

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 31 Issue 22

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

## Gas prices spike at Lowell service stations

*Some see part of solution in renewable, corn-based ethanol*

By Dan Schneider

**S**ky-rocketing gas prices in Lowell were well above the state average, climbing above \$2.44 late Monday morning at most local gas stations.

The price of a gallon of regular gasoline hovered at about \$2.20 at gas stations throughout Lowell early in the morning. But by noon it had jumped by more than 20 cents.

"We're seeing this pretty much across the state and across the country, prices are going up," said Nancy Cain, public relations manager for AAA of Michigan.

The average gas price for the state of Michigan Monday was \$2.235, according to Michigan AAA. Cain said a jump in the per-barrel cost of crude oil contributed to the increase.

Bob Boehm, manager of the Commodity and Marketing Department of the Michigan Farm Bureau, said price stability is one of the key benefits of an alternative fuel already in wide use around the country: ethanol. Ethanol is made from corn, the same grade of corn we use for livestock feed. The price of corn has hovered close to \$2 per bushel for some time. The price of oil, meanwhile, has fluctuated sometimes dramatically due to a variety

of circumstances, some of them international.

Ethanol is substantially cheaper than the price of gas, but there are currently no cars available in dealerships that can run on straight ethanol. Cars known as "flexible fuel vehicles" can run on a mixture of ethanol and conventional gasoline that is 85 percent ethanol (called E-85 fuel), but these cars are rare. A mixture with only 10 percent ethanol (E-10) can run most gasoline engines, thus drivers can get some of the cost benefits of ethanol where it is available.

At present, ethanol is scarce in Lowell. Shell, Amoco, Admiral, Meijer and the Alto Marathon stations do not offer ethanol blended gas. But at least one local farmer wouldn't hesitate to sell his corn for ethanol production.

"We'll sell it to whoever has the highest bid," Lowell Township farmer Carlton Blough said. "If an ethanol plant was here and the bid was right, it would go there."

Blough has even considered building a small-scale ethanol production plant on his farm.

"The fuel prices are going through the roof," he said. "We're going to look into it a little bit, just bat it around a little bit and get some ideas."

The only ethanol plant in Michigan right now is in Caro, which is in the thumb region. Boehm said the plant is running at full capacity,

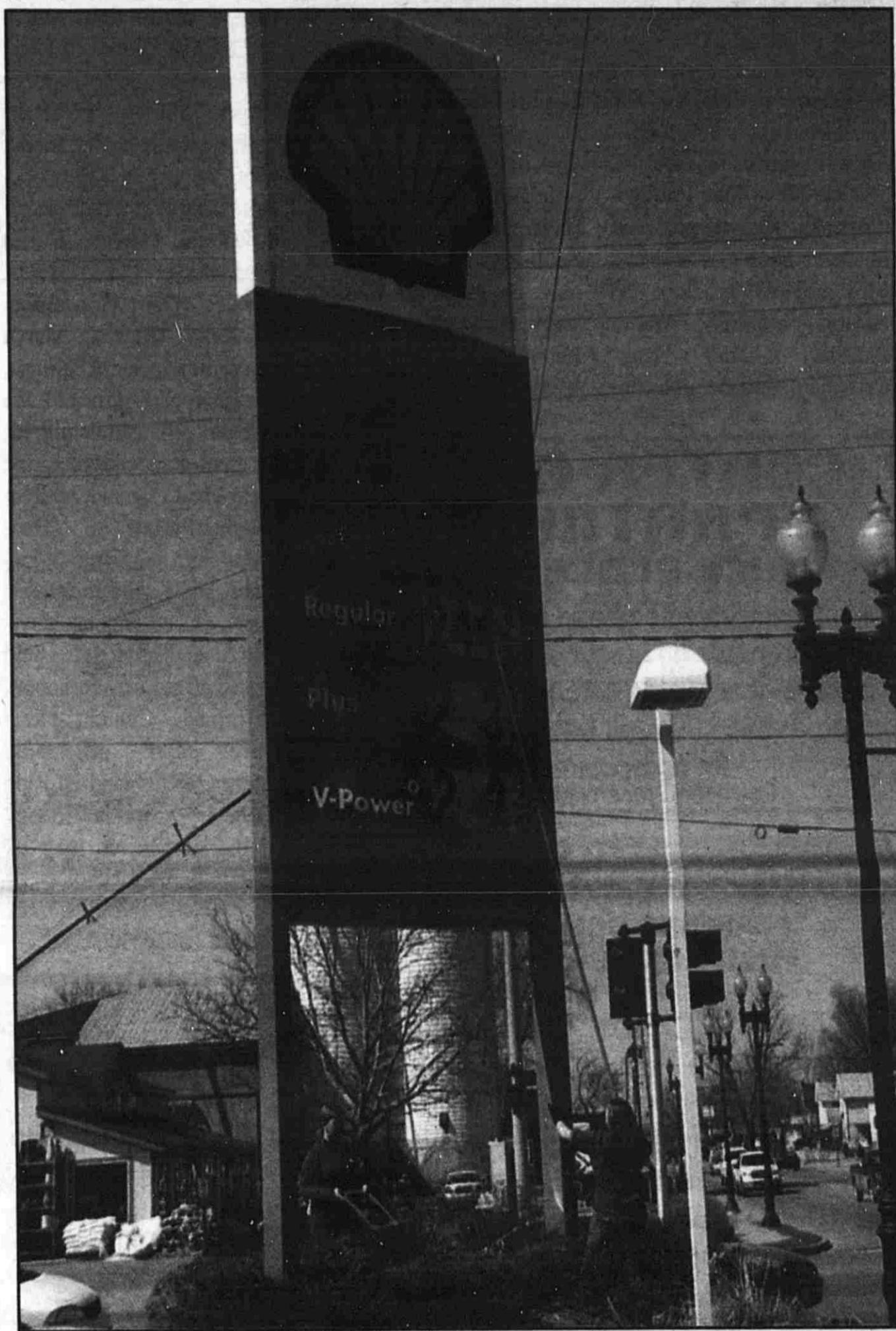
processing more than 40 million gallons per year and using 16 million bushels of corn. A bushel of corn yields about 2.8 gallons of ethanol. Michigan farms produce 250 million bushels of corn annually.

