The Lowell Ledger

Volume 31 Issue 19

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Something for everyone at Lowell's Community Expo '05

By Dan Schneider

C o m m u n i t y
Expo at Lowell
High School promises to be
the biggest one yet ... or at
least as big as last year's.

All 151 booths of the ninth annual Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce Expo were sold out as of 2 p.m. a week ago Tuesday with the booths representing just about everything there is in the community. Local businesses from jewelers to duct-work installers will be displaying their trades as well as volunteer organizations, and civic and municipal groups.

Booths related to Lowell Area Schools will be located in the auxiliary gym; all other groups will fill the main gym, cafeteria and the main hallway.

"If people are wondering what's new and exciting in the schools, they can go over to the small gym," said chamber executive director Liz Baker.

The Expo, held Saturday, March 26 from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., is designed to help people new to the area get a feel for it, and for people who have lived here a long time to get back in touch with what is going on.

"If they haven't had the opportunity to visit the Expo,

they should make it part of their weekend plans," Baker said. "When you go to a community expo, there's something for everyone."

She said it's also a good networking opportunity and a way for local businesses to increase their visibility.

Besides businesses and organizations, there will be wide range of entertainment on the stage in the main gym.

"It will be great and it will last all day," said entertainment coordinator Gordon Gould.

> Community Expo, cont'd., pg. 11



A Lowell Expo sign greets M-21 travelers on the east end of town.

More sidewalk construction resulting from new walk zones

By Dan Schneider

sidewalk construction picked up last year in the City of Lowell and is expected to continue this year.

Lowell Area Schools' announcing walk zones within the city as a cost cutting measure directed attention to updating the city's sidewalks, which are fragmentary in

places. In total, almost \$69,000 was spent last year on sidewalk work related to the walk zones.

A grant from the Lee Fund financed the construction of a paved pathway through Creekside Park. The Downtown Development Authority allocated about \$5,200 for new sidewalk construction downtown on Lincoln Lake Ave.

and Washington Street.

The greatest portion of the sidewalk construction was financed through federal block grant funds. New sidewalks were constructed on Amity Street, Foreman Road, Gee Drive, Howard Street and Hudson Street at a total cost of \$58,130.95.

"The main goal is to start with the schools and work our way out," Lowell department of public works director Dan DesJarden said.

The sidewalk construction accounted for the solid majority of Lowell's block grant funding last year. City manager Dave Pasquale said the block grants can be used to finance any number of municipal infrastructure projects. The sidewalk projects listed above fit into the county-administrated program's criteria for sidewalk construction, which favor low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

Pasquale said its not unusual in a given year for the city to spend the same amount of block grants on projects other than sidewalks. But sidewalk improvement has been a subject of discussion in city government for a long time, he said

"We've talked about it on and

off at least all the time I've been here," he said. "We just talked about it well before there was an issue of walk zones, per se."

In Lowell's core residential area, particularly the northeast portion, the sidewalk network is incomplete in several places. At the time houses were built in that area, Pasquale said, homeowners would often build their own sidewalks. But not always.

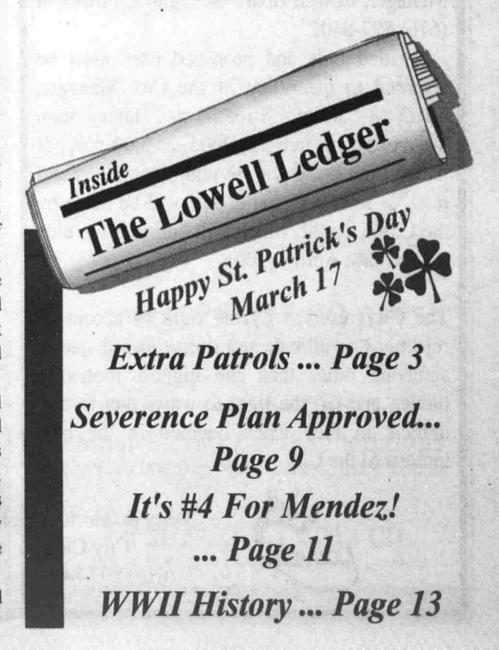
"At the time, the city just didn't really prioritize the issue of finishing off sections (of sidewalk)," he said.

"If we had a ton of money, we could take care of that," DeJarden said.

Ridgeview and Beech Street, DesJarden said, are probable candidates for sidewalk improvements this year. He said these were chosen because they fit block grant criteria and intersect with walk-zone streets.



A sidewalk on the north side of Sherman Street dead-ends into a bush. The city worked on several sidewalk-construction projects elsewhere in the city last year, with the focus on completing stretches of sidewalk within the Lowell Area Schools walk zones.



CITY OF

LOWELL

SALE OF CITY PROPERTY

ADVERTISEMENT OF BID

bids for the sale of a City owned lot

approximately 38 feet by 40 feet at 111

Riverside Drive (Parcel 41-20-02-403-030).

The property will be conveyed by quitclaim

deed and the purchaser, if it desires, will be

responsible at its cost for obtaining a property

The lot has a number of public and private

utilities located within its boundaries for

which either easements will be reserved or

must be relocated at the cost of the purchaser.

Generally, improvements may not be

constructed on the lot above, below or over

such utilities. If the purchaser desires to

remove utilities, it is responsible for making

arrangements with the owners of the utilities.

Further information regarding utilities may be

obtained from Daniel DesJarden, Director of

Department of Public Works, at (616) 897-

5923, and Thomas Richards, General

Manager, Lowell Board of Light & Power, at

Sealed bids and proposed uses must be

returned to the office of the City Manager,

301 East Main Street, no later than

Wednesday, March 30, 2005, at 2:00 p.m., at

which time these will be publicly opened and

read. A final decision of sale will be made by

the City Council, which will consider the bids

The City reserves (i) the right to accept or

reject any or all bids and it may award sale to

someone other than the highest monetary

bidder, and (ii) the right to waive any formal

defects in bids when deemed in the best

Betty R. Morlock

(616) 897-8457

City Clerk

(616) 897-8402.

on Monday, April 4, 2005.

interest of the City.

survey and/or title insurance.

The City of Lowell is accepting sealed

tree. Willmina grew up in (Carolyn) Haug; mother- Staskus, aged 86, lifelong Rose Marie Bruinsma of the faith and her character in-law Vivian Monroe; resident of Ada, passed Middleville; grandchildren. Gerst Funeral Home. Dr. Blythefield Interment Chapel Hills

HAUG - Mr. Joseph Haug, aged 65, of Lowell, passed Rosezella years, Bonnie; son Joseph Mary Cemetery.

had a present under the Haug Jr.; brother Thomas STASKUS - Elinor V. of Alto, William and

SCHOENBORN - Alicia

was her testimony. Anyone several brothers-in-law, away March 8, 2005. She Terry (Cheryl) Metternick. who spent time with Mina sisters-in-law, nieces and was preceded in death by Nancy (Scott) Wolf, Tim was sure to hear, "I've had nephews. Mr. Haug had her husband Stanley T. and (Kathy) Metternick, Cheri a good life." While she will worked for many years at her son Stanley C. Staskus. (Doug) Nagel; greatbe missed, the family's Vennen Chrysler Dodge in She is survived by her grandchildren, Ashley only tears are those of joy. Lowell and was currently children Nora (Terry) Buck, and Andrew Metternick. She was ready to go be with working as an independent Scott (Nancy) Staskus, Brit, Brandon and Christa Jesus, and her family was truck driver. Funeral Mary (Brian) Currie; nine Reinhart, William Wolf. privileged to walk her to the services were held March grandchildren; 15 great- Tyler and Kaela Metternick. gate. A Celebration of Life 8 at Pennellwood Church grandchildren; many nieces Madison Nagel; brother. service was held Monday, of God, with Pastor Ray and nephews. Memorial John (Judy) Young of a good mother to her four horse-drawn firetrucks, ice March 14, at the Roth- Hall officiating. Interment contributions may be made Byron Center; sisters-in-Memory to Arthritis Foundation MI law, Jean (Harry) Segard Chapter, 3226 28th St S.E., of Georgetown Township. Shirley Metternick of Benzonia; and many nieces. (Thomson) Schoenborn, METTERNICK - Eva nephews and cousins. The Metternick Mass of Christian Burial aged 61, of Grand Rapids, away March 9, 2005. She (nee' Young), of Alto was offered Monday at passed away Saturday, is preceded in death by her passed peacefully into 11:00 am at Holy Family March 5, 2005. Mr. Haug husband Maurice. Mass of the loving arms of Jesus Catholic Church, 9669 was preceded in death by his Christian burial was held on Thursday, March 10, Kraft SE with Fr. David parents Ralph and Imelda Saturday at St. Mary Church, 2005. She was preceded E. LeBlanc, celebrant.

Kentwood, MI, 49512.

grandchildren,

Metternick.

and his son John J. Haug. Lowell, Rev. George Fekete in death by her husband, Interment St. Patrick's Surviving are his wife of 33 officiating. Interment St. Harold Metternick, Sr., Cemetery. A Vigil Service John was held Sunday at at Wendi the funeral home. The Bruinsma; great-grand- family suggests memorial children, Ronald and Taylor contributions be made Wolf; brother, Arnold to Holy Family Building Young; and sister, Margaret Fund or Charity of One's Herp. She is survived by Choice. Condolences may

her children, Harold Jr. be sent online at www.

and Ruth Ann Metternick mkdfuneralhome.com.

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FARM BUREAU

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Board will be held on Monday, March 21, 2005 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI to consider a wireless communications facility application to construct a new cellular tower.

AT&T Wireless Services have requested a special use permit application review to construct a new cellular tower on property owned by Ronald and Norma Noall. The property address is known as 12654 Heim St. NE, Lowell, and parcel number 41-16-22-400-025. The tower property will be located on the south side of Heim, west of Lincoln Lake Ave in the SW quarter of section 22.

Residents and property owners within 300 feet of the applicant's property will receive this notice by mail.

The complete application can be reviewed at the Vergennes Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Drive, PO Box 208, Lowell, M 49331 - Phone: (616) 897-5671 [fax 897-5674]. Written and oral comments will be received until the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments may be addressed to the Clerk at the Township Offices. Comments may be emailed to clerk@vergennestwp.org.

> Mari Stone Vergennes Township Clerk

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who has been so kind over the last few weeks since the death of my wife Patti Gent. Our friends have been so caring. I would especially like to thank all those at the

Family Medical Center, particularly Dr. Christenson. Also my thanks to Dr. Coller who cared so much; the Paramedics, the Home Care nurses, and the entire staff at the Emergency and in

ICU at the Metro Hospital; Pastor Harger and clergy at Metro; and to those who sent cards and telephoned Patti's family for their support, as well as Sheri Lane for her help and kindness. You have all been so kind. Lastly, my friends Bill, Claudia, Connie, Caren and Paul and a host of others.

Thank you so much. A memorial service will be held for Patti and if you need details, please call me at 616-443-3718

Thank you - Nick Gent

The Lowell Ledger

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TAMMY JANOWIAK CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING

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Riverside Drive property up for public auction

By J. Lobdell Contributing Writer

business owner, the city of either Lowell has decided to put a

Drive up for sale. owners of the Backwater council unanimously agreed Power has been working need to be moved. Café, at 109 Riverside Dr., to place the parcel up for to reduce the use of the made the request in February public auction. seeking to see if the city Lowell Light and Power adding later that it could be 1992. In its letter to the city, would be willing to put the Director Tom Richards between two and 12 years the Altofts said the property property at 111 Riverside reviewed the site with his before the company is off would help with the café's Dr. up for public sale. It is board and noted that since the site. the hopes of the owners that there are several utility items

Jim Pfaller said just because relocation to be taken care Richards said it would be the council put the land up of by the buyer.

By J. Lobdell

Contributing Writer

contracted services.

services such as trash

in Kent County, including

Lowell, will be looking for

The Michigan Office of

and arresting drunk drivers

Highway Safety Planning

(OHSP), which provides

federal traffic safety funds to

reduce drunk driving through

alcohol saturation patrols

that take place throughout

the year, is funding 64

law enforcement agencies

throughout the state for the

St. Patrick's Day weekend

activity. These funds, part

In The Ledger

from March 11-19.

for sale does not mean that

time to review all contracted city's attorney.

At the request of a local the city has to sell the parcel certain how easy it would be of relocation. to relocate the utilities since

they will be highest bidders on the site the city should Altofts, Richards said he expanding the restaurant's for the site and would be able sell the lot with easements has been informed that kitchen and seating and to expand their restaurant. allowing access to all the the actual building plans renovate the older building There is no guarantee city-owned facilities or may not conflict with the "that is much in need of

City Council reviews contract

The management of the and the management of has managed the city's

Several months ago, unanimously decided to stay "The city will be

the council decided in the with Richard Wendt, from going out for proposal,"

officers on the road.

"Don't take any chances

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MOVIE GUIDE

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a traditional Irish dinner prepared by an

authentic Irishman serving from 11AM till?

Stop in for a pint, storytelling and some

Irish ballads throughout the evening!

