

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 32 Issue 36

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Riverwalk Festival 2005

By Dan Schneider

The Riverwalk Festival kept Lowell hopping this weekend with music, a parade, classic cars and floating ducks.

The River Rogues Jazz Band kicked things off Friday night with music while people milled around at various craft booths and the book sale, sponsored by Friends of the Englehardt Library.

About 120 cars rolled into the Lowell Fairgrounds for the third annual Brian Mead Memorial Riverwalk Cruise-In. Dennis Miller won the Participants' Choice Award for his black-on-fire orange metallic 1950 Chevy 3100 series pickup.

"It's completely customized from front to back," the Gowen man said of his truck.

Customizations included a 454 engine and hand-formed panels on the bed. The motor rumbled and the truck's chrome shined.

The first ever antique fire truck muster drew six fire trucks to Lowell. They congregated by the Grand River and ran their water pumps. Later the sound of hand-cranked sirens could be heard on the "Rumble the Riverwalk" cruise.

At 11 a.m., the "F.R.O.M. the Heart" parade traveled along Main Street. Volunteers from Flat River Outreach Ministries (F.R.O.M.), some dressed as clowns, collected non-perishable food items along the parade route. F.R.O.M. board

chairman Roger La Warre said the parade provided a good boost for the food pantry.

"We got a good amount in the parade, and then from the motorcycles we got a whole barrel (of donated food)," La Warre said.

Motorcyclists, whose chrome machines also graced the fairgrounds, donated food at their rally, as well.

Riverwalk Plaza had kayak races and food vendors available. People learned about fitness at the Health and Fitness Fair in the Lowell Police Department. A tractor pulled people back and forth between the fairgrounds and Riverwalk Plaza in a wagon trailer. Lowell police chief Jim Valentine spent the entire afternoon directing traffic at a pedestrian crossing on Main Street.

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce volunteers continued to sell small plastic ducks.

The ducks were later dumped off the Division Street bridge into the Grand River. The first duck to make it to the finish line at the fairgrounds' boat launch belonged to Lisa Mills of Belding. She won \$1,000. Brad Potter of Lowell won \$300 for his duck, which finished second. Heidi Barron's duck took third place, winning the Ada woman \$200.

"Alive and Well" provided music Saturday night on Riverwalk Plaza. After dark, fireworks lit up the night at Stoney Lakeside Park.

More pictures of the festivities on page 11



Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce volunteers dump ducks off the Division Street bridge at the start of the annual duck race.

Neighbors help to free local man trapped under tractor

By Dan Schneider

When Elaine Brinkert's husband, Charles, 44, had a tractor roll over on him last Tuesday evening, the first number she called was her neighbor's.

"I called the Rasches and told them to get their men and their tractors and come over here because the tractor had fallen on my husband," she said.

Then she called 911. It took more than 20

people about an hour and 45 minutes to free Charles Brinkert from beneath the tractor. That number included 14 firefighters, two paramedics and three of the Brinkert's neighbors.

"No doubt it was a

community effort to get the guy out, even though it took as long as it did," said Lowell Area Fire Department fire investigator Ron VanOverbeek, who was the first firefighter on the scene.

Brinkert's neighbors assisted the rescue with tools and knowledge of tractors.

"It was just a good sign of how people in the community get together when something happens to somebody next door," VanOverbeek said.

The tractor flipped over on Brinkert at about 5:30 p.m. last Tuesday. He was

using the 1940s-vintage Allis Chalmers tractor to pull a stump on the property of their McGee Homestead Bed and Breakfast in Vergennes Township.

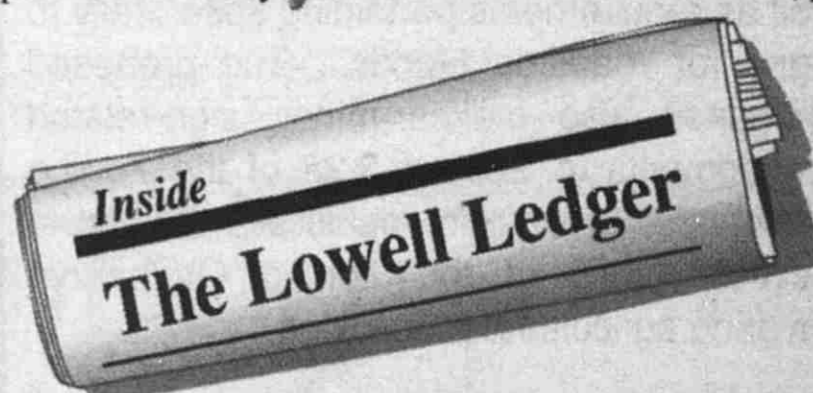
Elaine Brinkert was watching from the back deck of the house when the tractor overturned.

Tractor accident, cont'd., pg. 8



Rescuers and neighbors work to free Charles Brinkert from below his overturned tractor.

- Photo by Kent County Sheriff's Deputy Dan Forman.



Shopping For Fire Trucks...Page 3



Lots Of Lilies ... Page 10

Festival & Parade Pics ... Page 11

Obituaries

BISHOP
Joseph Bishop, Jr., aged 90, formerly of Lowell, passed away July 5, 2005. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Mabel; daughter Judith A. (Bill Morgan) Harrington of St. Marys, Fla.; son Ronald Jr. (MaryAnn) Bishop of Lowell; four grandchildren Chuck (Bernice) Parker, James (Rhonda) Parker, Troy Bishop, Lisa (Shawn) Carlson; 10 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held July 9 at Luther Village Chapel, Grand Rapids, Rev. Rebecca Ebb-Speese officiating. Interment Pleasant Plains Cemetery in Harrison, Mich. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of MI or Lutheran Village.

