

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 32 Issue 33

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

## Summer rocks to a musical start on the Riverwalk



**D**rummer Rick "Zeke" Seese (from left), guitarist Mitch McMahon and bassist Chris Collins of the Great Lakes Band performed last Thursday for opening night of the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts.

The blues-rock band formed in the mid-1970s and gigged extensively around western and northern Michigan. When disco came along, they broke up, but reunited to play the first-ever Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts in 2001.

This season's schedule features a wide variety of music styles, including new rock and roll concerts every fourth Friday. Thursday's act is the Crossroads Blues Band. Two bands, Smoody and Broken Sunday, take the stage Friday night for the first rock concert of the summer series.

## Annual Pow Wow to be held this weekend at fairgrounds

By Dan Schneider

**T**he Grand Valley American Indian Lodge brings its Restoring the Circle Pow Wow to the Lowell Fairgrounds this weekend.

It's the second year the fairgrounds have hosted the event. The lodge is glad to be returning, having had a successful Pow Wow here last year.

"Excellent, excellent, it was wonderful," lodge council director Lori Shustha said. "We had a really good crowd.

We'll be bigger this year because everybody I've talked to said they're coming."

Last year, the Pow Wow was held on the same weekend as a Pow Wow in Lansing. Without the schedule conflict, this year should draw in even more dancers and crafters, and a larger audience.

The main event is the dancing. This year the dance circle will be located closer to Hudson Street. A Grand Entry is a ceremonial entrance of all the dancers, the first dance of the

Pow Wow.

"Grand Entry is when all the dancers come into the circle behind our flag bearers," Shustha said.

There will be three Grand Entries at this year's Pow Wow. The first is Saturday at 1 p.m., then at 6:30 p.m.; Sunday's is at 12 p.m.

The Pow Wow includes a variety of dances: traditional, more modern (less than 100 years old), fancy, grass, shawl

Pow Wow, cont'd., pg. 8

## Former postmaster leaves a legacy of service to Lowell

By Dan Schneider

**T**he city of Lowell lost one of its most dedicated citizens over the weekend, when Charlie Doyle died of a heart attack Sunday morning at the age of 77.

Doyle, a lifelong Lowell resident and active Democrat, was among the last presidentially-appointed postmasters in the United States. He was appointed postmaster of Lowell in August of 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. He served for 25 years, retiring in 1990 at the age of 62.

"I used to tell him, 'Charlie, in Lowell being a Democrat is like being a whipping post,'" longtime friend Phil Schneider said.

"But he hung in there as a Democrat and when Johnson got to be president, he got to be postmaster."

Being a staunch Democrat said something about Doyle's tenacious character.

"I think some of the reason he became such a good Democrat was because his brothers and all his relatives were Republicans and he wanted to be different," Schneider said.

Schneider and Doyle were longtime friends. In the Lowell High School class of 1945, Doyle, Schneider, Ray Houghton and Humphrey Johnson were known as the "gang of four." They played football together.

In the summers during World War II, when they were 16 years old, Doyle and



Charles Doyle

Schneider worked as deck hands on package freighters. The ships moved jeeps and

other military vehicles from Detroit to Buffalo, where they were put on trains to be carried to the east coast and then to the front.

"We worked on the same boat," Schneider said.

Schneider and Doyle both joined the Marines after high school and after World War II. They were stationed at the same base in South Carolina. Johnson joined the Navy and was killed in a plane crash at the age of 20. So Houghton and Schneider are the only members of the "gang of four" still living.

When Doyle and Schneider got out of the Marines, both went to Michigan State University. Doyle stayed for two

years before completing his degree at Hillsdale College, where he met his wife, Dee. He shared with her his interest in politics, taking her to events like the

1964 Democratic National Convention where he was a delegate.

Doyle, cont'd., pg. 3



Cable Rates... Page 4

Benefit For Anna...  
Page 9

On Display ... Page 11







# Pow Wow, continued ... From Page 1

and jingle dress. During the veterans' dance, all veterans are invited to join in. Everyone in attendance at the Pow Wow is invited to join in the Intertribal dances.

Larry Plamondon is the master of ceremonies. His job is to explain the dances and traditions, and tell stories during lulls in the dance. "Larry's a real good story teller," Shustha said.

Plamondon will also instruct the audience on proper etiquette for observing and participating in the Pow Wow. Following are some of the guidelines:

- Stand quietly, remove hats and refrain from taking pictures during a Grand Entry, flag song, veterans' song and any honor song. Plamondon will announce when one of these is about to take place.
- Refrain from taking pictures when a fallen eagle feather is being retrieved from the dance circle.
- A dancer's clothing is called "regalia" or "outfit," not a costume.
- Photographers should ask permission before taking pictures of dancers outside the dance circle.