CELEBRATE P

THE PACIFIER (PG)

city's Wastewater Treatment the Wastewater Treatment Wastewater Treatment Plant

services for wastewater treatment plant

removal, attorney services, switched to EarthTech which

Plant is next up on the Lowell Plant. First on the list was since 1989. The city pays Charles Myers and Jim

City Council's review of the attorney services, which Earth Tech about \$298,000 Hodges volunteered to be

light of a tight budget, it was Dickerson, Wright, as the said City Manager David stay with EarthTech, go with

Make sure you have a designated driver

officers from 11 agencies You Lose, campaign, allow Designate a sober driver enforcement officers will

Now the focus has been meeting asked for council

enforcement of the You Drink & Drive. this St. Patrick's Day. division director. "Law

Pasquale who at last week's

agencies to put additional before you celebrate," said be looking specifically for

Michael L. Prince, OHSP drunk drivers."

after review the council yearly to run the plant.

Richards said he is not difficult to estimate the cost

Richards said the Lowell However, barring any it involves other groups such Light and Power Board had parcel of land on Riverside concerns from the Lowell as SBC, Consumers Energy, no objections to the property Light and Power, which and Lowell BPW. Over the being sold other than the Jeff and Bif Altoft, has utilities on the site, the years, Lowell Light and issue of if the utilities would

riverfront property, he said, has been in Lowell since problems. After talking with the The plans would include that the property would be remove and relocate the utilities on the site. Until updating to stay competitive sold to the Altofts. Councilor facilities with the cost of he had more specific plans, in our growing community."

representatives to sit on a

subcommittee to review

determine if the city should

The

on the subcommittee.

Councilors

Contract services,

cont'd., pg. 8

The Backwater Café

BENEFIT DINNER

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

ice cream social during the LHS musical "Footloose"

on March 18 and 19. Social starts at 6:30 p.m.; the cost

Lowell High School junior parents will sponsor an

THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 16,2005 PAGE 3

A benefit spaghetti dinner for Ramona (Gerst) Humphreys who has inflammatory breast cancer will be held Friday, March 18 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Apostolic Christian Church, 7700 Wingeier Ave., Alto, to help with her medical expenses. Donations. Call Luanne 460-2094, Heidi 897-0479 or Joyleen 455-2220 with questions.

SOUP & SALAD SUPPER

The Youth Fair will be having a soup and salad supper at the Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, March 19 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. to benefit the Small Animal Building fund.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Lowell Senior Center is having a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 19 from 8-11 a.m. \$2.50 includes eggs, sausage, juice and coffee.

COMMUNITY EXPO

Lowell Community Expo, Saturday, March 26, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Lowell High School. Call chamber 897-9161 for application.

CAN YOU DONATE?

The F.R.O.M. food pantry is in need of potatoes (boxed or canned), canned fruit, beans (canned and dried), hot cereals and hamburger helper.

MILITARY PRESERVATION SOCIETY SEMINAR

A panel of survivors from battles on the USS Hale and Franklin will speak on Wednesday, March 23 at Lowell High School at 7 p.m. Presented in cooperation with Lowell Museum and Calvin College.

ROTARY CLUB RAFFLE TICKETS

Purchase one ticket for \$5 or 6 for \$25 and sign up to win an Orlando condo vacation, a \$3200 value. Noto's Restaurant, Friday, April 22. Proceeds benefit Rotary Scholarship Fund. Tickets available at Ledger/ Buyers Guide, J.B. Harrison, Lowell Chamber, State Farm, Regal and Bernard's Ace Hardware.

Youth Fair SALAD SUPPER S Proceeds to it the Lowell Chamber of Commerce **SATURDAY, MARCH 19** Small Animal Building Fund 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. MOON ADOOM

10001100010001

CITY OF LOWELL **PUBLIC NOTICE**

LAST DATE TO FILE **NOMINATING PETITIONS** MAY 10, 2005 • 4:00 P.M.

Persons interested in seeking election to the Lowell City Council to fill any of the three (3) two to four year term vacancies occurring, must obtain nominating petition forms for circulation and return no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 10, 2005. Petition forms are available between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. from the Lowell City Clerk, Lowell City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell.



Betty R. Morlock City Clerk



March 26 at 1:00 p.m. Pre-school through 2nd Grade

Prizes • Punch • Cookies Easter Story • Candy-filled Eggs Egg Hunt Will Take Place Outside; Story Indoors

First Baptist Church 2275 W. Main St., Lowell - Next to Ada Lowell 5

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Its name is now Grand-Vennen following the recent purchase by the Grand Auto

second dealership in Lowell. Chrysler- The company has owned Wittenbach Oldsmobile, Pontiac and GMC since

> owner, Daryl Kuiper will remain at the dealership as

Grand Vennen

family. It will be Grand's sales manager. He said it it's been a very exciting time Henry VanderVennen, said have a well-oiled, healthy has been a smooth transition for all our employees." since Grand took over officially March 1

国际公司的特别。

customer base," said Jack "They've hired almost Bos, general manager and dealer all our employees," Kuiper Vennen's previous said. "Those who wanted a manager job basically had one and

backs of the cars, and we're dealership," he said.

"It fit well with our

Grand-Vennen's

with Harvey

Kuiper, who bought the business eight years ago from his father-in-law and the dealership's namesake West Michigan area, and to to VanderVennen in 1978.

selling was the right move dealer in the Grand Rapids

"I decided to sell simply because it's too difficult for a small dealer to make it in a of money."

Grand owns five opened the Dodge dealership "We got license plate General Motors dealerships, all in West Michigan, as waiting on stickers for the well as a Suzuki and used car dealership in Grand excited to have a Chrysler Rapids. Chrysler approved the sale and Grand-Vennen is awaiting its new sign.

in Lowell in the 1920s. He sold it to Peter and Evelyn Speerstra in the late 1940s. The Speerstras moved the business to its current location at 930 W. Main Street in 1954. Orville and "They recognize how Leonard Jackson bought the influential Grand is in the business in 1956, selling it

repainting the clarifier and

overcoat on the deck hand

overcoat on masonry walls,

repainting concrete walls,

and painting an overcoat

on floor and sump. Because

the job was labor intensive,

area, they were very happy,"

said Kuiper. "We tried to be

that way but we just ran out

Frank Gould first

Girl scouts sell cookies for the troops

The Alto Girl Scouts are selling cookies. That may come as no surprise to most, but these cookies won't be eaten on the home front, but rather overseas by U.S. soldiers.

Cookie stands will be set up at two locations in Lowell on Saturday, March 26 from a.m. to 3 p.m. People can purchase the cookies and write a note to a soldier; the scouts will then bring them up to the Greenville National Guard Armory. From there, they will be shipped to U.S. troops stationed mostly in Iraq.

"We are hoping to target as many of the cookies as possible for overseas," said troop leader Susan Merriman. "That way, they can enjoy the thin mints as well."

Cookie stands will be located at Fifth Third Bank and Keiser's. The Alto Women's Auxiliary Legion has donated \$75 to help defray shipping costs. Donations will also be accepted at the stands.

Residents should have softer water be the end of the week

Jack Bos, left, of Grand Auto Family, which recently bought out Vennen Chrysler Dodge Jeep in Lowell, with Daryl Kuiper, its previous owner, now sales manager. Universal Life Insurance... As permanent as your love through their taps.

so protect them with permanent life insurance. It gives you peace of mind, lifelong protection, and eash values you can borrow against. Call today.

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Lowell area residents project was to have taken was contracted to perform wondering if their soap about 40 days from estimates the work on the plant's will ever lather again will made earlier this year when clarifier, which included be happy to know that by proposed to city council. the end of this week, soften Part of it was a delay in the the substructure, painting an water should be running stripping process with the paint coming off a lot harder and support, painting an

Work on cleaning, than expected, he said. George Regan, super- filling masonry wall voids, the clarifier at the Water visor at the plant, warned Treatment Plant is being when bids were accepted wrapped up with the plant on the project that it could expected to become fully take longer than expected operational by March 20, because the steel was 30 the plant had to be shut said City Manager David years old and was in a very down for all the work to be Pasquale. It should take aggressive environment. about two days after that for Dave Cole Decorators

Business Matters

longer than anticipated," Pasquale said at last week's city council estimating that it has taken about two months to complete all the work. The

residents to start receiving

soften and fluoride water, he

"The project took a lot

This award recognizes Overbeck for her outstanding Javne Overbeck received Realtor success and achievements. of the Month in February.

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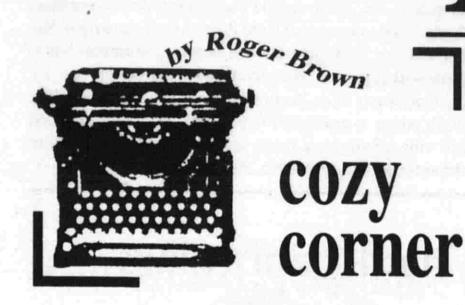
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1990s. I have lived in a house from the 1890s, so I guess we should get that straight. From the day we moved in, my wife's biggest gripe has been the fact there is only one sink about the house, just the biggest.

complaints, deep sighs and mini-tantrums any time she kitchen sink.) was at the sink and I was in earshot. The pressure was even worse if I was at the sink and she wanted to use it.

quite adept at sidestepping such complaints. With my finely honed selective hearing I can even make most complaints become nothing more than background noise. This sink trim around the doorway next to it. The old drawer fronts issue finally rose to a level even I couldn't ignore.

the vanity and installing two sinks in the new countertop. You homeowners know from experience that such projects can cause an avalanche that could lead to gutting the entire bathroom. I was desperately trying to keep that from #@%& poor carpenter that can't cover an inch." I amended happening. So far... so good.

The vanity is 84 inches long... seven feet. We had a a horse?"

countertop, sinks, mirrors, faucets, light fixtures and mirrors. as a "#@%& poor carpenter" by any accepted definition. The whole deal was a third of what the custom guy wanted.

Still it was a lot of money to spend just so I could have my own place to spit out toothpaste.

With my wrecking bar and diamond blade saw in hand, I gave my wife one last chance to take my offer of me moving to the spare bedroom and bath. She declined. In a couple hours our bathroom was a wreck. The "Evil Twin" excels at this part of a job.

In the weeks that have ensued, I have roughed in plumbing for the second sink, cut away tile to accommodate the new, taller, cabinets and thought about how to get wiring to two light fixtures without demolishing the entire wall. Our house was built back in the early '90s. That is the That little problem remains a mystery. So far my Sawzall has remained safely in its case.

The cabinets arrived a couple weeks ago. I went right to work and installed them. My wife was standing over in the master bath. Oh, rest assured, that is not her only gripe me, bullwhip in hand. They wouldn't even measure for the countertop until the cabinets were installed. Hence, the For nearly three years I have suffered through bullwhip. (We were now beginning to fight over use of the

With the cabinets installed, Bob's Evil Twin stepped back to admire his handiwork. It didn't look like much After more than 30 years of marriage, I've become without the drawers in place. I started putting them in. When I got to the twelve-inch drawer base at the end against the wall, I ran into a problem. The drawers wouldn't clear the were about nine inches wide. The new ones were over After much banter, we finally settled on simply replacing eleven inches. I needed at least a half-inch to clear the door trim. The Evil Twin strikes again.

My dad had an old, usually profane, adage to cover most any subject. In this case it would have been, "It's a that to "find a half-inch," and went to work.

I shimmed the cabinets over as far as I thought caulk kitchen and bath guy give us a price on new cabinets, sinks would cover. (Another carpenter adage I subscribe to is and countertop. Granted, the cabinets he quoted were top "Caulk and putty, is our buddy".) That got me an eighth quality. The countertop was a man made simulated granite inch. I took the fronts off the drawers and scootched 'em with molded-in sinks. The price included basic installation. I over. Another eighth inch. I then ran the fronts through the was still to be the on-site plumber, electrician, carpenter and table saw and shaved a quarter inch. This cut came just shy had to demo the old stuff. The price didn't include faucets of the sharp break in the milled edge of the drawer fronts. I or light fixtures. When we got the quote my eyes shot to the sanded and finished the raw edge. I had my half-inch and the bottom line. It was nearly \$10,000!!! Can you say, "Choke drawers clear the door trim by a comfortable eighth inch. If I hadn't told you about this little fiasco, you would never see their meetings. It was time for Bob Vila's Evil Twin to come to the it. As Homer Simpson would say, "WOOHOO!!!"

Bob Vila's Evil Twin may have found his missing half We went to a "box store" and ordered cabinets, granite inch on this project, but I'm afraid he would still be classified

Ledger Entries

THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 16,2005 PAGE 5



125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL MARCH 17, 1880

George Denton is the new mail carrier on Rte. 24,423. Lowell-Grattan.

Township elections will be April 5, the first Monday. Foundations are laid for two new buildings on the

The tugboats George L. Lamont and Gem started a race Sunday from Ludington to Pentwater.

"If you have a worthless son and don't feel like killing him yourself, get him a job as brakeman on a Michigan

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 16, 1905

The newly-formed Lowell Cutter Company Employees Sick and Accident Association charges small monthly dues.

Yet another assurance that the Grand Rapids and Ionia Electric Railway will be built, is received by the Saranac

Lowell and Vergennes pioneer William D. Parker dies. He came to Lowell in the 1840's.