COOKE
Mrs. Tillie M. Cooke, aged 84, of Byron Center, passed away Saturday, July 2, 2005. She was preceded in death by her husband Clarence. Surviving are her children Melvin (Wanda) Cooke of Ada, Clarence (Barb) Cooke of Grandville, Roger (Sue) Cooke of Alto, Julie (Paul) Fye, Rose Cooke all of Wyoming, John Troy Bishop, Lisa (Shawn) Carlson; 16 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; sisters Marie Rinard, Bertha (Ray) Small all of Wyoming; sister-in-law Ann Cooke of Hopkins. Funeral service was held July 6 at Stroo Funeral Home, with Chaplain Jim VanderSchaaf officiating. Interment in Pine Hill Cemetery. Memorial

contributions may be given to the Criminal Justice Chaplaincy.

PEDLEY

Mr. Walter R. Pedley, aged 80, went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, July 2, 2005. Walt is survived by his wife of 57 years, MaryLou; children Dave and Karen Pedley, Mary Jo and Rich Kerr, Amy and Dave Johnson; grandchildren Tony, Dustin, Casie Pedley, Garrett, Paula Johnson. Walt was a WWII veteran serving with the U.S. Army. The funeral service was held July 5 at Van't Hof Chapel with Rev. Lee Ausema officiating. Interment in Greenwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in memory of Walt may be made to Bethany Christian Services.

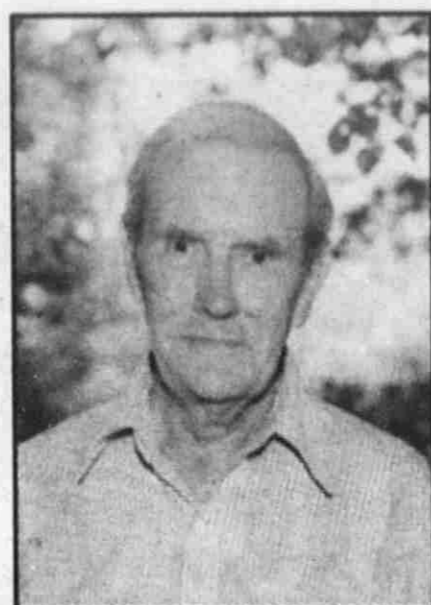
RICHTER

Robert Richter, aged 72, of Lowell, passed away July 7, 2005. He was preceded in death by his parents George and Grace Richter,

two sisters Carol Seif, Ruth Speyer, brother Walter Kent. He is survived by his sister Helen (Jack) Tromp of Lake Odessa; brother William (Betty) Richter of Baldwin; many nieces and nephews. Graveside service was held on July 11 at St. Mary Cemetery.

ROGERS

Melvin Rogers, aged 84, of Lowell, passed away July 8, 2005. He was preceded in death by his wife Mirt and three grandsons. He is survived by his children Bud (Jan) Rogers of Lowell, Jim Rogers (Kathy) of TN, David Rogers of FL, Dale (Angela) Rogers of Lowell; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sister Ruth Bragg of CA; brothers Dick (Letta) Rogers of CA, Raymond (Lil) of NV. Mel was a well-known face to Lowell and loved by all. He drove bus for North Star bus lines, worked for the city of Lowell Water Treatment Plant until he retired. Mel volunteered his time to the



Lowell community where he enjoyed RSVP, delivered meals to seniors that were homebound, also driving Lowell seniors to and from their daily or weekly trips. Upon his wishes cremation has taken place, with a private family graveside service. A memorial gathering was held Tuesday, July 12 at Schneider Manor. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of one's choice.

ZYLSTRA

Mrs. Lucille Ann Zylstra, aged 85, of Grand Rapids, passed away on Sunday, July 3, 2005 at Bishop Hills Elder Care Community. She was a member of St. Mary

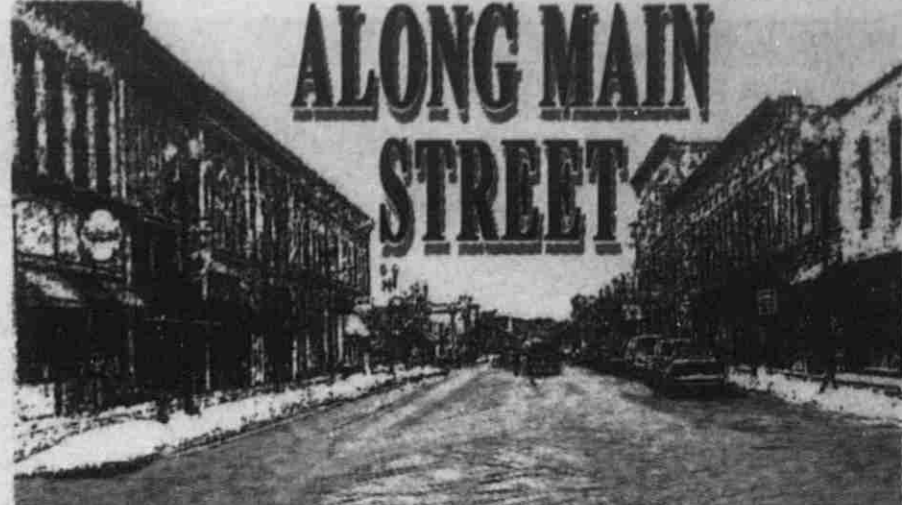
Magdalene Catholic Church and was devoted to her faith. Family was important to Mrs. Zylstra and family gatherings brought joy to her heart. She is survived by her children Judith and Daniel Igrison of Warren, Genie Southwick of Lowell, Richard and Sharon Zylstra of Pentwater; grandchildren Jenna Igrison of Warren, Kimberly Southwick of Lowell, Holly and Jeff Parish of Rockford, Eric Zylstra of Pentwater; great-grandchildren Zachary, Caitlyn, Matthew, Nicholas, Hannah; twin sister Mrs. Wanda Stachowiak; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband George Zylstra and granddaughter Francine Zylstra Kimmel. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered Thursday, July 7 at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, Kentwood, with the Rev. Mark Mitchell presiding. Interment in Oakgrove Township Cemetery. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider Visiting Nurses Hospice.