There are two new ethanol plants being planned in Michigan: one in Lenawee County and the other in Woodbury, near Lake Odessa. Jim Zook, vice president and project coordinator for Superior Corn Products, which is building the Woodbury plant, says the company hopes to have construction underway within two months. If things go according to schedule, an ethanol plant would be operational within range of Lowell area farmers by next summer.

Zook said the company is building an ethanol plant for a number of reasons.

"One is to help support the local rural economies," he said. "Another reason is to produce this fuel so we have less dependence on foreign oil, to produce an environmentally friendly product and the other reason is to make money."

Ethanol's proponents say it burns cleaner than oil-derived fuel. Another environmental benefit



Tammy Dean and Kay Shade change the gas price at the Lowell Shell station Monday. Many people in agriculture are promoting ethanol as a way to stabilize gas prices and boost the corn market.

is its being a renewable resource.

Jody Pollok, executive director of the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, said increased ethanol production would

create more demand for corn in the market.

"It should make the price of corn go up," she said. "There's more competition in the market."

Ethanol is also getting attention in political

Gas, cont'd., page 8

## Balloons, flags get second chance to fly

By J. Lobdell  
Contributing Writer

**T**he issue was all but dead until representatives from Grand Wittenbach came to a Lowell Planning Commission meeting last week.

Grand Wittenbach owner Jack Bos and Dwayne Schiedel attended the meeting in regards to placing a body shop on their property; they were asked to stay to discuss flags and

balloons used by dealerships to attract business.

This is a controversial subject for the city which currently does not allow such items to be up for more than one 21-day period per year. Many of the dealerships in the city limits have broken the ordinance and have been cited several times for doing so. Last June, representatives from Vennen Chrysler came before the planning commission representing the car dealers along W. Main St. The group

was seeking relief from the sign ordinance, allowing the dealers along the corridor to use balloons, banners and pennants as other dealerships do, including the ones located just west of them in Lowell Township.

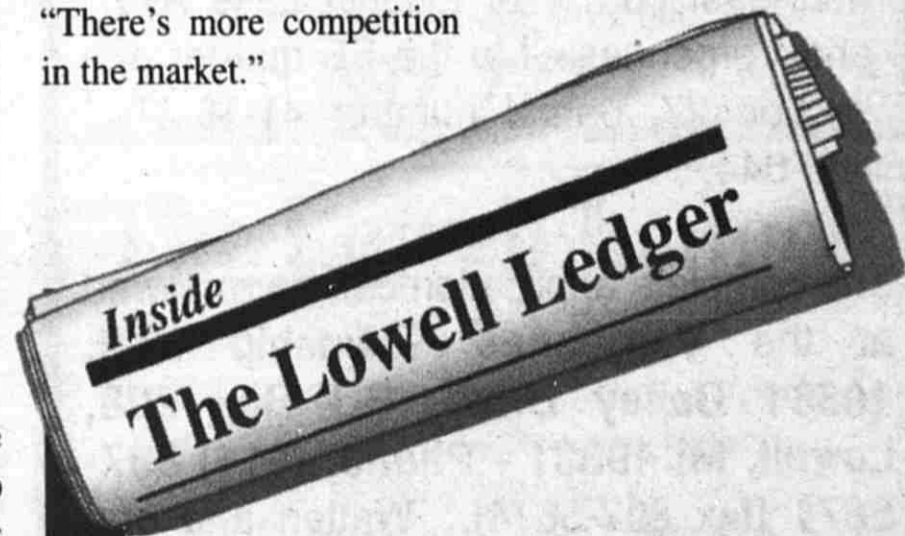
Bos, whose company just took over Vennen Chrysler, admitted the Chrysler dealership used balloons in a "high volume." He said the reason for this is that it

does create an atmosphere of being a busy dealership which, in turn, attracts customers.

"Balloons are pleasing to the eye and create that atmosphere," said Bos, adding that when a dealership doesn't have them, it looks less interesting, especially when other dealerships have them.

Bos said Grand's other dealerships, located in

Balloons, cont'd., page 8



**Thebes Players get British**  
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**Police Chase**  
... Page 13

**First varsity lacrosse game**  
... Page 14

# Obituaries

**ALBRIGHT** - William E. "Wild Bill" Albright, aged 94, of Belding, passed away March 30, 2005 at Spectrum Health United Memorial Kelsey Campus, Lakeview. Bill was born May 4, 1910, in Grand Rapids, the son of Charles and Diantha Elizabeth VanLiew Albright. He was a veteran of W.W. II, receiving a Purple Heart during combat in the Pacific Theater. He retired from the Saranac Sprayer Co. in 1972. Bill was a member of the Sheridan VFW and the Disabled American Veterans. He was married on Dec. 16, 1943 to Neva Mae Phillips-Crissman. He was preceded in death by his wife Neva Mae in 1993; brothers and sisters; children Walter Phillips, Charles "Roy" Crissman; and daughter-in-

**CARLSON** - Anna C. Carlson, aged 95, formerly of Stanton, passed away peacefully March 31, 2005. She is preceded in death by her husband Axel. Anna is survived by her son Jack (Anne) Carlson of Edmore; sister Sarah Sommer of Chicago; five grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren. Upon her request cremation has taken place. Interment Bowne Cemetery.

**FREDRICKS** - Bertha Fredricks, aged 99, of Lowell, formerly of Lake Odessa, passed away March 26, 2005 at Laurels of Kent. Surviving are children Roger (Shirley) Fredricks of Traveler Rest, NC, Elaine (Jay) Wigger of Kentwood, Don (Marilyn) Fredricks of Caledonia, Harvey (Darla) Fredricks of Lake Odessa, Bernice (Don) Goodemoot of Lake Odessa, Marva (LaVerne) Kneale of Saranac, Linda (Roger) Altina of Lake Odessa; 26 grandchildren; 63 great-grandchildren; nine great-great grandchildren; daughter-in-law Barb Fredricks; sisters-in-law Sarah and Luella Fredricks; many nieces and nephews. The funeral service was held March 30 at Lucas Rehoboth Reformed Church, Rev. Dave Sterk officiating. Interment Highland Hillside Cemetery, Osceola County. Memorial tributes may be made to your choice or Lucas Rehoboth Reformed Church Ladies Society.

