

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 31 Issue 1

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

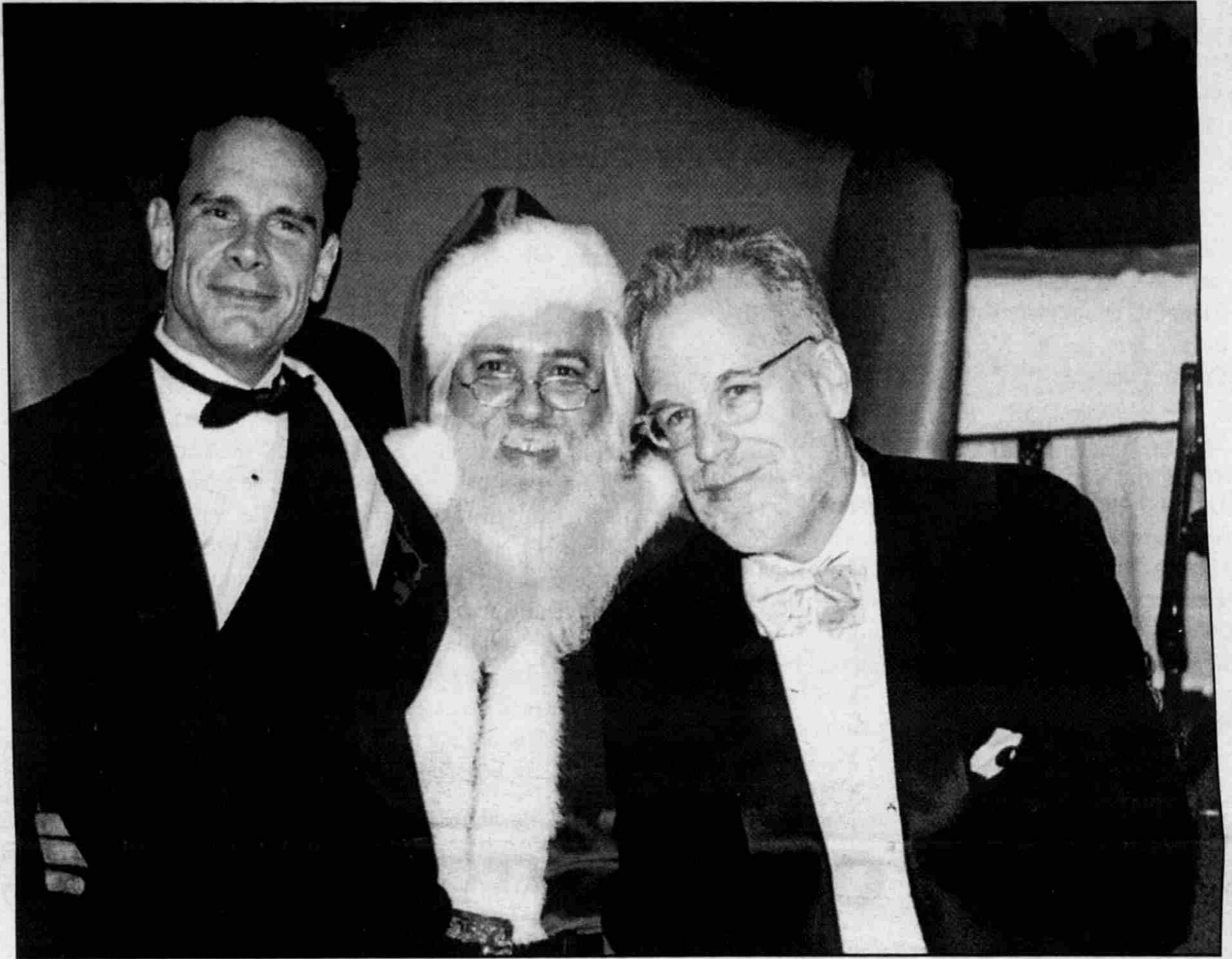
Wednesday, November 10, 2004

Lowell's Santa goes Hollywood

Lowell's own Santa Claus, famed of Santa parades and with a real beard, was tapped to do the honors at the North Pole of the gala premiere for "The Polar Express" at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids last Friday. He is pictured with "Polar Express" author, Grand Rapids' native Chris Van Allsburg, right, and actor Peter Scolari, who does voice talent in the animated film.

"The whole place was decked out like the book," said Santa.

He is well familiar with "The Polar Express." He has read the book to children several times in his four years of being Santa. On Dec. 4, for the second year, he will be the main attraction at Lowell's annual Santa Parade and will spend that afternoon on the showboat, giving frequent readings. Santa will take up residence on the showboat Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons from parade day until Christmas.



Annual Christmas Through Lowell on track for Nov. 19

By Dan Schneider

This is the 13th year of the annual craft tour, Christmas Through Lowell.

This year the event is bigger again. There are 52 stops on the tour—seven businesses

and 45 homes where people can buy mostly holiday-related crafts.

The event takes place Nov. 19-21, the first weekend of gun deer season.

"It's always been a great way for ladies to come to Low-

ell and shop till they drop," said Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker.

The chamber took over the organization of the event this year.

"We wouldn't want to

lose this event out of Lowell because it brings a lot of business here," Baker said.

Jody and Kraig Haybarker started Christmas Through Lowell in 1992.

"We kept things basically the same because it was a

learning curve for us and we wanted to maintain what Jody and Kraig have worked so hard to attain," Baker said.

The biggest changes are to the Christmas Through Lowell program. This year

businesses are listed on the map. They are given letters while the home crafters are given numbers. The site descriptions are more easily readable with a schedule of hours each stop is open.

Local Republicans do well in '04

By Dan Schneider

Though the Lowell area votes didn't help Presi-



Jack Horton

dent George W. Bush win the state of Michigan in last Tuesday's election, Republican candidates did well for

more offices in local precincts.

Voters in Lowell, Vergennes and Bowne townships and the city of Lowell cast more than twice as many votes for Bush as for Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry. Outside of a few precincts in the city of Grand Rapids, Bowne Township had the highest voter turnout of any precinct in Kent County. In the presidential election, 87.4 percent of registered voters in Bowne Township voted.

"I don't know what to attribute it to, I just know that we always have a really high turnout," said Bowne Township clerk Sandra Kowalczyk.

She reported that since the precinct has 20 voting stations and eight poll workers, there were few delays despite the heavy turnout. Most voters in Bowne Township (77

percent) voted to re-elect the president.

They, along with the rest of the Lowell area, also favored Republican Vern Ehlers' re-election to Michigan's third district U.S. congressional seat.

Republican and Lowell



Dave Hildenbrand

native Dave Hildenbrand won 67 percent of the vote for 86th

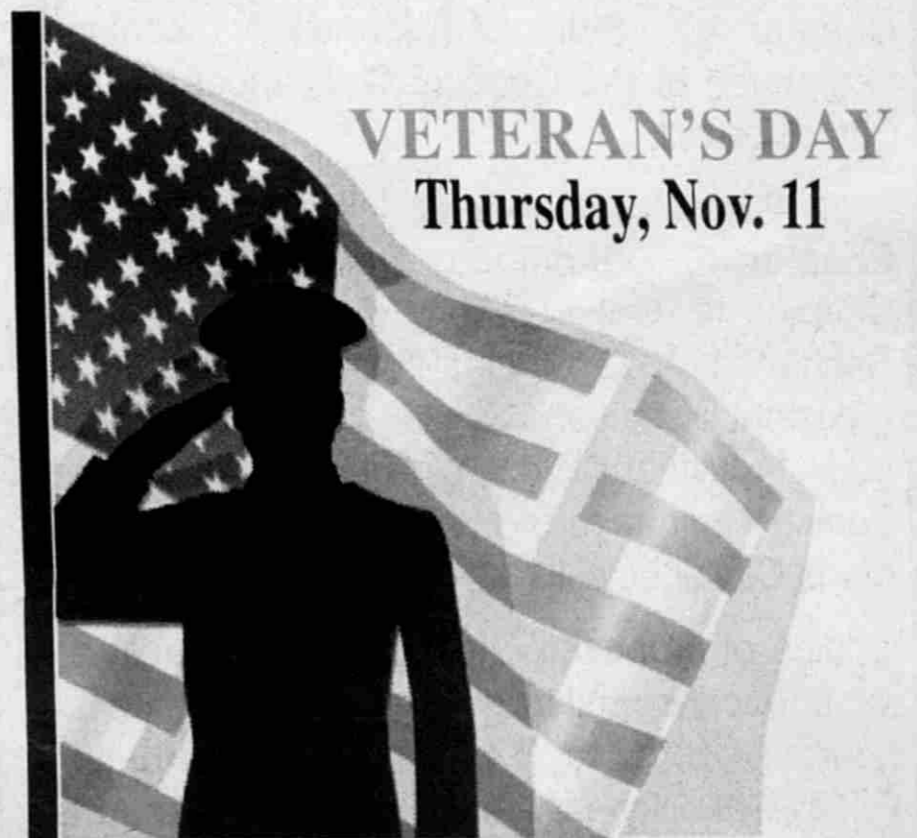
district state house of representatives. Democratic candidate James Turner won 31 percent and Libertarian Bill Gelineau won two percent of the votes. Local voters supported Hildenbrand, giving him 73 percent of the votes.

"They made a large impact in the primary election back in August and they stayed with me in this last election," Hildenbrand said of Lowell area voters. "They were the voters that made the difference for me in the two elections."

He took time out of a legislative orientation session Monday to talk to the Ledger.

"I want to thank my opponents for running a very clean, issue-oriented campaign," Hildenbrand said.

Elections, cont'd., pg. 11



VETERAN'S DAY
 Thursday, Nov. 11

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OBITUARIES

ANDERSON - Bernard Anderson, aged 73, of Ada, went to be with the Lord, November 4, 2004. He will be sadly missed by his wife Laura; children Kathy (Mike) Savage of Traverse City, Bernie Jr. (Amy) Anderson, Don (Julie) Anderson all of Ada, Mark (Misty) Anderson of Lowell, Kathy Barkouski of Alaska, Chris (Don) Bazzett of Cedar Springs, Susan (Scott) Ingerson of Grant; brother Don (Marge) Anderson of Grand Haven; many grandchildren; one great-grandson; two nieces. Mass of Christian Burial was offered Monday at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, Rev. Bernard "Turk" Rooney, CSSR, Celebrant. Interment Cascade Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Mary's Cancer Center.

COLLAR - Elmer Louis Collar, aged 75, of Alto, died Thursday, November 4, 2004. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Ruth; children Joe (Heather) Collar, Nila (Rick) Goodin, Renee (Gary) Sias, Melissa (Chuck) Tichelar; grandsons Jason, Justin, Bobby, Brett (Amy), Jacob

(Jessica) Steven, Brandon, Zachary, J.D.; granddaughters Heather (Eric) Jessica (Keith), Cassidy, Helen; great-grandchildren Hannah, Wyatt, Elissa, Kendal, Andrew, Wesley; sister Mary (Jim) McLean; sisters-in-law Mickey Collar, Lorraine (Leroy) Thompson, Caroline (Fred) Blakeslee, Patty Paffhausen, Joan Paffhausen, Phyllis Paffhausen; brothers-in-law Ronald (Lillian) Paffhausen, Jim (Louise) Paffhausen. The Mass of Christian Burial was Monday, November 8 at St. Mary's Church, Lowell, Rev. Robert Sirico celebrant. Interment Alaska Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's Pregnancy Center, 420 Amity, Lowell, MI 49331.

GROVER - Lila (Cornell) Grover, aged 91, of Lowell, passed away Wednesday, November 3, 2004. She was preceded in death by her father and mother Ray and Pearl Cornell, and brother Otto. She is survived by her husband of 58 years Albert; daughters Judy (Charles) Stewart, Louise (William) Bouck; grandchildren

Sheila (Don) Dubbink, Walter Alan (Susan) Huver, Sharon (Ken) Morris, Amber (Greg) Zimmerman, Rob (Kim) Huver, Brandy (Jack) Fenton; great-grandchildren Stacy and Tony Dubbink, Tyler and Taryn Morris, Kennedy and Kaia Zimmerman, Hunter and Pypier Fenton; special niece Mary (Keith) Crisler; many cousins and friends. A memorial service will be held Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 1 p.m. at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, Rev. Roger La Warre officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Holland Home, 2100 Raybrook S.E., Suite 300, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

TRIPLETT - Hubert "Dude" Triplett, aged 79, of Lowell, passed away November 6, 2004. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Helen; children Dale (Nancy) Triplett, Rick (Kim) Triplett; brother Wes (Mary) Triplett of Bradenton, FL; sister-in-law Wilma Triplett of NC; 13 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren. He was very involved with Navel Reserves and Veteran Administration. A memorial will be held Friday, Nov. 12 at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson, at 1 p.m., Dr. Roger La Warre officiating. Visitation will be Thursday from 7-9 p.m. and one hour prior to the service. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Holland, 2100 Raybrook S.E., Suite 300, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

Lowell High School student remembered

By Dan Schneider

Friends of Austin Lancaster remember him for his athleticism and his love of shoes, but especially for his ability to brighten a social scene.

"If I was having a bad day or I was having a problem, he would come in and say something goofy, just help the whole situation and make us feel better," said Brook VanEck, Austin's friend and classmate of three years. "He was always happy and he always knew how to make you smile."

Late Saturday night, a car accident took Lancaster's life. "He was just a great kid," said his mother, Darlene

Lancaster. "He liked sports, he liked hunting and fishing with his dad."

For her, Austin's ability to help people through problems was especially important. She lost her husband and Austin's father in a car accident in July of 2003.

"After his dad passed away, he was a huge support to me," she said. "He loved everyone around him."

He was involved in Impact Youth Ministries in Lowell. Jennifer Vaughan, a student ministries leader there, remembered Austin's lust for life.

"He was passionate about life and relationships, and he was just the life of the party,"

said Vaughan. "You always knew when Austin was there." She said he took his faith seriously. He had asked her for advice about finding a bible he could relate to and had also talked about becoming a minister.

His love for shoes began when he was little, Darlene Lancaster explained. He would insist on white shoes and keep them meticulously clean. But he wasn't afraid to share them. His soccer teammates seldom had to worry if they forgot their cleats.

"He had like eight pairs of soccer shoes and he would always give his shoes out to other players," VanEck said. Lancaster, 16, and a jun-

ior at Lowell High School played soccer.

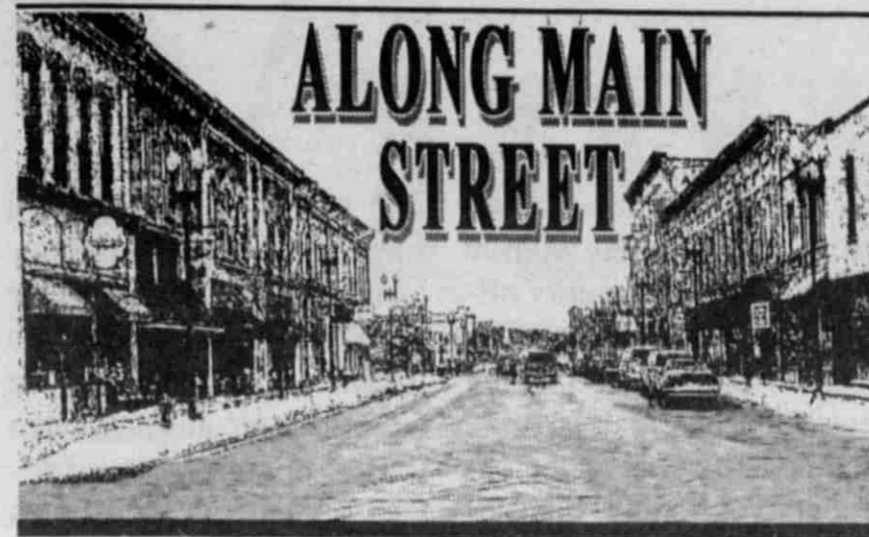
"Austin usually was the first sub off the bench by the end of the season so he definitely was a contributing player this year," said Lowell varsity soccer coach Paul Legge. "He could get in the game and 30 seconds into the game have a touch on the ball and a crack at the net."

