

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 32 Issue 40

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, August 10, 2005

Weather is more than "fair" for the start of this week's festivities

By Dan Schneider

Temperatures hovering around 90 degrees greeted animals and exhibitors at the 71st annual Kent County Youth Fair, which got started Sunday night at the Lowell Fairgrounds.

Mist nozzles were set at strategic points throughout the grounds to try to keep visitors cool. Abby Ferris, 12, of the East Kent Beef 4-H Club, said her Maine beef steer is handling the heat well.

"I keep it watered," said the Forest Hills Central middle school student.

She named the steer "Sixer" after the number on his ear tag. Her big project this week is to get the steer looking good for Thursday's beef showmanship event and livestock auction. It's called "fitting" the steer and it involves trimming and cutting its hair, washing it, and trimming its hooves.

Christopher Bilski learned something about keeping an animal clean with his first project pig.

"He can get pretty nasty," he said of his Yorkshire pig, Jabba. "It was kind of hard for me at first, being a city kid, but after I got into it I got used to it."

The 14-year-old Lowell High School freshman lives in the city of Lowell but has traveled to a friend's farm to help his younger brother with pigs; this year he decided to raise his own. He said he learned a lot in the process.

"It's just out there, you just have to deal with it when it's pigs because you pretty much see its whole life cycle from beginning to end," he said.



Last year's Kent County Youth Fair court led all of this year's 4-H clubs in a parade around the fairgrounds Sunday night.

Photo submitted by Bruce Doll

Raising a pig that was "the biggest in the barn," Bilski said he also learned about nature.

"Jabba, he's pretty big ... so when he wanted to eat, he got to eat," Bilski said. "It's just like school: there's the bullies and then the ones that are shy that stay out of the way and the one, that when it's outside, it jumps and does spins." Swine showmanship took place Monday evening.

The fair's opening ceremony was Sunday night. But

first, all of the 4-H clubs paraded around the fairgrounds. The fair court coronation followed the ceremony. This year's queen is Samantha Mol. Sarah Falk, Jessica Rozeboom and Rebecca Winter make up the rest of the court. Molly Bainbridge and Christopher Vickers are the junior queen and king.

The fair continues all this week, ending Saturday at 11 p.m.

Truck plows through window of local automotive supply store



A Dodge Ram pickup truck crashed through the windows on the east side of Showboat Automotive Supply last Friday.

By Dan Schneider

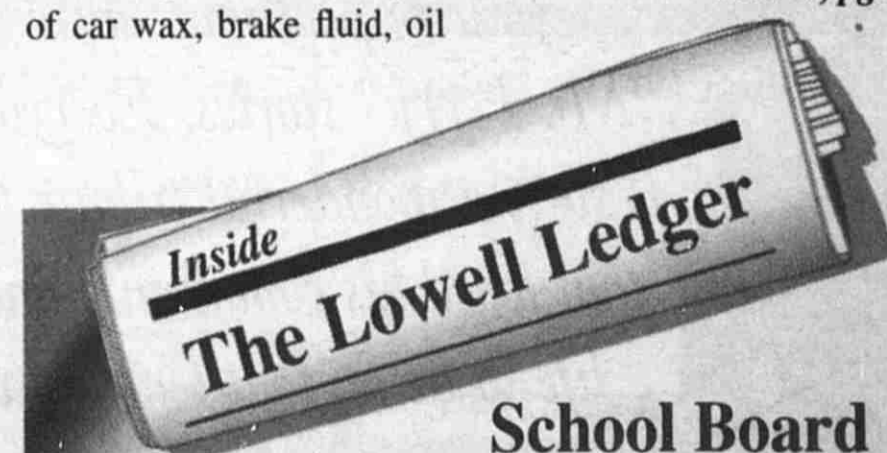
A 1994 Dodge Ram pickup took a prime parking spot at Showboat Automotive Supply Friday afternoon.

The truck parked behind a rack of fuel injector cleaner and spray lubricants and on top of a scattered pile of car wax, brake fluid, oil

treatment, and carburetor cleaner containers inside the auto supply store. This was after driving through glass windows and the double doors at the east entrance of the building.

