child just for the summer without draining your checking account? Local, Licensed, Mature woman with 6 years daycare experience who is now substituting for Lowell Area Schools would like to spend the summer with your child. I offer very reasonable rates with a safe and fun environment. Call me for a meeting at 897-3133 or leave a message and I will return your call.

ALTO AREA DAYCARE - has immediate openings for 18 mos & older. Fenced in backyard. Access to all Lowell Area Schools. CPR certified. Call 868-0752.

TOWING - Servicing Lowell & surrounding areas. Flat bed & wrecker, Tire changes, Jump starts, Lock outs, 24 Hr. service. Call Lincoln Lake Autos 446-5909.

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM To Mother, Don, Gerry and Laurie

When I Forget

When sunny skies shall smile no more, When waves no longer woo the shore; When every sweet voiced bird has fled, When every summer rose is dead; When stars forsake the evening sky, When hearts with love shall cease to sigh; When silvery mists desert the glen, I may, perhaps, forget you then, Maurine Hathaway Love always, Jan

AN ABSOLUTE ADVANTAGE - offering lowest prices on quality vinyl siding & windows. Expert installation. Eliminate middle man costs. Save Big! Senior discount. Call Ron Cash today 616-891-5896.

DOES YOUR CHRYSLER, PLYMOUTH, DODGE CAR, TRUCK OR VAN NEED REPAIR? - Don't make a mistake & take it anywhere else - give Geo-Tech a try! Contact George at Geo-Tech Transmission & Repair, 897-0743.

PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - By certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.

VOTE MONDAY, JUNE 14 - for LAS Board of Education election! Paid for by Committee to Re-Elect Kate Dermocour.

LEDGER OFFICE HOURS:

Mon - Thurs. 8-5
Fri. 8-4
Closed Sat. & Sun.
105 N. Broadway

SERVICES

LICENSED DAYCARE OPENINGS - North of Lowell. Several openings. Craft activities planned. Lowell busing available. Call 897-3065.

LAWNMOWER REPAIR - Also garden tractors, rototillers, leaf blowers, generators & gasoline powered weed trimmers. Pickup and delivery. Call 616-485-5835. Ray's Small Engine Repair, Inc.

JOHN DEBIAK HORSESHOEING & HOOF TRIMMING - Serving the Greater Kent/Ionia County area with 15 years of professional, full-time experience. Call 897-4290.

PLUMBER - Experienced. Residential, Service or New Construction. Reasonable rates. Call 897-2575.

ATTN: GRADUATING SENIORS & SENIOR PARENTS - We have open house cards, thank you cards & envelopes! 5¢ for each piece! Lowell Ledger/Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell.

ALTO AREA DAYCARE - has immediate openings for 18 mos & older. Fenced in backyard. Access to all Lowell Area Schools. CPR certified. Call 868-0752.

TOWING - Servicing Lowell & surrounding areas. Flat bed & wrecker, Tire changes, Jump starts, Lock outs, 24 Hr. service. Call Lincoln Lake Autos 446-5909.

PIANO INSTRUCTION - Experienced, patient, performer & teacher has openings starting in June. Member of MMTA & GRPTF. Ph. 897-9485, email MissMeowisc@msn.com.

AN ABSOLUTE ADVANTAGE - offering lowest prices on quality vinyl siding & windows. Expert installation. Eliminate middle man costs. Save Big! Senior discount. Call Ron Cash today 616-891-5896.

DOES YOUR CHRYSLER, PLYMOUTH, DODGE CAR, TRUCK OR VAN NEED REPAIR? - Don't make a mistake & take it anywhere else - give Geo-Tech a try! Contact George at Geo-Tech Transmission & Repair, 897-0743.

PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - By certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.

VOTE MONDAY, JUNE 14 - for LAS Board of Education election! Paid for by Committee to Re-Elect Kate Dermocour.

LEDGER OFFICE HOURS:

Mon - Thurs. 8-5
Fri. 8-4
Closed Sat. & Sun.
105 N. Broadway

ANNOUNCING...

SPECIAL SUPPLIER PRICING

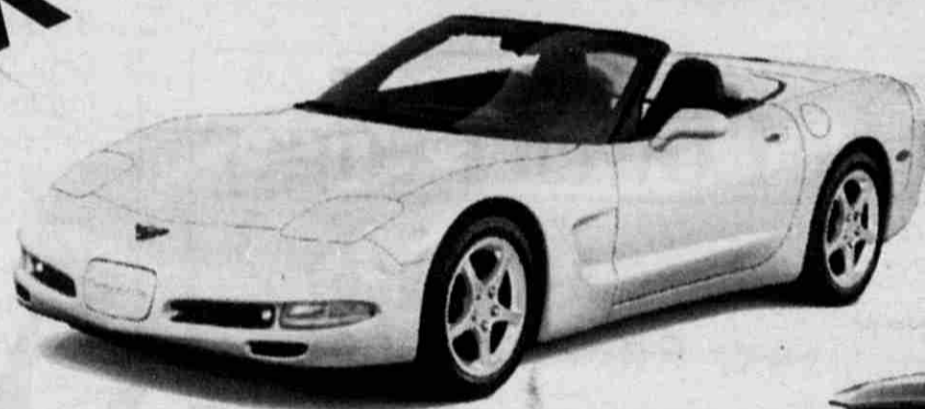


**FROM
OUR
STOCK**

**On
Chevrolets
& Buicks**

Including Corvettes

**Plus All GM
Rebates
That Apply!**



**+ FREE
Bedliner**

**on all Silverados
while supply lasts**



*All rebates to dealers - Expires 6-12-04



THOMET PRE-OWNED SPECIALS



**2001 CHEVROLET
TAHOE 4x4**

Auto., V8, AM/FM, air, power locks,
55,000 miles.
Stk. #4T203A

\$16,995



**2000 CHEVROLET
BLAZER 4x4 LT**

Auto., V6, cruise, tilt, AM/FM/CD,
leather, 54,600 miles.
Stk. #4B037A

\$10,995



**2001 CHEVY
PRIZM LSi**

Auto., cruise, tilt, AM/FM/CD, power
windows & locks, 19,500 miles.
Stk. #UP173

\$9,495



**2002 PONTIAC VIBE
AWD**

Cruise, tilt, AM/FM/CD, power
windows & locks, moonroof,
24,000 miles. Stk. #UP170.

\$15,995



**1999 BUICK LESABRE
CUSTOM**

Auto., V6, cruise, tilt, AM/FM, power
windows & locks, 75,100 miles.
Stk. #UP166.

\$8,995

*Prices plus tax, title, doc fee, & plate.

THOMET
CHEVROLET BUICK

- SALES
- SERVICE
- SELECTION

1250 W. Main, Lowell • 897-9294
SEE THE USA IN A THOMET CHEVROLET

Or check out Thomet's online at:
gmbuypower.com or e-mail us at: kurt@thometchevroletbuick.com



**HOURS: MON & WED - 8-8;
TUES, THURS & FRI - 8-6; SAT - 9-3**

Kurt
Hieshetter

Chad
Vander Velde

Jason
Westveld

Charlie
Craig

Stew
Thomet

Steve
Thomet