**MAY** - Mrs. Hilda M. May, aged 89, of Lowell and formerly of Grand Rapids, passed into the presence of her Lord and Saviour on Friday, April 1, 2005. She was a gentle, soft-spoken lady who always put everyone first. A graduate of Butterworth Hospital School of Nursing, she was a nurse at Butterworth Hospital and for many years worked as the school nurse for Kenowa Public Schools. She is survived by her daughter Patricia H. Groeters of Lowell; grandchildren William R. Groeters of Grand Rapids, Jenna May Groeters of Lowell; brothers and sister Arnold and June VanderWall of Lamont, Andrew and Karen VanderWall of Alanson, Alberta and Dr. Jay Veltman of Grandville; many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Clifford May on June 2, 1974, her brothers and sisters Annette Medendorp, Anne Beukema, Henry VanderWall, Arnold VanderWall and all of the VanderWall brothers and sisters. The Service of Praise and Thanksgiving for the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ for Mrs. May will be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Ada Christian Reformed Church with Pastor William Buurisma officiating. Interment in Crandall Cemetery near Ennsley Center. For memorials please consider the charity of your choice.

**DEC. 3, 2004.** Surviving are his children Tom (Dolly) Pelton of Belmont, Marcia (Jim) Inman of Lowell, John (JoAnne) Pelton of Walker, Jim (Chris) Pelton of Walker, Mary Lou Pelton (Ernie Rees) of Grand Rapids; grandchildren Shelley (Dave) Brunett, Brent Pelton, Karen (Jim) Umlor, Jimmy (Kristi) Inman, Ashleigh Inman, Michael (Lindsay) Pelton, Daniel (Monique) Pelton, Matt, Nick, Brad and Derek Pelton, Riley Rees; great-grandchildren McKenzie and Connor Koval, Justin Delp, Brendan and Trevor Pelton, Zac, Bryce and Ellie Inman, Benjamin and Alexander Pelton; sister Mildred Cook; nieces and nephews. He was a member of St. Mary's Church. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday (his 89th birthday) at St. Mary's Church. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Memorial contributions to American Diabetes Association would be appreciated.

**WOERN** - Dan Woern, aged 56, of Freeport, passed away March 30, 2005. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Patricia; sons Allen (Cathy) of Lowell, Douglas (Tanya) of Freeport; mother and step-father JoAnn (Bob) Bowers; sisters Mary (Bill) Wood, Phyllis Bullion; four grandchildren Aubrey, Paige, Jason, Alyssa. A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 9 at 11 a.m. at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, Lowell, Rev. George J. Fekete officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation one hour prior to service.

**PELTON** - Mr. Lyle E. Pelton, aged 88, of Grand Rapids, passed away Monday, March 28, 2005. Lyle was preceded in death by his dear wife of 63 years, Eileen, on Dec. 3, 2004. Surviving are his children Tom (Dolly) Pelton of Belmont, Marcia (Jim) Inman of Lowell, John (JoAnne) Pelton of Walker, Jim (Chris) Pelton of Walker, Mary Lou Pelton (Ernie Rees) of Grand Rapids; grandchildren Shelley (Dave) Brunett, Brent Pelton, Karen (Jim) Umlor, Jimmy (Kristi) Inman, Ashleigh Inman, Michael (Lindsay) Pelton, Daniel (Monique) Pelton, Matt, Nick, Brad and Derek Pelton, Riley Rees; great-grandchildren McKenzie and Connor Koval, Justin Delp, Brendan and Trevor Pelton, Zac, Bryce and Ellie Inman, Benjamin and Alexander Pelton; sister Mildred Cook; nieces and nephews. He was a member of St. Mary's Church. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday (his 89th birthday) at St. Mary's Church. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Memorial contributions to American Diabetes Association would be appreciated.

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**VERGENNES TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing before the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be held on **Monday, April 11, 2005 at 7:00 PM, at the Vergennes Township Hall, located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, MI** to consider a special exception use permit as follows:

Elite Auto Body has requested an application review for a special exception use permit to construct a 15 by 28 foot addition onto their building as part of a fire repair reconstruction. The property is located on the northeast corner of Lincoln Lake Ave and Vergennes St in the SE quarter of section 27, parcel number 41-16-27-400-044.

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

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

**SYNOPSIS BOWNE TOWNSHIP**

Regular Board Meeting  
March 21, 2005 7:30 p.m.

- Motions approved:
- Minutes of the February 21st meeting approved as printed. List of invoices approved.
- Motion to award lawn maintenance to Horizons Landscaping.
- Motion to award fence row clean-out to Hoekstra Excavating.
- Motion to repeal sections 6.06, 7.06 and 8.06 of zoning ordinance.
- Motion to accept termination of PA 116 application.
- Motion to approve proposed budget for 2005-06.
- Motion to compensate the Historical Society and Bowne Mennonite Cemetery. To pay Freeport Fire Department re: contract for fire protection and reimburse the General Fund from the Sewer Fund for LP Gas charging.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk  
Clerk-Bowne Township