"I was standing right there at the end (of the

Truck accident, cont'd., pg. 2



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Wastewater Woes ... Page 13

Truck accident, continued ... From Page 1

counter," said store general manager Wayne Osmolski. "By the time I looked at it, the truck was stopped. I didn't see it or hear it coming, it was just 'bang' and there was a truck parked in the front."

According to the police report, shortly before 4:45 p.m., driver Matthew Rosenberger, 26, of Clarksville, was pulling into the store's parking lot to buy a part to reattach a broken-

off muffler. The muffler was sitting on the seat inside the cab of the truck. It rolled off and landed on the accelerator, and Rosenberger was unable to stop the truck before it

crashed through the glass and into the store. No one was injured, and Rosenberger was able to drive the truck. Since the accident occurred on private

property, the two Lowell police officers who were dispatched to the scene took no enforcement action. No estimate was available on the cost to repair the damage. The broken windows were covered over with plywood and business continues as usual.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT Date of birth: 11/01/1909 TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 04-179,930-DE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, AGNES DREW, who lived at 1551 32nd St. S.W., Wyoming, MI 49509 died 06/26/2005.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to GAIL M. JENKINS J. KREGER, named personal representative or proposed personal representative or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative

within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Craig A. Bruggink
P.L.C.
429 Turner NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616-456-5048

Gail M. Jenkins J.
Kreger
3062 Wallace Ave. S.W.
Grandville, MI 49518
616-531-2415

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

MOTION AND VERIFICATION FOR ALTERNATE SERVICE CASE NO. 05-03798-DM

Court address: 180 Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids, MI
Court telephone #632-5480

Plaintiff: Lori Deavers, 285 Nth Edinberg Dr.

SW, Kentwood, MI 49548 616-821-3540 v.

Defendant: Jerry Allen Deavers Jr., Address unknown.

1. Service of process upon Jerry Allen Deavers Jr. cannot reasonably be made as otherwise provided in MCR 2.105, as shown in the following verification of process server.
2. Defendant's last known home and business addresses:

b. I do not know defendant's current home/business address. I have made the following

efforts to ascertain the current address: I called his mother and uncle, and neither know where he is.

3. I request the court order service by alternate means. Publish in Lowell Ledger one time a week for three weeks. I declare that the statements above are true to the best of my information, knowledge and belief.
March 10, 2005

VERIFICATION OF PROCESS SERVER

1. I have tried to serve process on this defendant as described: I tried to divorce him before but nothing

happens because I don't know where he is.

I declare that the statements above are true to the best of my information, knowledge and belief.
March 10, 2005

Lori Deavers
285 Nth Edinberg Dr. SW,
Kentwood, MI 49548

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 05-179,985-DE

Estate of MARGARET MARY NOORDYKE, deceased
Date of birth: 01/07/1934

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, MARGARET MARY NOORDYKE, who lived at 518 Clark Street, Comstock Park, Michigan 49321 died 07/09/2005. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to JAMES NOORDYKE, named personal representative or proposed personal representative or to both the probate court at 180 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
08/03/2005

Craig Avery P10311
3875 West River Drive
Comstock Park, MI 49321
616-784-5080

James Noordyke
3674 Fitzhugh N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616-361-1831

Woman suffers fatal heart attack at local gas station

A woman died of a probable heart attack Monday night at the Lowell Shell station.

The 84-year-old Lowell woman was in her car at the gas station around 10:30 p.m. when a man noticed she was not breathing. The man and a gas station employee re-

moved the woman from the car and administered CPR. Their attempts and those of paramedics failed to revive her. The Kent County medical examiner's preliminary examination determined the cause was likely a heart attack.

Sizzlin' concert at the fairgrounds



The Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts will move its stage to the Lowell Fairgrounds this Thursday. Reggae Boyz will perform from 7-9 p.m. during the Kent County Youth Fair. The group is the founding members of the band Gypsy Fari. This trio is a smaller version of Gypsy Fari, but plays the same mixture of music. The Chicago-based band blends various forms of Reggae, Calypso, Dancehall, World beat and Latin styles into a unique uplifting experience. Reggae Boyz brings new music and positive lyrics with a message of love and unity.