Santiago, Dominican Republic shopping for fire trucks in Lowell

By Dan Schneider
Last year, Rockford Ambulance donated one of its ambulances from the Lowell garage to the city in the Caribbean. The vehicle was due for replacement, but in a developing country like the Dominican Republic, it was better than what they can get on their own.
Last Thursday, representatives from Santiago visited Lowell to have a look at the Lowell Area Fire Department's old Engine Number 3. The 1984 Chevy fire truck is outdated by U.S. standards, and is unlikely to be salable to another fire department here.
Fire trucks, cont'd., pg. 4



Saul Abreu, project manager of a large industrial park in Santiago; Yenem Cordero, purchasing director for the city of Santiago, Steve Boyer, vice president of the Michigan chapter of Partners of the Americas, Lowell mayor Jeanne Shores, Lowell city clerk Betty Morlock, Lowell fire chief Frank Martin and Santiago fire chief Alexis Moscat stand in front of the old Engine Number 3 at the Lowell fire barn.



SHOWBOAT SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERTS
This Thursday, July 14, the summer concerts will feature the Jim Cummings Band: Funk/ Rhythm and Blues, from 7-9 p.m. on Riverwalk Plaza.

FOODMOBILE
Free food, mainly produce, will be available at the Foodmobile on Saturday, July 16 from 10-11 a.m. Bring your own box or bag. For those people living in the Greater Lowell area. Distributed by F.R.O.M.

YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE SIGN-UPS
Flag football, youth football, 78ers and cheerleaders can sign up at Burch Field at Lowell fairgrounds, Saturday, July 23, 10-2 p.m.; Tuesday, July 26, 6-8 p.m.; Thursday, July 28, 6-8 p.m. and Thursday, Aug. 4, 6-8 p.m. All new sign-ups must bring a copy of birth certificate. Call 897-7896 with questions.

17TH ANNUAL FARM FEST
The Franciscan Life Process Center presents "Opening Doors to Creativity" on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 6-10 p.m. Tickets: \$50. Proceeds benefit scholarship fund. Call 897-7842 for more information.

LOWELL ROTARY CLUB
New location at Lowell City Hall on the second floor in the council chambers, 12 p.m. Public is welcome.

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.

- Will Rogers (1879 - 1935)
Saturday Review, Aug. 25, 1962

Words of Thanks
A grateful thank you to all my friends in Lowell and the area for all words and deeds of kindness offered to my family and me at the time of Charlie's death. Your helpful words of sympathy and encouragement were very much appreciated. I am sure if Charlie could see all of this, it would make him happy to know the people he touched throughout his life appreciated him. I would like also to thank my wonderful children, their families, Charlie's two sisters and spouses, his many, many friends, Lowell Rotary Club, Gerot Funeral Home, the Methodist Church, Dr. Mike Conklin, Bill Zinke, Heidi Twig and the U.M.W. for all of their help. All of these acts of kindness and your attendance at Charlie's memorial made it a wonderful celebration of his life. Gratefully appreciated, With love to all, Dee Doyle and the Doyle families

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 05-179,826-DE
Estate of JOHN ROBERT SMITH deceased
Date of birth: 12/23/1936
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, JOHN ROBERT SMITH, who lived at 1298 Valley Vista Drive, Lowell, Michigan 49331 died 06/08/2005. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Julie Janeschek and Kathleen Onan, named co-personal representatives or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 5595 Snow Ave., Alto, MI 49302 and 10590 Potters Rd., Lowell, MI 49331, and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
07/05/2005
Michael J. Tummino Jr. (P21618)
311 E. Main St.
Lowell, MI 49331
897-5931
Julie Janeschek
5595 Snow Ave. Alto, MI 49302
Kathleen Onan
10590 Potters Rd.
Lowell, MI 49331

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 05-179,829-DE
Estate of CAROL ANN VANDER PLOEG deceased
Date of birth: 12/09/1946
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, CAROL ANN VANDER PLOEG, who lived at 3747 West River Drive, Comstock Park, Michigan died 06/13/2005. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Craig Avery, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI, and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
07/07/2005
Craig Avery
(P10311)
3875 West River Dr.
Comstock Park, MI 49321
616-784-5080
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3875 West River Dr.
Comstock Park, MI 49321
616-784-5080
Lori Gerard
Assistant City Treasurer

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CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE WATER/SEWER SERVICE CUSTOMERS
Effective July 1, 2005 whenever water service is disconnected due to nonpayment of either water service charges or sanitary sewer service charges, a fee of \$35.00 plus any amount due on the account must be paid before services will be reinstated. The City will no longer issue past due letters. Please review your monthly bill for due dates and amounts. Arrangements for payment must be made prior due date at City Hall.
Any questions, please contact City Hall at 897-8457.
Lori Gerard
Assistant City Treasurer

TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing on August 3, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, within the Township, on a proposed ordinance to amend the Township of Grattan Zoning Ordinance.
The proposed ordinance amends Section 16.05 of the Zoning Ordinance, covering signs in agricultural districts. Matters addressed by the amending ordinance include the type, size and dimensions of signs permitted in the agricultural districts, as well as requirements pertaining specifically to signs for roadside stands. The proposed ordinance also makes minor, sign-related amendments in Section 3.28 of the Zoning Ordinance, covering roadside stands, and in Section 13.15 of the Zoning Ordinance, covering agricultural processing.
All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the proposed amending ordinances. Written comments concerning the ordinance may be submitted to the Township office, at the above-stated address, up to the time of the public hearing.
Dated: July 8, 2005
PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN

Rhythm & blues on the plaza



The Jim Cummings Band

Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts will feature the Jim Cummings Band this Thursday at Riverwalk Plaza from 7-9 p.m.
The funk and rhythm and blues band has six members: Jim Cummings (bass, lead vocals), Jim Klein (guitar), Roger Roberts (sax), Tom Taylor (drums), Bill Bastian (keyboard) and Yeshwua (conga drum), not pictured. They offer a variety of music that keeps their sets fresh and full of surprises.

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11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
OWAR OF THE WORLDS (R)
11:30, 1:30, 1:55, 4:10, 4:20, 6:45, 7:10, 9:10, 10:00
BENWHITCHER (PG-13) 11:00 AM
BATMAN BEGINS (PG-13)
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Tractor accident, continued ... From Page 1

"He went forward a little bit and it did just a small little bounce and then it went back," she said.

The tractor flipped backwards, striking a 125-year-old brick outhouse. Brinkert's left foot was trapped, pinned under one of

the arms of the three-point hitch. Dan Forman, the Kent County Sheriff's deputy who investigated the incident, credited the outhouse with preventing the tractor from overturning completely.

When Elaine Brinkert ran to help her husband,

his head was bleeding. He had been struck by bricks knocked off the outhouse wall. She attended to his head first.

"His head was quite bloody at the time," she said. "He said, 'Honey, get the tractor off my foot.'"

A number of factors complicated the rescue. Brinkert was still in the seat, so rescuers couldn't right the tractor without risking catapulting him from the seat. The steering wheel of the tractor rested on Brinkert's chest, not putting pressure on him, but preventing rescuers from moving the tractor.

Rescuers used an electric saw to cut the steering wheel off the tractor.

The arm of the three-point hitch had impaled Brinkert's foot. At the end of the arm was a three-fingered metal claw. Rescuers feared the spring-loaded claw had closed inside Brinkert's foot. A cutting torch was brought down from Kropf Orchards

to cut through the metal arm and free Brinkert from the tractor.

"They wrapped the arm and Brinkert's foot with towels, continuously wetting them with a garden hose to cool the metal. Still, it was slow going.

"They couldn't cut for very long because it would heat up and it would hurt his foot," Elaine Brinkert said. "The cutting took a lot longer than they wanted to."

Brinkert remained completely conscious throughout the procedure, complaining of pain when the arm heated up. VanOverbeek said this indicated that the nerves in his foot were still working.

Affordable Towing in

Lowell sent two tow trucks to help stabilize the tractor while firemen worked to free Brinkert.

"We offered to pay and they said forget it," VanOverbeek said.

Brinkert was taken by Aero-Med to Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus. The metal piece fell out of his foot as he was being loaded onto the helicopter.

Brinkert had two operations on his foot last week, including the installation of five screws and a plate. He was scheduled to receive skin grafts Monday. The injury is expected to heal, though he'll likely walk with a limp the rest of his life.



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Outdoor display ordinance now in place

By Dan Schneider

Businesses in Lowell must now keep any outdoor merchandise and displays a distance of 10 feet from front lot lines.

The new zoning ordinance was approved last Tuesday by the Lowell City Council. The ordinance also dictates that merchandise displays shall not interfere

with pedestrians on city sidewalks. The council unanimously approved the new ordinance as it was presented by the Lowell Planning

Commission. It also elected to forego a public hearing on the new ordinance. Mayor pro tem Charles Myers and councilman James Hodges said the hearing would be unnecessary, since the planning commission had already held a public hearing on the matter. Myers further stated that public hearings

are usually held for issues affecting city residents, while the outdoor display ordinance mainly applies to businesses.

Credit approval for the city

The council approved the issuance of a city credit card through Ionia County National Bank. The card has a limit of \$10,000 and only city manager Dave Pasquale is authorized to sign for purchases made with it.

"It's a credit card that's through a local bank and it gives us added flexibility with our spending," said city treasurer Sue Olin.

The card will be used for official city business,

such as expenses connected with attending conferences, seminars and the like, and for purchasing day-to-day goods and services. Its use is subject to the terms of a city credit card policy that was approved in 1996 as required by state law.

Councilman James Pfaller questioned why the credit card should have such a high limit, when the city is required to bid out projects that cost \$2,500 or

more. Myers explained that the higher limit would be beneficial in some cases, such as when a large group of city officials travels to a conference. The motion to

issue the credit card passed by a 4-0 vote with Myers abstaining.

The city previously used a credit card from Citizens Bank.

You can't say that civilization don't advance, however, for in every war, they kill you in a new way.

- Will Rogers (1879 - 1935)

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Grindle Street Reconstruction Project will begin the week of July 17, 2005. Project will take approximately 8 weeks. Please adhere to detours.



Dan DesJarden
Department of Public Works Director
(616) 897-5929

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Lowell garden tour stop loaded with lilies

By Dan Schneider

"El Desperado" is light yellow with dark maroon stripes, a heavy bloomer. "Red Volunteer" is light maroon with bright yellow stripes. It's the 2005

All American daylily, but Brenda Angelo has had one in her garden for about four seasons now. These are just some of approximately 160 varieties of daylilies in Angelo's

flower plots at her home on Springside Drive in Lowell Township.

"Picking a (favorite) variety is so hard because there are so many beautiful kinds," said the master gardener.