Legge also remembered the things Lancaster would do off the field. He remembered bowhunting this year, getting a deer, and having no way to haul it in for processing. Lancaster dropped everything and drove out to the woods to pick up his coach's deer.

"The greatest thing about him, it's a testament to him, you look at how many friends he had," Legge said. "Austin had a ton of friends and it was just because of the way he approached life. He was always up, always in a good mood."

Kent County Sheriffs are still investigating the fatal accident. Lancaster was the driver and only occupant of the Chevy pickup truck. He was traveling westbound on Bennett Street in Ada Township. The car skidded off the road near Sergeant Avenue, striking a tree. The truck was fully in flames by the time a person in a passing vehicle reported the accident.

Visitation was held Tuesday at Zaagman Memorial Chapel in Grand Rapids. The funeral is Wednesday at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church in Parnell.



PLAYOFF GAME
The Red Arrow football team hosts East Grand Rapids this Friday at 7 p.m. Gates open at 5:30; no reserved seating. Tickets are \$5 and available in athletic office Thursday and Friday (7:30 - 3 p.m.); also Thursday during conferences (4-7 p.m.)

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS
Entertainment 2005 Books, good thru Oct. 31, '05, are \$35 and available at Brenda's Hair Designs, Hahn Hardware, Huntington Bank, Lowell Ledger and SOS Salon of Style or call Marj at 897-8107. Sponsored by Lowell Women's Club for LHS senior girls' scholarships; 50 percent off and 2-for-1 offers at area locations.

WANTED: BINGO PLAYERS
VFW Post 8303 Bingo Sunday afternoons. Opens at 11 a.m. at 3116 Alden Nash Ave. 1st game: 1 p.m.

ACADEMIC BOOSTERS MEETING
The LHS academic boosters meet Thursday, Nov. 11 at 8:30 a.m. in the volunteer room of the high school. Call Julie at 897-6353 with questions. Parents are welcome.

FFA HOG ROAST/AUCTION
The Lowell FFA hog roast/ scholarship auction is this Friday, Nov. 12 at LHS cafeteria. Change of time: dinner is at 5 p.m.; auction at 6 p.m. due to football game at Red Arrow Stadium. \$5 per person; kids 5 and under are free.

YEARBOOK CONTEST
Lowell Middle School students must have their entries in by Nov. 12 for the yearbook cover contest.

LMS FOOD DRIVE
The student council at Lowell Middle School is ending its food drive Friday, Nov. 12. Donations from students, businesses and church organizations are still being accepted.

F.R.O.M. DISTRIBUTION
Come to the Lowell Fairgrounds, S. Broadway, this Saturday, Nov. 13 from 10-11 a.m. Receive free produce at the Foodmobile from Flat River Outreach Ministries. Bring your own box or bag.

MUSIC BOOSTER MEETING
The Lowell Music Boosters will have a meeting on Monday, Nov. 15 from 7-8 p.m. in the middle school band room.

COLLEGE/CAREER NIGHT
Lowell High School will have its college/career planning night for students, grades 10-11, and their parents on Tuesday, Nov. 16 from 7-8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

CHRISTMAS THROUGH LOWELL
Flies are available at River Hollow, Dream Pieces, The Black and White Store, Glass House Designs, Crooked Tree Gallery, Chimera Design/Lowell Fine Jewelers, Lowell Ledger and Voyages Coffee Shop. Nov. 19: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Nov. 20: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Nov. 21: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Questions: call 897-9161.

CUB SCOUTS SELLING BIRD SEED
Lowell Cub Scout Pack 3188 will be selling popcorn and bird seed at First United Methodist Woman's Holiday Craft Sale on Saturday, Nov. 20.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING
Lowell Area Ministerium Association is sponsoring a community Thanksgiving service on Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. at Christian Life Center, 350 Alden Nash S.E. A service of thanks for all faiths.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS ITEMS
Boxed or canned potatoes, pork and beans, canned fruit, soup and crackers are still needed for the F.R.O.M. food pantry if you can donate.

CURIOSITY CORNER PRESCHOOL OPENINGS
The Tots program has openings for children who are 3 or 4 by Dec. 1. Call Kathy at 987-2532.

Police department restricts on-street parking permits

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Police Department is implementing a stricter policy for on-street parking permits.

Effective Nov. 8, the department will review applications for parking permits before a permit is issued. The process involves a site inspection by an officer to determine the nature and extent of specific hardships that prevent parking off the street. Previously, permits had been granted based on a written

explanation of the hardship on the application.

"We didn't have any criteria established where we can say 'We can't issue you a permit,'" said police chief Jim Valentine.

Hardships have ranged from families owning too many cars to fit in their driveway to households with multiple workshfts requiring a rotation of cars.

A city ordinance requires that a person have a permit to park on the street between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

Now, after a homeowner applies for a permit, an officer will make a visit to the site and evaluate it. The officer may make recommendations of ways the applicant can correct the situation rather than issue a permit. The process won't distract the officers from their regular police work, according to Valentine.

"If it's a day they're running 15 calls, that's not the day they'll go evaluate someone's parking situations," he said.

When issued, permits will

be good for 60 days. During that time, applicants are expected to take steps to correct the hardship and move their cars off the road at night. Permits will be extended only if

this is impossible. During the winter, officers will use stricter criteria to evaluate hardships.

"It's most critical during the winter months," Valentine said. "The public works are out trying to keep the streets clean and they have to work around a multitude of cars that we've issued permits for."

Fire department gets FEMA grant

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Area Fire Department will receive \$30,780 in grant money from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The fire department will use the money to buy five new self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs) and a thermal imaging camera. The grant money will bring the department up to 26 up-to-date SCBAs.

"This should be the final part so every member of the department will have their own SCBA," Lowell fire chief Frank Martin said.

The thermal imaging camera will help firefighters find hot spots in house fires, find people trapped in burning houses and locate lost people in collapsed buildings.

Last year, the department received a larger grant—about

\$70,000—through the same federal program. That money was also used to buy SCBAs. In addition, it purchased a system for evacuating fire trucks' diesel exhaust from the garage at the fire house, in-truck computer systems to help respond to structure fires, and new turnout gear (firefighters' pants and coats).

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell City Council will conduct public hearings at their regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, November 15, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Lowell City Hall, Second Floor, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, Michigan for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

- An Ordinance to amend Section 20.08, Zone District Signs (Residential District Signs), of Chapter 20 - Signs of Appendix A - Zoning Ordinance of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell.

- An Ordinance to amend Section 2.20 of Chapter 2, Definitions, Section 12.03 of Chapter 12, C-3 - General Business District, Section 12A.03 of Chapter 12A., IL Light Industrial District and Section 13.02 of Chapter 13, I - Industrial District, of Appendix A - of the Zoning Ordinance of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell.

Copies of proposed Ordinances are available for public inspection during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday) at City Hall and at the Englehardt Public Library during scheduled hours Monday through Saturday.

Interested persons may submit written comments to City Hall, 301 E. Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 prior to the meeting or appear in person.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk
616-897-8457

Three car break-ins, lockbox stolen from home

The Lowell police department is investigating the theft of a lockbox from a Lowell home and three car break-ins.

The lockbox theft was reported after midnight Friday, Oct. 29. According to Lowell police chief Jim Valentine, the homeowners were not at home and had left their doors open. The thief entered the house and stole the lockbox, which con-

tained an undetermined amount of cash.

The car break-ins took place after midnight Saturday, Oct. 30. CDs and cash were stolen from the cars. The car larcenies and the lockbox theft all took place north of Main Street and east of the Flat River.

"We're working on some leads on the car larcenies and I

don't know if it will tie into this home invasion," Valentine said.

Valentine advised people to lock their cars when leaving them unattended. He asked people in Lowell to report any suspicious activity or persons to the Lowell Police Department or to call Silent Observer.

Know people for who they are rather than for what they are.
—Anthony J. D'Angelo

In loving memory of our son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin and friend
Josh Ford
11/17/80 - 11/07/99



You are all these things and more. We want you to know that you are thought of so often. Sometimes with a smile, sometimes with a tear, but always with love. After five years we still miss you and love you with the same faith and hope as we did when you were with us.

I know you are in good company now, so we will accept what we have to, because we know that someday we will all be together again.

Love forever and always,
Mom, Greg, Michele, Gerrid, Justin,
Family and Friends.

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Cherry Creek Elem. School Cafeteria
12675 Foreman, Between Alden Nash & N. Hudson in Lowell

SUNDAY, November 14
4:00 - 6:00 PM
Sponsored by Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists

A Grateful Nation Remembers

Carl Levin, senior U.S. senator from Michigan

World War I, "the war to end all wars," ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. One year later, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as Armistice Day. In 1926, Congress passed a resolution encouraging all citizens to observe Nov. 11, Armistice Day, with appropriate ceremonies to mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. Twelve years later Congress enacted a law designating Armistice Day a national holiday.

A little more than 50 years ago, in June 1954, Congress passed a law changing the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In October of that year, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation endorsing this change "in order that a grateful Nation might pay appropriate homage to the veterans of all its wars who have contributed so much to the preservation of the Nation."

Our country is home to roughly 26.5 million veterans of military service, including soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, who battled to promote and protect our nation's commitment to democracy and liberty in World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict, and the Vietnam War. Since then, new generations of veterans have taken part in operations in Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, as well as

stood guard during times of peace.

While it is appropriate on Veterans Day to reflect on the sacrifices of veterans from previous conflicts, we must also honor the contributions that members of America's armed forces are currently making in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world.

We have asked much of our active duty armed forces, Reserve and National Guard in recent years. They have responded as American service men and women have always responded to the call to duty - with courage, skill and professionalism.

Today, more than 138,000 members of the U.S. armed forces are serving in Iraq and approximately 12,000 serve in Afghanistan. Tens of thousands more are supporting their efforts in this country and in forward bases and at sea. All of these men and women deserve our deepest appreciation for the sacrifices they are making for our nation.

As our veterans have kept faith with us, we need to keep faith with our veterans. The National Defense Authorization Act passed by Congress in October honors our nation's veterans by correcting some inequities in how our veterans are treated. For instance, prior to 2004, veterans' retirement pay was reduced by the amount of any disability compensation they received. Congress corrected this inequity by allowing 100 percent dis-

abled veterans to receive both their full military retirement and their disability compensation immediately rather than the 10-year phase-in plan that was previously in place.

Congress also improved the Survivor Benefits Plan, created in 1972 for military retirees and their spouses. In return for a monthly premium, Survivor Benefits Plan participants are guaranteed that

when they die, their spouses will receive 55 percent of their military retirement pay, a similar rate received by spouses of federal civilian retirees. However, unlike the civilian pension program, pension annuities for military widows and widowers would drop to 35 percent when he or she turned 62.

This reduction occurred when the surviving spouse

began receiving Social Security and is commonly referred to as the "Social Security offset." This year, Congress remedied this situation by passing legislation that over a three-year period increases the basic Survivor Benefits Plan annuity amount for surviving spouses 62 years of age or older to 55 percent.

On this Nov. 11, President Eisenhower's proclama-

tion from 50 years ago still rings true today: "On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain."

Financial Focus

Edward Jones
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With Christopher C. Godbold



ARE YOU AN EDUCATED INVESTOR?

You may have finished school many years ago, but that doesn't mean you can't continue your education. And one of the most important topics you can study is investing - because educated investors are usually the most successful ones.

Health

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



DERMATITIS

Dermatitis, or eczema, is an inflammation of the skin. It can occur from a variety of causes. The dry winter air typically makes this condition occur more commonly in the winter months. The skin typically appears reddened, itchy, and possibly swollen. It is not contagious. It can appear anywhere, but most common areas include the folds in the elbows and behind the knees.

Avoiding dry skin is the easiest way to prevent or combat dermatitis. Use an unscented moisturizing soap such as Dove or Ivory. When bathing, use warm instead of hot water and limit yourself to 15 minutes. Use a moisturizing cream immediately after drying off. Eucerin or Aquaphor are excellent moisturizers. Using an antihistamine is useful when the itching is severe. At times, the only help will come in the form of a steroid cream such as hydrocortisone.

Of course, you may already be somewhat familiar with investing. And this experience can teach you a great deal. But it can't teach you everything you need to know - which is why you'll want to further your financial education.

What Can You Learn?

Should you learn more about investing so that you can identify "hot" stocks? In a word, no. In many cases, stock "tips" are dubious - and even if you should find a hot stock, it may already be cooling off by the time you invest in it.

So, what can you gain from becoming a well-educated investor? Here are just a few benefits:

- **You can improve your chances of reaching your goals** - Once you understand the concepts of investment quality and diversification, and you become familiar with your individual risk tolerance, you can build a portfolio that's appropriate for your situation and that can help you make progress toward your long-term objectives.
- **You can maintain realistic expectations** - By knowing how your stocks, bonds and government securities may perform in different economic scenarios, you can help avoid the type of disappointments that can lead you to abandon your investment strategies.
- **You can avoid overreacting to today's headlines** - By learning the key factors that drive the markets - such as corporate earnings and sustainable economic growth - you might not be tempted to make hasty or ill-advised investment decisions in response to short-term events, such as an election, military actions, spikes in oil prices, etc.

Sources of Education

Clearly, you can help yourself by relearning as much as possible about the investment world. And, as you probably know, you can find investment information from a variety of sources. You may be able to take classes at a community college. You can find seminars advertised in the newspaper. You can choose from among a huge supply of books and magazines. You can watch investment shows on television.

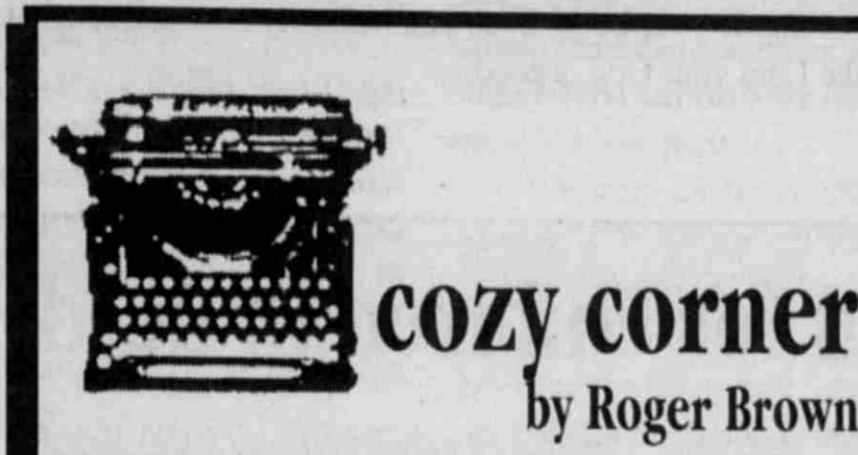
In fact, your biggest challenge isn't finding sources of investment information - it's finding information that you consider understandable and suitable.

So, browse your bookstore, surf the Internet and flip the channels. But, as you do, keep in mind that some sources that appear objective actually may have a degree of self-interest in what they're communicating to you. Furthermore, even if a "recommendation" is given objectively, it might not be appropriate for your individual needs.

You may want to work with an investment professional - someone who will take the time to discuss key issues with you and tailor all recommendations to your individual needs, goals and risk tolerance.