The Physical Culture class invites ladies interested in physical culture, good health and gymnasium work to attend

The new wallpaper patterns are in, advertises D.G. Look, the Drug, Book and Wall Paper Store.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO MARCH 13, 1930

John Layer is held up and robbed at his oil station for

The new owners of the Grand Rapids, Lowell and Ionia Bus Line are running on fast time instead of railroad time.

The Lowell Woman's Club presents the operetta, "Miss Cherry-Blossom" or "Maid of Tokyo," all parts played by Woman's Club members.

Get your pickle contract and free seeds from M. J. Brezina. Cash paid every delivery.

Vergennes Community Day will be a dinner at the hall with music and speeches by County Agent Keats Vining, W.W. Gumser and others.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 17, 1955

A seven-classroom elementary school building across from the 1939 elementary building will be voted on April 18. Higher birthrates have filled rooms to capacity and beyond. Power will be shut off 2-4 a.m. Sunday mornings to

prepare for the new diesel installations. The editor suggests a trading stamp exchange, as so many

Lowell businesses offer various kinds of trading stamps. Fluoridation of the water supply wins in the election.

Frank Battistella is the new village trustee and Laura Shepard, the new clerk.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER MARCH 12, 1980

More census takers are needed for the April 1 kickoff. The school board orders new band uniforms and foulweather gear. Band Boosters have raised most of \$15,000, over half of the purchase price.

The bare-ground winter changes with snow, ice and high winds in March. Time to tie down the Showboat, says Roger

Lowell students will compete in the Third Annual Computer Programming contest sponsored by Grand Valley State Colleges.

The winner of the Early Ticket sales for this summer's Showboat will receive a prize of \$250.

Sharing

With Nancy Hopkins **Board of Education President**

With most of the major policy provisions of *No Child* Left Behind in place at the state level, attention now turns locally to the front line school leaders - building principals who are responsible for improving instruction in their and their job is complicated.

instructional leader - a complicated role with high demands on time and energy - but one that the Board of Education considers greatly important.

Lowell principals are key to their schools ability to implement needed changes that result in student improvement. They constantly challenge themselves to be knowledgeable about curriculum development, teacher and instructional effectiveness, supervision, staff and teacher development.

Our principals set high instructional goals and expectations for their staff, students and themselves.

The Board of Education recognizes that our principals require information and skills in order to support practices of instructional leadership in each of their schools. We are committed to providing our principals with the resources required for effective instructional leadership. Last summer, principals attended a seminar on leading change provided at the KISD by Harvard University; this summer principals and central office administrators will attend a seminar on professional learning communities. Principals have also had multiple trainings in literacy and building walk throughs, a

process where the principal visits each classroom for a short time and then provides the staff with information regarding the principal's observations.

Lowell Area Schools is fortunate to have experienced, committed professionals serving our students as building instructional leaders. Mary Ann Schramm (Alto), Karen Burd (Bushnell), Maureen Dorough (Cherry Creek), Brent Noskey (Murray Lake), Scott Vashaw, Kevin Pearson and Amy Pallo (High School), Linda Warren and Kevin Raymond (Middle School) and

Marlene Heemstra (Unity) hold the ultimate re ponsibility for making sure that all of our children succeed,

With their expertise as instructional leaders, teaching In Lowell Area Schools each building principal is its and learning in Lowell Areas Schools will become even more meaningful.

> Comments may be made to the Board of Education at boardofed@lowellschools.com

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 250 words. "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. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy.

The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your

Dr. Roger La Warre 1st Congregational United Church of Christ

As a child in church camp, we would sing this song called, as I remember, "Ezekiel Cried, Those Dry Bones." We would repeat the phrase a few times and then sing, "Hear the Word of the Lord!" Then the song would go into verses of this bone connected to that bone, etc.

It was only later that I read the story of the valley of the dry bones in Ezekiel 37. In that story, Ezekiel is set down in a valley of countless dry and parched bones. God asks Ezekiel a strange question: "Mortal, can these bones live? (vs 3) Talk about dodging a bullet - Ezekiel gives an answer that arises from the depth of his Hebrew heritage. He says, "O Lord God, you know." (vs 3) From this point on, a fantastic story unfolds, the story that is the basis of the song mentioned above and the basis for examining one's life.

For Ezekiel and I think for the people of his day, they must have wondered if God wasn't exaggerating a bit. This vision of Ezekiel happened during a time after the Babylonian army had conquered Israel and carried them

off (along with Ezekiel) into captivity. This meant that the prophet and many other people would live out the rest of their life under Babylonian rule. In fact, many would be born during that time and never know any other form of life.

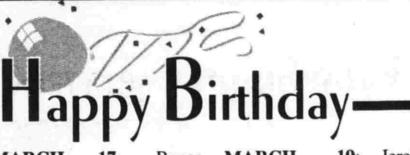
Now, life for many of the captives was not so bad. They moved freely even though they would be seen as second class citizens, and they could marry, own their homes and work at jobs. Life may not have been perfect, yet they could console themselves with the thought that it could be much

Then God makes Ezekiel (in a vision) take a walk through the valley of dry bones. I believe that God wanted the people as well as the prophet to face the reality that life around them was not full of the life that God would intend for people. In fact, it was really full of dead bones. People did not care about God or the transforming love of God. God

was telling the prophet and the people: If you hang around a world like that for very long, it is going to get you.

You and I know the dead bones of our world - corporate greed, drugs being used by younger and younger children. church leaders abusing children, governmental officials on trial, athletes and celebrities testing positive for drugs, child abuse, unfaithful spouses, and the list goes on. And you and I have a tendency to tell ourselves that these have nothing to do with us. Yet, I believe God wants you and me to see these "bones" and to know that these things aren't quite right. Not just to know so we can cry and become depressed, but to know so that we can "Hear the Word of the Lord."

God wants us to know so that we can trust enough in God's power to envision a new future, a future where God will truly amaze us, a future in which we will be a major player for justice, and peace. Please, think about it.



MARCH 18: Bruce Phillips B. Abel, Kimberly Dixon,

Chase Treglia, Jim Denise (Brenk)

Good Finds,

Good Cause,

Goodwill.

goodwill industries

Roudabush, Cody Moore. MARCH 21: Terry Raymor, Ardis Barber, Gary Yeiter, Molly Clark.

MARCH

MARCH 23: Brian Gabrion, Richard King.

Barber, Elmer Czapek, Terry

Sean Ellison, Alberta Ryder.

20:

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Lowell Ledger

19: Jeremy

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to enhance our inner and outer worlds? Come to Tuesday, March 29 and learn the answers to these questions and more as the Friends of the Englehardt Library present "An Introduction to Feng Shui." Registration is required for the 7 p.m. program. Call

publication.

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..6:00 P.M.

..7:00 P.M.

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Bank Customer Wins Weekend Getaway

Pamela Sinclair, of Lowell, placed her Independent Bank check order by calling Independent Bank's check vendor toll-free number and won a weekend getaway at the

concluded Dec. 31, rewarded about the risks of using outside the bank, their checks have four customers with an overmight stay at the Amway Grand Plaza the end of January.

Amway Grand Plaza in Grand to know that ordering checks Rapids. The weekend getaway by phone is easy, convenient included a one- night stay in and safe," said Brad Kesa deluxe room for two, valet sel, president and CEO of in payments and unexpected bank. parking, dinner and breakfast Independent Bank. "This at two local restaurants, and promotion is a great way for

The promotion, which us to educate our customers chase their checks through venders and to reward them for utilizing this service."

Many people attempt to "We want our customers produce their own checks on their computers or order checks with incorrect information. This can cause delays fees. When customers pur-

a security feature built in to prevent fraud, and are sent through secured mail to ensure

safe delivery. Independent Bank is an affiliate of Independent Bank Corporation, an Ionia-based



Alto churches combine for Palm Sunday services

Alto United Methodist Church, Faith Bible Church and Bowne Center United Methodist Church will meet together at the Alto Elementary School on Palm Sunday, March 20, for worship at 10 a.m.

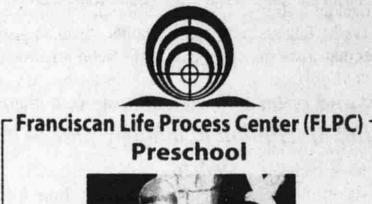
Featured that morning will be Rod Snow, chalk artist/ ventriloquist, from Niles. A full-time professional, he began his ministry in 1978. His ministry "Chalk For Christ" features music, ventriloquism, magic and a powerful chalk drawing.

Pastors Gary Dougherty and Dean Bailey invite all area residents, especially families with younger children, to attend. A donkey-led processional will begin at 9:45 a.m. to celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.





Artist Rod Snow will perform at Alto Elementary

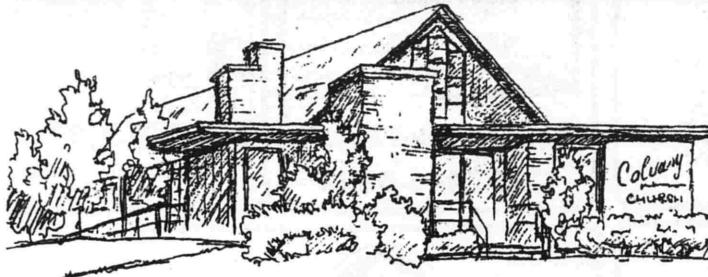




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Contract services, continued... From Page 3

another firm, or run the plant council has decided now is of Dickerson, Wright. itself, Pasquale said.

on its own up until 1989 needed certain expertise and reviewing its 2004-2005 assistance in maintaining budget, it was recommended the plant, Pasquale said. At by Councilor Charles Myers that time, EarthTech was that the city begin the process contacted to take over the of reviewing its contracted management of the plant.

EarthTech for almost 16 attorney proposals and years and it has worked out renewed an agreement with well," Pasquale said. "The the Grand Rapids law office

A sound mind in a sound body is a short but full description of a happy state in this world.

another firm to see how EarthTech compares in costs and other aspects."

In the fall, after services. The council spent "We have worked with several months reviewing

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

Just like in that process, ever sought proposals for

recommended that the city

find out if such groups as

the Michigan Municipal

BELL'S PALSY

Bell's palsy is a common condition that occurs when the facial nerve is injured, resulting in weakness and drooping of one side of the face. Symptoms of Bell's palsy usually come on suddenly without warning. It usually affects people between the ages of 30-60, but it can occur at any age.

then come back to the council said.

of the facility can get rather with a recommendation. The complex, Pasquale said committee will need to gain he had recommended the knowledge about the plant subcommittee to review all and its operations to make the issues and proposals and that recommendation, he

Symptoms of Bell's palsy include one-sided facial weakness, numbness, drooping of one side of the mouth, the inability to blick one eye, twitching facial muscles, and taste disturbance. Because a sudden weakness of the face can also be a symptom of a stroke, you should contact your doctor immediately. Bell's palsy is thought to be due to inflammation of the

facial nerve probably caused by a virus. Symptoms usually resolve over 3-6 weeks. In less than 10 percent of cases will permanent damage occur. Because a virus is the likely culprit, your physician may prescribe an antiviral medication to help speed your recovery. A steroid (prednisone) is also commonly prescribed to reduce inflammation and swelling of the facial nerve. If you are unable to blink, you should use moisturizing drops to protect the affected eye while you

Lowell school board approves employee severance plan

By Dan Schneider

Schools board of education approved an employee Monday.

The would offer said. employees of 10 years or more a year's salary to retire they took EPC's reputation group includes teachers with the district. In a group that The plan is a cost-cutting the company to provide the measure in tough economic incentive service. They said times, and a response to other districts had good teachers' requests, district experiences with it. administrators said.

Gillette said.

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ville school districts have year. The Lowell Area established incentive programs through EPC.

The incentive will "Every year they've go into place pending its asked us for a buyout approval by the Lowell program," LAS assistant Education Association, the superintendent for finance union representing LAS and personnel Connie teachers. It would be a one-

Caledonia and Middle- time offer for this school age at the end of this year.

for two groups to receive applicable, over a period "It's my understanding the incentive. Teachers with of time while they pursue severance plan incentive, that the teachers wanted 10 years of experience who vocations elsewhere. will reach retirement age at the Troy-based Educators if I didn't think they did," can receive a year's base employees from the top Corporation board trustee Dan Brubaker salary--up to \$60,000--paid of the pay scale. Gillette over a five-year period into a said there are currently Board members said 403(b) account. The second 129 eligible teachers in

They would receive the one The EPC plan allows year's salary, with all taxes

or resign from the district. into account when choosing ten years of experience who size, according to EPC will not yet reach retirement studies, about 25 employees

buyout. That would translate to a \$700,000 savings to the district in the first year of the

Buyouts would save the people will take advantage plan, through wouldn't have voted for it the end of this school year district money by removing of this, especially since this the incentive is targeted is something people have primarily at teachers who requested from us," Gillette are getting ready to retire.

> "The savings on this have a problem with is you will really help us to not have to dig deeper and make

would take advantage of the cuts," LAS superintendent Shari Miller said.