A full list of etiquette guidelines are printed by the lodge.

Bill Vandegriff is the head veteran at this year's Pow Wow.

"He is the main lead dancer," Shustha said. "He makes sure everything is done correctly in the circle."

Admission, parking and camping are free. The lodge

received a grant from the Lowell Area Community Fund to cover the cost of renting the fairgrounds, for promotional printing and other costs related to the event.

"We get a lot of support from the town," said lodge treasurer Frank Murphy. "I think they just go out of their way to help us."

An auction of native/miscellaneous items will be held at 9 p.m. Saturday. It is a fundraiser for the lodge's food pantry. Part of the proceeds also help pay the cost of putting on the Pow Wow.

Craft booths open at 10 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday with a closing ceremony on Sunday at 4 p.m.

# Fundraising efforts and donor search in place to help local girl

By Skye Fisher and National Marrow Donor Program

The search for a bone marrow donor for Anna Organek is not yet over, and you could be the missing piece.

More than 30,000 children and adults in the U.S. are diagnosed with diseases for which a blood or marrow transplant can be a cure, but only 30 percent will find a matched donor in their families.

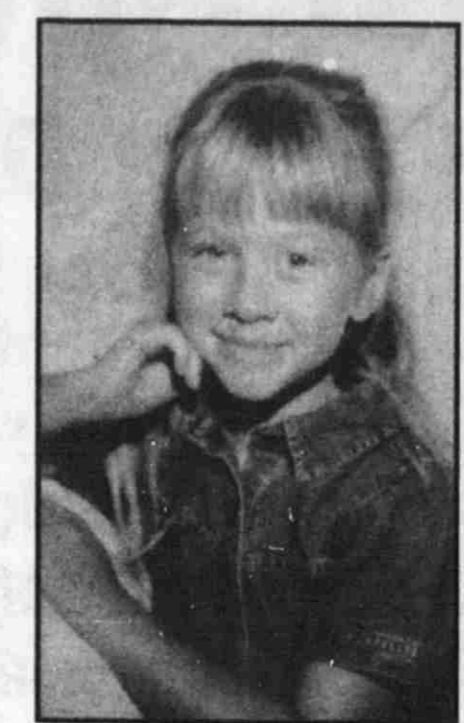
Anna Organek, age 8, of Lowell, has been diagnosed with a rare form of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and is in need of a bone marrow transplant. The national Bone Marrow registry has been reviewed and a match for Organek has not yet been found.

A Bone Marrow drive will be held on Tuesday, July 12 from 12 to 8 p.m. at Lowell High School in an effort to find Organek her match. Potential donors must be between the ages of 18-60 and meet health requirements in order to be considered. All potential donors will have to complete a brief health questionnaire and sign a consent form to have their tissue type listed on the national registry.

Those being tested will be asked to contribute a minimum of \$20, but will not be turned away regardless of the contribution amount.

There will be several fundraising events to help raise money for the \$125 screening per person, which is not covered by insurance.

This weekend will mark the start of the events, when



Anna Organek

Larkin's "Other Place" will be hosting a benefit dinner Friday at 5 p.m. The dinner buffet will commence at 6 p.m. and continue with a cash bar and DJ until 11

p.m. Donations of \$15 per person and \$25 per couple will be accepted at the door. Raffles and a silent auction will also be held.

On Saturday, June 25, there will be a golf outing at Byron Hills Golf Course. The event kicks off at 9 a.m., with 18 holes of golf. This 4-person scramble will include a Pig Roast and prize drawings. The cost per person is \$85. Sponsors are still being sought for this event.

Also on Saturday, an Angel Walk will take place at Cherry Creek Elementary beginning at 9 a.m. for youngsters who want to help, but are unable to because of age.

Students from Cherry Creek, Bushnell, Alto and

Murray Lake schools will be participating in this Walk-A-Thon for Organek. Pledge forms can be downloaded on the Help-Anna website.

If you haven't yet pledged a student, there is still time. If you would like to make a donation to the drive, please make checks payable to the Michigan Community Blood Center and in the "Note" section, reference "Anna".

All donations made to the Bone Marrow Drive are tax deductible and can be mailed to: Michigan Community Blood Center, 1036 Fuller NE P.O. Box 1704, Grand Rapids, MI 49501. A receipt will be mailed to you once payment is received.

For more information, visit Organek's website at www.help-anna.org.