And she doesn't even consider herself among the major collectors of daylily breeds.

"I like the purples and maroons, you'll see a lot of that in my garden," she said.

Angelo, familiar to people around Lowell as a receptionist at City Hall, has her garden in this weekend's Kent Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) "Stuck on Gardening" garden tour. She's been a certified master gardener since 2001, when she graduated from the MSUE program. Angelo's garden is one of 10 on the countywide tour. Another near Lowell is on Enchantment Drive,

off McCords Ave., in Caledonia Township. That garden, developed for water conservation, features herbs as aesthetic plants, wild flowers, ornamental grasses and a labyrinth. The garden was designed using the principles of feng shui.

Angelo uses mostly natural, non-chemical means to grow her flowers and keep them free of weeds. A wildflower garden is getting established. In some parts of her garden, the plants have a will of their own. Daylilies at the north side of the property have seeded themselves and crossbred in some interesting combinations.

In addition to the lilies, she has hundreds of other plants including 65 different types of hostas. A few aliums are recent additions to the garden; these look like exploded pink fireworks when they are in bloom. Even gone to seed, as they have already, the plants look

like something from outer space. Angelo also has two big patches of Miscanthus Gigantus, a grass plant on its way to growing 30 feet tall.

The 10 gardens on the tour will be open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 with proceeds benefiting the Kent MSUE Junior Master Gardener program. The program teaches young gardeners current, research-based gardening knowledge to apply to volunteer work in their communities. There is no charge for children 15 years old and younger. Tickets are available at the Kent MSUE office, 775 Ball Ave. NE in Grand Rapids or at any of the tour sites on the days of the tour. A full list of tour sites and addresses is available online by selecting the "Jr. Master Gardener" link at www.msue.msu.edu/kent.



Master gardener Brenda Angelo with a stand of her "Strutter's Ball" daylilies.

Lowell Education Foundation fills two of three vacant seats

Lowell Education Foundation (LEF) filled two of its three vacant board seats with the appointment of Dee McKendrick and Sterling Massey.

McKendrick joined the board in March after agreeing to complete one of the two terms vacated by David Thompson and Teresa Beachum. The Lowell resident, in June, accepted a three-year term with the LEF board

"I have three young children. Education and the district as a whole are important to me," McKendrick said. "By serving on the Lowell Education Foundation Board, I can help supplement the school's budget."

McKendrick has been active in the district as a co-chairperson of the Family Links group at Cherry Creek and Bushnell elementary

schools. Over the last two years she has volunteered in a non-chair role capacity.

Massey, who has resided in Lowell for the past 10 years, has three children in the school district. He fills a seat voided by Liz Baker who stepped down from the board after serving a three-year term.

"I'm interested in community activity around Lowell which relates to kids and education," Massey explained.

The Lowell businessman has also served on the Heart of West Michigan United Way advisory investment council and as a champion of the district diversity committee.

The Lowell Education Foundation has one empty seat on its board. Anyone interested in serving should contact the foundation through the Lowell administration offices at 300 High St.

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Notice is hereby given that the Bowne Township Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, July 18, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the Township Office located at 8240 Alden Nash SE., Alto, Michigan 49302 for the purpose of hearing public comments regarding the renewal of the natural resources removal permit for Morse Lake Sand & Gravel located in Section 20 of the Township.
Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Township Clerk

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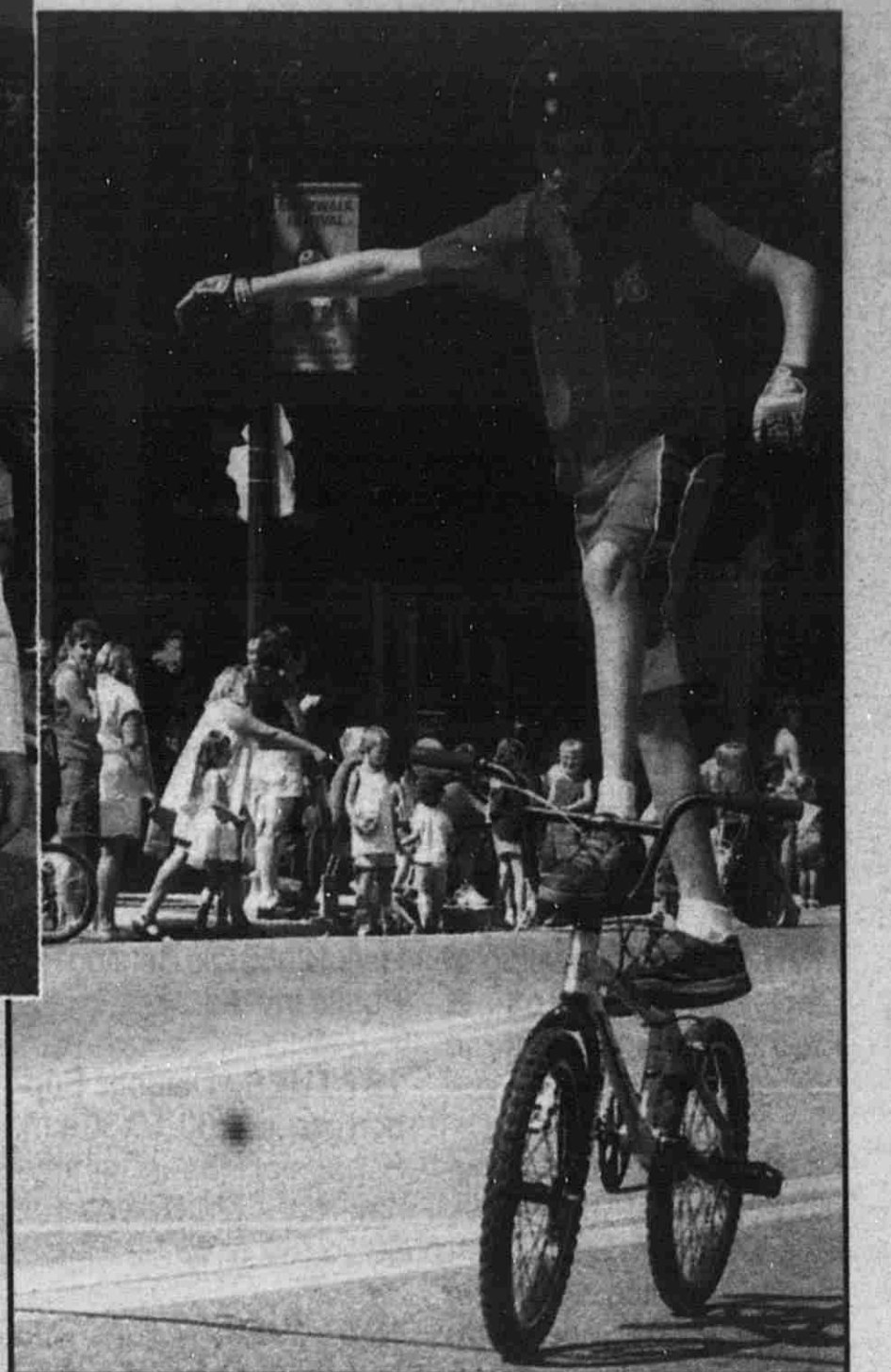
Festival, cont'd. ... From Page 1