As an investor, you'll find that there's always something new to learn - and knowledge is power. So, keep your mind, eyes and ears open. You may be surprised at what you discover.

Viewpoint . . .



cozy corner by Roger Brown

There was no "Cozy Corner" last week. The reason ... my wife and I were in the middle of a whirlwind tour of the desert southwest.

You may be wondering why anyone would tour parts of Texas, California, Nevada, Utah and nearly all of Arizona and New Mexico in late October and early November. Well, I considered writing this column on just that subject. I gave up on the idea when it became clear to me that there is no good answer. At least there is no good answer that can be explained in the confines of this column.

Our trip had been in the planning stages for a few months. Terese shopped the internet for budget airfares. I worked the phones for a cheap rental car. The result was a Dodge Stratus with a ten-day rate of \$229.00 ... unlimited mileage. I beat it like a rented mule, putting nearly 3,000 miles on the thing. About a hundred of those miles were on a washed out two-track through a National Forest on the Mexico/Arizona border. The car was dirty and a little worse for wear when I turned it in. Hey ... I did fill the gas tank!

Our lodging consisted of what was available when we were too tired to drive any further each day. Our rooms ran the gamut from the main Lodge in Zion National Park to the \$30 per night Desert View Inn in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Trust me, that is a wide, wide range in the lodging spectrum.

Food was also a hip shot. I would have to say that dining out of gas station convenience stores, drive-thrus and local greasy spoons are all at the low end of anybody's dining spectrum. Other than a very nice meal at the Zion Lodge, our chow was a lot like low-grade dog food.

The airline portion of our trip was in three legs. We flew

from Key West to Miami to Dallas to El Paso. The trip started with an hour long, unexplained "ground hold" in Miami that kept us from leaving Key West, thus jeopardizing our connections for the rest of the day. Remarkably, we did arrive in El Paso right on time.

This rough outline of our trip sets the stage for the last leg ... getting from Miami back to Key West. Before we got started, just take a moment and try to get a feel for how tired you might be if you had been along for the ride over the previous ten days. Ready?

We arrived at the El Paso airport at 8:00 a.m. for a 9:20 flight. Our flights left on schedule throughout the day and we arrived in Miami with a lengthy layover until the flight for Key West. I was so tired, over-priced airport food didn't even sound good.

For yet another unexplained reason, our flight was delayed. Finally, after 30 minutes or so, they loaded us on a bus for the ride out to our little commuter plane. There we waited. And waited. And waited some more. Finally, the driver came back and said there was a maintenance problem. We waited some more. The bus driver came back onboard and changed his story to say we were waiting on the second flight attendant to arrive. We waited some more.

After at least a half hour of standing room only in that bus, the driver came on for the last time and said that the missing flight attendant had requested a meal break. We were going back to the terminal. The bus erupted into snarls. A group near us volunteered to buy the flight attendant a nice dinner in Key West if she would just endure her hunger for a thirty-minute flight.

We cooled our heels in the dingy commuter terminal waiting for promised announcements about the status of our flight. The announcements were always late and vague at best. This went on for another hour or so. The snack bar was now closed and we couldn't even get a cup of coffee. Terese and I had now been traveling for over twelve hours.

Nearly three hours late, they finally bused us out to the plane. It's a good thing we didn't know which of the flight attendants was the culprit. Things could have gotten really ugly.

Just to keep things in the same vein, the pilot slammed the ATR onto the runway in Key West for the hardest landing I've

ever experienced on a commercial flight. Also, we were so late most of the baggage handlers had gone home. We all waited an abnormally long time for bags. Terese and I were trying very hard to not let this experience spoil what had been an exhausting, but fun trip. Despite our efforts, we were snapping at each other.

You know how at the end of a flight the captain often comes on the intercom and says something like, "We know you have a choice when booking air travel. Thank you for choosing such-and-such airline?" Just for the record, there was no such announcement on this flight.



By Priscilla Lussmeyer

Ledger Entries

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

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL
NOVEMBER 12, 1879

This issue is missing.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
NOVEMBER 10, 1904

Dr. G. G. Towsley has a handsome new suite of offices in the McCarty Block.

Republicans sweep the election, including T. Roosevelt's setting new records in the nation, state and county.

Will Dolloway's barn is destroyed by a fire set by a tramp who asked for shelter and was refused.

Weldon Smith sold 58 pies last Saturday.

Wild ducks are in very good supply this season.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
AND THE ALTO SOLO NOVEMBER 14, 1929

President Hoover is in favor of building the St. Lawrence Seaway, to connect midwest industries to distant customers.

Kroger will distribute 59 carloads of Heinz canned goods in one week to over 5,000 outlets.

Grand Rapids mayor Welsh and city attorney Ganson Taggart plan a campaign against the large rural districts' voting down measures to help cities.

"This and That From Around the Old Town" prove that Lowell residents (and the country folks too) do a lot of visiting.

The "mill tax" will not be cancelled next year; rural districts will have their roads.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
NOVEMBER 1, 1954

Ada, Cascade and Lowell Second precincts each exceeded 650 voters using paper ballots in the recent election (state law), and should be subdivided, says GR city clerk Stanton Kilpatrick.

The big deer season rush to northern Michigan and the UP comes this weekend. Call the Conservation Department if you are successful.

A rash of thefts centers on car models that can be turned off and started without an ignition key.

Christiansen's Super Market Grand Opening this weekend will include lots of prizes, including 50 baskets of groceries.

Five ads for the new '55 car models emphasize power and roominess.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER
NOVEMBER 8, 1979

Milliken is governor, Levin is senator, and the 11 proposals include three votes too close to call.

Michigan Bell asks to charge customers who seek directory assistance more than five times a month.

Minutes of the Kent County Commission meeting run to 1 1/4 pages of fine print.

Roger Brown's Cozy Corner has some fun with the 11-proposal ballot.

Waitress Sharon Crandall wins the Keiser's Kitchen cheesecake sales contest, with 37 pieces sold in one week.

TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor,
Why?

For the election year 2004 I had made my mind up early on that I was going to exercise my right not to play the game of politics. I was going to turn away from a government that has left me with only disappointment. This election and so many of my past have been about choosing the lesser of two evils, so why not show them indifference.

"Don't like what they do, then ignore them," had become my motto. That was until I heard about Proposal two on the state of Michigan ballot.

Having turned a blind eye to the whole matter, I was not aware of the proposal until less than a few weeks prior to the election. I knew that same-sex marriage was not legal in our state, but I was in utter disbelief to learn that there was actually a proposal on the ballot to amend our state's Constitution to further define marriage as one man and one woman. Where was the need I wondered?

I started to pay attention and what I heard only left me feeling more shocked. The argument I kept hearing in defense of the proposal was that it was to protect marriage. I was never aware that my marriage was not protected. What did my marriage need protection from? The answer to this I still do not know.

I had decided that I was going to vote, but for no other reason than to voice my opinion against this ridiculous proposal. That meant, unfortunately, that I would also have to vote for a president, so I did, but that is another matter. So I voted no on Proposal two and spent the evening relaxing with my wife. We watched the news and when the local race predictions started coming out, both our jaws dropped in disbelief as we saw Proposal two winning by 60 percent! Surely this could not be! And as the night rolled on, the numbers jockeyed up and down and ultimately, by morning's arrival, the proposal was passed.

Now I consider myself a fairly average person. I'm almost 40, married, have three children, two dogs, and I'm starting to lose my hair. We live in a rural West Michigan town and my children attend the same schools I did. I imagine many would think me the picture perfect proponent of such a proposal. Not even close y'all!

Despite my average life, I am more than capable of knowing the difference between justice and injustice even when it's in disguise. And a poor disguise it was to boot! For

the first time in the history of our state, we voted to amend our Constitution (our Constitution. All of ours) in such a manner that it would not recognize the rights of some individuals.

Think about that. It's like voting to reinstate slavery. We have sent a message that there is a substandard class of people in our state that we shall not and do not intend to recognize. We do not intend to recognize them to the degree that we must amend the Constitution. And all I hear in favor of it is that it protects my marriage. Marriage has never needed protection from anything.

It seems to me that those pushing for the passing of this proposal were more interested in prevention than protection. Ironic isn't it, the Catholic Church pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into its support on the grounds of "protection"? I, for one, feel shame now knowing the degree of intolerance the state holds for Gay and Lesbian peoples. Let's face it, that's really what this was about. How can anyone feel proud that this was accomplished? Will we feel proud to share this with our children and grandchildren? Do we really want them to know what we've done? Why not share it with them now. I think you'll find they don't have the same fears you do. They are far more tolerant and aware of the rights of others. We've desecrated a document, which was to protect the rights of everyone, and left our children a mess to clean up. A mess, that is, unless we can see the error of our ways and correct them.

The passing of Proposal two will perhaps go down in history as the greatest injustice to mankind caused by our own citizens in the history of the state.

Thank you for protecting my marriage, I guess? But could you explain to me the danger it was in? Because apparently God doesn't talk to just anybody these days and I'll have to have her message "interpreted" for me.

What!? God can't be a woman? Guess we better get that definition straightened out too.

Matt Rose, Lowell

Dear Editor,

I would like to comment on the article in the Nov. 3 Ledger regarding the proposed Lowell Area Recreation Authority and the city's desire to use the agreement for purposes other than what it has been designed to accomplish. The article fails to reflect the position of the townships. This is unfortunate, and I would like to set the record straight for Vergennes.

Representatives from the city of Lowell and Vergennes and Lowell townships, have put countless hours into a dream called the Lowell Community Trailway.

One of the main goals of this effort has been to both

To The Editor, cont'd., pg. 9

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Dexter: 616-527-1550 Woodland: 269-367-4911

Reflections Of Faith

Rev. Randy Meyers
Calvary Christian Reformed Church

My wife, son, and I had a busy weekend. Saturday there was a sale at a local store so we bought several Christmas presents. As we left the parking lot we found a wallet, cash, credit cards, and all. We were able to call the owner's cell phone and return what belonged to her.

Sunday morning we had the opportunity to attend a new local church. We were three of about 50 people in attendance. They served coffee, bagels and donuts which you could take to your table. My choice was the longest cinnamon sugar twist from the large pastry box. Mmmm, was it delicious. While we ate our donuts and sipped coffee, we heard a first-rate sermon based on an ancient text found in the book of Exodus chapter three. God spoke to Moses from a burning bush. God asked Moses to take off his sandals. Moses hid his face. "When God calls us to do something, what is our response?" was the soul searching question we were asked.

On the way home we passed another more established congregation. There was a line of way more than 50 people stretching out the door, down the sidewalk, and into the parking lot which was chock full of cars. Instantly I thought back to our year as missionaries in China. Sunday worship

in China is always packed. People crowd the doors to find standing room only when they finally enter. They are so hungry for a gospel meal that they brave the crowds, weather and traffic just to get a seat. "Could this be a taste of China right here in West Michigan?" I wondered. Then my wife read the flashing yellow sign, "Second best sale. Starts today at noon."

I suppose one could discuss the frugal merits of buying used versus new, and how the savings could be joyfully placed in that evening's collection plate. It is more likely that when a bargain comes our way we think, "What a sweet deal. That's more money in my wallet."

But why is saving money so sweet? Try this. For one month when a bargain, deal or savings comes your way, set that money aside for church. You will be amazed at the ways that God funds ministry through your faithfulness. When you say to yourself, "Sweet, I just saved a lot of money," let the phrase be a reminder to stick the money God just gave you into your church pants pockets. On Sunday go to church and say, "Look what I found this week. I think this money belongs to you, God." Then you will truly taste and see that the Lord your God is good.

Gift boxes to be collected for children in need

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has sent gift-filled shoe boxes to more than 24 million needy children in 100 countries during the Christmas season. Last year, 48,000 of the gift boxes came

from West Michigan. The boxes contain gifts, toys, school supplies, personal notes and necessity items. Families and individuals can pack the boxes, and Operation Christmas Child collects

and sends them all over the world to children who are affected by poverty, war, terrorism and famine. This year, there are four collection centers in Lowell: St. Mary's Church, First Congregational Church, Evergreen Missionary Church and Christian Life Center. Collection will take place Nov. 15 - 22. For more information, go to www.samaritanspurse.org.

AREA BIRTHS

Jeff and Rhonda Zillmer of Cary, North Carolina, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Olivia Marie Zillmer. She was born on September 2 in Raleigh, N.C.

Jeff is a 1989 graduate of Lowell High School and a 1993 graduate of The University of Michigan.

Proud grandparents, Bruce and Carol Zillmer, still reside in Lowell.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Lowell area shoppers are greatly appreciated for the purchases they made at the Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. Thrift Store. During the month of October, they helped provide 70 families with food and 34 families with emergency assistance.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOV. 11: Mike Roudabush, Tom Roudabush, Dan Wingeier Jr., Rachel Burns, Zachary Ligman, Justin Warren, N. Stephen Kelley.
NOV. 12: Harry Erickson,

Deborah Malloy, Ali Olszewski.
NOV. 13: Brian Gerard.
NOV. 14: David Durkee, Doris Rhines.
NOV. 15: Dave Hildenbrand, Beth Stouffer, Emily Myers, Gina Gildner, Doug Decker, Alyssa Rash.
NOV. 16: Cherry Lilley.
NOV. 17: Scott MacNaughton, Cory DuBridge, Tyler Shindorf, Mary Schutts, Anastasia Barnes, Ali Wernet.

WWII B-29 gunner meets B-29 builder at LHS Performing Arts Center talks

By Dan Schneider

In 1943, Louise Viele was 19 and working at a restaurant in Vermontville, the farm town north of Lansing where she grew up.

With World War II going on, General Motors' Fisher Body plant in Lansing had converted to making exterior parts for B-29 Fighting Fortresses, the Army Air Force's long-range, heavy bomber.

"I wasn't too long out of

high school," Viele said. "I had worked in a restaurant, worked in a store, and then went to the factory to work."

That was in the fall of 1943. Viele, her sister and her cousin rented an apartment in Lansing and went to work riveting airplane parts.

"We were all 'Rosie the Riveters,'" Viele said. "They needed workers and certainly I could make a little more than I did at the restaurant."

Viele worked on trim tabs — "those are the ones that help

slow down the airplane ... along with the ailerons on the rudder"—for the tails of the giant airplanes. She later worked on pieces for the engine housings on the planes, called nacelles.

"The nacelles were quite large, I think there were six of us that worked on one—three outside and three inside—and it was pretty noisy, I'll tell you that," Viele said.

Going into factory work wasn't a difficult adjustment to make.

"No, they taught you what you were supposed to do and then you did the same thing over and over again," she said.

"There were a lot of young girls there working and I think we all felt the same way, that we were contributing our small part."

Viele hasn't spent a lot of time thinking about the cultural significance of her work at the factory. The image of a "Rosie the Riveter" from wartime posters has become an icon of women's liberation.

"But I've always wondered if one of the parts that I made was on the Enola Gay," Viele said. "It always gives me an odd feeling to think that a part I made might have been on the Enola Gay."

The Enola Gay was the B-29 that dropped the first atomic bomb, "Little Boy," on Hiroshima at the end of World War II.

Viele was employed at the plant until the end of the war. She continued working there after Fisher Body went back to making car parts and after a labor strike from 1945-1946.

There were 4,000 B-29s made during World War II.

Bob Reagan of Lowell flew in B-29s with names like "Forever Amber" and "Snuggle Bunny."

Reagan enlisted in the Army Air Force on May 6, 1944. It was five weeks before he would graduate from Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School.

"I never really gave it a thought," Reagan said. "I just knew I had to go and wanted to go into the Air Force."