**TO ADVERTISE IN THE LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY Call 897-9261**

**MIKA MEYERS BECKETT & JONES PLC**  
ATTORNEYS

John T. Sperla  
Mark A. Kehoe  
Ross A. Leisman

Benjamin A. Zainea  
Heidi A. Lyon  
Daniel J. Parmeter, Jr.  
Matthew E. Fink

307-A E. Main Street  
Lowell, Michigan 49331  
(616) 897-3111 www.mmbjlaw.com

**Noon Tire**

STEVE NOON

11930 E. Fulton (M-21)  
Lowell, MI 49331

Dealing In Most Brands  
(616) 897-5925

**Durkee Lumber, Inc.**

Lumber and Building Materials

868-6026  
6071 Depot St.  
Alto, MI

**24 Hour Towing & Road Service**

Flat Bed Service  
Jump Starts  
Lock Outs  
Tire Changes

**Lincoln Lake Auto's**  
Cell #446-5909

**Arctic, Inc.**

HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING

1301 Bowes Rd., Lowell, MI 49331  
897-4123  
www.heatingcoolingonline.com  
Licensed & Insured

**TO ADVERTISE IN THE LEDGER BUSINESS DIRECTORY Call 897-9261**

**AT YOUR SERVICE**

**Thomet**  
Chevrolet BUICK

SERVICE HOURS: M, T, TH & FR • 8-5; WED • 8-6  
Phone 897-9294

**KIRK COLLINS**  
Owner

**Showboat**  
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.

Auto Value

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

**BILL WHEELER**  
Certified Public Accountant

W. J. WHEELER MICHIGAN

103 Riverside Dr.  
Lowell, Michigan  
49331  
616-897-7711

**NEED PAIN RELIEF?**

**DOCTORS CHIROPRACTIC & MASSAGE THERAPY CAN HELP:**

- ARTHRITIS • HEADACHES • NECK & LOW BACK PAIN
- NUMBNESS & TINGLING • HIP & SHOULDER PAIN
- HEMATED DISCS • SPORTS INJURIES

... WITHOUT THE USE OF DRUGS OR SURGERY (Most Insurances Accepted)

Call us today for a FREE stress buster massage and consultation at "NO" Charge!!!  
897-4999

**Dr. Paul Tuthill**  
Certified Computer Spine Analyst  
RIGHT IN FRONT OF MEIJER

**CUMBERLAND**  
Retirement Village

A Leisure Living Managed Community

11535 E. Fulton • Lowell, MI 49331  
(616) 897-8413 • Fax 616-897-7839  
e-mail: cmbld@leisure-living.com

**BASIC** NEXTEL

**HERBERT PETT**  
Telecommunications Consultant

Phone 616-897-2045  
NexTel 616-262-6102  
Fax 616-647-4001  
Email: hpett@basiccom.com

**Curtis Accounting & Tax Services**

209 E. Main St. - Suite A, Lowell, MI

Complete accounting, payroll and tax services  
(616) 897-4120 • (616) 262-4873

CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL WETCLEANER  
CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL DRYCLEANER

**CURTIS**  
CLEANERS • LAUNDRY  
CAR WASH

Open 7 days • 897-9809 • 1410 W. Main

**JUNE SPECIAL**

BLAZERS/SPORT COATS 20% OFF  
6TH SHIRT FREE  
INCLUDES: PULOS & GOLF SHIRTS  
FREE PICKUP & DELIVERY

**SELF SERVE LAUNDRY**  
60 LB. WASHERS & 75 LB. DRYERS  
TURN LAUNDRY DAY INTO LAUNDRY HOUR

**CAR WASH \$1.00**  
1200 PSI, SPOT FREE RINSE

**Buy life insurance and save on your home and car.**

When you buy your life insurance from us through Auto-Owners Insurance, you'll receive special discounts on your home, mobile home or car insurance. We'll save you money. As an independent Auto-Owners agent, we take great interest in you - as well as your home and car. We are specialists in insuring people and the things they own.

**Auto-Owners Insurance**

**REAL INSURANCE AGENCY**

835 W. Main St. Lowell, MI 49331  
897-9259 (800)804-3322

Dale Triplett

**STOP SUFFERING!**

**We Successfully Treat:**

- Whiplash
- Neck Pain
- All Headaches
- Auto Injuries
- Back Pain
- Numb Hands/Arms
- Sports Injuries
- Work Injuries

**See a Specialist and See Results!**

897-4999

**DOCTORS CHIROPRACTIC**

Dr. Anthony Trombly

**EBAY LISTING SERVICE**

E-SELLER4U

119 W. Main St. • Lowell, MI 49331  
616-897-5660 or 616-890-2594  
www.e-seller4u.com

DON & AMY REEDY - OWNERS

Over 7 years experience with various items small & large  
We have completed over 15,000 transactions on eBay.

**FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE**

**MARK CHRISTIANSEN**  
CELL 540-1859  
897-9027

1004 W. MAIN  
FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE • 616-777-7700

**STORMZAND ASPHALT MAINTENANCE**

Seal Coating with Sand  
Hot Rubber Crack Repair  
Cut & Replace Patching  
Paving • Striping  
Parking Lots & Driveways  
Licensed & Insured

Serving West Michigan Since 1989  
(616) 897-9872 Free Estimates

**JB HARRISON INSURANCE AGENCY**  
COMPETITIVE AUTO RATES

**Hastings Mutual Insurance Company**  
Hastings, Michigan  
www.hastingsmutual.com

1885

Daniel Ulrich  
Judy Harrison

6661 Alden Nash, Alto 868-0050

**PREVIEW PROPERTIES.COM**  
CALL JERRY HALE  
897-0229  
or 1-800-515-7763

JERRY IS A FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL WHO WILL SERVE ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS.

**Rich's Service Co.**  
In-Home Appliance Repair

INSURED • 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
WASHERS • DRYERS • REFRIGERATORS  
GARBAGE DISPOSALS • STOVES

209 E. Main St. RICH CURTIS  
Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5686

**RE/MAX** Cascade SunQuest

**Peter Smith, Realtor, ABR**

Call For Immediate Service  
"Your Lowell Area Real Estate Specialist"

(616) 949-6980 Ext. 27 • (800) 800-3915 Ext. 27  
(616) 460-6634 Cell  
www.realtypetersmith.com

**SALON 206**  
IS NOW OPEN ON MONDAYS  
10 AM TO 8 PM

Please call for an appointment with Nancy, Kim or Tina  
897-7206

**A BUSINESS DIRECTORY AD THIS SIZE ONLY**

**\$16.00 PER WEEK!**

**BUSINESSES SERVICES**

**BUSINESSES SERVICES**

# Switching prescriptions to Meijer Pharmacy has never been easier!

Our Pharmacy Staff offers years of experience and reliable service to help you maintain quality health.



Get up to **\$10\*OFF** Your Next Gas Purchase!

When you bring in a new or transferred prescription to the Meijer Pharmacy!

**Quick. Easy.**

**EASY TRANSFERS!** Bring in your old bottle, we'll do the rest!

Our Generic Drugs can save you up to 60%!

Hundreds of Insurance Plans Accepted.

Visit "Ask the Pharmacist" at Meijer.com and get answers anytime.

**YOUR LOWELL AREA PHARMACY ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER**

**Lowell - 11901 Fulton St. - 897-4733**

**meijer • COUPON**

Get up to \$10\* off Your Next Gas Purchase!

Bring this coupon and a new or transferred prescription to your Meijer Pharmacy and receive a coupon for up to \$10\* off Your Next Gas Purchase!

Offer Good Only at your Lowell Meijer Pharmacy until 7/23/05. Please limit one coupon per family. Not valid between other Meijer locations.

\*\$1 OFF per gallon fuel up to 10 gallons. Maximum \$10 Value. No cash back. Gasoline must be paid for in station after filling.

**Rx meijer**  
pharmacy  
Visit us on the Web at [Meijer.com/pharmacy](http://Meijer.com/pharmacy)

## Featured Artist Gretchen Settle

By Dan Schneider

Gretchen Settle moved to Lowell last November with a few of her paintings and some art supplies.

Since then, she has churned out paintings at a prodigious rate ... so much so that they crowd the walls of her living room and also color the walls of the Lowell Schools administrative offices at 300 High St.

"I can't quit when I'm doing it," she said during a recent interview. "I did four or five of them this week."

At one point, her living room was so full of paintings, she was running out of room to walk around.

"They were piling up and I said, 'I'm going to take them all out and burn them,'" said Settle, who has a penchant for dramatic language.

She's written a lot of poetry, some of it racy and dark—especially when she was in college.

"The kids couldn't believe I could write such things because I looked so conventional, but that was part of my disguise," Settle said.

She started at the University of Michigan when she was 44. She's 87 now. Born in Gratiot County in 1918, Settle was discouraged from art at an early age.

"My grade school teachers were very rigid and they said I couldn't do things right so I quit," she said.

Settle picked up a paintbrush many years later at the age of 39. She estimates she has painted more than 1,000 paintings in her life.

Her paintings are wild conglomerations of shapes, colors and lines. There are swirls, silkworm-looking shapes, a few people. She once painted an American Idol contestant.