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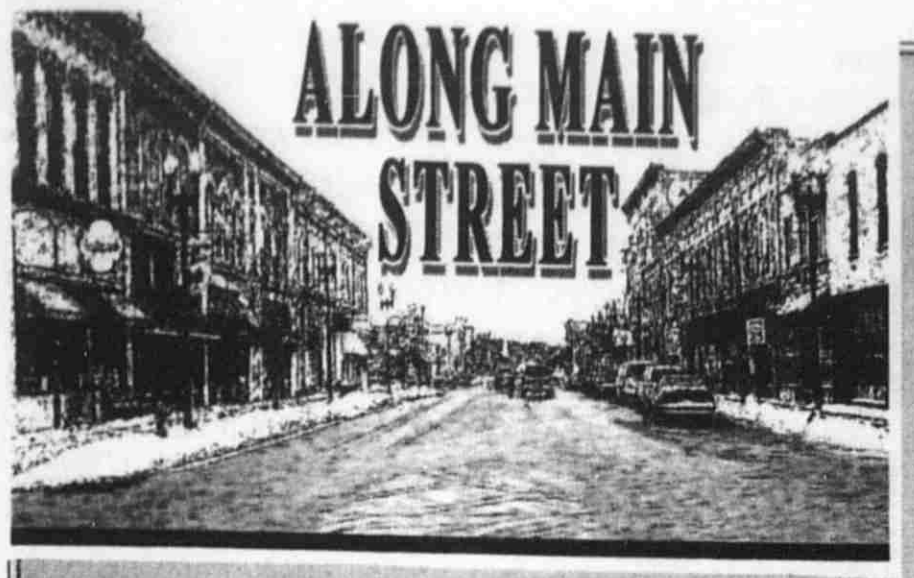
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**FOODMOBILE**  
Free produce will be available to people in the Greater Lowell area at the Foodmobile at Lowell Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 9 from 10-11 a.m. Bring own box or bag; distributed by Flat River Outreach Ministries.

**ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEETING**  
The regular business meeting for the athletic boosters will be held after spring break on Monday, April 11 at 7 p.m. in the high school staff lounge.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT KENT COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT - FAMILY DIVISION**

**PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING**

FILE NO. 05-179,321-DE

In the matter of **ROGER EDWARD ERICKSON**, deceased

of deceased children of **Donald Verburg** whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: **TAKE NOTICE:** A hearing will be held on April 26, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at 180 Ottawa Ave., N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 for the following purpose: For the appointment of Marilyn Griffith as Personal Representative and a determination that **ROGER EDWARD ERICKSON** died intestate.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, **ROGER EDWARD ERICKSON**, deceased

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS** including: The children and/or issue of deceased children of Margaret Raterink, children and/or issue of deceased children of David Verburg and children and/or issue

who lived at 1620 Wilson Ave. N.W., Walker, MI, died February 9, 2005. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **MARILYN GRIFFITH**, proposed personal representative or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, and the proposed personal representative within four months after the date of publication of this notice.

**Marilyn Griffith**  
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**TRYOUTS FOR FAST PITCH SOFTBALL**  
Girls 12U fast pitch softball tryouts will be held Saturday, April 23 and 30, 1-4 p.m. at Lowell High School Softball Field. Registration: 12:30 - 1 p.m. Call Leann at 868-2065 or check out the website [www.lowellsoftball.org](http://www.lowellsoftball.org).

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR COUNTRY ROOTS BAND**  
A.R.G.Y.L. presents the Country Roots Band on Saturday, May 14 at 7 p.m. in Lowell Performing Arts Center. Call Al Eckman at 987-2966 for info. and tickets. \$5 general admission or purchase at the door.

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# World War II vets tell their stories at museum event

The Lowell Area Historical Museum and the Michigan Military Preservation Society recently presented a program on local war heroes at the Lowell Performing Arts Center. Over 160 people, including teachers, students and administrators of Lowell Area Schools listened to stories told by Dave Clark, Fred Burgess and King Doyle as they related their war experiences. The stories were accompanied by actual film footage from the battles and incidents they discussed. The three local men



Dave Clark and Fred Burgess

sailed in the same convoy together. Clark described his experience on the aircraft carrier USS Franklin just after it was hit with two 500-pound bombs. He was near the mess hall when the lights and air handling equipment went out, leaving him and 300 other sailors trapped in complete darkness. Using one flashlight to guide them, they all found their way to the outside by walking single file and holding on to each other's belts. After going through a passageway meant only to deliver electrical and plumbing, they climbed up an airshaft and found an air duct that led to a vent and to the outside. Two or three men kicked out the screen to reach outside and immediately helped control the fires and assisted the wounded sailors.

Burgess, in charge of operating a landing craft, explained what it was like to be part of an invasion force. He described how his craft was loaded with soldiers waiting to hit the beach while the battleships behind

them and the dive bombers in front pounded the shoreline. For days after the initial invasion, he and the soldiers had trouble hearing due to the concussion caused by the huge 16-inch guns being fired over their heads. Burgess also talked about how he was reunited with two of his brothers also in the same theatre of war.

The job of Doyle, an officer on the USS Hale, was to direct the ship's fire on the enemy. Not available for the program, his previous interviews were played. He talked about the Kamikaze attacks on his ship and how in one battle the doctor from a nearby ship was injured and unable to help the wounded on his ship. He told how the two ships got close enough

to send shot lines across to the other ship and attempted to assist with the wounded while the battle was going on; eventually the crew had to pull the doctor back to the safety of their own ship.

Following the presentation, other veterans in the audience volunteered their own experiences. And one student asked, "What affected you most about your experiences?" Clark responded, "With exception, everyone was his brother's keeper." Burgess said, "It was a great country worth fighting for."

## Balloons, continued...From Page 1

Grandville, Coopersville and Grand Rapids, have never been cited for having balloons or similar items up. Commission member Deb Hinton said she would again step forward and serve as a liaison to collect information from the other cities Bos mentioned.

The commission was about to stop further discussion on the issue since other than the initial contact in June of last year, the commission, including Hinton, had not received any input from the dealerships. Bos offered to help collect information on other municipalities' ordinances in regards to flags and pennants used at dealerships.

Hinton said she could do that leg work and would report back to the planning commission at its April 25 meeting.

Indicating that it doesn't want to penalize the dealerships within the city, the commission decided to

again look at balloons, flags and pennants on dealership property. Commission member Deb Hinton said she would again step forward and serve as a liaison to collect information from the other cities Bos mentioned.

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# Local artists only in Zip Code Show at Arts Council

By Dan Schneider

The Zip Code Show is currently on the walls of the Lowell Area Arts Council's Hudson Street Gallery.