He went to Shepherd Field in Texas for basic training. He trained on B-17s and later was selected for a B-29 crew and became a gunner. "They call it the remote control turret gunner on the top of the B-29," Reagan said.

The war had just ended in the Pacific Theater by the time he finished training. "The only mission I ever flew was dropping supplies on a prisoner of war camp right after the war was over," Reagan said.

He was in a replacement crew in the 39th squadron of the Sixth Bomb Group. The squadron had flown mostly mining missions, dropping sea mines to blockade Japanese ports. Reagan flew on mainte-

nance flights after the war. In January and February he helped move the Sixth Bomb Group to the Philippines.

There is only one B-29 still flying. A group of enthusiasts in Texas built it from pieces scavenged from a military airplane graveyard in California.

On Tuesday, Oct. 26, Reagan and Lowell WWII veterans Dave Clark and Alfred Roth were part of an oral history presentation put on by the Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Michigan Military History Museum.

It was held at the Lowell Performing Arts Center at the high school. Viele, whose daughter, Jeanne Straub, volunteers at the historical museum, was in attendance.

Reagan had never met anyone who had worked on B-29 parts.

"I guess I had no idea that any of the parts were actually made in Michigan," he said.

In all the years since the war, Viele had never met anyone who had flown in the giant airplanes.

The museum plans to hold similar events in the future.



WWII veterans, from left to right, Alfred Roth, Dave Clark and Bob Reagan.

Photo submitted by Judy Straub

Veterans' new ID cards help battle identity theft

With identity theft as the major fraud reported by Americans in 2003, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has designed a new identity card for veterans that will safeguard confidential information.

"The new identification card ensures veterans' personal information is protected," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. "It also helps prevent the theft of important benefits and services from veterans that they earned by their service to our country."

The card, formerly known as the Veterans Identity Card (VIC), will have veterans' photos on the front and identify them as enrollees in the VA's health care system.

Encrypted on a magnetic tape on the back of the card will be the veteran's Social Security number, date of birth and a control number. The magnetic strip also records whether the veteran has a service-connected disability.

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the nation. Requests from veterans and their congressional

representatives were instrumental in bringing about these latest changes.

"The new VIC ensures the security of veterans' personal information as well as ensuring that only eligible veterans receive the benefits and services they've earned," said Kristin Cunningham of the business office for VA's health care system.

Veterans should request the new card at their local medical center. Processing will take five to seven days once eligibility is verified. VA

hopes to complete the conversion to the new, safer card by mid-November.

The existing cards will remain valid until veterans receive their new cards.

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NOV. 12: Harry Erickson,

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Elementary Menu
Week of Nov. 15, 2004

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TUES: Chicken patty on bun or tuna salad on a croissant, baked beans, peaches, milk.

WED: Beef and cheese nacho or chicken and noodles, Calif. blend veggies, cherries, milk.

THURS: Cheeseburger on bun or fish patty on bun, oven baked fries, fresh fruit, milk.

FRI: Pepperoni pizza or 3 meat sub sandwich, pineapple, salad, milk.

IN THE SERVICE

Air Force Airman Britni K. Childs has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. During her six weeks of training, she studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

Childs, a 2002 graduate of Prosser High School, Wash., is the daughter of Brian Childs of Lowell and Lisa Cochran of Richland, Wash.

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OUTDOORS

By Dave Stegehuis



OUT WEST

Deer hunting in Michigan and big game hunting in the Rocky Mountains couldn't be more different, especially for me, because I usually hunt Michigan whitetails up close. My favorite stands are in the swamps or wooded areas where visibility is limited to 30 or 40 yards instead of miles. Few people hunt elk or mule deer by waiting on a stand or in a blind. Hunters travel from meadow to meadow and from one ridge to the next in glass of game. In the high country, the course of action is to glass long distances and stalk into range when game is located.

In the Montana Mountains, many hunters hunt from horseback. Trucks pulling horse trailers make up a large part of the traffic on the highways. One group packed tents and supplies on horses and rode off into the mountains. Because the terrain is steep and rocky, the horses are big and sure-footed. There are still wide-open spaces out west, and there are still cowboys.

Hunting on foot requires a lot of energy. Not only is half the walk up-hill but it's also more difficult because of thin air in the higher elevations. Breathing is labored, and tired muscles make it necessary to take frequent breaks on the way up.

It is easy to become confused about directions (lost) in relatively populated areas in Michigan. In the mountains, one can hunt all day and rarely lose sight of camp that may be miles away on the prairie.

The wind blows hard and snow comes early in the high country. As one climbs to progressively higher elevations, the snow gets deeper. The good news is that the deep snow motivates elk to move lower on the mountain in search of food.

Hunting in the west is challenging and the scenery is spectacular. For example, on a recent hunt, my portable blind window framed miles of the Madison mountain range and the fabled Madison River. Magpies calling broke the silence of the mountains. Coyotes often make a surprise appearance. Even though hunting on public accessible land, I enjoyed hundreds of acres by myself.

One afternoon I was glassing several openings on a pine forested mountainside. Three elk, one a good bull, walked into a meadow on the top of the mountain. I didn't chase after the bull because the meadow was a two-hour climb and there was only one hour of daylight remaining.

Time passed quickly in the mountains. When I had to leave for home, I didn't feel too bad about it because when I return to Michigan I will continue bow hunting and get ready for firearm season. Hunting is great in Michigan too.

BUSINESS MATTERS



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

This award recognizes Evans for her outstanding success and achievements.

To The Editor, continued...From Page 5

physically and symbolically join the three communities. It is no secret that there have been differences of opinion between the townships and city over the years that are typically characteristic to our existence as neighbors.

Harold Englehardt challenged us to learn to cooperate with each other, and promised to reward us with funding to initiate new and exciting opportunities for the community of Lowell. In this spirit, the trail committee has developed a plan to construct and maintain a joint effort that everyone in the community can enjoy. It is not intended to encompass or replace any recreation already being offered by the municipalities. It appears that the Lowell City Council does not fully understand the project, and I encourage them to seek more information from any of the Trail Committee members.

The Vergennes Township Board has passed a resolution that clearly states our understanding of the LARA, and it is published elsewhere in this edition of the *Ledger*.

I would also like to remind the community that although Vergennes does not own any of its own recreational facilities, besides hosting Fallasburg Park, which has been identified in the Kent County Recreation Plan as the most frequently visited county park, there are also hundreds of acres of public land in Vergennes in the Lowell State Game Area, the Wittenbach Agriscience & Environmental Center, the Wege

Natural Area and the Cooper Natural Area. These areas are available to all for walking and the enjoyment of nature.

The open portions of the North Country Trail pass through the township and offer additional opportunity for hiking on rustic trails. Lowell High School offers a multitude of recreational opportunities to students as well as adult members of the community, and the new Murray Lake Elementary has a state-of-the-art playground that offers one of the only handicapped accessible play areas in this part of the state.

All of these public facilities are in Vergennes, and all of them exist here tax free. Although we do not budget for maintenance of these facilities, there are hidden costs that aren't apparent at first review, such as emergency services which the township pays for regardless of where the recipient lives.

Thank you for reading my ramblings, and I hope everyone will soon be able to enjoy a community trail that truly unites us!

Mari Stone,
Vergennes Township clerk,
and member of the
Lowell Area Trailway committee

To The Editor,

I see in The Lowell Ledger (11/3) an article about a logo for the Lowell Showboat. The idea is great, and the logo selected is very nice—I really like it! I would like to suggest, however, that the "EST. 1935" be changed to "EST. 1932." Yes, the first Robert E. Lee was put into use in 1935, but the Lowell Showboat first began in 1932 on a boat called the George Washington. I feel the first year of the showboat is a more important date to use on the logo than the year the Robert E. Lee was first put into use. This shouldn't create any confusion—the logo would show the real date established, and the current name of the showboat.

Joe Mapes, Vicksburg, MI

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 reserves the right to limit submissions from the same writer to twice a month.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Huntington awarded loan bid for city's new pumper truck

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

While not understanding why it wanted the city's new \$200,000 pumper truck to serve as collateral for a \$48,400 loan, the Lowell City Council awarded the loan bid to Huntington Bank.

The lowest bidder of four, Huntington offered a 3.1 per-

cent interest rate for the pumper truck. City manager David Pasquale said the rate was only slightly higher than the 2.89 percent the city received a little over two years ago for another truck.

But councilman Jim Pfaller questioned why the bank wanted to be the first secured party on the pumper valued at \$277,922. Basically,

the bank wanted the pumper to serve as collateral for the loan of \$48,400.

"It seems a little extreme to me," said Pfaller. Councilman Jim Hodges added that he, too, found the request a little unusual and out of proportion to the actual loan.

Pfaller noted that this was the only difference between Huntington and the second

lowest bidder, Ionia County National Bank, which had a bid of 3.44 percent. Pfaller said ICNB was willing to agree to the loan on the good faith of the city.

Pasquale said the difference in percentages could save the city money on interest and it was the city's full intention to pay off the loan, so the truck serving as collateral

should not be an issue. In the end, the council agreed to the loan with Huntington. The loan will be split three ways between the city and Lowell and Vergennes townships. The primary cost of the pumper tank was covered through Kent County and with a grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund.

This is the first time in 16 years the city has received a new pumper truck through the Kent County program. This program pools the participating communities' money together to purchase pumper trucks for those communities. With the loan, the city is also purchasing a 1988 pumper for \$14,146.50 from the county.

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Featured Artist

Linda Hopkins

By Dan Schneider

Artist Linda Hopkins likes to demonstrate variety in her artwork. A collection of her paintings, her first solo show in Lowell, shows this. It is currently on the walls of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I don't want to be the kind of artist where you walk into the room and you go 'Oh, that's hers,'" Hopkins said. "I want to be more of an artist than that."

The Stanton artist's paintings include subtle watercolor portraits and florals, commenting that, "I still like the flow of watercolor. You

can really work into it and fade things out."

It's been 10 years since she took up watercolors.

"I still probably do more watercolors than I do anything else, but I still do venture out and try new things," Hopkins said.

Her work also includes bright multi-media pieces and some abstract features. Some of her paintings are very representational without being portraits or flowers.

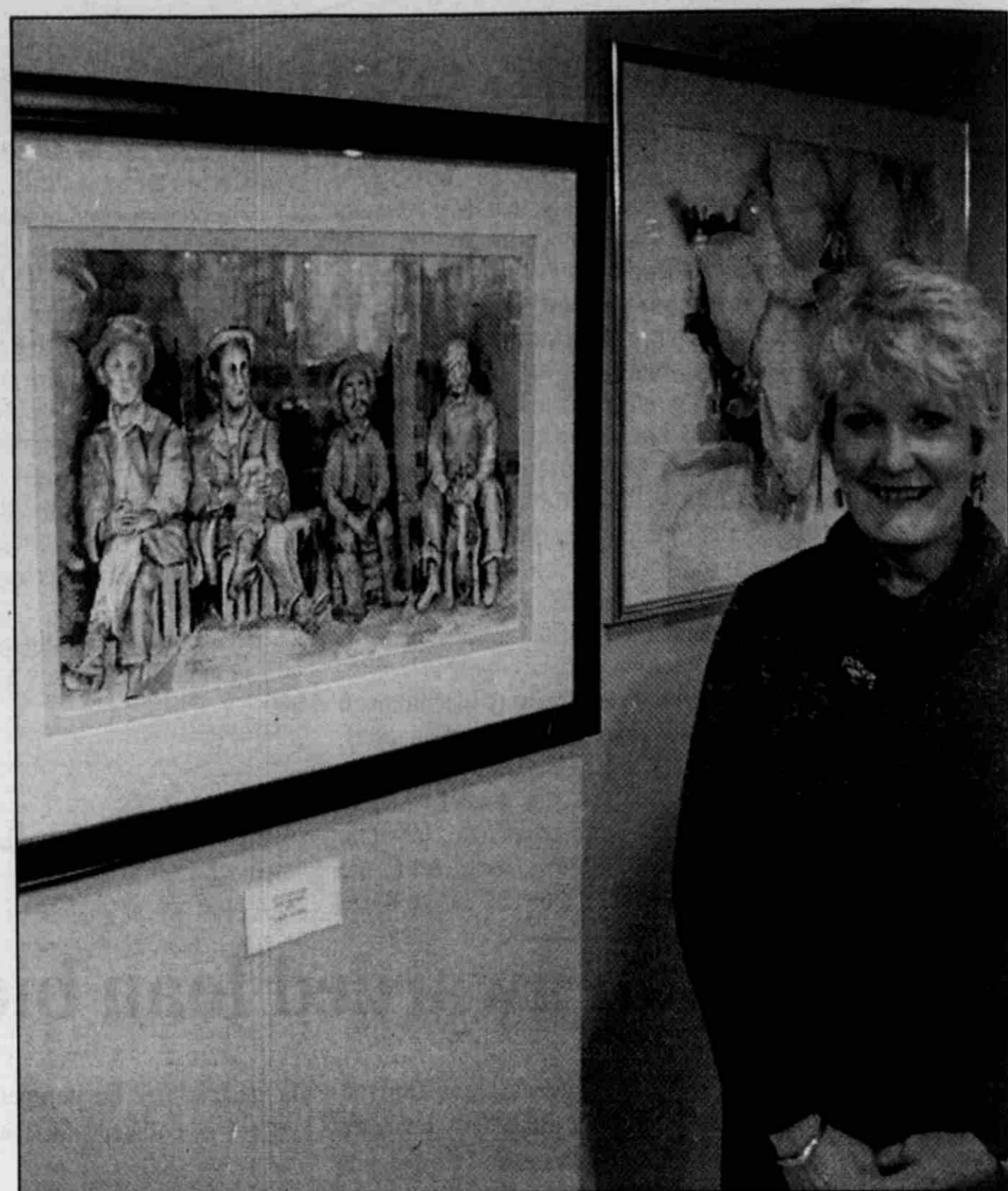
"Architecture's probably my biggest challenge but I still do it," she said.

The colors in her paintings run the gamut from

subtle to bright, depending on the painting. She said, in general, she likes bright colors best.

The work will be on display through Dec. 1 at the chamber.

Another exhibit currently on display in town is the annual "Snow Show" at the Huntington Galleria. This show features 28 works by 20 artists, all involving winter themes. Half of the works will be on display until Dec. 1, at which time they will move to the chamber. The remainder will be on display at the Galleria through the end of December.



Linda Hopkins with two of her works currently on display at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

Art council exhibition Sleigh Bells and Holly thru Dec.

Over 25 artists have gathered together to present a wide variety of fine art and gifts for this year's holiday shopping. The exhibition *Sleigh Bells and Holly: A Gallery of Fine Art and Gifts*

opens with a sneak preview and artists reception this Thursday from 6-8 p.m. at the Lowell Area Arts Council, 149 S. Hudson.

Exhibiting artists include:

Cindy Allen - textile vases and purses; **Kathleen Mooney** - glass/metal sculpture; **Kacey Cornwell** - mixed media, bookmarks, collage; **Cheryl Perry** - cards, ornaments, prints; **D.**

Fletcher Davis - holiday cards, watercolors; **Liz Ripley** - pottery; **Karyn deKeiser-Moulton** - beaded jewelry; **Robin Roberts** - jewelry, bookmarks, nightlights; **Tina Doorn** - raku clay vessels; **Gary Eldridge** - cards, bookmarks, prints; **Becky Smith** - ornaments; **Carol Foerch** - textile pillows; **Sue Snell** - cards, hand-painted houses; **Sandy Bartlett** and **Gary Diesel** - blown glass ornaments; **Leslie Stougaard** - watercolors, collage; **Jan Johnson**

- watercolors, prints; **Judith Thumser** - watercolors, books; **Mary Kingsbury** - clay jewelry; **Diane VanderPol** - wool hats, textiles; **Brenda Klein** - fabric creations and paintings on fabric; **Jill Wenger** - herbal soaps, candles; **Janet Krueger** - yupo paintings, pottery, jewelry; **Clara Wood** - jewelry; **Mary Kuilema** - clay tiles; **Gerard Wood** - watercolors, prints; **Sandy and Doug Lindhout** - beeswax candles, honey; **Flat River Woodcarvers Guild**

Members; Susan Molnar - fused glass frames, coasters and vases.