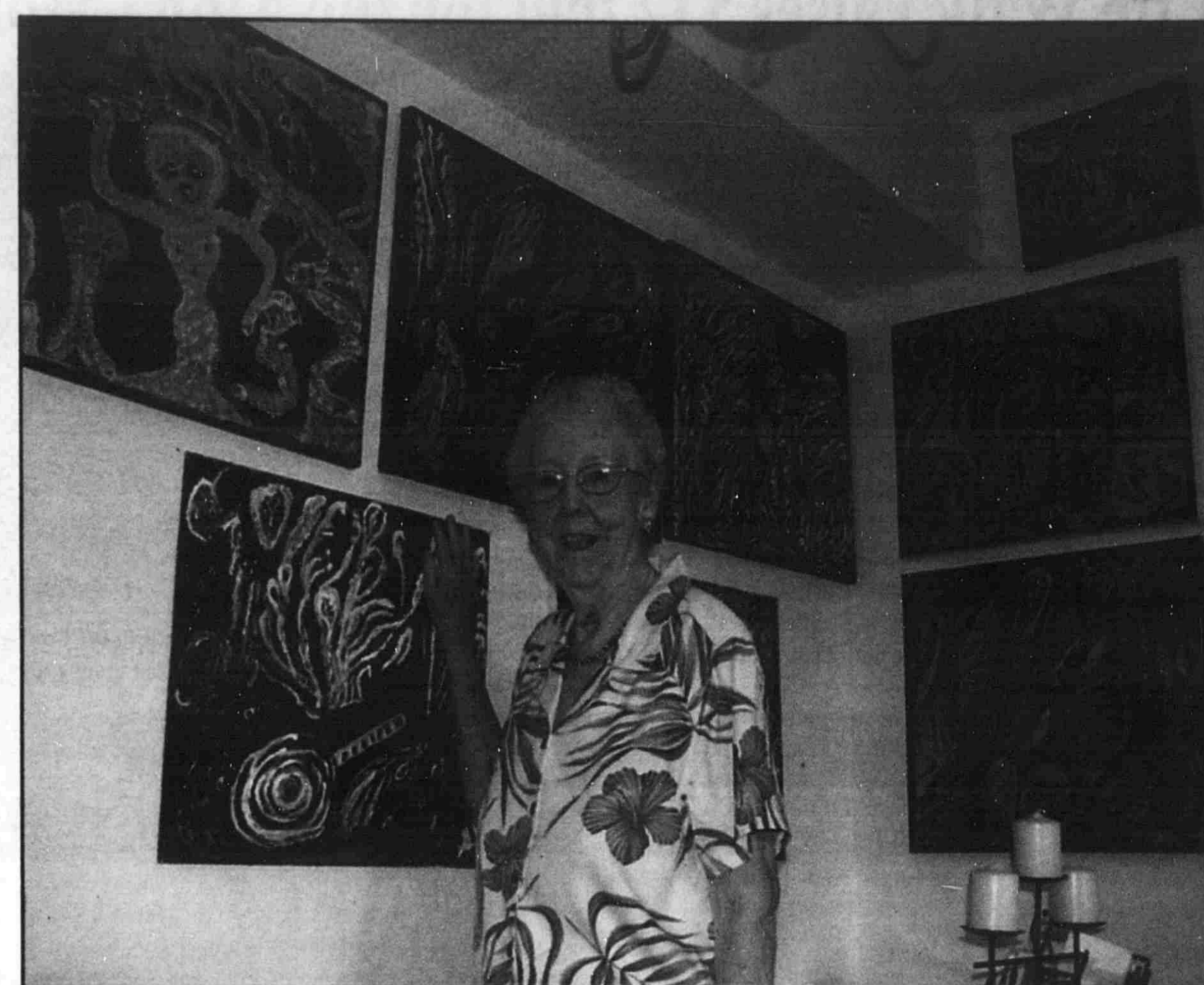
"I don't know why, I don't even know how," she said.

The portraits are not representational.

"Personality is what I try to get at," Settle said.

"These are people ... only they're not people. They look more like animals but they act like people."

The paintings appear



Gretchen Settle with some of the paintings that crowd the walls of her apartment.

like swirling, lightly-ordered chaos. But Settle approaches them methodically, turning the canvas as she applies paint to it.

"If I don't like what I'm doing on the bottom side, I'll turn it around and work on a different side," she explained.

Eventually, the painting

will do one or several full 360-degree turns and be completed.

Settle has had very little formal training, just a few evening art classes. She likes to paint portraits, but they are the farthest thing from representational.

"I don't care whether they have two horns or five

horns or whatever, I'm just after the shape, that's what it's about," she said.

She likes Lowell and all the art events that go on here.