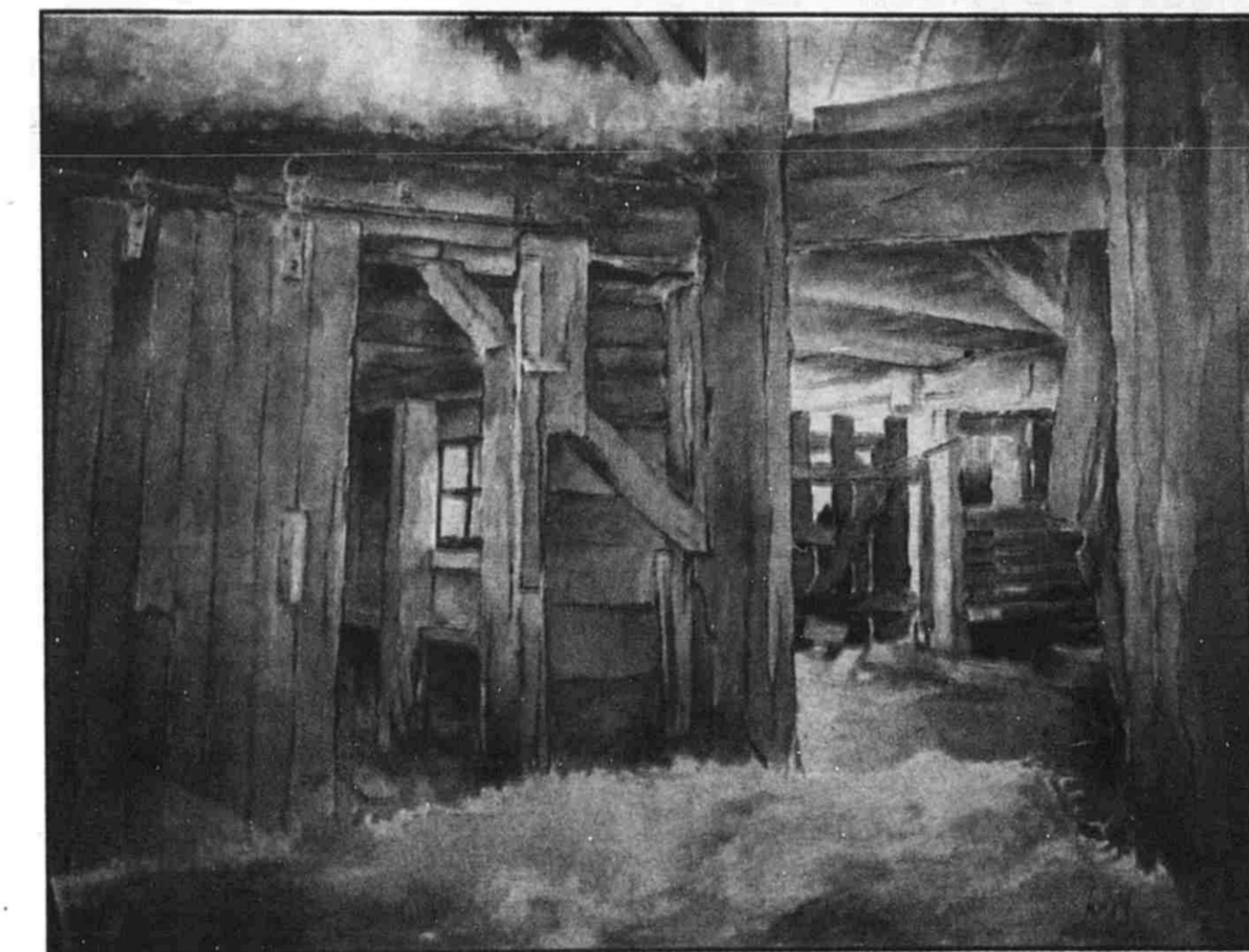
Its artworks demonstrate the range of media being worked on by artists in and around the city.

"Barn Interior" is a watercolor painting by John Knight. Knight is the director of art residency programs at the Franciscan Life Process Center. Thus, he fits the second of three descriptions of artists that make up the Zip Code Show: artists who live, labor (work) or learn in Lowell.

"I like the Zip Code Show because I live on the outskirts of Grand Rapids but I spend at least three days a week out here," Knight said.

The painting is of the inside of an old barn on his brother's land in Ontario, Canada.

"It was a fascinating building with the way the light came in," Knight said. "I just sat down on a stool with my sketchbook and waited for my eyes to adjust to the light and then all these colors came in, through the gloom."



"Barn Interior," a watercolor by John Knight

He described it as a dark, old, moldering barn but one with a lot of character and intriguing to draw. Knight usually brings his sketchbook with him when he goes places. Some sketches become watercolor paintings, his favorite medium.

Mike McKendrick's medium consists of things he finds on job sites. An iron worker, his piece "Grass Blowing" uses scrap steel from the construction of an auger for the leavings vat of a turkey processing plant to capture the fluidity of natural elements, grass and wind.

"It's kind of fun to make organic, natural shapes out of something that's not organic or natural," he said.

McKendrick also likes to make steel sculptures of trees and flowers.

He cut the blades of grass out of the steel, smoothed the edges, scraped the rust off and coated the low-gloss clear coat. Using Golden Mean proportions—a mathematical ratio believed to be the basis for aesthetically pleasing objects—he placed them along a 32-inch finished plank of American hickory.

The wood also came from a construction site.

"It was just a chunk of raw lumber that we use to stack steel beams on," McKendrick explained.

The artist attended the Kendall College of Art and Design and Grand Valley State University in the sculpture program.

"I went to art school but art school doesn't pay very well in the real world when you have a wife and kids," he said.

So McKendrick works in construction, where he enjoys the building aspect anyway, and finds materials for his recycling-type art.

"There's so much you can build out of the waste from commercial construction," he said.

Marianne Menger's "Willow I" was painted in the summer of 2003, oil paint on MDF board. It's a spare composition of hanging willow branches rendered in light green tones.

"I've always had an attraction to willow trees," Menger said. "The tree that this painting came from most directly is in the Ionia State Park."