College News

Several students from the area have been selected to receive a Board of Control Scholarship from Michigan Tech in Houghton for the upcoming school year.

From Lowell is Andrew O. Hewitt with a chemical engineering major.

From Alto are David J. Steffler, computer engineering, and Duane A. Stephenson, business.

Board of Control Scholarships are awarded based on academic excellence and are valued from \$1,000 up to full tuition.

Calvin College has announced its report of scholarship recipients for 2005.

Jessica Tjapkes, of Lowell, has received a transfer student scholarship.

Calvin College has announced its report of FTIAC scholarship recipients for 2005.

Krashawn McElveen, of Lowell, received the Entradia Grant, the Alpha Phi Alpha Scholarship and the Pathways to Possibilities Scholarship.

Jess Vriesema, also of Lowell, received Calvin Dean's Scholarship and Hughes, Howard Medical Institute Scholarship.

Clarksville steam engine reunion Aug. 25-27

The Clarksville Steam and Gas Engine Association presents its 16th annual reunion on Aug. 25-27. The gate opens at 8 a.m. daily.

Bring the whole family and enjoy a day of old time farming exhibits on Robbins Road just south and west of the village of Clarksville.

There will be a flea market and craft sale; wood shingles will be made and branded with the show logo. Watch steam engines laboring at the sawmill or the steam and gas tractor "Parade of Power" every day at 4 p.m. See a good old-fashioned thrashing and baling exhibit, cross cut saw contest, tractors of all shapes, sizes and makes.

Many more activities are also being planned. Saturday at 1 p.m. bring the kids out for the annual kids pedal pull contest. Friday, Aug. 26 at 5:30 p.m. there will be a music show with the Mud Creek boys from Nashville, Mich. At 5 p.m. Saturday they will perform again. This band got its start at the diner in Clarksville where they performed for two years.

At 7 p.m., the entertainment will be Lare Williams and the New

Direction from Grand Rapids. Williams has been recognized by several bluegrass radio stations in the United States and abroad as a great new talent on the bluegrass scene.

Ellen Beam and Bluegrass Twist will be on stage Saturday at 4 p.m. Open to the public, the annual pig roast runs from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday. Additionally, food will be served on the grounds all weekend. Admission to the show is \$3 per person. Children under 12 get in free. Senior citizens get \$2 admission on Thursday for Senior Citizen Day.

Primitive camping is available by calling David

Walter at 642-9509. For information on flea market or craft sale spaces call Goldie at 897-2089. The

association's web site is www.clarkvillesteamandgas.com.

www.clarkvillesteamandgas.com.

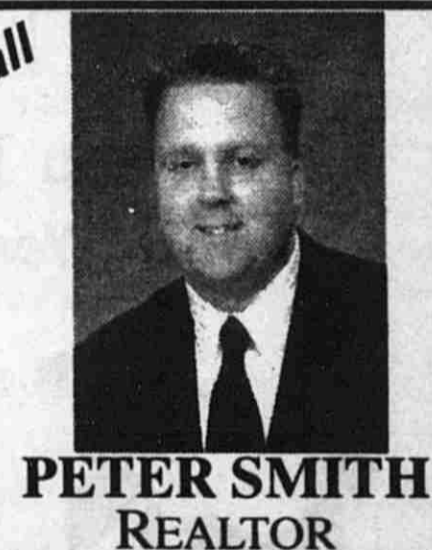
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Thank You

from the family of Bob Perry for all the beautiful flowers, cards and donations to the First United Methodist Church of Lowell and the Lowell Athletic Department. A special thank you to Lowell Area Schools for the use of the Performing Arts Center and the school cafeteria. Thank you to everyone who participated in making it a wonderful service. Thank you to the Ladies of the First United Methodist Church for the wonderful luncheon. So many of you came to pay your respect and share your "Mr. Perry" stories. Everyone made it such a wonderful tribute to a man that loved his community and lived his life to be a great teacher and coach.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk
616-897-8457

Severance package, curriculum among topics at school board meeting

By Dan Schneider

A financial analysis of the early retirement incentive put in place this spring by the Lowell Area Schools (LAS) board of education indicates that the plan is living up to its expectations in budgetary savings.