Board treasurer Jim Reagan, the only board member to vote against the "There's no doubt proposal, was concerned acknowledging

> "The main thing that I School board,

> > cont'd., pg. 13

Applications for city positions available at city hall

With the new election laws, there has been a change in when city petitions are due for those seeking to run for a city office. This year, nominating petitions for city council election are due May 10, which is earlier then in years past. City Clerk Betty Morlock said because of the consolidation of elections, the petition dates had to be changed There are three seats on the city council that will be up for election. Those seats, which are four-year terms, are currently held by Mayor Jeanne Shores, Councilor Jim Pfaller, and Councilor Jim Hodges.

Those wishing to run for office should pick up a nomination petition from city hall located at 301 E. Main St. Petitions must be completed and turned in by the May 10 deadline.

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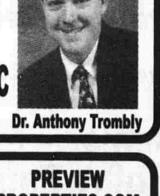
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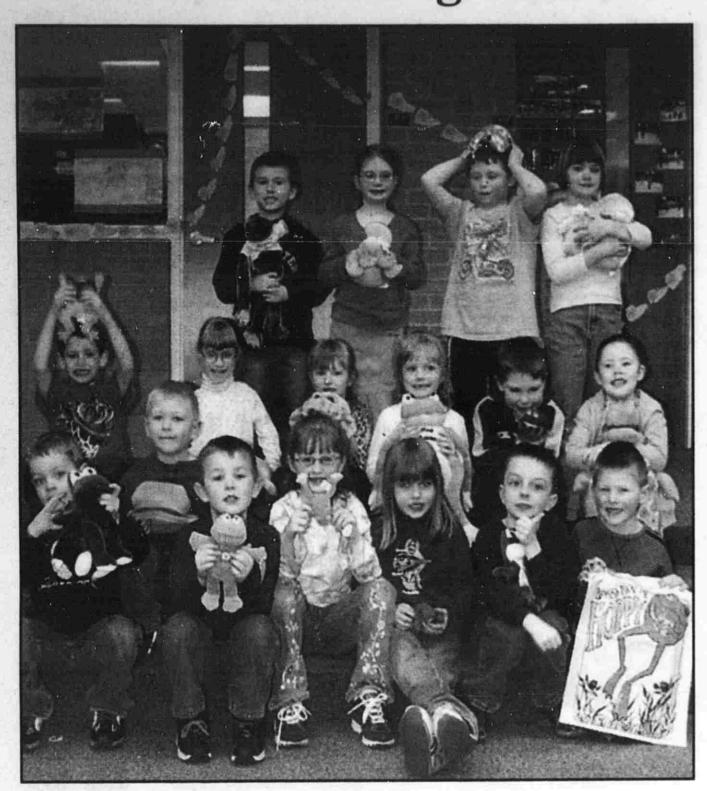






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"March is Reading Month" for area elementary students



Students are pictured holding stuffed frogs, the theme for the reading month. In the background are some of the lilypads, visible in a chain. By last Tuesday, the chain had already extended out of the library and to the doorway of the school offices.

A bone to the dog is not charity. Charity is the bone shared with the dog, when you are just as hungry as the dog.

Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc. Visit the

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At Bushnell...

Susan Pomper's kindergarten class is one of several at Bushnell Elementary School getting "hoppy" about reading this month. Last Tuesday, one week into "March is Reading Month," kindergarten and first grade students had read a total of 832 books.

For each book read, the students print their name and title of the book on a paper lilypad. In another activity, Flip Flip Flop, students drop what they are doing, read and "Get Caught Reading."

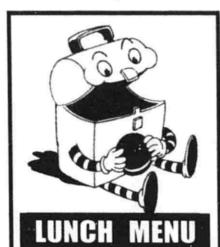
Between March 21 and 24 from 7-7:30 p.m., teachers will call their students at home and those who are "caught reading" will be entitled to eat lunch in the specially decorated "Pad," which is really the stage in the school cafeteria.

Progress is also being tracked on a paper frog graph in the library, some bars of which extend nearly to the ceiling. All of this is very bad news for Bushnell principal Karen Burd, who must eat flies during an assembly at the end of the month, one fly for every 100 books the students read.

And at Cherry Creek...



Sen. Bill Hardiman reading to the second grade classes of Kim Lum & Jackie Tousley.



ELEMENTARY MENU Week of March 21, 2005

MON: Chicken sticks w/a biscuit or turkey & cheese on a bun broccoli, pears, milk.

TUES: Special treat day! Pizza wedge or quesadilla cole slaw, applesauce

WED: Macaroni cheese or hot dog on a bun, cinnamon roll mixed fruit. vegetable, milk.

THURS: French toast. scrambled eggs, potato wedge. juice, milk.

FRI: Pizza dippers or sloppy joe on a bun peaches, salad, milk.

Sen. Bill Hardiman Elementary on March was the guest reader 7, in honor of "March Is grade classes of Eric Creek Reading Month."

After reading to the impressed the senator students, Sen. Hardiman with their knowledge the of Michigan. They about importance of reading knew all the answers to and the major impact his questions such as: it can have on their what is the state reptile, educational success and tree, nickname, flower, future goals. He also stone, bird, etc. divulged how much he

At the end of the enjoys reading books on senator's visit, he gave many different subject each of them a special bookmark.

Students in the fifth

Bredin and Sheryl Melle

Maplewood Square Apartments

All apartments on one level Senior citizen friendly Large 940 s.f. - 2 bedroom, 1 bath Huge 1400 s.f. - 3 bedroom, 2 bath Laundry room with washer/dryer, attached garage, covered porches, all kitchen appliances included.

Contact:

Michael Nosko at 616-682-1581 www.maplewoodsquareapts.com

Joe Mendez wins fourth state wrestling championship

By Dan Schneider

2 state wrestling championship Saturday at the Palace of said Auburn Hills by winning a 6-3 decision over Lapeer West's Justin Charzanowski in the 135-pound final.

wrestled him earlier in the year and I only beat him by a point so I knew it was going to be a good match and it turned out okay."

Against Charzanowski, Mendez had to wrestle a such a great athlete," Strejc said. different style than he was used to, according to Lowell coach Dave Strejc. "The first takedown he got was with a barrel roll, which is an old-time Lowell move that a lot of Lowell kids have used over the years," Streic said. The classic move was one of many Mendez has learned in his years of wrestling. That wrestling knowledge made Mendez easy to coach, according to Strejc.

"Most of the time I find myself just following him to the mat and telling him 'good job' afterwards," Strejc said. "He's what you'd call a natural."

But Mendez sees it differently. "I owe a lot to Dave Strejc," he said. "He doesn't say I owe anything, but I know

Mendez has wrestled since he was six years old, and match credits his father, Tom Mendez, with getting him started.

Four state champion-ships is a feat unprecedented in at 145. Lowell wrestling history. Mendez joins only 11 wrestlers "I got pretty nervous before that," Mendez said. "I in Michigan high school wrestling history who won a state championship every year they wrestled.

> "It's his competitiveness and his poise and his ability to be at his best under high degrees of pressure that make him

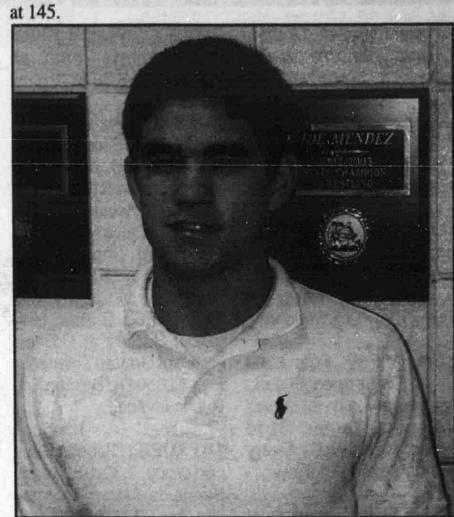
Mendez finishes the season with a 52-0 record, his first undefeated season. In the first round of the state finals, he won an 11-6 decision over Derek Ambs of Jackson Northwest. Mendez won by technical fall over Carleton-Airport's Drew Morais and Jacob Fisher of St. Clair Shores Lakeview to set up the championship match with Charzanowski, who was the defending 135-pound state champ.

Mendez won his first individual state championship wrestling at 103 as a freshman in 2002. He won at 112 the following year and at 130 last year.

Lowell's Ray Seese finished seventh in the individual state finals at the 103 weight. He pinned Forest Hills Northern's Jerrod Hoxie in 4:09 to win the seventh-place

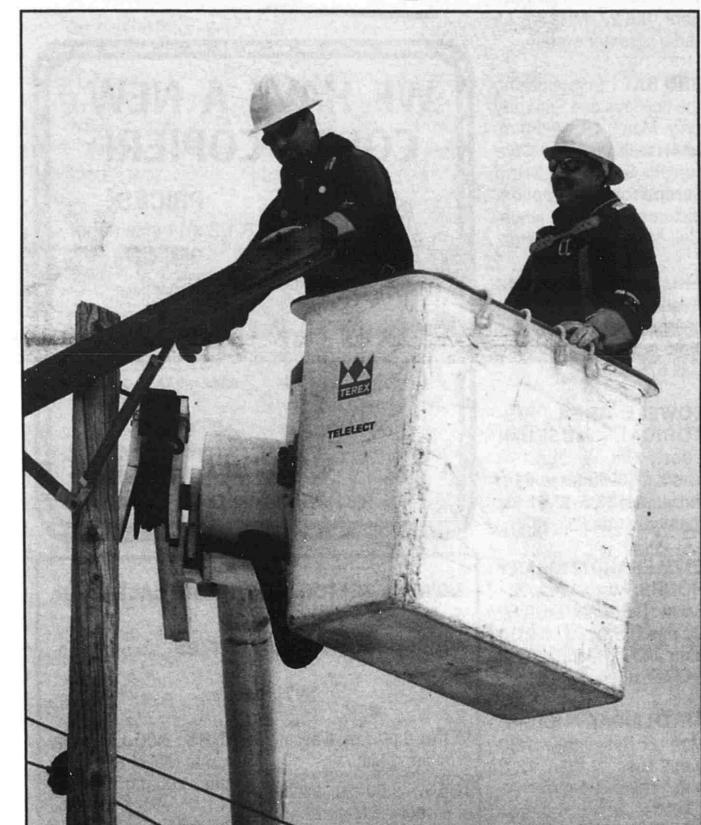
This year's lower peninsula individual wrestling finals

"He's the one who got me into the sport and kept me featured two wrestlers reaching the four-time state champion Lowell wrestler Joe Mendez claimed his fourth Division into it all these years, so I owe a lot to him, too," Mendez mark. Brent Metcalf of Davison won his fourth state individual championship in Division 1 this year, wrestling



Joe Mendez

Community Expo, continued... From Page 1



Lowell Light and Power linemen Jon Francis, left, and Mark Droog are shown working on a utility pole Monday. Linemen will give lift rides and safety demonstrations throughout the Expo March 26.



VISA

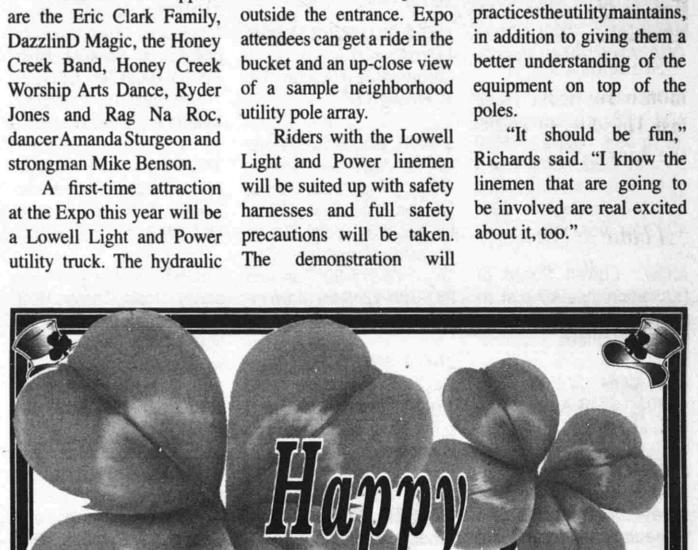
Phone Orders Welcome **Lowell Ledger** 897-9261

BOWNE **TOWNSHIP**

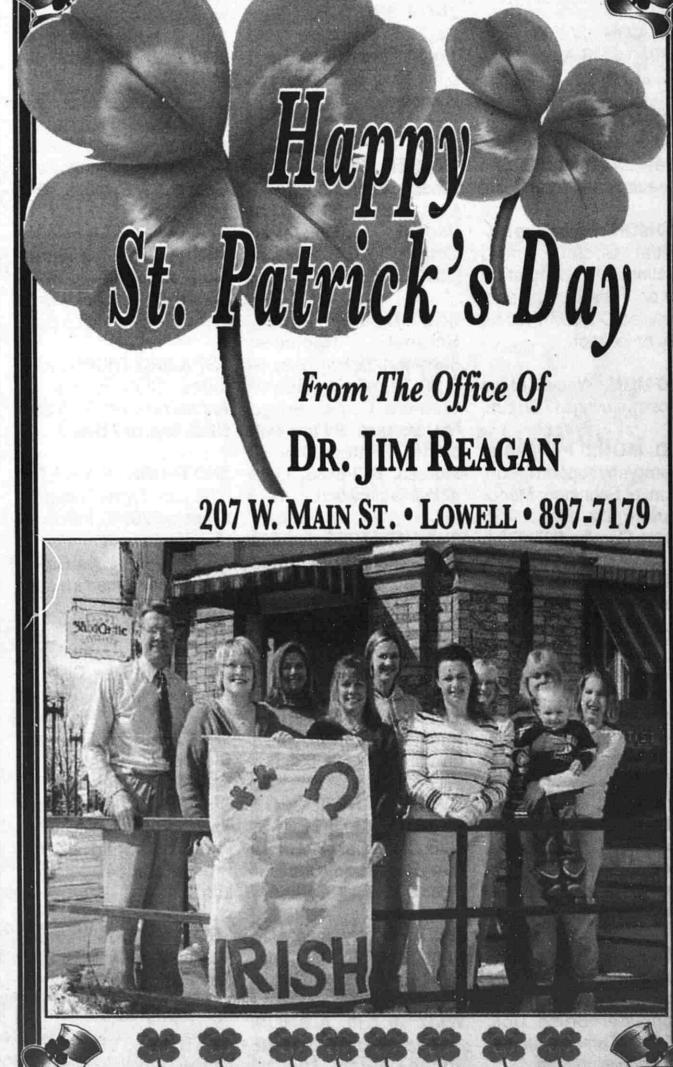
WILL BE TAKING BIDS FOR TOWNSHIP AND CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Bids will be accepted through March 18 2005 for proposals for the purpose of care and maintenance of the Bowne Center Cemetery, the Fire Station, Historic Township Hall and Colby park for the fiscal year of 2005-2006. Please contact the township office at 616-868-6846 between the hours of 9-12 and 1-5 on Wednesday and Thursday and 9-12 on Friday for a list of specifications.