"I love this town because there are so many people here interested in art," Settle

said. "This whole outfit, this art outfit (Lowell Area Arts Council), they're great."

Her paintings are on display through Labor Day at 300 High St. Some of her work is for sale at Chimera Design on E. Main.

## Bowne Center full of interesting history

By Dan Schneider

There is a lot of history at the crossroads of 84th Street and S. Alden Nash.

Among the few buildings that comprise Bowne Center, there are four structures more than a century old: the Bowne Center United Methodist

Church, the Township Hall, the Bowne Center Schoolhouse and the Ladies Aid Hall. Across the street from the Township Hall is a cemetery with headstones dating back to the earliest years of the 19th century.

The Ladies Aid Hall was once home to chicken

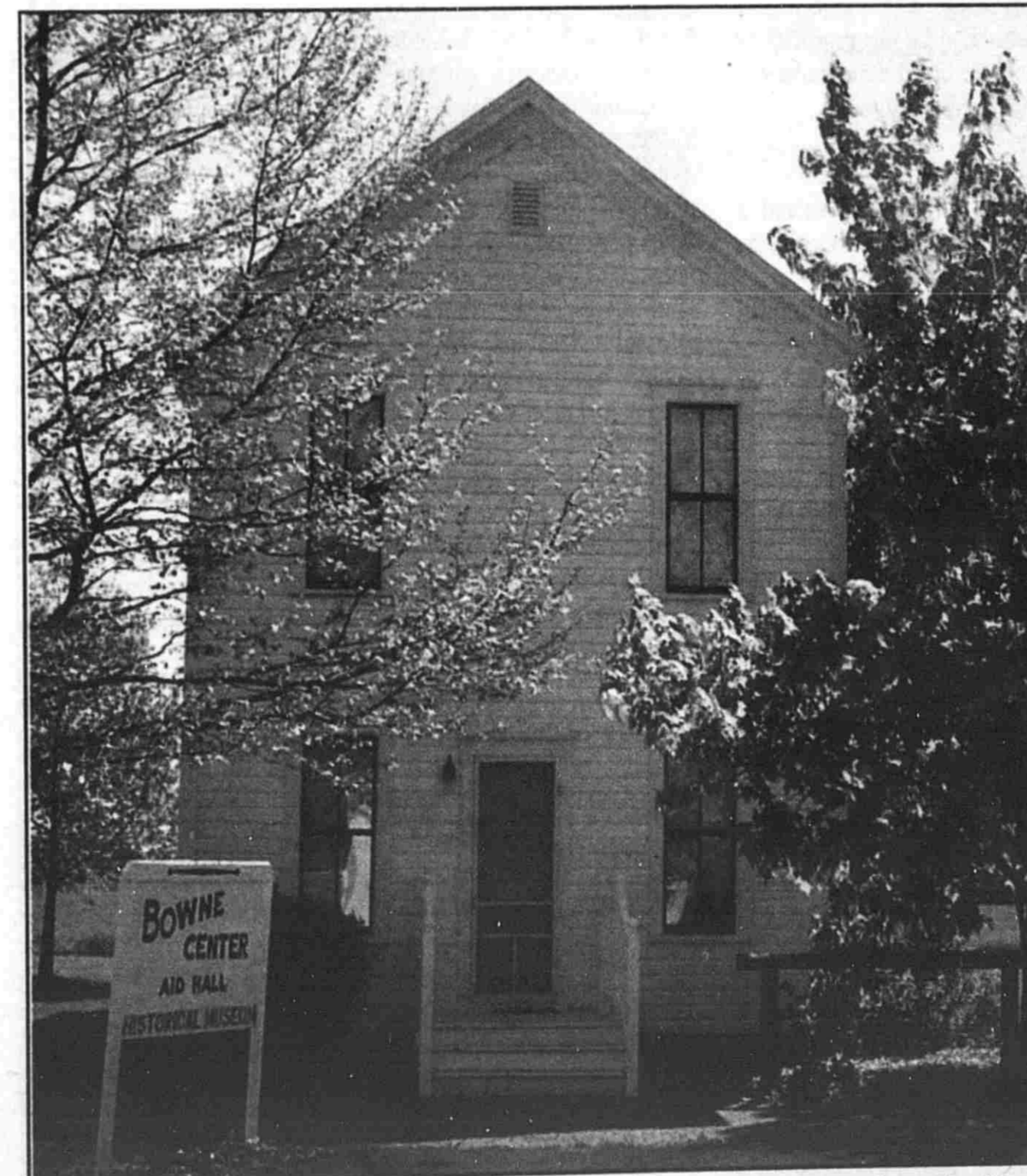
dinners and other activities of the Bowne Center Methodist Church's Ladies Aid Society. Ten years ago, it was moved to its present site. It now houses an assortment of antique objects collectively known as the Bowne Center Ladies Aid Historical Museum.