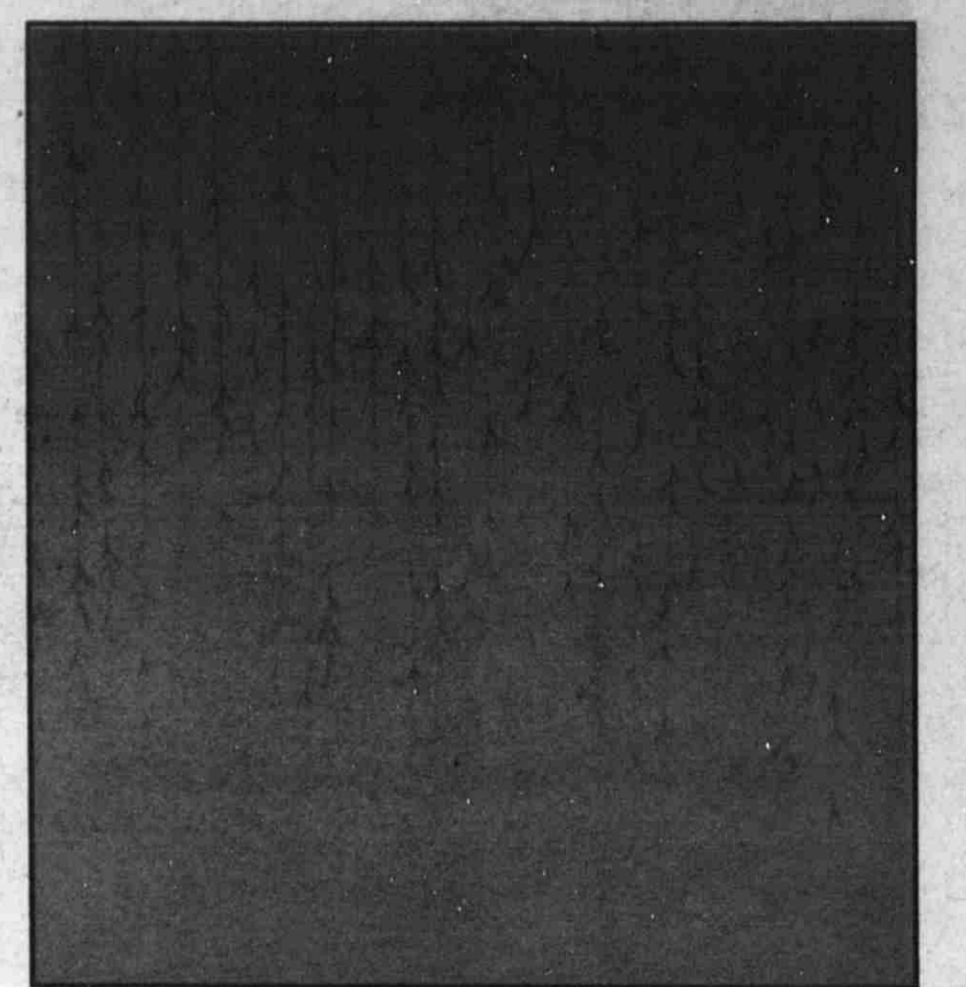
The painting was about

"the lightness and the elegance and by simplifying it, it's really about breaking down what is really the important element of the willow which is the lightness, its delicacy," Menger said.

A Vergennes Township resident, Menger appreciates the Lowell area for its artistic variety.

"It always impresses me how many artists are in the community," Menger said. "There's not that many people but there are a lot of people producing work."

The Zip Code Show runs through April 28.



"Willow I" by Marianne Menger.



"Grass Blowing" by Mike McKendrick.

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David Lane, ICNB's Lowell office manager, has served as captain of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life team at ICNB for the past two years. As captain, David organizes various fundraising events to raise the necessary funds to help this community-based volunteer health organization reach its goals.

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## Gas, continued... From Page 1

circles. For instance, Michigan senator Debbie Stabenow recently co-sponsored legislation that would increase the federal renewable fuels standard. This would require eight billion gallons per year of renewable fuels like ethanol to be blended into the nation's fuel supply by 2012.

**Noreen K. Myers**  
Attorney at Law

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**Tuesday Yard Waste Pickup Schedule**  
April 5th & 19th, May 3rd & 17th, June 7th & 21st, July 6th & 19th, August 2nd & 16th, September 7th & 20th

**Thursday Yard Waste Pickup Schedule**  
April 7th & 21st, May 5th & 19th, June 9th & 23rd, July 8th & 21st, August 4th & 18th, September 9th & 22nd

If you have any questions please contact either City Hall (897-8457) or Waste Management (724-2149).