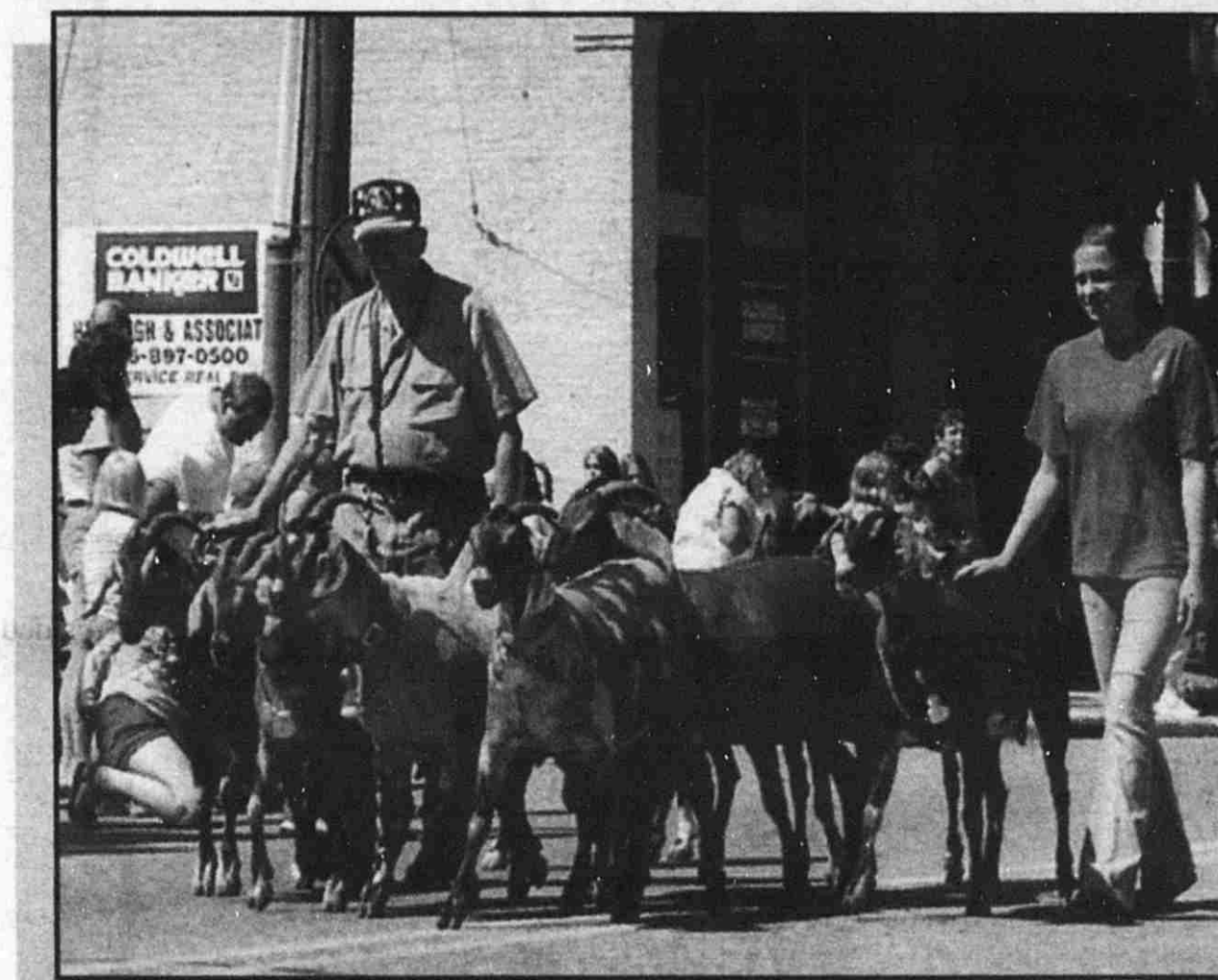
Lowell police chief Jim Valentine worked as a crossing guard all afternoon Saturday during the festival.



Roger La Warre was among the clowns who collected food for the Flat River Outreach Ministries food pantry during the parade.