Many of the artists are from the Greater Lowell community and have been active volunteers and members of the Lowell Area Arts Council.

Extended gallery hours are offered during this holiday exhibit: Monday - Friday, 12 - 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information call 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartscouncil.org.

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Board sets new date for elections

School elections in the Lowell Area Schools district will now be held in May rather than June. The school board approved moving the election day in accordance with Michigan's Elections Consolidation Law passed earlier this year. The law allows school elections to take

place only on May and November regular election days.

The board chose May to allow school board membership transitions to take place during the summer rather than during the school year. All other districts in Kent County are expected to adopt the May election date, as well.

Under the law, school districts are also no longer allowed to maintain their own polling places. Voting in future school elections will take place in the same precinct locations where voters cast their ballots in last week's general election.

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How did you feel about the election results?

Last Wednesday morning, incumbent president George W. Bush had won the popular vote and was ahead in the vital state of Ohio. But before Democratic challenger Massachusetts senator John F. Kerry conceded the election, there were thousands of provisional votes left to be counted in that state. Kerry also won the state of Michigan. Some people around Lowell were happy with the result, but had mixed reviews for the U.S. electoral process.



Vicki Peterson, 44

Peterson wanted Kerry to win. She doesn't look forward to another Bush presidency.

"I'm sure it will be pretty much the same," she said. "More jobs will leave the country. It's not good living in a small town anymore when seven bucks an hour is pretty much all you make around here."

Peterson thinks the presidency should be determined by the popular vote instead of the electoral college, but was glad Kerry won in Michigan.

"That's where I cast my vote, so apparently I'm not the only one who thinks that he could do a better job than Bush has already shown us he can do," she said.



Ron Potter

"I think Kerry lacked credibility, that he was a lot of talk and a lot of playing. It looks like Bush won and I think that just reflects the opinion of the American people."

He thought Bush could have won by a wider margin with a less conservative platform on such moral issues as abortion.

"I think they would have had a lot more of the votes if they had not been so conservative on women's rights and stem cell research," he said.



Cindy Hanson, 34

The close election didn't surprise Hanson.

"I'm hopeful Bush wins," she said. "I think everybody thought it was going to be close."

She thought every vote should be counted.

"Waiting until all the votes are counted just gives you a stronger sense that this is what America wants," she said.



Marcus Kline, 42

"I think I'll be happy and content with it (the result), yeah. Even though it looks like most of Michigan went Kerry."

He didn't think Kerry should have conceded until all the votes were counted.

"Them Democrats don't want to give up. Count every vote, that's the way it should be."



Richard Fredricks, 66

"They (the Kerry campaign) might as well concede. That's what it's going to add up to anyway. Just say Bush wins and forget about it."

The bait shop owner has never supported the electoral college.

"If you got people voting, the vote should go to who you want to win, not to the state."



Amy Pullen, 29

Pullen supported Bush. "I voted for him and I believe in his morals and principles and ideals," she said.

Pullen said it was better for Kerry to concede than to allow the Ohio voting to be held in question for several days.

Elections, continued...From Page 1

He'll take office Jan. 1, 2005, replacing term-limited state representative Jim Koeje. The first legislative session is Jan. 12.

"What I want to do... is continue to work on policies that affect the private sec-

tor," Hildenbrand said. "We'll also have to look at ways to balance the state budget."

Gov. Jennifer Granholm will present her budget to the legislature early next year.

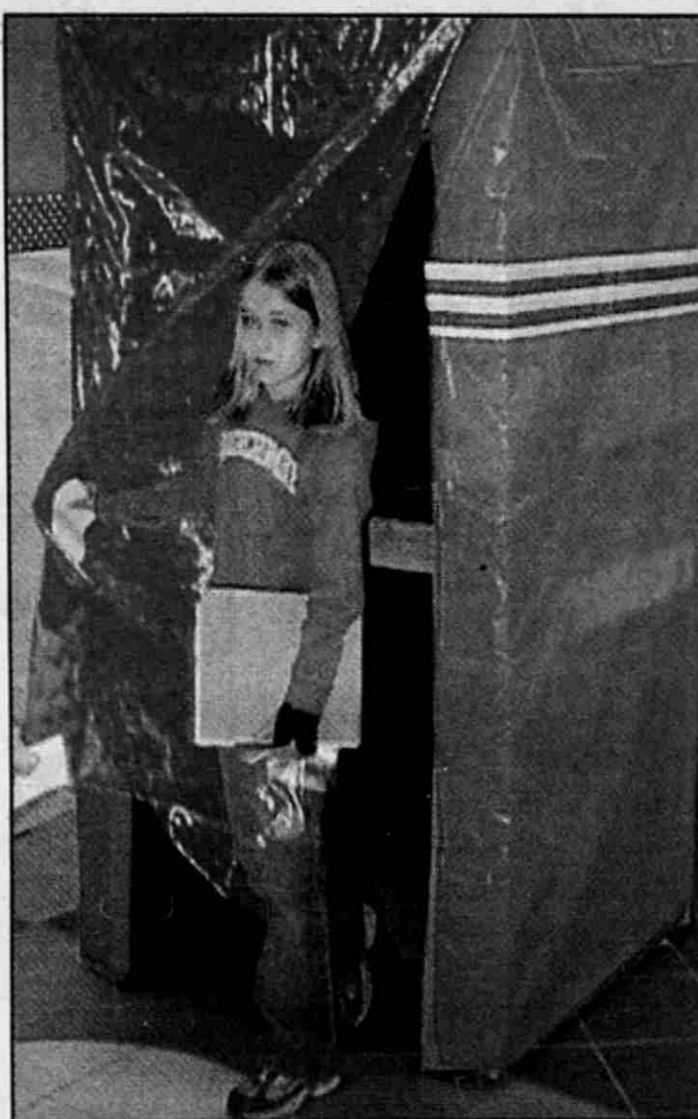
In the election for the fifth district county commission

seat, representing Bowne, Cascade, Grattan, Lowell and Vergennes townships and the city of Lowell, Jack Horton won re-election. He defeated Democratic challenger Dave Komejan for another two-year term.

Kids voted too!

Michaela Kehoe, a fifth grade student at Murray Lake Elementary, leaves the polling booth after voting Tuesday, Nov. 2. Students in fourth and fifth grades voted for student council representatives, and all of the classes selected their favorite presidential candidate. Voting was held in two converted refrigerator boxes in the entryway of the school.

"I just thought it would be cool to give them a feel of what it's like to vote in elections and help them realize that, even at this age, their vote does count," said fifth grade teacher Paul Jacobus, who organized the vote.



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COMING EVENTS

Notices in the "Coming Events" are free to any nonprofit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto & Saranac areas. Keep notices brief; may submit by mail, but will accept notices by phone at 897-9261.

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

SUN.: V.F.W. Post 8303 Bingo. Doors open: 11 a.m.; 1st game: 1 p.m. at Lowell Veterans Center, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. Every Sunday except holidays.

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

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

MON.: Boy Scout Troop 102, 11 & up or completing 5th grade, meets 7-8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin, end of N. Washington St. Call Tim Vanderwulp at 897-4302 for more info.

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

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

2ND MON.: Bowne Township Historical Society meets 7:30 at historic museum, 84th/Alden Nash.

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

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

3RD MON.: Peripheral Neuropathy support group, 7 p.m./ Schneider Manor Community Rm., 725 Bowes. Dorothy 897-9794.

3RD MON.: Lowell Showboat Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. at Lowell Church of the Nazarene in the Fellowship Hall.

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

TUES.: Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops M1#372 meets at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Bldg. Weigh-ins 5:45 p.m.

TUES.: Cub Scout Pack 3188 at 1st United Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m. Cubmaster Bruce Doll, 897-9782/email: bruce@imagesofvision.com.

TUES.: Flat River Woodcarvers meet at LAAC from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

TUES.: Women's Community Bible Study. Free nursery and preschool story hour/craft time 9:45-11:15 a.m./women only at 7:15 p.m. Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Call 897-7060 or 897-7555.

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

1ST TUES.: Diabetic Support group, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Schneider Manor Community Rm., 725 Bowes Rd. 897-2760 or 897-9160.

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

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

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

2ND TUES.: G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, Plainfield Senior Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. NE, 6:30 social; 7 p.m. meeting/program. Call Sandy 285-0621 or June 231-780-1249 for more information.

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.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: Saranac Needlers, needleart/quilting bee, 5-8:30 p.m., 4 Health Wellness Center, Bridge St., Saranac. All are welcome. Contact Bev or Melissa, 642-6466. Light dinner is provided.

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

3RD TUES.: Saranac Scrappers, scrapbooking/journaling group meets at 4 Health Wellness Center, Bridge St., Saranac, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Light refreshments are 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. Call 897-8694.

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

WED.: 8 p.m. ALANON upstairs at Lowell First Congregational Church, 404 N. Hudson St.

WED.: Lowell Church of the Nazarene Vacation Bible School, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., 5-12 yrs. 897-8800.

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

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

2ND WED.: Lowell Woman's Club, noon in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

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

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

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

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

THURS.: St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis Center, 402 Amity St., non-denominational help for pregnant women/adolescents, 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., Spectrum Health Kent Community Campus Multipurpose Rm. 750 Fuller Ave. N.E.

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

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., 1:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton.

2ND THURS.: Loyal Order of the Moose, men's meeting at 7:30 p.m.?

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

3RD THURS.: 4 Health Wellness Center in

Saranac. Parent Support Group 7-8:30 p.m. Call 642-6466 for information.

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

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

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

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

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.

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.: Ada Historical Society, 10:30 a.m. at Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

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

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM: Tues., Sat. & Sun. 1-4; Thurs., 1-8. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; 5-17 \$1.50; members free. 897-7688.

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

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Tues.-Fri.: 12-5 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. Monday / a.m. by appt. 149 S. Hudson. 897-8545 or www.lowellartscouncil.org.

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. 897-8565.

FLAT RIVER OUT-REACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP HOURS:

Wed.-Fri. 12-6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 519 E. Main St. Call 897-2037.

WED., NOV. 10: Snow United Methodist Church at 3189 Snow Ave. SE family style turkey & dressing dinner, 5:30 p.m. Adults: \$8; ages 5-12: \$2.

THURS., NOV. 11: Academic boosters meet at 8:30 a.m. in volunteer room of high school. Parents are welcome.

FRI., NOV. 12: Lowell FFA hog roast and auction at high school cafeteria. Meal: 5 p.m.; auction: 6 p.m. (due to football game). \$5 per person; kids 5/under are free.

FRI., NOV. 12: Deadline for Lowell Middle School students to get yearbook cover contest submissions in.

FRI., NOV. 12: Tickets for Lowell/EGR football game \$5; available 7:30-3 p.m. in athletic office Thurs./Fri.; also at Thursday conferences, 4-7 p.m.

SAT., NOV. 13: Foodmobile at Lowell Fairgrounds, in Foreman

Building, 10-11 a.m. Bring box or bag for mostly produce by F.R.O.M.

MON., NOV. 15: Lowell Music Boosters meeting from 7-8 p.m. in middle school band room.

TUES., NOV. 16: Lowell High School College/Career planning night, 7-8 p.m. in Performing Arts Center. For students in grades 10-11 and their parents.

NOV. 19, 20, 21: Christmas Through Lowell. Fliers available at local merchants. Call Liz 897-9161.

SAT., NOV. 20: Lowell First United Methodist Church craft fair (9-3 p.m.) and luncheon (11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.) Call Joyce at 897-7259.

TUES., NOV. 23: Thanksgiving service for all faiths at Christian Life Center, 350 Alden Nash, SE, 7 p.m. Sponsored by Lowell Area Ministerium Association.

SAT., NOV. 27: Family Advent wreath-making event at 4 Health Wellness Center, 77 Bridge St., Saranac. 10-noon. Call by Nov. 22 to register - 642-6466.

LOWELL LEDGER DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m. for Wednesday Publication

FAX SERVICE AVAILABLE At the Lowell Ledger Office, 105 N. Broadway

LOWELL SENIOR NEIGHBORS CALENDAR

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

897-5949

MON.: 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

TUES.: 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

WED., NOV. 10: 8:30 a.m. Traveling Breakfast "Russ's."

THURS., NOV. 11: 12:15 p.m. Dance Westside Complex.

FRI., NOV. 12: 10 a.m. Community Senior Neighbors Lunch at Grandville.

MON., NOV. 15: 4:15 p.m. Dinner at Sam's Joint.

TUES., NOV. 16: 10:30 a.m. Out & About.

WED., NOV. 17: 12 p.m. Pancake Lunch; 12:45 p.m. Shop Meijer.

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

FRI.: 9:00 a.m. Walk at Woodland Mall.

FRI., NOV. 19: 12 p.m. Birthday/Anniversary; 12:45 p.m. Bingo.

MON., NOV. 22: Chef O.

TUES., NOV. 23: 10:30 a.m. Out & About; 12:15 p.m. Alto School Lunch.

WED., NOV. 24: 8:30 a.m. Traveling Breakfast Ionia Country Kitchen.

THURS., NOV. 25 AND FRI., NOV. 26: Thanksgiving. Center Closed.

MON., NOV. 29: 12 p.m. Potato Bar; 12:45 p.m. Travelogue.

TUES., NOV. 30: 12:45 p.m. Lowell Hist. Museum.

ATTENTION

DEER HUNTERS

The Lowell Ledger Buyers Guide

FIRST BUCK CONTEST



Be the FIRST HUNTER to arrive at

The Lowell Ledger 105 N. Broadway, Lowell on Monday, Nov. 15, 2004

with a legally tagged buck & win:

- ♦ FREE Oil change & hat at ZEIGLER FORD
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- ♦ \$10 Gift certificate from LA VIDEO
- ♦ FREE processing at JONES FARM MEATS
- ♦ \$10 Gift certificate to MEIJER

Be the SECOND HUNTER to arrive at The Lowell Ledger & win:

- ♦ FREE Oil change & hat at ZEIGLER FORD
- ♦ 1-year subscription to the LEDGER
- ♦ FREE breakfast at BACKWATER CAFE
- ♦ \$5 Gift certificate from LA VIDEO
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- ♦ FREE large pizza from LITTLE CAESARS
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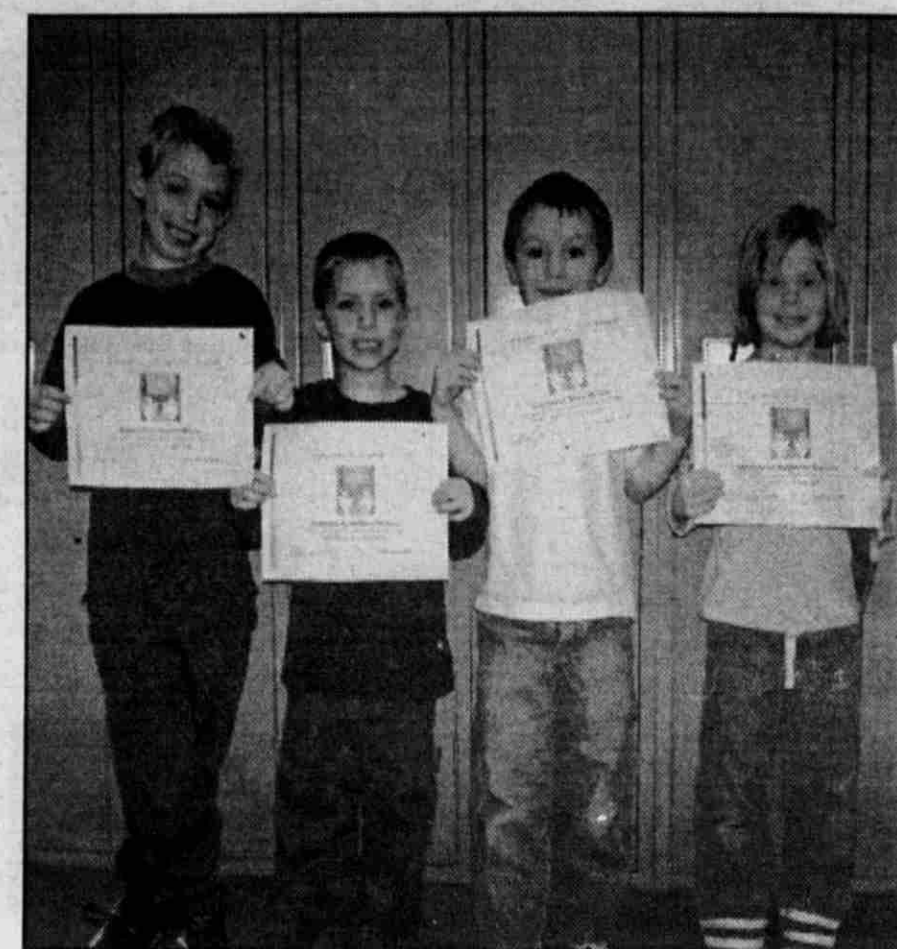
All Prizes Donated By Area Merchants!