The incentive will save the district \$942,977 from the 2005-2006 school year. It's a figure close to the estimates given by the Educators Preferred Corporation (EPC) when the district first proposed the plan. EPC is the company the district selected to implement the severance packages.

A total of 25 teachers took advantage of the incentive. The district saves \$1.3 million with the lower salaries of the teachers hired to replace them. According to LAS assistant superintendent for finance and personnel Connie Gillette, the district looked for replacements at the lower levels of the experience level in order to maximize the salary differential.

"We really tried to keep the hiring at that beginning level just to get our projected savings," Gillette said.

There will be 14 new teachers in Lowell classrooms this year. Gillette

was happy with the results of the interviewing process.

"We had wonderful candidates," she said. "I think we're in very good shape."

Not rehiring 11 teachers accomplished one of the cuts approved by the board in June, aligning teaching staff with student numbers. The district also saved \$143,000 in insurance with the smaller teaching staff.

Costs of implementing the plan included payout of the actual incentive (\$557,420) and a \$5,000 payment to EPC.

Severance plan savings are already included in a

budget with a projected deficit of more than \$587,000. That budget also includes cuts such as restructuring the WINGS program, funding cuts to the Wittenbach Center, reconfiguring the security director position and reducing the parts inventory at the bus garage.

Gillette said the budget projections are based on a \$100 increase in the state per pupil foundation allowance and flat enrollment for the upcoming school year. There is currently a bill in the state legislature that would increase the foundation

allowance by \$175 statewide. Another bill would add \$25 to the foundation allowance at schools like Lowell that receive less than \$7,200 per pupil.

In response to new state legislation, the board approved a committee roster and established goals for the district's reproductive health curriculum. The new reproductive health advisory committee is made up of four health teachers, two building administrators, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction Mark Kasmer, Lowell Community Wellness

director Patty Sellner, a student representative to be determined in the fall, seven parents, clergymen Dick Teft and Mike Conklin, and a doctor to be determined.

"We may have multiple doctors participating in this over the years, but we want to have a doctor and hopefully someone local," Kasmer said.

The approved goals for the reproductive health curriculum include aligning it with new legislation and updating videos, and

School board meeting, cont'd., pg. 14

Volunteers make big fundraising push over last weekend

By Dan Schneider

A Texas Hold'em tournament held Saturday night at the Lowell Moose Lodge capped a big fundraising push for the Anna Organek bone marrow drive.

Organek has Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, a rare type of cancer requiring a bone marrow transfusion. There were 1,117 people

tested at a July 12 marrow drive at Lowell High School. By that time, enough money had been raised to pay for the testing of 705 people at \$125 per test. So fundraising continued to pay for the tests that weren't covered.

Last week Thursday and Friday, a yard sale of donated goods at Richards Park raised \$7,300 for the cause. Originally just scheduled for Thursday,

the event was extended to Friday due to the volume of items donated.

"The donations from the community have been phenomenal," said volunteer Krystin Ryder.

Donated items filled a King Milling semi trailer. Volunteers piled the items high on tables inside tents donated by L&A Rent-All.

Organek's peers and



Shoppers peruse the offerings at last Thursday's yard sale fundraiser for Anna Organek's bone marrow drive. The sale raised \$7,300.

classmates from Cherry Creek Elementary have joined the effort. Children operating a lemonade stand at the sale raised \$50 the first day. Another lemonade stand operating elsewhere in town raised \$15. One girl donated the money she received for her good report card.

Not everyone paid the prices as marked at the sale. On Thursday, a woman from Orleans wrote a check for \$1,000 for \$2 worth of items.

A 5-K run was held Saturday morning on the cross country course at Lowell High School. Louie Glinzak was the overall male winner with a time of 21:01 and Kelsey Scheider took the top female place in 23:04.

Two more fundraising events are scheduled. The first is a family fun day Saturday, Aug. 13 at Creekside Park from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The event features a moonwalk, kids

games, lunch, ice cream and a washers tournament among other activities.