A BMX stunt rider does a balancing act during Saturday morning's parade.



The Lowell Area Historical Museum's float depicted the early settlement days of Lowell.

Above, left, John Erickson, fresh from winning first place in the Lake Odessa Walking Parade, brought up the rear of the parade with his tribe of goats.



Lowell mayor Jeanne Shores had a squirt gun to defend herself at the flush tank, but it didn't keep her any drier.



Dennis Miller's 1950 custom Chevy pickup won Participants' Choice at the Brian Mead Memorial Riverwalk Cruise-In.



Dr. Harry Trumbell, a resident of Cumberland Retirement Village, enjoyed participating in the parade.

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Lowell Little League wins district nine baseball championship

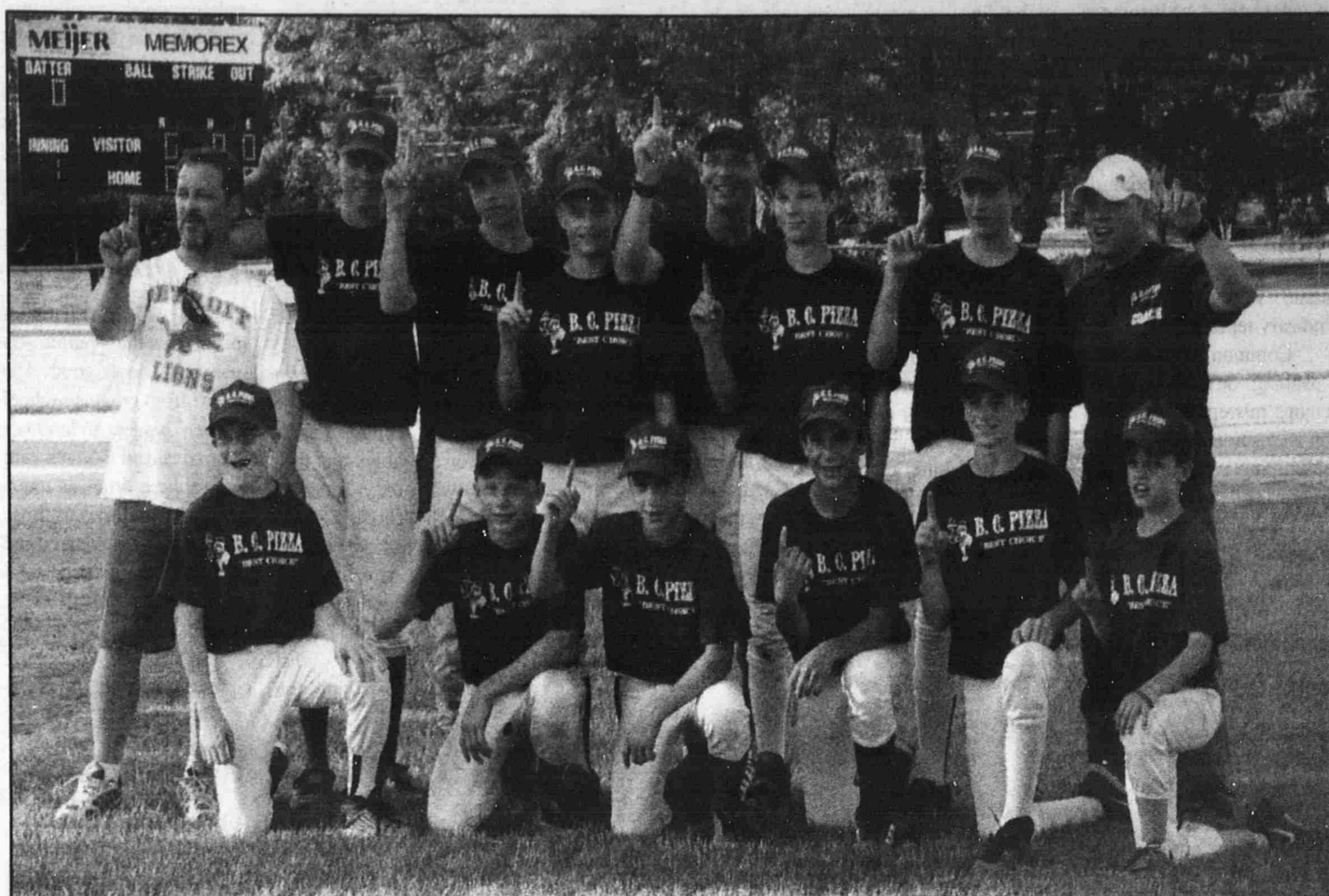
By Dan Schneider

A team will raise a championship pennant at the ball fields of Creekside Park for the first time in Lowell Little League history.

The Lowell Junior Boys (13-14 year olds) won the District 9 class C team tournament championship June 30 at the Southern Little League Complex in East Grand Rapids. Lowell defeated Pinery Park in the championship game, 10-4. To advance to the championship game, Lowell bested Western Little League. B.C. Pizza is the sponsor.

The Lowell Meijer team made it to the final four of the Division 9, class E Junior team tournament.

District 9 covers the area from Saugatuck in the southwest to Lowell in the northeast.



The Lowell Little League Junior Boys team, pictured front row, left to right, are: Stephen Gillhespy, William Burt, Jacob Gould, Mike Taylor, Jordan Potter and Kyle Dedonado; back row are: assistant coach Joe Gillhespy, Mitchell Malling, Jeremy Drake, Jesse VandenBosch, assistant coach Daniel Boon, Jordan Boon, David Stevens and head coach Jason Knapp. Mark Johnson is not pictured.