Anyone Who Brings Their Buck In On Opening Day Will Get Their Picture In The Lowell Ledger!



Murray Lake Elementary Characters In Action

Character in Action award winners at Murray Lake Elementary were recognized for the month of October.

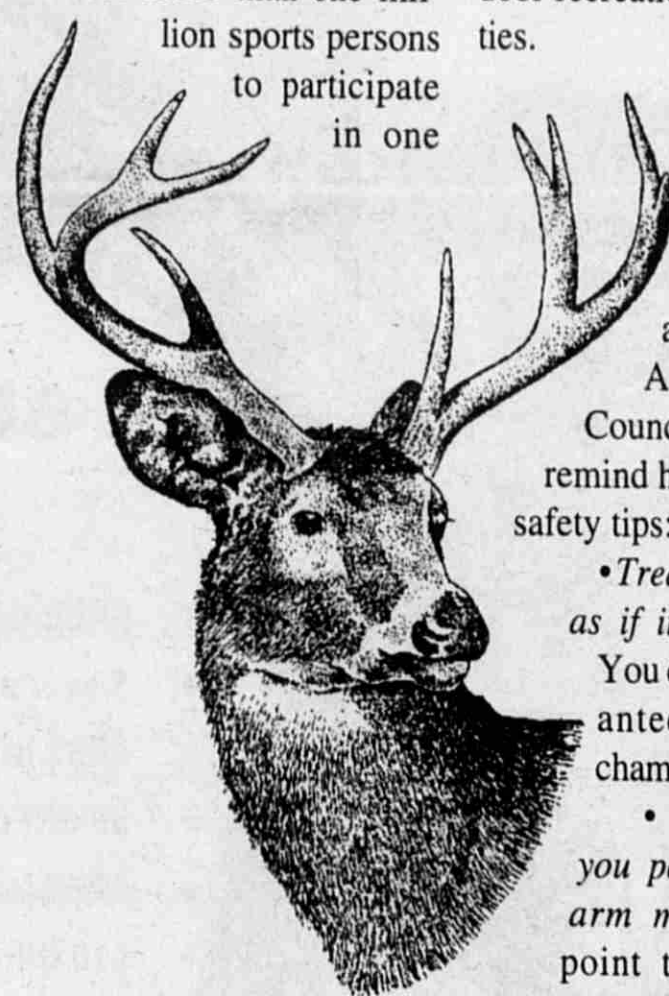


Pictured above, left to right, are Garrett White, Blake McVey, Samantha Robinson and Matthew Nelson.

Pictured, front row, left to right, are: Veronica Delgado, Alyssa Roest, Maddi Emelander, Josie Ladner, Liam Peterson and Trevor Cornish; middle row: Trevor Roest, Derek Krajewski, Braxton Newkirk, Matthew Beachler, Hannah Skibbe, Hannah Lambert and Danielle Krajewski; back row: Delaney McCarrey, Kendra Whittemore, Alec Roerig, Jesse Anes, Jonathan Roberts, Madelynn Willemstein and Kolby Kloosterman. Not pictured is Anthony Pollock.

Opening day hunting safety tips

Hunting season is a time for more than one million sports persons to participate in one



of Michigan's many great outdoor recreational opportunities.

November 15 is opening day of fire-arm deer hunting season and the Lansing Area Safety Council would like to remind hunters of these safety tips:

- *Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.* You can never guarantee that your chamber is unloaded.
- *Watch where you point your fire-arm muzzle.* Never point the muzzle at yourself or anyone else,

even if it is unloaded.

- *Know your firearm and its ammunition.* Be sure your firearm is in safe operating condition and the barrel is free of obstructions.

- *Do not load your firearm before you are ready.* When traveling to and from your hunting blind, take down or have your actions open, and always carry your firearms unloaded in their cases.

- *Be sure of your target and beyond before you squeeze the trigger.* Carefully identify your target, then look past it to be sure it is safe to shoot.

- *Beware of fatigue when hunting.* Fatigue can cause accidents. A loaded firearm can accidentally fire with a

single, unexpected jar ... so watch your step.

- *Don't take chances with a loaded firearm.* Never step over fences, jump ditches, or make other awkward or unbalanced moves while holding a loaded firearm.

- *Use care when practicing.* Make sure your backstop will prevent ricochets and protect bystanders. Bullets can ricochet off water, rocks, trees, metal and other hard surfaces.

- *Store your firearms safely.* Always store your firearms unloaded when not in use.

- *Remember, alcohol, drugs and firearms don't mix.*
- *It's a law that hunters wear a minimum of 50 percent or more of blaze orange while deer hunting.* This applies to all deer hunters, including those hunting with a bow and arrow. The garment (hat, cap, vest, jacket or rain gear) featuring Hunter Orange as it is commonly referred to, must be the outermost garment and must be visible from all sides.

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OCTOBER SMILES OF THE MONTH:

October "No Cavities" Club Members

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Quinn Summerfield	Nick Price	Nick Hawks
Makayla Plekes	Justin Everitt	Tess Adams
Nicole Nugent		Katie Bush

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Far East finds Olympic hopefuls in Lowell Ro-Ken karate students

Sensei Aaron Bailey has good reason to be proud of his young martial artists, Mariah Moore and Rob Coffey. Each of the Lowell Ro-Ken karate

self-control. I can't wait to represent my hometown and my country in China," said Coffey.

This summer Moore and

tial arts and its worldwide debut in the 2008 Olympics.) And most importantly, Grand Master Wu Bin of China ninth degree dragon, (national coach

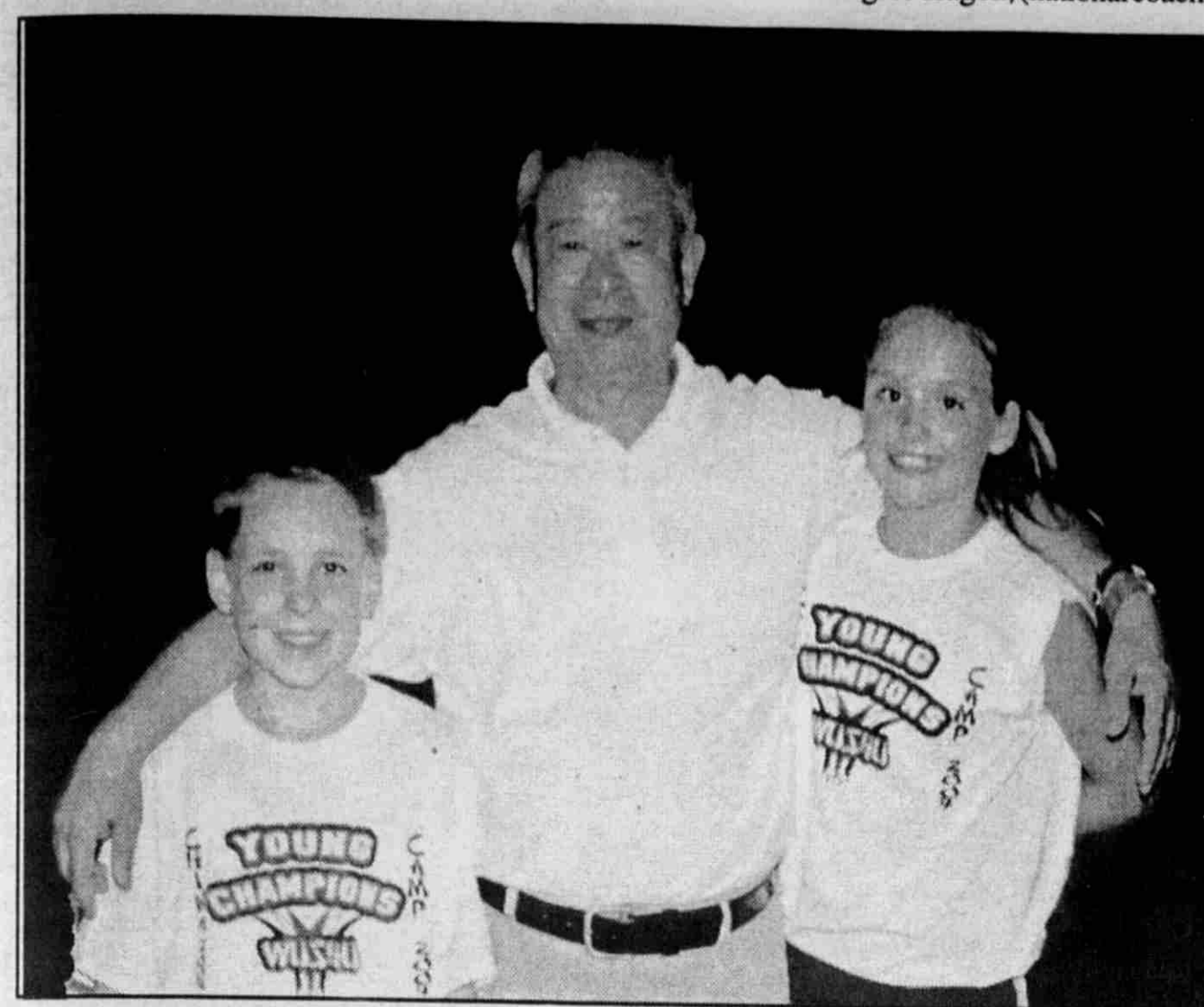
teacher, Sensei Aaron Bailey.

"Sometimes my Sensei is really hard on me but this makes all the bruises, sweat, tears, and even my cracked ribs worth it! I am very excited and honored to have the opportunity to learn martial arts from Jet Li's personal

coach and I still can't believe I have the chance to some day perform in the Olympics," said Moore.

The nine-day trip to Beijing will entail an intensive daily training schedule. It will be highlighted by a full day excursion to the Great Wall of China, Ming Tomb

and Temple of Heaven. Moore and Coffey are working diligently to raise funds to offset the trip's enormous expense. If you would like to help support these young, hometown Olympic hopefuls, donations can be made at Huntington Bank in Lowell.



Grand Master Wu Bin, center, with Rob Coffey and Mariah Moore.

students recently received highly coveted and very personal invitations from China's famous Grand Master Wu Bin (Jet Li's personal coach) to represent the United States as two of the top athletes in the country to train with him and his world-class coaches at his renowned Wushu Training Center in Beijing, China, in June of 2005.

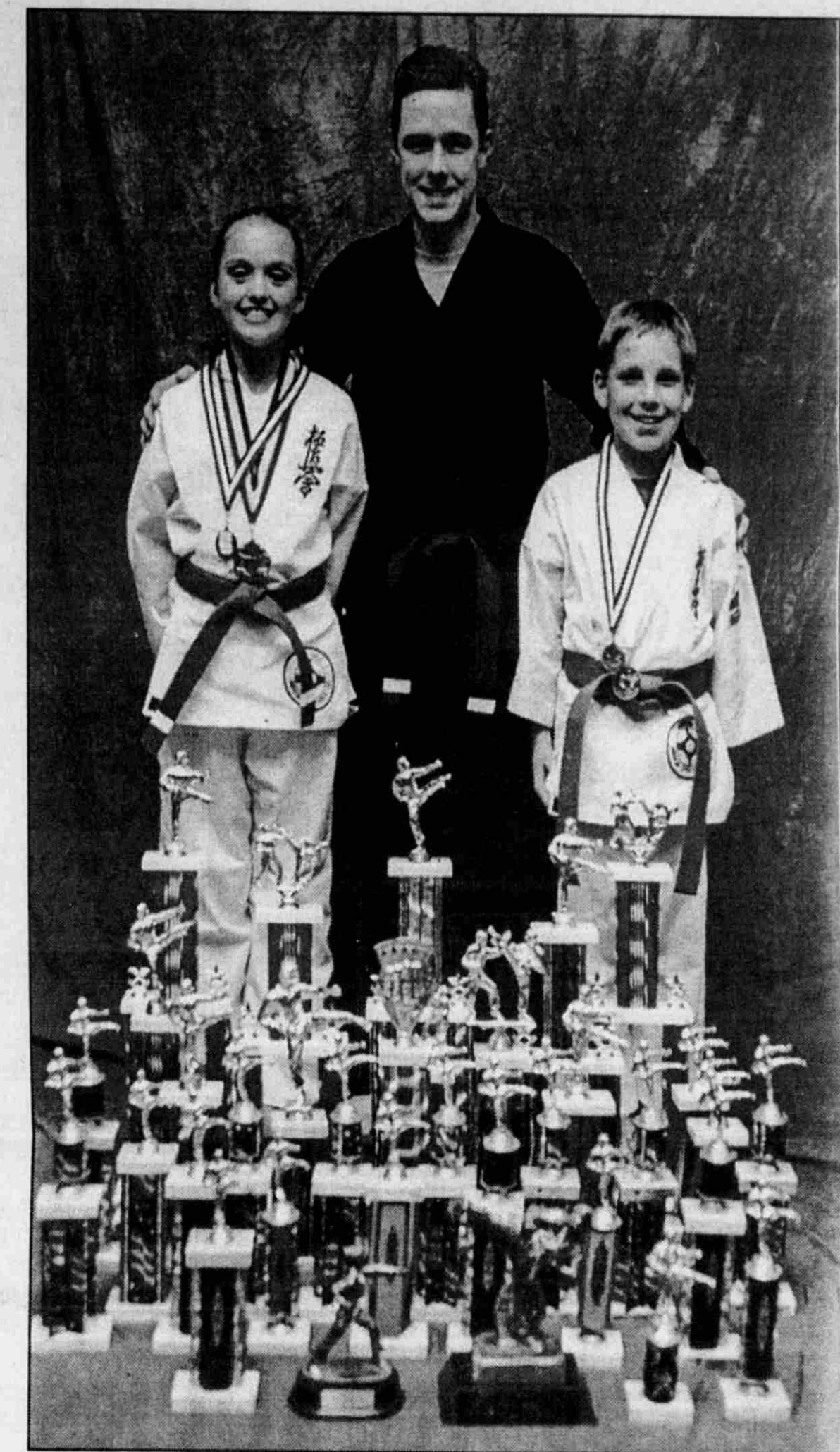
Wu Bin hand selects those who will attend his exclusive camp which will serve to recruit and train athletes for possible spots on the U.S. Wushu Team for the Olympics in 2008 and 2012. Wushu will be introduced as a new sport into the Olympic games in Beijing in 2008. "Sensei always says to be the example and to show leadership. He teaches us discipline and expects us to show respect and

Coffey attended a week-long camp for young martial artists at Western Michigan University called Masters of Wushu. The event was hosted by Young Champions and was designed to introduce, train, and promote Wushu among young American martial artists. Coffey and Moore received personal instruction from martial arts people including Woody Wong (1995 World Wushu game silver and bronze medalist, member of inside Kung fu magazine's Hall of Fame, U.S. National Wushu all around champion), Master Kenny Perez (state, national and international champion, holds black belts in 6 styles, worked in 5 motion pictures, certified judge of Wushu tournaments and made great strides in the unification of the Chinese mar-

of Chinese martial arts (highest title in Chinese sports), Hollywood action movie star Jet Li's coach, created the Olympic routines that would be used in 2008, coach of the Beijing Wushu team for 20 years; from 1975 to 1985, the Beijing Wushu team achieved a feat that no team has ever accomplished by earning 40 individual gold medals during this 10-year reign, authored dozens of books on Wushu.)