"It's just a collection of local history, mainly," Bowne Township Historical Society president Sally Johnson said.

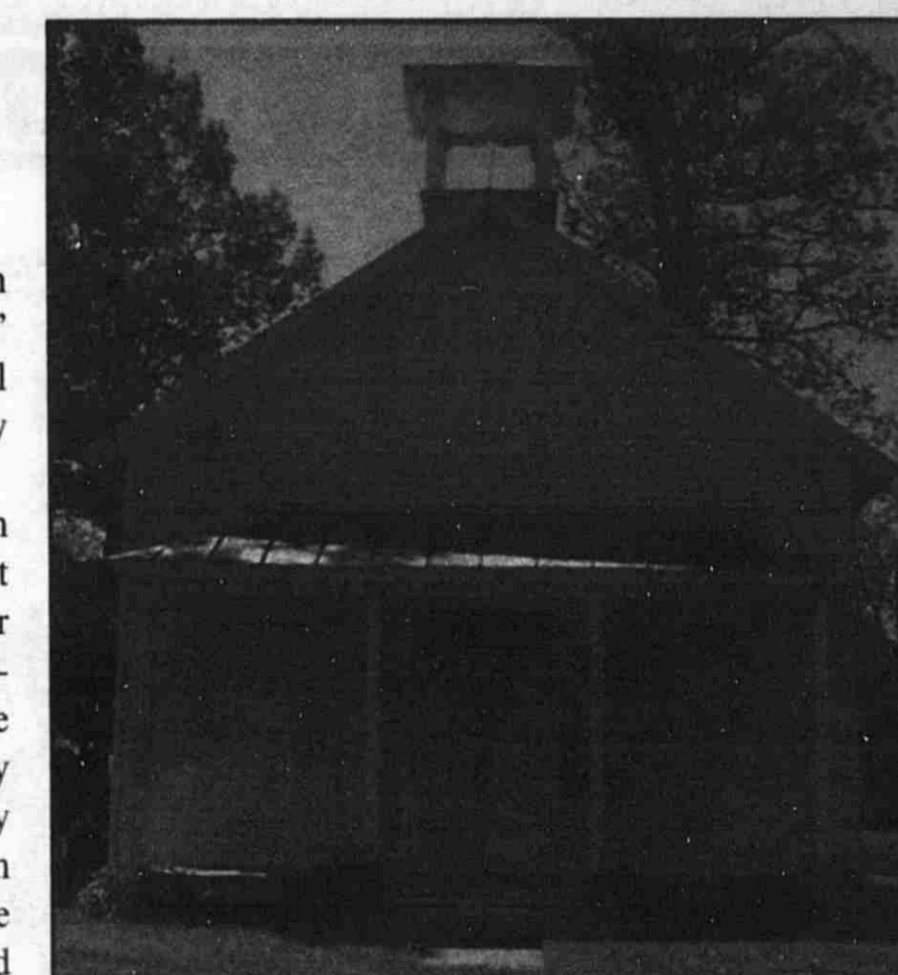
The building has been sided in white vinyl but still displays the rectangular proportions of an old-time building. Inside is the collection of local-history artifacts the historical society has amassed since the church donated the building. There is the desk that belonged to Leonard Johnson, for instance. Johnson was a former township clerk and held other offices in the township. The museum also contains the Elmdale post office, which is just a glass-doored cabinet with 26 cubbyholes inside.

"Elmdale's not in the township, it's just across the line and there's nothing there anymore," said historical society treasurer Sandra Kowalczyk.

But the rest of the museum is all Bowne artifacts. There's a picture of Levi Skidmore, the farmer who donated the land on which Alto was built. There is a wall of promotional calendars from past Alto businesses, such as Rosenberg and Sons General Merchandise which