The other event is a golf outing Friday, Aug. 19 at Deer Run Golf Club. It's a shotgun start at 9 a.m. with four-person teams. Entry fee is \$85 per person and includes golf, cart, lunch and drink. Prizes will be given for longest drive and closest to the pin. Call Jeff Theisen at 897-8481 for more information.

Viewpoint

by Roger Brown



cozy corner

in his leap from the boat to the dock. He fell to the swim platform of the boat and hit his head. Hey, he is several weeks into his Michigan summer vacation ... something had to happen.

I got to Boog first. I carried him to shallower water and hoisted him up to my wife. A quick exam revealed a pretty big gash in the back of his head. He had apparently hit it on some mounting hardware for the swim ladder. Stitches were obviously in order. I yelled, "Hostile!!! Hostile!!! Hostile!!!" Boog didn't think it was funny.

Boog's dad was busy removing a sliver from the foot of Boog's "Drama Queen" sister. His mom and I loaded him up and made a flying trip to the nearest hostiler.

Boog was incredibly good. All the way in the car he asked worried, but informed, questions about the number of stitches, anesthetics, cat-scans, etc. He'd done this before. Lots of times. We all guessed at the number of stitches. Boog said four, his mom guessed six and I went with eight. This was a time passing game like spotting out of state plates, only different.

Things went pretty well at the emergency room. Angie filled out forms. I held a cotton pad soaked with a numbing agent on Boog's wound. Boog fell asleep. I told you this was "old hat" for the little guy.

Unfortunately, we had to wake him up for the actual procedure. The doctor shaved the hair from around the gash. Then came the tough part, and Boog knew it was coming. A nurse, Boog's mom and I held him down while the doctor injected local anesthetic into the wound. He screamed bloody murder, but it was over quite quickly and he settled right down.

Pretty soon Boog was goofing around and touching the back of his head. He was giggling because he couldn't feel anything back there. For a six-year-old, he was an incredible trooper. The doctor, a seasoned guy about my age, was even impressed with Boog's nonchalance.

We were all wrong. Boog didn't get stitches. They used staples. He got ten of those. And he counted each one as he heard the click of the stapling tool. Toward the end we were all laughing and counting together.

They finished up with a big white gauze bandage that wrapped around his head. For some reason, on Boog, the bandage was comical. He didn't like us laughing at him though, so we stifled ourselves.

On the way back to the cottage, we stopped for Children's Tylenol. Boog scored some bubble gum and a root beer. He was happy. So were we. The whole incident had only taken about two hours, Boog was going to be okay and there was still much of the afternoon to enjoy.

Boog has about ten days left of his summer vacation. Let's hope we can get him home and safely back in school without another trip to the "Hostile!!! Hostile!!! Hostile!!!"

Hostile!!! Hostile!!! Hostile!!! That's an inside joke between my grandson Boog and myself. The joke goes back a couple years to a vacation we were sharing with my daughter's family. The very first morning the grandkids came into our bedroom early. Our room had a loft with an incredible view. Up the ladder we went. On the way back down Boog slipped and fell, hitting his head on the corner of our bed. The result was a flying trip to an emergency room and five stitches to close a gash on his forehead. Grandpa caught the blame.

The joke came later that day. Boog and I were playing with some pro-wrestling action figures I had given him. We'd set them up for falls from furniture, counters, stairs, etc. When they would hit the floor, Boog and I would scream out his little kid's mangling of "hospital." We'd yell "Hostile!!! Hostile!!! Hostile!!!" then pretend to haul the guy off. Just like we had done with Boog.

Unfortunately, our little joke won't go away. In the last few years Boog has been hauled off to the "hostile" numerous times, all while on family vacations. It is becoming a tradition. So far the list includes three wounds requiring stitches, a broken arm, a mild concussion and a seizure. All were separate incidents. All were while on vacation. My daughter is afraid someone will someday get all these records together and charge her with child abuse.