> Sandra L. Kowalczyk **Bowne Township Clerk**



Scheduled to appear bucket truck will be parked teach riders about the safety



COMNGEVENS

Notices in the "Coming TUES .: Flat River WED .: Tri-town Conserva-Events" are free to any Woodcarvers meet at nonprofit organization in LAAC from 6:30-8:30 p.m. league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 6the Lowell, Ada, Alto & Saranac areas. Keep no- TUES .: Women's Commutices brief; may submit by nity Bible Study. Free mail, but will accept no- nursery and preschool tices by phone at 897-9261. story hour/craft time 9:45 - 7:30 p.m., King Memorial

SUN.: Tri-town Conserva- 7:15 p.m. Calvary Christian tion Club trap & skeet Reformed Church, Call league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 12- 897-7060 or 897-7555. 5 p.m. Call Larry at 754-7104. Public welcome. 1ST TUES.: Grattan His-

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 1ST TUES .: Diabetic Sup-Sunday except holidays.

MON.: LHS Fellowship of nity Rm., 725 Bowes Rd. Christian Athletes & 897-2760 or 897-9160. Friends, 7-8:30 p.m. in homes. Call 676-1355.

MON.: Women's over 30 7-9 p.m. Call Gary Engle drop-in basketball, 7-9:30 at 897-6325 or 248-2423. p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary. Call Dave 1ST & 3RD TUES .: Lowell

MON.: Boy Scout Troop S. Hudson St. 102, 11 & up or completing 5th grade, meets 7-8:30 2ND TUES .: G.R. Chapter p.m. at Scout Cabin, end of the American Sewing of N. Washington St. Call Guild, Plainfield Senior

Administration Building, formation, 300 High Street.

#8303, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 7 p.m.

2ND MON .: Bowne Township Historical Society 2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS meets 7:30 at historic - Mothers of Preschoolers museum.84th/Alden Nash.

3RDMON.: Fallasburg His- Impact, a Wesleyan torical Society board Church, 1070 N. Hudson. meetings at chamber of Call 897-8304. fice or Fallasburg, 7 p.m. All invited. Call 897-7161 for 2ND & 4TH TUES.: info. or location.

3RD MON.: Women of the 8:30 p.m., 4 Health Moose meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wellness Center, Bridge

3RD MON.: Peripheral come. Contact Bey or Neuropathy support group. 7 p.m. at Schneider Manor dinner is provided. Community Rm., 725 Bowes. Dorothy 897-9794. 2ND & 4TH TUES .: Knights

3RD MON.: Lowell Show- Mary School at 7:30 p.m. boat Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. at Lowell Church of 3RD TUES .: Parents of the Nazarene in the Fel- children w/AD/HD at St.

4TH MON .: Clark-Ellis Beltline) at 7 p.m. Call American Legion Post 152, Linda: 874-5662; teen 3RD THURS.: 4 Health 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at group: Sarah 281-6588. 7:30 p.m.

EVERY OTHER WED.: TUES .: Take Off Pounds 6:45-8:45 p.m. G.E.M.S. Topic: Education for Ex-Sensibly Tops MI#372 Girls Club - Calvary Chris- ceptional Child -IEPC meets at Key Heights Mo- tian Reformed Church. Process, Call 642-6466 for bile Home Park Community Ages 8-13. Call 897-8694. info. Bldg. Weigh-ins 5:45 p.m.

odist Church, 6:30 p.m. Cubmaster Bruce Doll, WED.: 8 p.m. ALANON 897-9782 / email: bruce @ imagesofvision.com.

Hudson St.

11:15 a.m./women only at

torical Society at O'Brien Room of Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd.

port group, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Schneider Manor Commu-

1ST TUES.: Adults with ton St. 5:30 p.m. Register AD/HD at Calvin College,

(YMCA) 897-8445. Fee \$3. Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., Look Memorial Fire Station, 315

Tim Vanderwulp at 897- Center, 5255 Grand River Center, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Dr. NE, 6:30 social; 7 p.m. 897-7842. meeting/program. Call MON.: Lowell Board of Olga 616-975-9977 or June THURS.: St. Mary's Preg-Education meets 7 p.m. in 231-780-1249 for more in-

2ND & 3RD TUES.: Qua- women/adolescents,11 1ST MON.: V.F.W. Post Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club. 11400 Foreman Rd. at 8 p.m. New members are

> Community Campus, 750 ... because mothering matters. 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Fuller NE.

> > Needlers.

needleart/quilting bee, 5-

St., Saranac, All are wel-

Melissa, 642-6466. Light

of Columbus #7719 at St.

Luke's Lutheran Church.

Saranac

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.

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

of the Moose, men's meeting at 7:30 p.m.

2NDTHURS.: Genealogy-Alto Family Tree Club at 32156 4 Mile NE/ E. Alto Library, 6:30 - 8 p.m. 8-9 p.m.; Tues./Fri:12-1

> Wellness Center Saranac. "Parenting For 7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. Success", 7-8:30 p.m.

WED.: Rotary meets at 3RD THURS.: Rubber TUES.: Cub Scout Pack noon, Lowell Masonic stamping at Christian Life 3188 at 1st United Meth- Temple, 119 Lincoln Lake. Center 6-9 p.m. Call Dawn at 862-8841.

> upstairs at 1st Congrega- 3RD THURS .: VFW #8303 tional Church, 404 N. Ladies Auxiliary, 3116

tion Club trap & skeet 10 p.m.Larry 754-7104.

2ND WED .: Kent County Youth Fair Board meeting. Youth Center, 4-H Fairgrounds. Call 897-6050.

2ND WED.: Lowell Women'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. Washing-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

nancy Crisis Center, 402 Amity St., non-denominational help for pregnant 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

1ST THURS.: 4-H drama

2ND THURS .: Loyal Order

Alden Nash S.E. at 3 p.m.

3RD THURS.: Parents FRI., MARCH 18: Benefit Supporting Parents group. Franciscan Life Process Center, Call 897-7842.

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

FRI.: Arts/Crafts volunteers at Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call Pat or Judy at 897-7842.

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.

3RD SAT.: Scrapbooking the holidays, one Saturday only, March 19, 10-5 p.m. at 4Health Wellness Center in Saranac, Bring scrapbooking supplies, pictures and sack lunch. Call 642-6466 to register.

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

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

ENGLEHARDTLIBRARY 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.

ALTO LIBRARY HOURS: Mon. & Sat. 9:30 - 1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 12-8

LOWELL AREA ARTS 2ND THURS.: N.A.R.F.E.. COUNCIL: Tues.- Fri.: 12 - 5 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. Monday / a.m. by appt 149 S. Hudson, 897-8545 www. lowell artscouncil.org.

> LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS: (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs: 12-1 & 4:30-5:30 & 8-9 p.m.; Sat./ Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m.; (NA) Mon./Thurs., 6-

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.

spaghetti dinner for

Humphreys, suffering from breast cancer, to help with medical expenses. Held at Apostolic Christian Church, 7700 Wingeier, Alto, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Donations requested. Luanne 460-2094. Joyleen 455-2220, Heidi 897-0479.

SAT., MARCH 19: Pancake breakfast at Lowell Senior Center, 8-11 a.m. \$2.50 includes eggs, sausage, juice and coffee.

SAT., MARCH 19: Kent County Fair Board will host a soup/salad supper at Lowell Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Public welcome. Donations for Small Animal Bldg. fund.

SAT., MARCH 26: Lowell

Community Expo. 9-3:30

p.m. at high school. Call Liz

at chamber 897-9161 with

questions or for application.

TUES., APRIL 5: Steven Tchozeski will speak at Grattan Twp. Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. on Native Americans at 7 p.m. Public





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: 12:45 p.m. Bible Study

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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

IWED.. MARCH 16: Bosnia Shoppers, 12:45 p.m. Games at the Center; 12:45 p.m. Shop at

THURS.. MARCH 17: 4:30 p.m. St. Patrick's Stew Dinner.

FRI.. MARCH 18: 12 p.m. Birthday/Anniversary Lunch; 12:45 p.m. Bingo; 4:30 p.m. Deer Run Fish.

MON., MARCH 21: 12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich.

TUES., MARCH 22: 10:15 a.m. Reading Grandparents: 12:15 p.m. Alto School Lunch.

a.m. Traveling Breakfast "Sundance Grill."

THURS., MARCH 24: 10 a.m. Women's City Club.

FRI., MARCH 25: 12:45 p.m. Bingo; 12:45 p.m. Shop 28th Mega Mall.

p.m. Games at Center. TUES., MARCH 29: 10:15 a.m. Reading Grandpar-

MON., MARCH 28: 12:45

WED., MARCH 30: Bosnia Shoppers, 12:45 p.m. Shop at Meijer.

THURS., MARCH 31: 12 p.m. Salmon Patties; 12:45 p.m. Visit Meyer WED., MARCH 23: 8:30 May House.

Museum will present WWII history program at LHS

"Because of what we're doing now, a Lowell High School teacher 20 years from now can do the same thing."

against Kyushu Air Force

mor piercing bombs. Explo-

compartments, below decks,

manding officer was given

the U.S. Port Ulithi, south of

under its own power.

By Dan Schneider

Wednesday, March 23 at Lowell High School will offer firsthand accounts of the Battle of Okinawa, given by three World War II veterans.

Dave Clark, Jr., of Lowell, and Fred Burgess, of Grand that battle. Lowell veteran with 300 soldiers. His com-King Doyle's account will be shared via a previouslyrecorded video interview.

Clark was aboard the USS Franklin. He was a member of the deck crew that responded to crash landings on the carrier. The ship survived two kamikaze attacks.

The Franklin was to

launch air attacks against the ground for when we made A historical program Japanese mainland. Before it the invasion of Okinawa," could launch its first attack, Burgess said. Burgess was preparing to

Base, a Japanese bomber depart for the land battle of struck the ship with two ar- Okinawa when the Franklin arrived following the bombsions rocked the below-deck ing attack. "I saw it afterwards, when person accounts from Clark he said.

Burgess said. the Congressional Medal of landing craft with the Navy Honor for leading the men Auxiliary Personnel Transport Assault 226, which landed The Franklin was towed to troops on the beach of Oki-

Saipan, for repairs that would "The Franklin got hit right before the invasion of USS Franklin. allow it to return to the U.S. Okinawa," Burgess said. "That was the staging "They were loaded to make professional film crew on the generals and the people

nawa for the land invasion.

landing invasion. Fact is, they think they were going to get were still bombing the beaches - Frank Boring while we were on the way in," Burgess said.

> Doyle was a communications officer on board the USS Hale. He was involved in three major naval battles aboard that ship. The Hale was damaged by a kamikaze attack in the Battle of Okinawa. In addition to the in-

injuring Clark and trapping it was still burning, before and Burgess, and the video describe their experiences in him in a mess compartment it went back to the states," interview with Doyle, the program features film foot-He was a coxswain on a age from the actual battle of Okinawa. Footage captured from the Japanese shows kamikaze training camps and other aspects of Japan's suicide bombers. There is also footage of the bombing of the

a bombing run on Okinawa board the Franklin," Frank to soften up the beach for the Boring said. "They didn't bombed, but they were there to record it."

Boring, a documentary filmmaker, will moderate the sessions. He said the film footage will heighten the sense of reality in the veterans' ac-

"When Dave Clark talks about getting hit, you're going to see it right on the screen."