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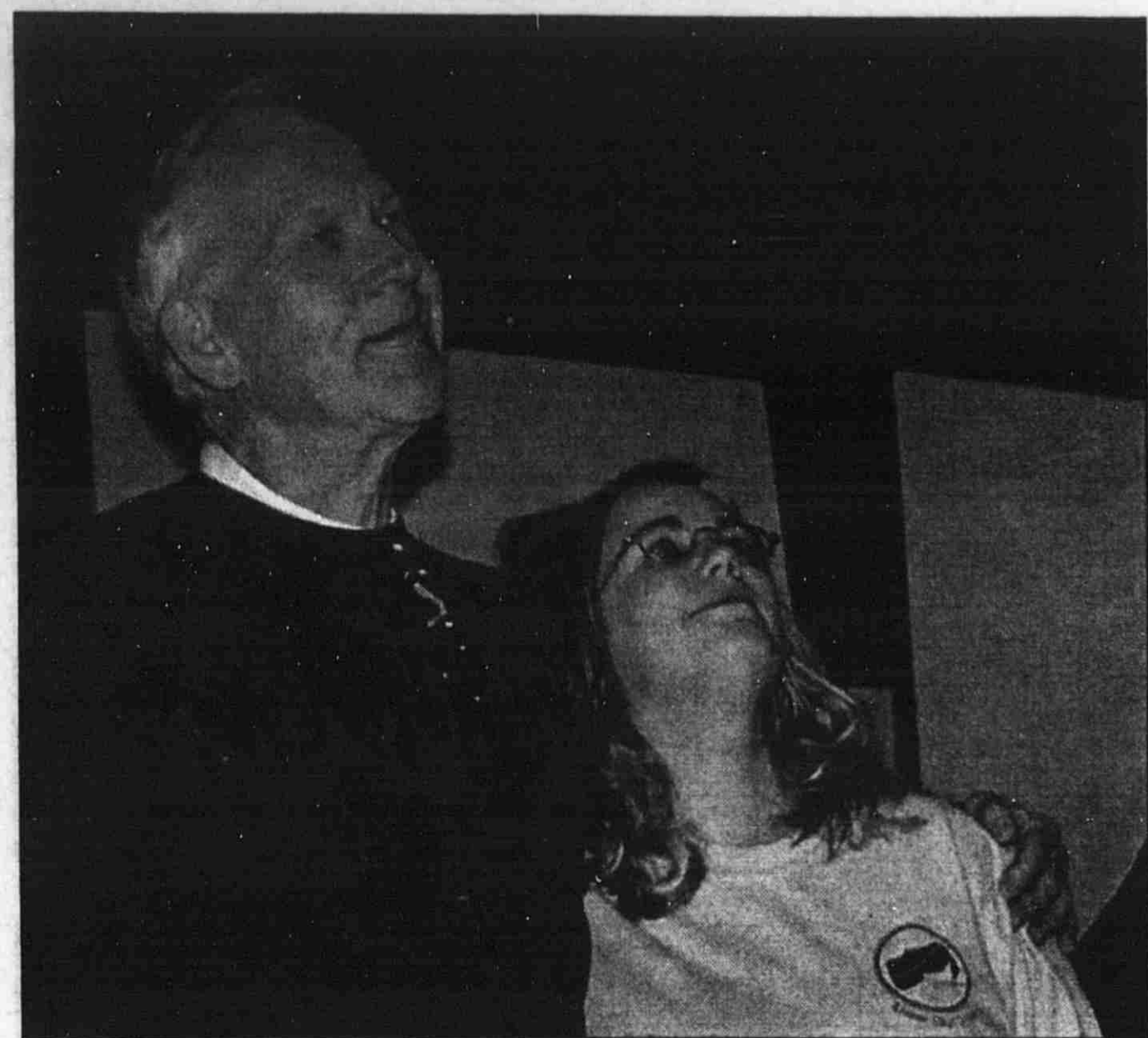
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# Thebes Players serve British humor, dinner theater



Uncle Frank Edwards (Don Silvis) and niece Alison Murchinson (Amy Veziro) contemplate the perfect man for a husband.

By Dan Schneider

Lowell's Thebes Players will take a British turn for this year's spring dinner theater production.

The play is Norman Robbins' "Wedding of the

Year," which is a British comedic play involving an uncle, but accents are strictly American.

There are some United Kingdom crossovers in the script, however, which may

create a cultural disconnect for some viewers.

"They constantly talk about her (the main character's) weight in 'stones' instead of pounds," said director Walter

Williams. "I still haven't figured out what a stone is in pounds."

They talk about the main character's weight in archaic British units because the play is specifically about overweight people. This made for a long casting process in the play's early going.

"Because this is a play about an overweight niece, there are a lot of fat jokes," Williams said. "I needed to find people who were comfortable with their bodies."

The play being about overweight people was the central idea in Robbins' writing process, Williams explained.

"The author heard from a number of people that they never write parts for heavy women," he said.

So Robbins decided to write a play around just such a character. What he came up with is a play about a wedding contest with some smug neighbors thinking their daughter is a shoo-in while an uncle tries to get his niece to win the

contest. Alison Murchinson, the niece, played by Amy Veziro, is the main character in the play. Don Silvis plays Frank Edwards, the uncle who enters Murchinson in the contest.

The principal flaw in his strategy is that at the time he enters Murchinson in the contest, a groom is yet to be found. Edwards attempts to enlist clumsy neighbor Melvyn Thornton as the groom.

Another key plot element is Murchinson's whiz-bang, custom designed wedding dress. Brent Alles plays the dress designer, Harry Elphinstone.

The menu for the dinner theatre consists of chicken marsala, red-skinned garlic mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables and beans, Caesar salad and cupcakes.

The play opens Friday, April 15 at Larkin's Other Place with dinner seating beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the play at 7:30 p.m. Other evening dates are April 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30. A matinee performance, minus the dinner, will be

Sunday, April 24 at 1:30 p.m. All performances have the option of theater-only reservations. Ticket prices for dinner and theater are \$26 general admission; \$21 for LAAC members, seniors and students. General admission for theater only is \$10; \$8 for LAAC members, seniors and students.

Call the Lowell Area Arts Council at 897-8545 to reserve tickets. The council requests reservations be made three to four days in advance to allow time for a meal-count.

Since the theme of the play is weddings, the Arts Council will be accepting "wedding gift" donations at a gift table during all performances. Their wish list includes art supplies and gift certificates to various hardware and home supply stores, and cash donations to support the recent purchase of costumes from Illusions Costume Shop in Grand Rapids. Contact the Arts Council for more information about donations.