This little bit of history brings us to last Sunday afternoon. We were all enjoying the hospitality of some friends who own a cottage and boats. Three generations of two families were scattered about the place. Boog and another young boy were jumping off the dock, swimming to a ladder and climbing out. It was like the beach scene in "Jaws" where everybody is relaxed and having fun, but the audience knows better. We should have known better

After a while, the boys discovered a shortcut. They could jump from the dock, swim to a dockside boat, climb the boat's swim ladder, and then jump back to the dock. The route was several steps closer than using the much safer ladder on the dock. There were some mild adult objections to this new route, but they went unheeded. Little boys don't acknowledge "mild objections."

I was in the water. My wife was sunning herself on the dock. We both heard the sickening thud. Boog had slipped

Sharing The Vision
With Nancy Hopkins
Board of Education President

With the state budget crisis, federal education mandates and ever-increasing expectations of teachers and students, it can be easy to forget about the positive things that happen in our schools. These things continue to happen because of the time and effort of many committed people.

And while summer vacation is winding down, that doesn't mean the positive work of our schools ever let up. All summer long staff and teachers have been working to start school successfully and carry that success through the year.

In a recent letter from Superintendent Shari Miller to teaching staff, she described the district's summer work. Here are some highlights:

- New textbooks, including Middle School social studies books, have been arriving. Many teachers participated in curriculum development activities through the summer, participating in textbook selection and curriculum workshops.

Ledger Entries

of 125, 100, 75, 50 & 25 Years Ago



By Priscilla Lussmyer

125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL AUGUST 11, 1880

Apples and peaches are cheap and plentiful. Attend the band concert Thursday night. "A good many good-looking strangers in town lately; also stragglers." Wm. Fallas, J.C. Train and J.H. Weeks were delegates to the Greenback county convention last week. Vergennes voted to raise \$1,000 to gravel the road north from the town line to Fox's Corners; when will it be done?

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AUGUST 10, 1905

Ten Ledger pages this week. Instead of hiring another teacher, a partition is removed between two classrooms at the Central School. Foundation timbers of King Milling's new dam are now in place. The editor receives phone calls at his home (239) for news items outside of office hours. A mason working on the new east side block falls from his scaffold. He is carried to the Hotel Lowell and a doctor called for.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO AUGUST 7, 1930

Elvert Baird's large barn east of Lowell on M-21 burns down along with 50 tons of new crops. Gubernatorial candidate Wilbur Brucker makes a brief stop in Lowell on his way north. Soils on all Kent County farms have been mapped and the reports are free. Common Council's new ordinance requires vehicles to pull over and stop when any police or fire vehicle approaches with a siren, bell or exhaust whistle sounding.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AUGUST 11, 1955

The 4-H Fair demonstrates how to build one of the new pole-type barns. State highway construction of new curb and gutter on 300 feet of N. Hudson must be torn up and replaced at the correct, lower grade. LHS Class of '44 Norma Jean Haglund appears on Arthur Godfrey's talent show, bringing a quartette from Hollywood, where she works for Bing Crosby Industries. The bonding proposal is approved for the new elementary school. Justice of the Peace Howard Rittenger reports a total of \$401.60 in fines from 23 violations in July, mostly speeding (10).

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER AUGUST 6, 1980

The annual Fallasburg School Reunion and potluck picnic will be next Saturday at Fallasburg Park. Odd happenings: Many 4 to 7 leaf clovers on N. Washington St.; a helium balloon with several passengers from Chicago landing on the Klahn farm on Portland Rd. The University of Minnesota asks past heart attack victims to phone in; a study is being done to determine if blood cholesterol levels are related to heart attacks. First Security Bank donates the entire proceeds from its Showboat popcorn wagon sales to the Showboat Corporation.

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Engagements

Gilday/Reynolds

Jennifer Jeanne Gilday attended the University of Maineville, Ohio, and John Walter Reynolds of Cincinnati, Ohio, are engaged and planning a September 24, 2005 wedding. The bride-elect is the daughter of Tom and Deb Gilday of Maineville, Ohio.

She attended the University of Cincinnati. The future groom is the son of Marty and Lynda Reynolds of Grand Rapids. He graduated from Forest Hills Central High School and also attended the University of Cincinnati.