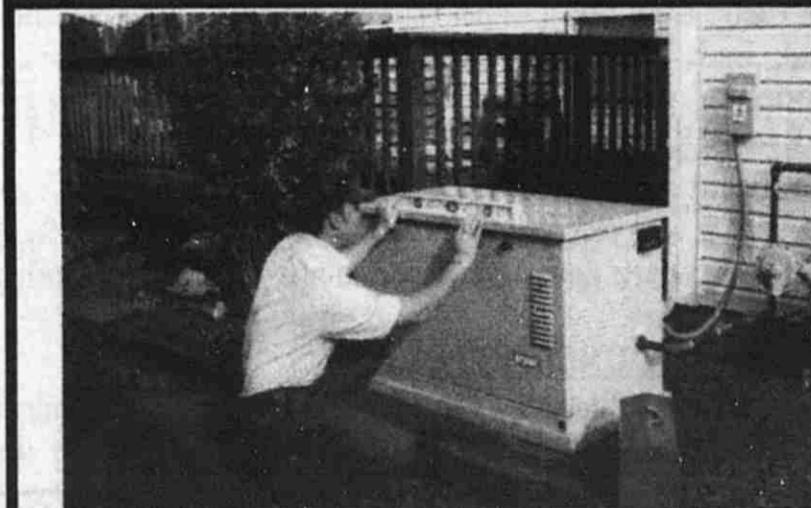


The Bowne Township Ladies Aid Historical Museum is open the first Sunday of every month.



The one-room schoolhouse stayed in use until 1963.

## Don't Be Left In The Dark



ENJOY THE COMFORT OF PEACE OF MIND with the automatic standby generator. Quiet, convenient and totally automatic. It also offers an advantage that other generators can't - it's backed by the most trusted name in comfort: Bryant

Visit Us At... **Arctic Inc.** HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING  
1301 Bows Rd., Lowell • 616-897-4123  
Visit our website at [www.heatingcoolingonline.com](http://www.heatingcoolingonline.com)  
Serving The Area Since 1984  
Licensed/Insured  
VISA

Bowne history, cont'd., pg. 14











# ST. PATRICK



# PARISH FESTIVAL

## Saturday & Sunday

## June 25 - 26, 2005

Parnell Road at 5 Mile, N.E.

### 5K RUN (SATURDAY, JUNE 25)

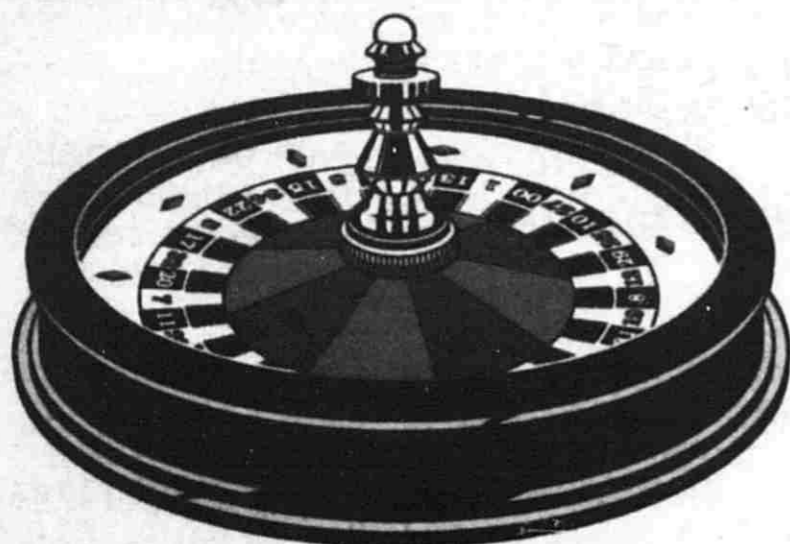
8:00 REGISTRATION - 9:00 RUN/RELAY - FAMILY WALK - REFRESHMENTS

*PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT ST. PATRICK ATHLETIC BOOSTERS*

### CHICKEN BAR-B-Q DINNER (SUNDAY, JUNE 26)

SERVED FROM 12-5 PM - TAKE OUTS AVAILABLE

ADULTS \$7.50 CHILDREN (12 & UNDER) \$3.00 PRESCHOOLERS \$1.00



### LAS VEGAS & TEXAS HOLD 'EM Saturday

7:00 PM - 12:00 AM

### ST. PATRICK PARISH CASH RAFFLE

Drawing June 26, 2005 at 6 pm

St. Patrick Parish Grounds

**Grand Prize: \$20,000**

2nd Prize: \$2,500.00

3rd Prize: \$1,000.00

4th Prize: \$500.00

Plus \$500 & \$250 Early Bird Drawing  
June 3, 2005 9:00 AM in the  
Parish Office

Ticket Price: \$5.00 per Ticket  
Raffle License No. 23164

*Raffle Tickets Available at the Buyers Guide Office*



### BINGO Sunday

12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

## SUNDAY FAMILY FUN

*Children's Games • 50/50 • Horse Rides •  
Petting Zoo • Live Music • Beer Tent  
Annual Custom Classic Car, Truck & Antique Tractor Show*

### Phoenix Rose

Saturday -

8:00 - Midnight

Music By:

### Virgil Baker

### Polka Band

Sunday 1:00 - 5:00