## Sharing The Vision

With Shari Miller  
Lowell Schools Superintendent

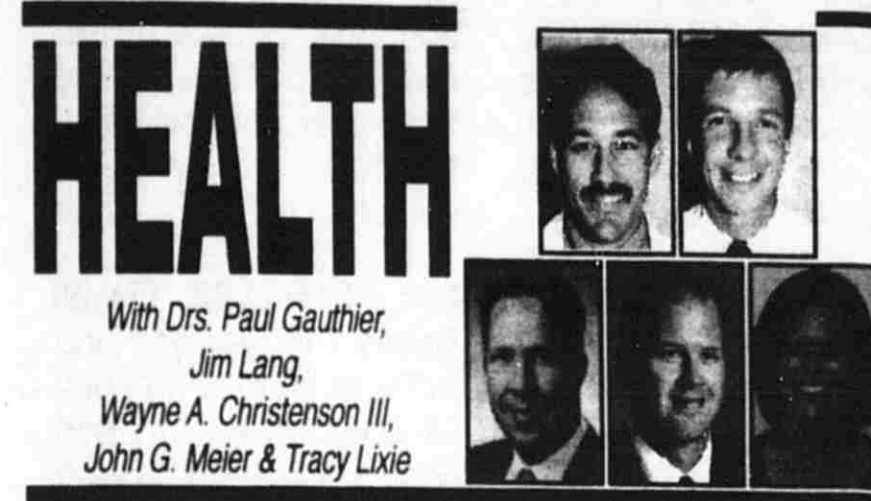
Parents, we need your help. Lowell Area Schools has established a dress code for our students. Please help by monitoring your own child's daily attire. Several styles that

are currently popular are not acceptable for school. Pajama bottoms have become popular casual attire; they are not appropriate for school wear. Please purchase jeans that do come near a student's waist. Low riding pants are often too revealing when students are seated or bending over. Midriff shirts, low cut shirts, tank tops and spaghetti straps should also be avoided. Skirts and shorts need to be an appropriate length. While these guidelines may seem to be common sense to many of us, the fashions that our young people see in stores and through the media often go beyond what is reasonable in a school environment.

I have asked principals to be alert to appropriate attire

and to advise students of the need to follow the school dress code. Your support at home will be greatly appreciated.

Your comments about this matter or any issue would be greatly appreciated. Send to Superintendent Shari Miller, Lowell Area Schools, 300 High St., Lowell, MI 49331 or smiller@lowellschools.com (check out our Web page at www.lowellschools.com or make comments to the Board of Education at boardofed@lowellschools.com).



## HEALTH

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) is a common

illness in children and infants. It usually begins to occur this time of year. It typically begins with a mild fever, decreased appetite, and a sore throat. Several days after the fever develops, painful ulcers erupt in the mouth. A skin rash then develops several days later. This rash usually occurs on the palms and soles of the feet. The cause of this illness is a virus called coxsackievirus A16. Nearly all patients recover without medical treatment in seven to 10 days.

HFMD is contagious, and is spread by direct contact of fluid from the nose, saliva or stool. The time from exposure to illness is usually three to seven days. Pregnant women should avoid contact with infected individuals but in most cases this is extremely hard to do. Outbreaks in daycare facilities tend to occur in the summer. We typically like to

keep children out of daycare while they have a fever and mouth sores. The best way to prevent infection is simply frequent hand washing (especially after diaper changes), and disinfecting surfaces that come into contact with the person's secretions.

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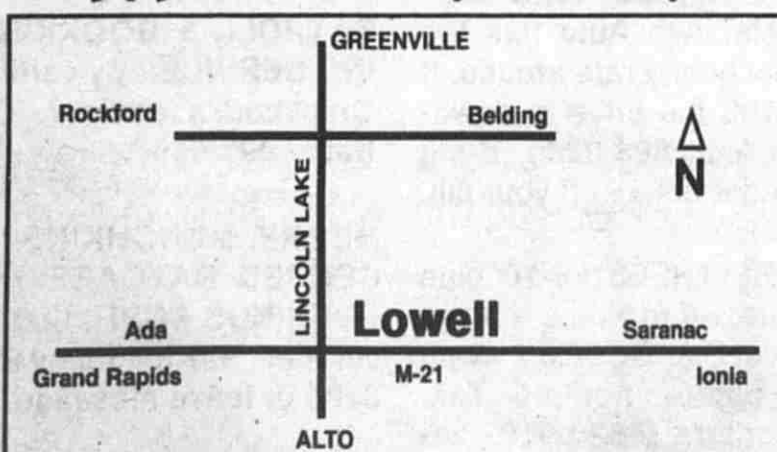
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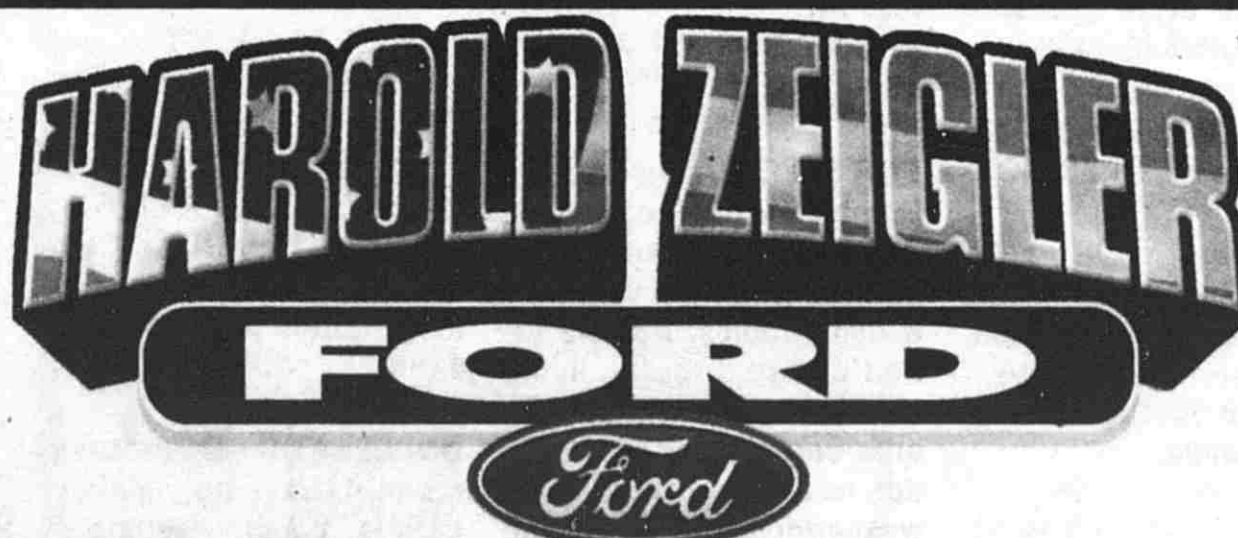
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