Students learned the fundamentals of Wushu and new forms using the sword, spear, staff and fan, and open hand. They also studied the Dragon Dance, Tai Chi, Chinese calligraphy, and Chinese culture.

Both students agree that they earned their invitation to China largely due to the instruction and training of their



Sensei Aaron Bailey with Mariah Moore, Rob Coffey and their trophies.

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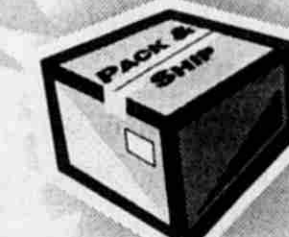
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Lowell obliterates Mt. Pleasant

Red Arrows claim district title, host East Friday for regional championship

By Dan Schneider

The Red Arrows destroyed Mount Pleasant last Friday, claiming a 57-7 win and the district championship.

Lowell forced the Oilers to punt on their first drive. The Mount Pleasant defense looked bullish for two plays on a Lowell opening drive that started at their own 21. But then Lowell quarterback Keith Nichol scrambled to the right, passing to Brad Shea. Shea broke a tackle and streaked down the right sideline for 74 yards and a touchdown. Red Arrows up 7-0.

The Oilers were able to take advantage of a fumble recovery deep in Lowell territory. Corey Gross ran up the middle from one yard out for a touchdown. The score was tied at seven, but only briefly.

After that, the Arrows forced another punt and the very productive offense took the field. Nichol credited the offensive line.

"They give me time and I just have fun," Nichol said.

Fun on the next drive would be a 33-yard pass to Mike Koster in the end zone. Nichol threw to Koster four times in the game for 68 yards and two touchdowns.

The next touchdown came in the second quarter. It was Nichol scrambling left from the 13. Then the Red Arrow kicking team stormed down the field and jarred the

ball loose. Jeremy Holliman recovered the fumble at the 15. Ryan Esbaugh ran it into the end zone from there. Esbaugh led Lowell's ground game with 12 carries for 155 yards and three touchdowns.

Nichol didn't throw an incomplete pass until the second half. He finished the game 10-12 for 181 yards and three touchdowns.

Lowell's domination continued in the second half, when Esbaugh ran in two of his touchdowns.

In the fourth quarter Holliman put the final nail in a Mount Pleasant coffin that was already full of them. He returned an interception 31 yards for a touchdown. Holliman and Ed Zigmont led the Lowell defense with seven tackles each.

The win gives Lowell a chance to play East Grand Rapids Friday for the regional title. East beat Middleville 28-16 to win their district championship.

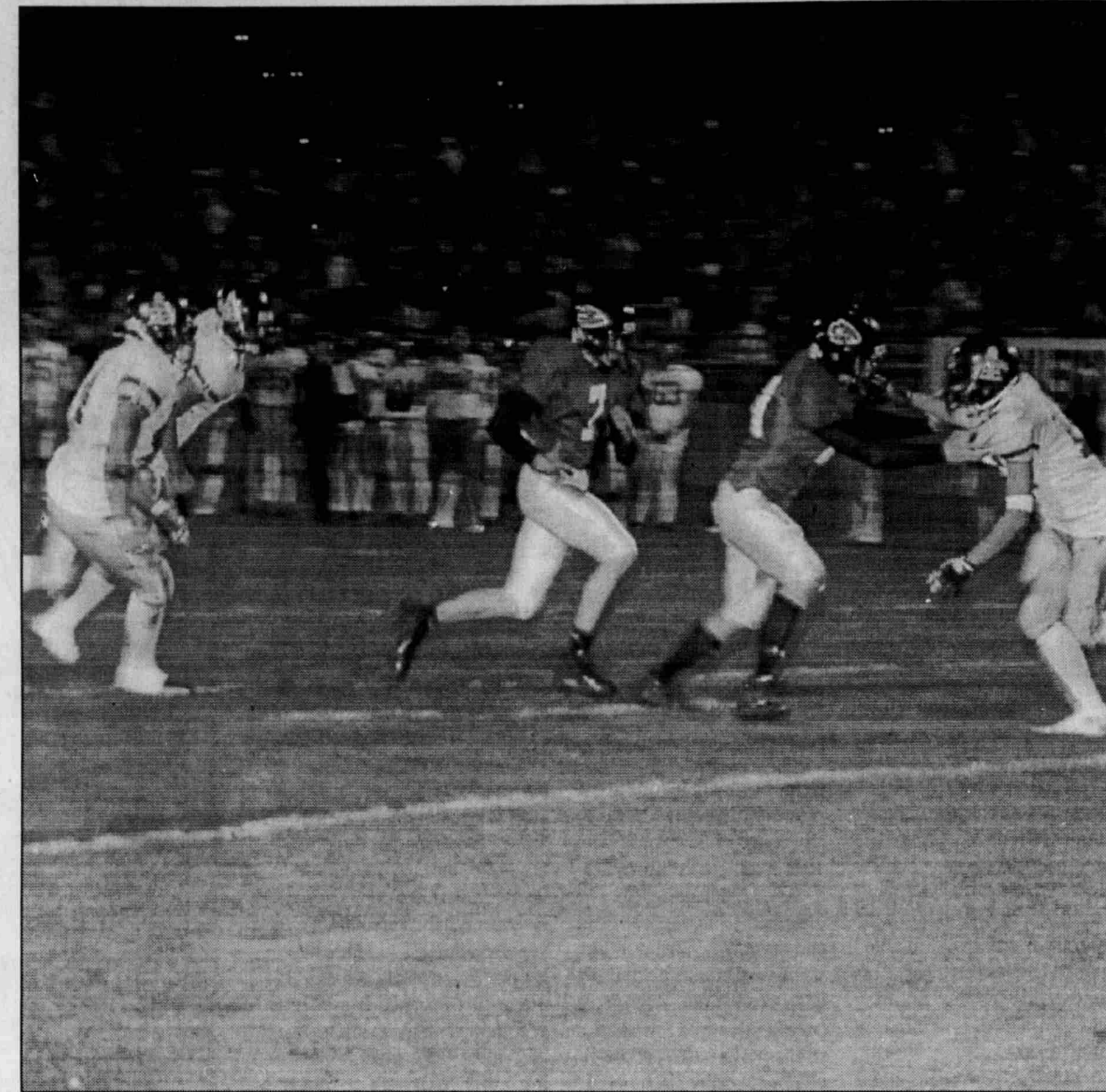
The Red Arrows beat the Pioneers 51-22 when the teams met during conference play. Lowell also held East's star running back Kevin Grady to 98 yards in the game. But none of that matters right now to left guard Mike Wildey. He and the rest of the Lowell team plan to go into the game just like any other.

"We gotta play every team and work hard no matter who we play," Wildey said.

Lowell finished the first quarter up 13-8 and gradually built on that lead throughout the game.

"We were just quick enough to keep up with their guards... using our full court press to make turnovers," said Crowley.

Kendra Gallert led Lowell with 13 points; three of her shots were three-pointers. Devon Collins also drained 3 three-pointers for her nine points. Amy



Lowell quarterback Keith Nichol scrambles for a touchdown in the second quarter of Friday's victory over Mount Pleasant. Nichol threw for three other scores in the 57-7 rout.

Taking one game at a time has worked well for the Arrows so far this year.

"We've always been a

week-to-week program," said Lowell coach Noel Dean. "To maintain the focus that they have every week and to

come out and play the quality football that they have says a lot about the team." Lowell hosts East at Red Arrow Stadium Friday at 7 p.m. The winner will go on to play in the state semifinals.

Greenville at home to a 57-17 victory. It was 24-1 at the end of the first quarter. Several different Lowell players contributed to the point total throughout the game.

"We had balanced scoring," Crowley said. Tuesday night was senior night and Lowell's last

home game...against Cedar Springs. Thursday, they will travel either to Wyoming Park or to South Christian for the crossover championship with the OK Gold. Next week, Lowell hosts the district tournament starting Tuesday night.

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Basketball locks up conference title

By Dan Schneider

With a 48-31 win at Unity Christian last Thursday, the Lowell girls basketball team claimed the conference championship and is one win away from an undefeated OK White season.

"It was a tough game,"

said Lowell coach Dee Crowley. "I just think our speed and our overall team balance probably took its toll on them."

Lowell finished the first quarter up 13-8 and gradually built on that lead throughout the game.

"We were just quick enough to keep up with their guards... using our full court press to make turnovers," said Crowley.

Lowell finished the first quarter up 13-8 and gradually built on that lead throughout the game.

Lowell finished the first quarter up 13-8 and gradually built on that lead throughout the game.

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ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF
LOWELL

Cross country runs in state meet

By Dan Schneider

The sport of cross country is about going the distance. And the 2004 Lowell boys cross country team made this year's season last as long as possible.

The Red Arrows traveled to the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Saturday, to compete in the cross country state finals.

"It's awesome, I've waited four years to get here, I'm really excited," senior Steve Ellison said two days before the race.

In 44th place, Ellison was Lowell's top finisher. He ran the 3.1 miles on the super speedway's infield in 16:57. Eric Schumm was close behind. He finished 45th in 16:59.

"It's really exciting, it's what we've wanted for our whole careers," Schumm said. "Especially since this is like the first time in 14 years."

The last time a Lowell boys cross country team went to the state meet was in 1991. The girls team went every year from 1998-2002.

Mitch Solon ran third for Lowell and finished 85th in the race with a time of 17:29. Jon Riddle was 93rd in the

race, running it in 17:40. Andy Mark finished 106th in 17:50. Kenny Hayes (157th, 18:43) and Casey Randolph (167th, 18:55) rounded out Lowell's squad at the state meet.

The Red Arrows finished near the middle of the 27-team division II race. They were 17th with a team score of 373, ahead of Three Rivers and behind Hazel Park. The Dexter Dreadnaughts won the state championship with a score of 93.

During the regionals at Lowell on Oct. 30, the Red Arrow boys team found out how tough the OK White conference had been this year. OK White team Sparta finished fifth at the state meet and East Grand Rapids took the 13th spot. Lowell was able to emerge from a 2-5 conference season to qualify for state at the regionals.

"It was really cool, I didn't expect us to," said Solon, who injured himself early on in the regional race. "I finished, I had a bad race, and I was all upset and then we qualified."

"All the dual meets didn't really matter as much as regionals, getting positions up there so we'd qualify" Ellison said.



The 2004 Lowell boys varsity cross country team, after running the state meet, on the infield of Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn. Back row, from left: Coach Clay VanderWarf, Ken Hayes, Andy Mark, Casey Randolph, Jon Riddle and coach Mike Mull. Front row, from left: Eric Schumm, Mitch Solon and Steve Ellison.

LAS works on energy efficient habits

By Dan Schneider

Modifying behavior related to energy usage in Lowell Area Schools buildings is lowering utility costs for the district.

LAS is nine months into a four-year energy efficiency contract with Energy Education, Inc. The program works to lower energy usage at the buildings by getting staff into habits like turning off lights in unoccupied rooms. Greater pains are also being taken to shut down heating systems on the weekends and during other times when students aren't in school. These are small steps that gradually add up to savings.

Despite rate increases for electricity and water in 2004,

"This is about thousands of nickels," said district energy manager Jim White.

After nine months, the district is starting to see some savings in its utility bills, White presented at Monday's school board meeting. White has been tracking this year's energy consumption, and comparing it to 2003, using a computer program. The program takes into account such complexities as weather changes and changes in building size (the addition of the freshman wing at the high school) to make accurate comparisons.

Despite rate increases for electricity and water in 2004,

the district has managed to save money on these utility bills. White has also discovered some anomalies in the district's systems, such as an unused water meter at one building that was costing the district about \$130 a month.

Between those things and the conglomeration of "thousands of nickels," the district has saved \$222,742 on its utility bills in nine months of the program. Electricity consumption has dropped 32 percent,

natural gas use has dropped 36 percent and the district is using 17.9 percent less water, according to White.

The savings do not factor in White's salary for administering the program (\$12,000 per year) or the cost of training sessions for White and the lead custodians who make the program work at the individual buildings. But Energy Education, Inc. guarantees savings.

"Each year, if we have not paid for the fees, whatever

I'm being paid, whatever the cost is to send for training, they write a check for the difference," White explained.

He credited the building custodians for the work they've done in implementing the energy savings program.

"Our day people and our night people have just done an outstanding job," White said.

He also talked about the impact of the savings from an environmental standpoint,

particularly in terms of electricity use.

"We've saved 1.6 million kilowatt-hours in a nine-month period," White said. "If you change that to carbon dioxide, that's 2.4 million pounds that we are not putting into the atmosphere."

That is the equivalent of taking 225 cars off the road or planting 466 acres of trees, White said.

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Dennis Coston at AmeriGas Propane
9883 W. Belding Rd./Belding, MI 48809
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EOE/AA/M/F/D/V

Enter the 37th annual Kent County poetry competition

The Dyer-Ives Foundation is sponsoring the 37th annual Kent County Poetry Competition. Preliminary judging will be done by local college professors and poets of note from the Greater Grand Rapids area.

Linda Nemeck Foster, the national judge, is the author of six collections of poetry, including *Amber Necklace*

From *Gdansk*, which was a finalist for the 2003 Ohio Book Award in Poetry. Her new book will be published in the fall of 2005.

To enter, submit no more than five original, unpublished poems in any style or length. Entries must be typed in triplicate (photocopies are acceptable) with the appropriate division indicated on each copy.

Name, address, phone number and division should be written on a single 3 by 5 card and submitted with the entries.

The poet's name must not appear on the entry itself. Entries must be sent between Feb. 1 and postmarked no later than March 1, 2005.

Entries which do not meet the guidelines specified above

will be disqualified. No manuscripts will be returned. Finalists agree to allow Dyer-Ives to publish their poems in *Voices* 2005, the Foundation's annual literary publication. Finalists will be asked to read their winning poem at Festival 2005.

First division is open to all Kent County students in grades K-8. 1st place: \$100;

2nd place: \$75; 3rd place: \$50.

Second division is open to any high school or undergraduate college student within Kent County, including Grand Valley State University. 1st place: \$125; 2nd place: \$100; 3rd place: \$75. Residents of Kent County who attend school elsewhere are also eligible.

graduate students and other adult Kent County residents. 1st place: \$150; 2nd place: \$125; 3rd place: \$100.