Boring is working for a nonprofit organization called the Michigan Military Preservation Society. The group is working to record veterans' oral histories for a nationwide project, the Library of Congress's Veterans History

"It's American history from the Americans' perspec-"There actually was a tive, not just the politicians and

Todd Smithy has one

child in kindergarten and

who make the news," Bor-

The project seeks to preserve for future generations oral histories from all aspects of America's armed

"What we're doing is trying to get these stories permanent," Boring said. "Because of what we're doing now, a Lowell High School teacher 20 years from now can do the same thing. (present firsthand accounts of WWII battles)."

The Michigan Military Preservation Society plans to hold one of these events at Lowell High School each semester. This is the second oral histories program it has put on in conjunction with the Lowell Area Historical Museum. The society is also working regularly with the high schools in Caledonia

School board, continued... From Page 9

Lowell Chapter of Business DenHouter, and Adam students on the high school world experience as they

brought home the gold at the represent Lowell High country. The organization across the state and nation,

2005 Regional Leadership School at the 2005 State strives to prepare a world-better their community

Conference, held January 7. Leadership Conference on class workforce through the through service-learning

Leadership Conference, Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand citizenship, academic, and demonstrations of their

Lowell High School shined Rapids, where they will technological skills. Through business technology skills

as 9 students qualified to compete with students from membership in Business on the regional, state, and

represent Lowell at the across Michigan, attend Professionals of America, national levels.

the Regional March 17-20, at the Amway advancement of leadership, projects, and compete in

can't teach experience and think that's something we're giving away with this program," Reagan said. "I have mixed feelings about 7-0 margin, they approved previously. paying teachers to retire, compensation for sick days to me."

Student members of the Shellenbarger,

State Competition. Winners workshops designed to aid

included: Scott Beatson, 1st in professional development,

place in Graphic Design; and gain valuable skills

Adam Ingraham, 1st place for their lives ahead in the

in Financial Math; Austin world of work. Top students

Blough, 2nd place in Graphic at the state conference will

Design; Alex Carpenter, 3rd advance to the National

place in Graphic Design; Leadership Conference held

Economic Research Project; of America is a national

Kelsey Crowley, 6th place career/technical

Brittney

place in Graphic Design; April.

Nikki Baker, 5th place in

in Spreadsheet Applications

and 6th place in Keyboarding

Parliamentary Procedure

Team. Team members

nclude Jean Kimberlin,

The Perfect

Gift! -

A Subscription

To

The Lowell

Ledger!

Call 897-9261

First place was the

Production.

Nikki Baker,

Kimberlin, 5th in Anaheim, California in

Professionals of America Ingraham.

showed their skills and

another measure concerning a small group of employees Nugent said. employee severance. By a who did not receive it

Students Prepare for State Competition

that's just the way it looks for nonunion employees at a matter of fairness this about the consistency of

These students will 54,000 members across the business professionals from

retirement. The approval is something we need to The board also voted on extends the compensation to correct," board secretary Pat schedule.

"I very much feel as district expressed concern

Ben organization for business students gain valuable real-

and college levels with over network with students and

CENTER COURT

APARTMENTS

A NICE PLACE TO LIVE

Now leasing one and two bedroom

apartments on quiet cul-de-sac. Units

include heat, water, carport, trash removal

start at \$515.00. Call Pamela at 617-6341

for an appointment.

Pettibone Property Management

Some parents in the

another who will start next year. "Kindergarten classes meet for two full days every week and alternate Fridays. Snow days and teacher

presentation on the efficiency improvements that have been made to buildings throughout the district. The training days have created project, which anticipatedlarge gaps in the schedule -and guaranteed-- efficiency this year, including four savings to pay for a number weeks with only one day of of facilities improvements, class. I found 14 families was completed last week

(to her)," McDonald said.

Representatives from

Honeywell, Inc. gave a

Area Schools. "She isn't as Creek gym, and other needed excited about school as she improvements.

that had concerns with this," To give an idea of the scope of the project, 8,021 light One of them was fixtures were modified McDonald's throughout the district to family. She said her use less electricity. The plan daughter has had a hard time also paid for a new boiler adjusting to a school routine at the middle school, new since transferring to Lowell bleachers in the Cherry

CITY OF LOWELL

the current kindergarten used to be, it very confusing

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lowell City Council will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting of Monday, March 21, 2005 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:

 To rezone parcels #41-20-02-342-001 (424 Chatham) from R-3 (Multiple Family Residential) and #41-20-02-342-002 (119 Lincoln Lake) from PF (Public Facility) to C-1 (Neighborhood Business).

Interested persons may submit written comments or appear in person at City Hall, 301 E. Main, Lowell, MI 49331.



Betty R. Morlock City Clerk (616) 897-8457

The 3 Point Club hosts the 1st Annual March Madness



Business Professionals

NEWS All-you-can-eat burgers, hot dogs, Gatorade & snacks Watch NCAA March Madness games on multiple televisions Massive projection screen for the highlight game Pickup games and other hoops activities in both gyms

Shoot around with the high school team

SUNDAY, MARCH 20TH • 1:00-4:00 PM • LHS FRESHMAN CENTER

Everyone is invited, bring your friends and family!!! Pay at the door! Adults \$15 ~ LHS Students \$11 ~ K-8 \$8 ~ 5 & under FREE

NEW NEIGHBORS

home. It was well before dawn, and I was lying on the steep on me if I was in the way.

riverbank catching a nap before sunrise would reveal my wooded surroundings. The forest was dark and silent except

dry leaves which became louder as something proceeded in my direction. Although my heart rate jumped a few notches, I remained still because the cadence of the footfalls suggested a large four-legged animal which I presumed to Several years ago, I was hunting deer along a river near be a deer, and I figured it would jump over rather than step

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN

COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND** FILING OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL

Round Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District No. 1

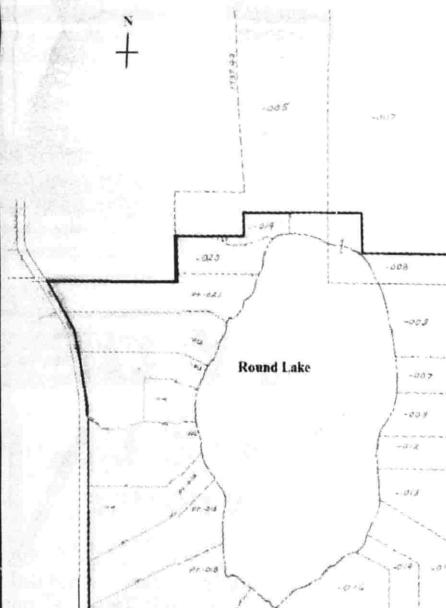
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township Board of the Township of Grattan, Kent County, Michigan, having resolved its intention to proceed on petitions filed with the Township to make certain public improvements consisting of the application of herbicide treatments for the eradication or control of aquatic weeds and plants in Round Lake (the "Improvements") in the Township, has made its final determination of a special assessment district which consists of the following described lots and parcels of land which are benefitted by the Improvements and against which all or a portion of the cost of the Improvements shall be specially assessed:

Round Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District No. 1

Lots and Parcels Numbered:

41-12-21-400-003, 41-12-21-400-007, 41-12-21-400-008, 41-12-21-400-011, 41-12-21-400-012, 411221-400-013, 41-12-21-400-014, 41-12-21-400-016, 41-12-21-326-002, 41-12-21-326-006, 411221326-012, 411221-326-013, 41-12-21-326-014, 41-12-21-326-015, 41-12-21-326-018, 411221-326-019, 41-12-21-326-020, 411221-326-021, 41-12-21-200-005, 41-12-21-200-007, 411221-200-008

Boundary of Round Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District No. 1



NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT the Township Supervisor of the Township of Grattan has made and certified a special assessment roll for the special assessment district, which roll sets forth the relative portion of the cost of said Improvements which is to be levied in the form of a special assessment against each benefitted lot and parcel of land in the special assessment district. Pursuant to the resolution of the Township Board adopted on February 14, 2005, the costs of the Improvements are to be periodically redetermined on a yearly basis in accordance with the resolution.

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AT A REGULAR MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2005, AT 7:00 O'CLOCK P.M. AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL, 12050 OLD BELDING ROAD. BELDING, MICHIGAN, IN SAID TOWNSHIP, TO REVIEW THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL AND TO HEAR AND CONSIDER ANY OBJECTIONS THERETO.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the special assessment roll as prepared has been reported to the Township Board and is on file with the Township Clerk at the Township Hall for public examination.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT AN OWNER OR A PARTY IN INTEREST IN A LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND SUBJECT TO A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT MAY FILE A WRITTEN APPEAL OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT WITH THE MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF CONFIRMATION OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL BUT ONLY IF SAID OWNER OR PARTY IN INTEREST APPEARS AND PROTESTS THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AT THIS HEARING. An appearance may be made by an owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, in person or, in the alternative, an appearance or protest can be filed with the Township by letter prior to the hearing, in which case a personal appearance at the hearing is not required.

This Notice was authorized by the Township Board of the Township of Grattan.

Dated: February 28, 2005.

Lana F. Green, Clerk Township of Grattan

In no time, the creature was right behind my head as I lay on my back. The animal stopped abruptly and moved for the tranquil sound of water gently flowing around rocks around by my left shoulder. When I turned my head to look, I found myself within inches of being nose to nose with a The serenity was suddenly broken by footsteps in the very large coyote. For several seconds we stared into each others eyes which were now wide open with surprise. The gray canine then calmly turned and continued on its way. Believe me folks, this kind of thing won't happen at the mall or a movie theater.

Recently, my wife and I were walking along the road by our house when a lady stopped her car and asked if we were looking for our dog. She had just seen one in the nearby corn stubble field. Just then, a coyote ran across the road in front of us and quickly disappeared over a hill. The thoughtful driver was surprised to learn that the lost dog she had seen was actually a wild coyote.

As a youngster roaming the woods and fields of West Michigan, I don't remember seeing signs of coyotes. Sightings of coyotes are now common as I tramp through the woods and sit in tree stands.

The covote is very adaptable and apparently has found our area of patchwork development a suitable habitat in which to make a living. Food is the main reason for any animal to choose a home in a particular area. The coyote will eat just about anything, plant or animal, so all that road kill is not going to waste. Rodents, small game, berries and garbage also make the list. Come to think of it, I haven't seen many roaming house cats lately.

Anytime we tamper with our environment, there are usually unexpected results. Now it is our turn to become adaptable and learn to live with our new neighbors.

College News

Grand Valley State University has listed the Benjamin Zeeuw. names of its most recent graduates, of which there were more than 1,740 who earned degrees.

are William Day, Betsy Wiersum. Eldridge, Julie Schloop,

Sytsma and

From the Alto area are Paul Baareman, Patrick Gavin, Kathleen Harris, Meghan Mendez, Jennifer From the Lowell area Sutphin and Courtney

From Ada is Katie Yeo.

· mill of tome · mill of tome · mill of time · **BRAND NEW HOME LOWELL SCHOOLS** Situated on 1 acre, attached 2-stall garage, oak trim and cabinetry, cathedral ceilings, large deck w/beautiful view of area. Price reduced..\$136,000! For More Information Call... **NEIL FRENCH BUILDER, LLC** (616) 292-3481

SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL **FEBRUARY 22, 2005**

· 2411 - 00 - 11110 · 2411 - 0 -

Minutes of the February 7, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted and the accounts payable were approved.

The following motion was approved:

Motion to approve the amendment to the Historic District Ordinance certifying a historic building will have a smoke detector or fire alarm system when work on the structure is carried out.

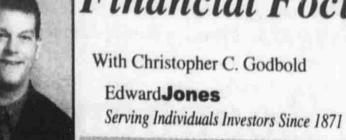
Motion to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday. March 7, 2005.

Complete minutes are available at Lowell City Hall, 301 E. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331



Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk City of Lowell

Financial Focus



HOW GOOD AN INVESTMENT IS YOUR HOME?

Most people agree that home ownership is a good thing. But is a home really an "investment?" In a way, it is. But keep this in mind: Your home, by itself, is almost certainly not the type of investment that's going to help you meet your and other securities. long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

Many people think that because they put so much money into their homes, they are bound to be handsomely rewarded in the future. And it is true that, over a long period of time, home prices generally rise. In some parts of the country, though, home values have fallen for several years in a row before recovering.

Still, if you live in a house for many years, the chances are pretty good that you will end up making a profit when out of your home:

you sell. And if you've owned and lived in your home for at least two years within the five years preceding its sale, you can exclude up to \$250,000 in capital gains, or \$500,000 if you're married and filing a joint return.

somewhere, so some of your profit will need to go toward a new residence. But if you "downsize," you could end up with a nice sum of money. Will it be enough to finance your retirement, help pay for your children's (or grandchildren's) college education and meet whatever other goals you have? Probably not. And that's why you'll still need to build a diversified portfolio containing high-quality stocks, bonds

Generating Cash from Your Home

long-term financial goals, you can use the equity in your line. home to help boost your cash flow. Consequently, you may be able to avoid tapping into your long-term investments, so you can continue making progress toward your important

Here are two of the most common ways to get money of ways.