Calculating the real cost of a college education

Barbara A. Pietrangolo
Financial Planner,
Prudential Financial

College costs have been increasing at a higher rate than inflation for a long time, making it more and more difficult for middle class families to meet those increasing costs. For example, total expenses for the 2004-05 academic year shot up 7.8 percent to \$11,354 at the average public college, while costs jumped 5.6 percent to \$27,516 at private institutions.

But the raw numbers don't tell the whole story about the cost of a college education, and you may be surprised to learn that it's more affordable than you think.

Choose the Right School

One way to control costs is to encourage children to attend public schools. While the average cost of a four-year private college is \$20,082 (up six percent from last year), the average tuition for a public school is much more affordable - \$5,132.

Saving the Right Way
Whether your child attends a public or private college, the bulk of college costs will be met through savings or loans. Because even the most cost-effective loans carry an interest charge, saving is considered a better choice than borrowing. But the way you save can make a big difference.

First, it makes sense to save in your name rather than in your child's name. That's because aid formulas

count only 5.6 percent of your assets versus as much as 35 percent of money saved in your child's name. The differences in formulas can make a big difference in how much aid you ultimately qualify for.

If you have already established a savings account in your child's name, consider spending that money on your child's behalf before college - SAT prep courses and exchange student opportunities can help prepare your child for the college education experience that lies ahead.

Second, take advantage of tax-advantaged savings plans such as Coverdell ESA and Section 529 College Savings plans. These allow for tax-deferred accumulation of funds prior

to college and tax-free withdrawals to pay college expenses. As an added bonus, these accounts are regarded as parental assets under federal aid rules.

Take Advantage of Financial Aid

A lot of families wrongly assume that they will not qualify for college aid. But, contrary to popular belief, there has never been more financial aid for college available.

In fact, total aid climbed to \$122 billion in the 2003-

04 academic year, up 13.4 percent from \$107.6 billion the previous year, and has more than doubled over the past decade. Nearly half of families earning the previous year, and has more than doubled over

College costs, cont'd., pg. 16

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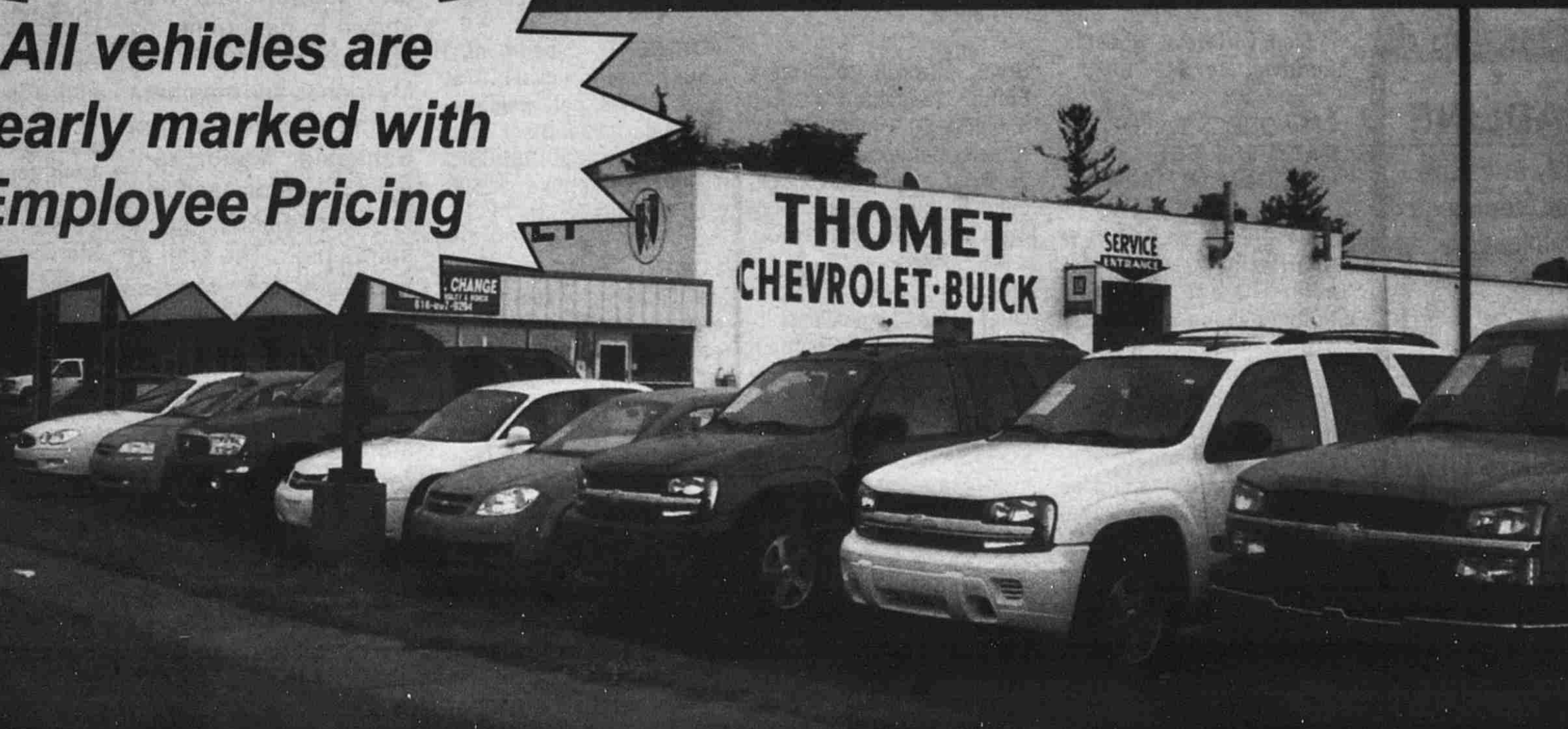
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