Entries should be sent to: 37th Annual Kent County Poetry Competition (specify appropriate division on envelope), c/o Dyer-Ives Foundation, 501-H Waters Building, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

Third division is open to

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!

Sound Off

The Ledger (Almost) Anything Goes Opinion Forum

897-0787 or www.lowellbuyersguide.com

Question of the Day: Why does the lady keep leaving her purse in fast food joints? Maybe she should eat at home.

Let's try and keep corporate America out of Lowell (Wal Mart, Lowes, etc.), and let Lowell retain some semblance of individuality. Aren't there enough chain stores and restaurants? - R. Jesberg

Everyone in Lowell needs to wear a Santa hat to Friday's game.

I sincerely appreciate the employees of Ace Hardware for always being so pleasant and helpful! P.S. My flashlight works great!

Democracy in the United States of America 1776-2004 RIP Thanks to all you Republicans for laying it to rest ...a liberal alive and well and living in LOWELL

Angie, Lesa, Angie, Patrice, Julie & Jill - You are all such wonderful, beautiful women & I am so thankful to be able to call you my friends. Thanks for being you!

I am happy that Sen. Kerry didn't inherit Bush's war and all the debts. We people will have to pay the debit that he's made. Let him and his family pay it. God Bless Senator Kerry.

To Ball's Softee Creme. Another year of fabulous food - thank you!

Thank you First Baptist Church for a wonderful Halloween.

To the person who didn't appreciate the comment about Kerry. Well I guess you don't appreciate freedom of the press or free speech either.

We don't need a Wal Mart - we've got a Meijers. If you can't find it there, you don't need it.

I really missed Roger Brown's column last week. I hope he didn't write because of the unnecessary comment last week. I look forward to it this week.

Kudos to the three moms that put together the fifth grade camp fundraiser. Sherri, Kathy & Vickey, you did a great job. Our fifth graders thank you.

AARP toll free number for flu shot price gouging

AARP has introduced a toll-free number to help consumers fight back against price gouging for flu shots. The number, 1-877-FLU-COST (877-358-2678) is valid from 7 a.m. to midnight, Monday - Friday. Pricing experts agree that anything over \$30, excluding doctor visit fees, could be an overcharge. Reports to the toll-free line will be turned over to the proper authorities at Health and Human Services and to the Michigan Attorney General's Office. The number can also be used to access information about where to obtain a vaccination in Michigan.

AARP is also urging people to ask their medical providers about obtaining a vaccine against pneumonia as an alternative where flu shots are unavailable.

David Stockreef is requesting a variance on property located at 11960 Alden Pines Dr., Lowell, in the NE quarter of section 28, parcel #41-16-028-200-008. The variance is requested to permit the dividing of the property into 3 parcels with the parcel containing the existing house to be less than the 3 acre minimum by .13 acre (parcel would be 2.87 acres). The variance is from the zoning ordinance section 201.304 (E).

The complete application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Public comment will be heard at the meeting. Written comments received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the office entrance will also be considered if received at the Township office prior to 7:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Comments may also be emailed to zoning@vergennestwp.org.

ing doctor visit fees, could be an overcharge. Reports to the toll-free line will be turned over to the proper authorities at Health and Human Services and to the Michigan Attorney General's Office. The number can also be used to access information about where to obtain a vaccination in Michigan.

*** Your vision will become clear when you look into your heart. —Carl Jung

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For the Wednesday Publication

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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 evenings 269-367-4900. Phil Bishop.

MATTRESS/BOX SPRINGS - Brand new, \$59/set. Twin, full, queen, delivery available. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

HONDA ACCORD '94 - Reduced price. Very well maintained, 192,000 miles. Everything works; power, air, sunroof, 4 dr., leather. \$3,500. Call 897-7641 evenings or weekends.

APPLIANCES - Refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves. Reconditioned, guaranteed, over 100 to choose from, \$59 and up. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

1998 FORD EXPEDITION - 92,000 miles, 4.6L V8 engine, excellent maintenance history, towing pkg., CD player, running boards, etc. \$10,950. Call Kate at 682-9899. This is a good deal!

BEDS - Namebrand mattress sets, twin, \$80; full \$80; queen \$95, King \$150. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

'98 CHEVY PICKUP - Long box, 2 wd., new tires, brakes, etc. \$4,200. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.

FURNITURE - Bedroom & dining room, headboards, canopy beds, living room. Large selection. Wholesale prices. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

1999 JEEP CHEROKEE - 4 dr., 4x4, light blue, hwy miles. \$5,200. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.

AIR BED - Slecta Comfort firmness for each of you. Dual chambers. Remote control. Warranty. Never used. Cost \$1,400, sell \$750. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

STEEL HAY FEEDER - 10X4, \$75; stock water tank 6X2, \$50; Weed chopper, electric fencer, \$25; fertilizer spreader, \$75; rototiller \$75; Craftsman lawn tractor with bagger, \$450; all obo. Call 868-7363.

A MEMORY FOAM BED - NASA developed memory foam. Brand name, never used. \$500. Call 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

RAMADA INN FURNITURE - 25 rooms, excellent condition, night stands, \$5; desk, \$10; chest of drawers, \$25. Dennis Distributing, 315 N. Lansing, St. Johns, 989-224-4822.

1999 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT - 4 dr, red, 3800, loaded, CD, heads up display, new tires, heated leather, 72,000 miles, \$8,500. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.

FOR SALE

20 TWIN BEDS - Bought from university, include frames, very clean, \$49 til gone. Dennis Distributing, 315 N. Lansing, St. Johns, 989-224-4822.

FOR SALE - Air purifiers, Advanced technology provides clean air for your whole house. Eliminates smoke and odors from tobacco, cooking and pets. Can sanitize mold, bacteria and mildew. Compare to units @ \$600 plus for just one room, \$280.00. Call 897-0833.

FOR SALE - 1982 28 ft. Carry Lite travel trailer, great for deer hunting, \$2,500. Call 897-7550 or see at 2407 Segwin.

SMALL COMPUTER DESK FOR SALE - 35 inches, \$25. Call 897-2655.

10 GAS STOVE/REFRIGERATOR SETS - Excellent working condition. Guaranteed. White, \$125/set til gone. Dennis Distributing, 315 N. Lansing, St. Johns, 989-224-4822.

FIVE + 4 BEDROOM REPOS AVAILABLE - Excellent condition 1-800-889-5776 Preferred Mobile Homes, M-57 between Greenville & US 131.

'98 CHEVY PICKUP - Long box, 2 wd., new tires, brakes, etc. \$4,200. Call 897-1597 or 450-7910.

MEMORY FOAM QUEEN BED - Bought, never used. List \$1,800; sell \$550/best. 517-719-8062.

PROFITABLE HOME BASED BUSINESS FOR SALE IN LOWELL - Owners retiring. Owners will provide training and technical support. 897-2083.

AMISH BEDROOM GROUP - 5 pieces, all wood, includes pillowtop mattress set, \$1,800 new, sell \$550/best. 989-227-2986.

SOFA, LOVESEAT - Beige, cushioned arms, floor ruffile (1 month old). Bought, did not use. Cost \$1,100, sell \$495/best. 517-719-8062.

MAPLE BEDROOM SET - 7 pieces plus queen pillowtop mattress, new, never used. Cost \$1,400, sell \$250. Call 517-719-8062.

FOR SALE - 1994 Buick Century, only 49,000 original miles, \$3,500 obo. Call 616-262-9713.

GENERAL ELECTRIC WASHER/DRYER SET - 5 years old, runs great, large capacity, guaranteed. \$75 each. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

FOR RENT

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

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

FOR RENT - \$400 moves you in! 1 & 2 bedroom apartments in Lowell. One stall garage, w/d hook-ups & convenient location. Starting at \$625 month. Call today 363-5430 or visit us on the web at www.wmpnline.com.

ALTO HOUSE FOR RENT - 12055 84th St. Corner of M-50, 3 bedroom ranch, 2 stall garage, full unfurnished basement, \$900/mo. Call 437-6614.

HOUSE FOR RENT - 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, fenced in yard, Lowell Schools, \$850 per month. 682-0138.

LOOKING FOR A QUIET PLACE TO LIVE FOR UNDER \$400/MONTH? - Heat included? Call Oak Hill Apartments at 616-527-8900 to see if you qualify. EHO.

SARANAC FOR RENT - large 1 bedroom apartment, ground level - private porch/driveway, \$400/mo. + utilities, water, trash, sewer included. Call 616-890-2594.

LARGE POLE BARN FOR RENT - includes shop area with wood & fuel oil furnaces. Call 897-0686.

LOST

LOST - Reward for male Bull Mastiff about 105 lbs. Tan w/ black face. Fallsburg Park area. Call 616-893-4298.

MISSING 2 DOGS - from 806 Lafayette, 1 answers to Jenna, she's 2 ft. tall, lite orange short hair; other is black longer haired, answers to Lizzie. Usually both dogs are together. Both have tags. 897-5266.

SERVICES

RAY'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR - Lawn mowers, riders, weedwackers & snow blowers. Pickup & delivery available. Call 485-5835.

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

IF YOU NEED YOUR HOME - or office cleaned call 642-0468.

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

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

SNOWPLOUGH - Tired of shoveling that driveway? We have great hourly or seasonal rates available. Long, short, straight or curvy driveways. We do them all. Call Homrich Mobile Washing & Snowplowing at 897-0269 for your free quote.

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

IF YOU HAVE TRASH - Call ALL TRASH. All trash LLC. 15 yd. rolloff dumpsters. 616-887-8870.

SHIP UPS AT THE LEDGER OFFICE - Daily pickup. Small box packaging available. 105 N. Broadway.

LISA'S DAYCARE - Has full-time positions available. Kids welcome for Murray Lake School. Great country setting with indoor & outdoor play areas. Planned daily activities & occasional field trips. Call Lisa at 897-3065 for an interview.

EVENTS

SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - at 3189 Snow Ave. SE will serve a family style turkey & dressing dinner on Wed., Nov. 10, starting at 5:30 p.m. Adults, \$8, ages 5-12, \$2.

WANTED

WANTED - Cash paid for old or junk motorcycles, snowmobiles & ATVs. Running or not. Call Rich 616-446-8352.

ROOMMATES WANTED - Preferred female, large Forest Hills Home, seven bedrooms & 5 1/2 bath, indoor pool, Cul-de-sac on private lake, plenty of parking, close to everything! Non-smokers, \$400 a month. Call Leslie @ 897-0833.

LADY DRIVER WANTED - mature, dependable woman to drive me to chiropractor in Grandville. Will pay \$20. Call Linda 897-9202.

LAND WANTED - 1-3 acres. Lowell or Saranac area. Call 897-3039 or 550-7817.

HELP WANTED

HOME HEALTH CARE AIDES - needed immediately in Lowell-Ionia area. Call Amanda at Kelly Home Care 616-447-8070.

LOWELL AREA MANUFACTURER - has immediate openings on 1st and 2nd shifts. Pay is \$8.00 to \$8.50 per hour and positions are long term to hire. Please apply in person at Forge Industrial Staffing, 5011-28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI.

HELP WANTED - MANAGEMENT TRAINEES. No experience necessary, \$400 week to start. Call for interview, 475-6603.

NEED EXTRA HOLIDAY CASH? - Our company needs 27 hard workers in Comstock Park. \$400 a week. Call for interview 616-647-1268.

ADVERTISERS - For the new 2005 Lowell City Directory. Advertise for as little as \$120! Call Tammy for an information pamphlet, 897-9560 or email to: LowellCityDirect@aol.com.

NEED COPIES? - We have 2 new copiers! 1 color & 1 black & white! Stop by & see us today! Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway.

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FREE KITTENS - Cute, cuddly, small, assorted colors. 554-4794.

FREE - Huskee 12 hp lawn tractor, 40" deck, 2 bin bagger, blown motor. You pick up, 691-7658.

Vergennes Township, Kent County, MI

At a special meeting of the Vergennes Township Board, held on November 8, 2004 the following resolution was offered by Stone and seconded by Nauta.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE LOWELL AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, since the year 2001, designated representatives of Vergennes Township have met with Lowell Township and Lowell City representatives for the purpose of creating a trailway system connecting the three municipalities, and

WHEREAS, the tangible results of this work are the Lowell Area Trailways Study and Plan, the pending formation of the Lowell Area Recreation Authority, and an enhanced spirit of cooperation among the three municipalities, and

WHEREAS, it has been asserted that non-city residents constitute a large portion of the patrons of city park facilities, and that members of the Lowell City Council have indicated an interest in expanding the LARA agreement to include the maintenance of city owned parks and recreation,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vergennes Township Board has voted to send the following comments to the Lowell City Council:

1. Lowell Area Recreation Authority Agreement supports the concept of shared recreation for the sole purpose of construction and maintenance of a community trailway system.
2. We oppose the concept of shared financial responsibility of city owned and operated parks and recreation, and respectfully suggest that other solutions to the city's dilemma be pursued.
3. If there is any non-financial support that the Township of Vergennes can offer to assist the city in the resolution of this issue, we would be pleased to consider a request.

This Resolution was passed by a unanimous vote of the Vergennes Township Board, and is hereby declared adopted.

Mari Stone,
Vergennes Township Clerk

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Vergennes Township Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday November 18, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, to hear the following variance application:

David Stockreef is requesting a variance on property located at 11960 Alden Pines Dr., Lowell, in the NE quarter of section 28, parcel #41-16-028-200-008. The variance is requested to permit the dividing of the property into 3 parcels with the parcel containing the existing house to be less than the 3 acre minimum by .13 acre (parcel would be 2.87 acres). The variance is from the zoning ordinance section 201.304 (E).

The complete application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Public comment will be heard at the meeting. Written comments received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the office entrance will also be considered if received at the Township office prior to 7:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Comments may also be emailed to zoning@vergennestwp.org.

Vergennes Township ZBA

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ONLY \$259 PER MO.



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XLT, FX4 pkg., local trade. #25247A
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'02 CHEVY SILVERADO
V-6, auto., air, low miles. #24488B
ONLY \$199 PER MO.



'01 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW 4X4
Lariat, 5.4 V-8, leather. #L8833
ONLY \$329 PER MO.



'03 FORD F-150 SUPERCAB 4X4
XLT, FX4, loaded. #24638A
ONLY \$339 PER MO.

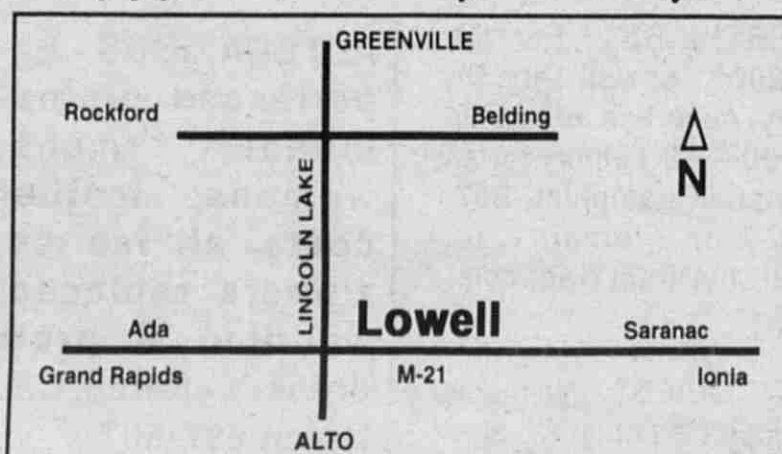


'02 FORD F-350 SUPERCAB 4X4
XLT, Powerstroke diesel, long box. #25105A
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'02 FORD F-250 SUPERCAB 4X4
Lariat, Powerstroke diesel, leather. #25252A
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