THE LOWELL LEDGER MARCH 16,2005 PAGE 15

· Home equity loan-You can generally get this type of loan at a competitive rate, and interest may be taxdeductible. (To make sure of the tax deductibility, though, you'll want to consult with your tax adviser.) You can use Of course, after you sell your home, you'll have to live the loan for virtually any purpose you choose, but keep in mind that you're pledging your house as collateral-so you have to be sure you can afford the loan payments.

• Reverse mortgage- If you've paid off your home, you might want to think about taking out a reverse mortgage. This is a special kind of loan that enables you to convert your home equity into cash, either through a line of credit or installment payments. Essentially, you're selling back part ownership of your home to your lender. Reverse mortgage programs are not suitable for everyone, however, so make Even if you can't count on your home meeting all your sure you know what's involved before you sign on the dotted

Use Your Home Wisely

Through careful planning, you can incorporate your home into your overall financial and investment strategies So, use this asset wisely-it can pay off for you in a variety

FMDA conducts on-farm animal feed inspections as part of national Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy surveillance effort

of Bovine Spongiform inspection program. Encephalopathy (BSE) in the U.S. food system.

mammalian tissues in animal well. feed intended for cows and other ruminants.

Michigan inspection program for the occur at the same time

Michigan Department past seven years, which Michigan dairy inspectors of Agriculture (MDA) has included inspection of are making their inspections. has announced it will rendering companies, feed Any farm that stores or continue on-farm animal mills, salvagers of distressed mixes animal feeds on-farm feed inspections involving pet foods and companies or that feeds ruminants and facilities that handle animal that distribute, transport, other species, is subject to feed, as part of an enhanced sell or mix animal feeds. In inspection, according to national effort to monitor 2003, MDA and other states federal regulation. the animal feed supply and added on-farm inspections prevent the establishment to further strengthen the on-farm animal

feed inspections at dairy farms procedures.

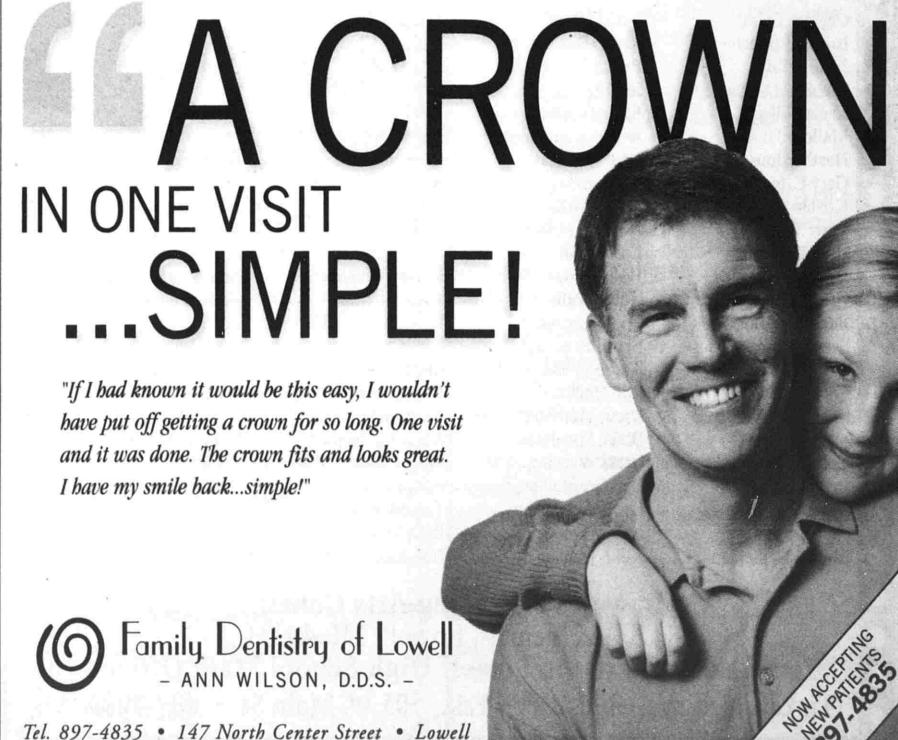
The focus of the inspections is to make sure MDA is a full partner in the feed received on-farm the national effort to protect is in compliance with the BSE, often referred our animal feed supply from mammalian tissue ban, and to as "mad cow disease" this devastating disease, that the feed is handled and is a chronic, degenerative which in turn protects stored appropriately at the disorder affecting the human health and our food farm. Inspectors will look central nervous system of supply. Compliance with at animal feed purchase cattle linked to the feeding federal BSE regulations has records, feed labels and of rendered meat-and-bone been extremely high in the on-farm feed mixing and meal to ruminant animals. rendering and distribution storage facilities. Inspectors Since 1997, the U.S. Food side of the animal feed will also talk to farmers and Drug Administration equation, and the on-farm about steps they take to has prohibited the use of inspections should show a keep different types of feed most protein derived from high level of compliance, as separated, the cleaning methods used on feed animal mixing equipment between feed inspections have batches, and the records has already begun around the they maintain to document participated in the national state. Whenever possible, proper storage and cleaning

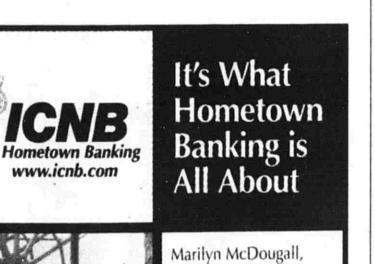
Farmers can help speed contains animal protein, for feed purchased, if the feed purchase.

up the inspection process one year after purchase. If about MDA's animal feed by maintaining records of feed is purchased in bulk inspection activities, contact feed purchases and feed quantities, farmers should the MDA Pesticide & Plant labels. By law, farmers receive a label with the Pest Management Division must keep a representative feed purchase invoice and at (517) 373-1087, or label from feedbags of each maintain it for one year after visit the web site at www.

For more information michigan, gov/mda.









assistant office manager at ICNB's Lowell office, takes time out of her busy work schedule to serve on the board of directors for the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. As a board nember, Marilyn helps the Chamber plan pcoming community professional experience to help businesses in the Lowell area build

616-897-6171

If you are a business owner looking for financial success, give Marilyn a call today!



Zoophonics

The preschool students in the Monday-Wednesday afternoon class at the First United Methodist Church of Lowell had a "zoophonics" party Monday. The preschoolers, having learned the alphabet in class, dressed up in colors and themes representing their favorite letters. Costumes included a vermilion vampire, a labeled lavender outfit, and a black bat. Students celebrated by making necklaces with letter beads, playing alphabet bingo, and "lettercising" instead of simply exercising.

........



Lowell High School **Presents**

Footloose

March 18 • 7:30PM

March 19 • 2:00 & 7:30

Advance Sale Tickets: \$5 Students/Seniors • \$7 General Public All tickets are \$8 at the Door

Tickets or Show Information • 987-2956

Join Us for a Preshow

Ice Cream Social 6:30 PM Show Nights

\$2 Tickets (Advance Sales Requested) Sponsored by the LHS Junior Class

Come and Support the Cast, Crew, Musicians from your community.

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Doug Halbeison

Bonnie Nethercott

Culver Redd

Nikki Baker Renee Buist Regan Doyle Jay Eldridge Katie Goldner Rebecca Hommowun Chelsea Karas Kyler Krieg Nikita Miles Autumn Nethercott Lori Smith Holly Vaught Holly Borth Trina Beatson Bryan Bredwell Audrey Fleet Rob Hanks Drew Morrison Blake Spoelman Nicki Wheeler Ben DenHouter **Brandon Herring**

Keith Hudson

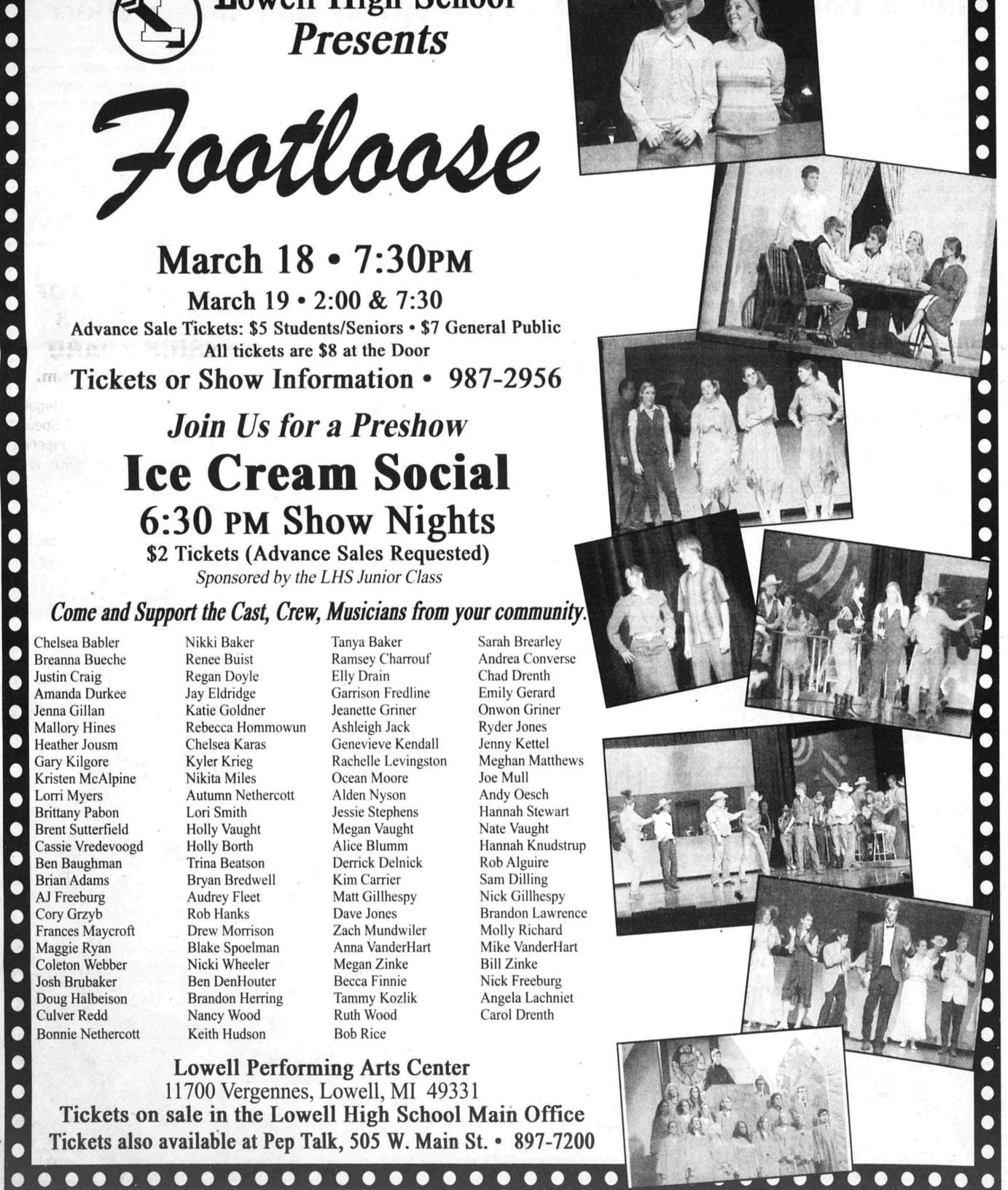
Tanya Baker Ramsey Charrouf Elly Drain Garrison Fredline Jeanette Griner Ashleigh Jack Genevieve Kendall Rachelle Levingston Ocean Moore Alden Nyson Jessie Stephens Megan Vaught Alice Blumm Derrick Delnick Kim Carrier Matt Gillhespy Dave Jones Zach Mundwiler Anna VanderHart Megan Zinke Becca Finnie Tammy Kozlik Ruth Wood Nancy Wood

Sarah Brearley Andrea Converse Chad Drenth **Emily Gerard** Onwon Griner Ryder Jones Jenny Kettel Meghan Matthews Joe Mull Andy Oesch Hannah Stewart Nate Vaught Hannah Knudstrup Rob Alguire Sam Dilling Nick Gillhespy Brandon Lawrence Molly Richard Mike VanderHart Bill Zinke Nick Freeburg Angela Lachniet Carol Drenth

Lowell Performing Arts Center 11700 Vergennes, Lowell, MI 49331

Bob Rice

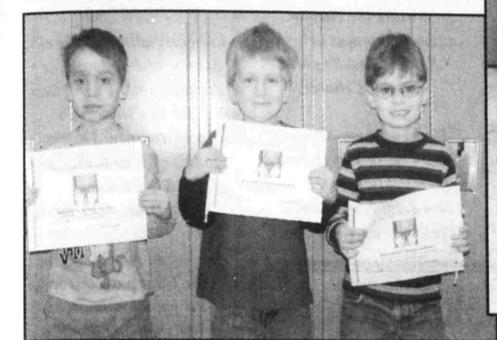
Tickets on sale in the Lowell High School Main Office Tickets also available at Pep Talk, 505 W. Main St. • 897-7200



Character in Action Awards

Murray Lake students who received Character in Action awards are, from left to right: True Townsend. Logan Landman, Megan Khodl, Jake Sprague, Max Majinska, Doug Weed, Briar Zimmerman, Reece Vanderwarf, Justine Anes and Becca Loser; kneeling: Dylan Mankel, Alyana Nowak, Grant Peterson, Mackenzie Bush, Bailey Cummings, Madelynn Willemstein, Abi Cummings, Kate Montgomery and Katelyn Bush; standing: Jocelyn Johnson, Tyler Prill, Jake Boelyns, Damien Hutton, Shelby Stielstra, Katelyn Kaczanowski, Abby Rogalke, Karlie Paulin and Casev Gross.

Pictured below, left to right, are Murray Lake kindergarteners: Addison Buckius, Robbie Dubisky and Thomas Hubert.







Legal Ease

With Jonathan David

DEAR JONATHAN: A few years ago my father set up a living trust so that his estate would not be probated upon his death. Now that he has died, I have been going through his records and it appears that a majority of his assets are just in his name alone. Do those assets avoid probate automatically by virtue of his having prepared that living trust?

JONATHAN SAYS: No. Creating a living trust is just the first step. In order to actually have the assets avoid probate, the titles to those assets have to be transferred to the trust. From what you are describing, it appears that your father created a living trust but did not fund it with a majority of his assets. If that is the case, then those assets that are still in his name will need to go through probate.

Further, if your father did not leave a last will and testament, then those assets, upon the completion of probate, will pass to his heirs according to state law. Hopefully, he left a last will and testament naming the trust as the beneficiary of

I recommend that you, or the person he has named as fiduciary of his estate or trust, if it is someone other than you, meet with an estate planning attorney to review the

documents he created, as well as what assets he owned at the time of his death, to determine whether probate is in fact required and if so, what will happen to those assets upon the completion of probate.

DEAR JONATHAN: After my wife died several years ago, I quit-claimed my house and the real estate I own to myself and my son. I now want to sell that property. Do I need to get my son to sign off on those deeds or can I do it without

JONATHAN SAYS: Since you have retitled those pieces of real estate in your name and your son's name, your son will need to not only sign the deeds, but the purchase agreement for the sale of those pieces of real estate, as well as the closing documents the seller is required to sign at the time

DEAR JONATHAN: When is the exemption from federal estate tax due to go up again?

of \$1,500,000 continues through 2005. For the years 2006, 2007 and 2008, the exemption moves to \$2,000,000. In 2009, the exemption moves to \$3,500,000 and in 2010, the federal estate tax is repealed for that year before resuming in 2011 with the exemption moving back to \$1,000,000.

DEAR JONATHAN: How much am I allowed to gift each

JONATHAN SAYS: In 2006. The current exemption amount

year without any gift tax?



Show Us Your Smile!

FEBRUARY SMILES OF THE MONTH:

"No Cavities" Club Members

Abbie Gerig Jarrett Plekes Reece Fox Sam Voorhuis Jacob Sweet Clay DeVries Jared Sweet Graham Johnson Colby DeVries Fallon Fox Emma MacDonald Melody Gerig Allison Roth Maggie Carey Lexie Bowen Rachel Sova

> **FAMILY DENTISTRY** Ann Wilson, D.D.S. **New Patients Welcome!**

147 N. Center St. • Lowell, MI 49331 897-4835

JONATHAN SAYS: A person can gift up to \$11,000 per person per year without incurring any gift tax. This means that you can give up to \$11,000 to as many people as you want on Dec. 31 and do the same thing over again on Jan. 1 without incurring any gift taxes.

The information contained in this column is not to be construed as legal advice or legal representation and should not be relied upon as such. If legal advice or legal representation is desired, please consult with an attorney.

SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP BOARD

Minutes of the January 17, 2005 Regular Meeting and January 10 and 12, 2005 Special Meetings were approved. The meeting agenda and a list of invoices were also

February 21, 2005 - 7:00 p.m.

Motions approved:

- Motion to approve Site Plan Review for Faber and Company for industrial use on Lincoln Lake
- Motion to rescind AT&T Cell Tower approval, and to hold new Public Hearing at March 21, 2005 meeting
- Motion to adopt amendment to Building Permit Fee Schedule to create non-profit agency rates
- Motion to schedule a joint meeting of the Board and Planning Commission to study a Transfer of Development Rights program
- Motions to send written correspondence to City of Lowell summarizing 425 Agreement discussions to date and indicating the Township's willingness to discussion

Complete minutes are available on the township web site at www.vergennestwp.org, or at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

The next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Vergennes Township Board is March 21, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Township Hall located at the corner of Parnell Road and Bailey Drive.

Mari Stone, Vergennes Township Clerk

Dick and Betsy DeVos are the best thing that ever happened to the Michigan Democratic Party.

To the mean lady in the produce department. I was only eating a grape and I asked and the produce department said it was okay.

Thanks to the chamber, merchants for discounts goodies and samples.

To the person who hit my car. I hope you get caught so I can press charges.

What a wonderful sight to see as you're walking into a local restaurant the butt crack of the window washer.

appreciated. Thanks If some students can't afford drivers' ed training,

how can they

afford insurance??

Lowell community weight meant to be a thru street so loss challenge - we've lost stay off it. We have many 1,684 lbs. Three more young children out playing, plus the cops are aware of weeks left - keep up the good work! all the speeders. Thank you. Let's reach our goal 2005!

Why does everybody in Mrs. Dorough and the staff Lowell pull out in at Cherry Creek we know front of other drivers even if there are no you don't get the recognition you deserve. Keep up cars behind them !!!! the good work. You are

> I am tired of the school lunch program running out of food before my child gets his lunch

For all door-dingers out there! I got a new car only three months ago, park far away from other cars as I can without having to run a marathon & you still manage to dent my car! Get a clue!

To whoever stole \$220 out of my sister's wallet at Dollar General: I hope you better odds feel guilty. You know what happens to people

tion to getting the to play as a team.

camp fundraisers!! Y ou are the best!

for this weekend's performance. Thanks for all of your dedication & hard work. - Doris Drain (Vi's mom)

I hope you put Joe Mendez on the front page this week. This young man accomplished one of the greatest feats in Michigan history and represented the town of Lowell so well. Congratulations Joe!!

> Joe Mendez!!! I hope the

school district finds it in their hearts to do some special for this fine young man. You deserve it!

of us. Bless you all.

About sports on the front page. I was referring mostly to the big daily papers like the **Grand Rapids Press** and USA Today.

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\$250 4 POST BED - (king) Bought, never used. Was \$800. 517-719-8062.

Brand new, \$49/set. Twin, full, queen, delivery available. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

lage, haylage, conventional soybeans, June clover seed, oat & barley seed, barley straw for algae control in

MATTRESS SET - (Brand new). Call 517-719-8062.

tributing 989-224-4822.

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1999 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT - 4 dr., red, 3800, loaded, CD, heads up display, new tires, heated leather, 72,000 miles \$7,800. Call 897-1597 or

BERBER CARPET - 80 vards, beige color, bought, never used. Cost \$800, sel

1999 JEEP CHEROKEE - 4 dr., 4x4, light blue, hwy. Dual chambers. Remote miles, \$4,800. Call 897-1597

HOME FOR SALE BY canopy beds, living room. OWNER - Within walking Large selection. Wholesale distance of downtown Low- prices. Call 616-682-4767 or ell & library. 2 possible 3 616-293-6160. rage, huge yard partially '98 CHEVY PICKUP - Long

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up. Call 616-682-4767 or Bernard's Ace Hardware.

loaded, Platinum, 42,000 miles, \$10,800. Call 897- 6215 eves. 1597 or 450-7910.

5612 or 446-9106.

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or 450-7910.

Drawing: April 22, 2005.

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RIVER BLUFF - All wooded with walkout site. Call Ron

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available. Call 868-9935 or 616-366-3437.

Love ya, Lowell, \$450 per month. Louis Gasper Phone 260-1338.

EVENTS

MOSAIC ART CLASSES Starting April 12 and May 9th, 3 classes \$50, supplies included. Call 635-0669. www.youcrackmeup.com

CENTURY POST -Located at 203 E. Main in historic downtown Lowell. Open at 3:30 p.m. daily, closed Sun-

SERVICES

home? But need child care? Previous experience a plus. 15 years exp., all ages, recommitted to long-term sume & references. Jill 897-

Coffee Shop or send resume ATTN: GRADUATING SE-NIORS & PARENTS - We to Bostwick Bakery & Coffee Shop, 8570 Belding Rd, NE, have Open House and Thank You cards for only 5¢ each! Add an envelope for just another 5¢! You won't find a better deal! Lowell Litho/ way, 897-9261.

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barns only. Free estimates. 50-foot boom truck. Call John Reurink, Ionia 616-527-

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ISNER ROOFING - serv-

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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. DEBIAK HORSESHOEING & HOOF TRIMMING - Serving the Greater Kent/Ionia County area with 15 years of professional, full-time experi-

UHEN CONSTRUCTION SNOWPLOWING - Snow removal, driveways, roofs, etc. 299-1249.

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.

ADULT FOSTER CARE HOME - Huffs Back "Achers" in Saranac is offering full & part-time care for your loved one. Immediate openings for men or women. Newer home, quiet country setting. Call 616-642-9210.

CLEANING SERVICE - Residential, competitive rates. references available. Please call for a consultation, 897-

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SHIP UPS AT THE LEDGER OFFICE - Daily pickup. Small box packaging available. 105 N. Broadway. Compare our prices! Call for a price quote!

CENTURY POST Located at 203 E. Main in historic downtown Lowell Open at 3:30 p.m. daily, closed Sun-

HARDWOOD FLOORS Professionally installed or refinished by Miller's Cusestimate call 897-2775.

The speed limit on Barnsley Road is 25 mph - it is not **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOWNE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION** PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE **TO REPEAL SECTIONS 6.06 AND 7.06 AND** TO AMEND SECTIONS 8.06 AND 9.06.H. REGARDING ACCESSORY BUILDINGS

Public notice is hereby given that the Bowne Township Planning Commission will hold a hearing on Thursday, March 10, 2005 at 7:30 p.m., in the historic Township Hall, located at 8240 Alden Nash Avenue, Alto-Michigan, to hear public comments regarding a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendment:

1) repeals Section 6.06 (accessory buildings in the R-1 District). Section 6.06 provides that in the R-1 District there may be one accessory building for every 3 acres of land area and that the aggregate area of accessory buildings shall not exceed the area of the principal structure. Section 6.06 is being repealed because it is inconsistent with Section 3.02 of the Zoning Ordinance which imposes more stringent restrictions on the number and size of accessory buildings in Residential Districts.

2) repeals Section 7.06 (accessory buildings in the R-2 District). Section 7.06 provides that in the R-2 District there may be one accessory building for every 2 acres of land area and that the aggregate area of accessory buildings shall not exceed the area of the principal structure. Section 7.06 is being repealed because it is inconsistent with Section 3.02 of the Zoning Ordinance which imposes more stringent restrictions on the number and size of accessory buildings in Residential Districts.

3) amends Section 8.06 (accessory buildings in the R-3 District) to delete Section 8.06.A. which provides that there shall not be more than one accessory building for every 30,000 square feet of land area and that the aggregate area of accessory buildings shall not exceed the area of the principal structure. Section 8.06.A. is being deleted because it is inconsistent with Section 3.02 of the Zoning Ordinance which imposes more stringent restrictions on the number and size of accessory buildings in Residential Districts.

4) amends Section 9.06.H. (accessory buildings in the R-4 District) to provide as follows:

The provisions of Section 3.02 shall not apply to garages, carports or other accessory buildings for multiple-family dwellings. Not more than 2 garage or carport spaces shall be permitted for each dwelling unit of a multiple-family dwelling use. Each garage and carport shall be set back a minimum of 35 feet from any property line abutting a street and shall be set back at least 30 feet from all other property lines and buildings or structures. Not more than 2 accessory buildings, other than garages or carports, shall be permitted for a multiple-family dwelling use and such accessory buildings shall not be located within any front yard and not closer than 30 feet from any property line. No garage, carport, or other accessory building shall be used for dwelling purposes.

Interested parties may be heard at the public hearing. Written comments will be received until the close of the public hearing. The proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance may be examined at the Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash, Alto, Michigan, on Wednesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and on Fridays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

> February 16, 2005 Sandra L. Kowalczyk, Clerk Bowne Township

for your time and dedica-5th Grade Girls Stingers They had a great season. Thank you Sherri & Kathie

Congratulations to the cast

How come my comment didn't make it in to Sound Off last week? I thought it was "(almost) anything goes."

on in this country!

Here I am again, overwhelming feelings. A thousand miles from your ocean home. Part of me is near. Sister I miss you too.

Do we really need Social Security reform before we need health care reform? I think the current administration is oblivious to what's really going

who are not honest.

Editors note: The keyword is almost." Try a letter to the editor

Coach Foster - Thank you

for all of your hard work this year on the 5th grade

& crew of Footloose for a terrific show! I can't wait

Congratulations 4 for 4, how awesome!

The foodmobile has been such a blessing to so many

CITY OF LOWELL **RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES**

Please remember to keep your sidewalks cleared! The kids on their way to school your customers, the postal & newspaper carriers & the walkers/joggers

in town all

appreciate your

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