John Reynolds and Jennifer Gilday

Bob Roush, pastor
Friendship Country Chapel

NEVER ALONE

In my years of experience as a minister, I have observed how important it is for a person to not die alone. I have watched family and friends hold vigils for days ensuring that the loved one not die without someone being by their side. One day while reading the Bible, it occurred to me that Jesus died alone. If you follow the last days of his life, you see that as he progressed toward the cross, there are fewer people around him. As his journey begins in John 12 he is at a great meal. A few days later he is eating the Passover meal with just his 12 disciples. As he goes to Gethsemane to pray he leaves eight of the disciples in the outer court, taking with Him only three. At a certain place in the garden he tells those three to watch and pray while he goes further and here it tells us that God sent a single angel to comfort him. A few hours later while hanging on the cross he cries in agony to his father, "Why have you forsaken me?" But God turns his back while his Son hangs alone on that cross. I never thought much about that until I read it anew one day. I wondered what it would be like to not only die alone, but to be forsaken by your own father? To know that your

father could come and rescue you from the circumstances, but would not. That would be a most agonizing thing. And then this thought occurred to me. Because Jesus died alone I don't ever have to worry about dying alone myself. Psalm 23 says, "Even though I walk through the valley of death I will fear no evil because you are with me." The Bible goes on to tell us that He (Jesus) will never leave us nor forsake us." Eventually I will die, as will you ... that is a certainty which cannot be denied. When that time comes there is a point in the dying process where even the very nearest family member can no longer hold onto my hand. But in that very moment when I feel that last sensation of the present, there will be another hand grasping mine in the darkness and guiding me through the dark valley of death. As I feel that hand seizing mine, I feel something in it. What's this? A deep scar in the palm? And I feel a gentle tug as he pulls me through that shadow of death into everlasting life. Because I know Christ as Savior, I do not have to face that moment alone. He who died alone will be with me completely through the valley of death.

New Arrivals

Sean and Sarah Larson of Alto are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Grace Elizabeth. She was born on July 11, 2005 weighing 5 lbs. 14 oz. and measuring 20 inches. She is welcomed home by big brother Josh. Proud grandparents are Bill and Diane Wieland of Lowell and the late Carol Wieland and John and Janet Larson of Stevensville.



Grace Elizabeth Larson

Happy Birthday

- AUGUST 11: Mike Wilzcewski, Jordan Warren.
- AUGUST 12: Robin Briggs, Linda Uzarski, Betty Powell, Steve Martin Sr., Gaylord Heaston.
- AUGUST 13: Robert Hewitt, Ryan Christenson, Ryan Roe, Mike Roth.
- AUGUST 14: Adam Billingsley, Aaron Christenson, Betsy Brenk, Bob Wilzcewski.
- AUGUST 15: Ben Raymor, Bill Barber, Dena Baylis, Vivian Johnson, Donnie Shaffer, Barb Callihan, Kim Tubergen, Deb Wright, Pam Klaine.
- AUGUST 16: Helen Vezino, Don Gasper, Trent Raab, Mike Mooney, Ryan Aksamitowski.
- AUGUST 17: Brittany Essich, Jordan Harding.

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School is starting in a few weeks, and a number of exchange students will be arriving soon who need host families in this area. Foundation For Intercultural Travel (F.I.T.) a State Department designated exchange visitor program, is still matching international students, ages 15-18, with host families. All types of families are welcome, from retired couples to single parents. Students bring their own spending money for clothes, entertainment and other expenses. In addition, all students have complete medical insurance. Host families agree to provide room and board for their student and to include them as a member of their family. One semester and academic year students are available, and they all speak English. For more information about hosting an exchange student, call Maryann at 1-877-439-7862.

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Ready for a new fall project? Metropolitan Hospital in Grand Rapids has a variety of fall volunteer openings for friendly, helpful men and women. Especially needed are volunteers to greet and escort, visit patients in the Assisted Breathing Center, staff the Gift Shop, file medical records and provide clerical help to busy offices at the hospital and medical plazas. Volunteers typically donate one morning, afternoon, or evening a week. Requirements include a TB skin test, volunteer uniform, and orientation session. Parking is free, and a free meal is included any day a volunteer works a four-hour shift. Call Barb at 252-7009 if you would like more information or to request an application.

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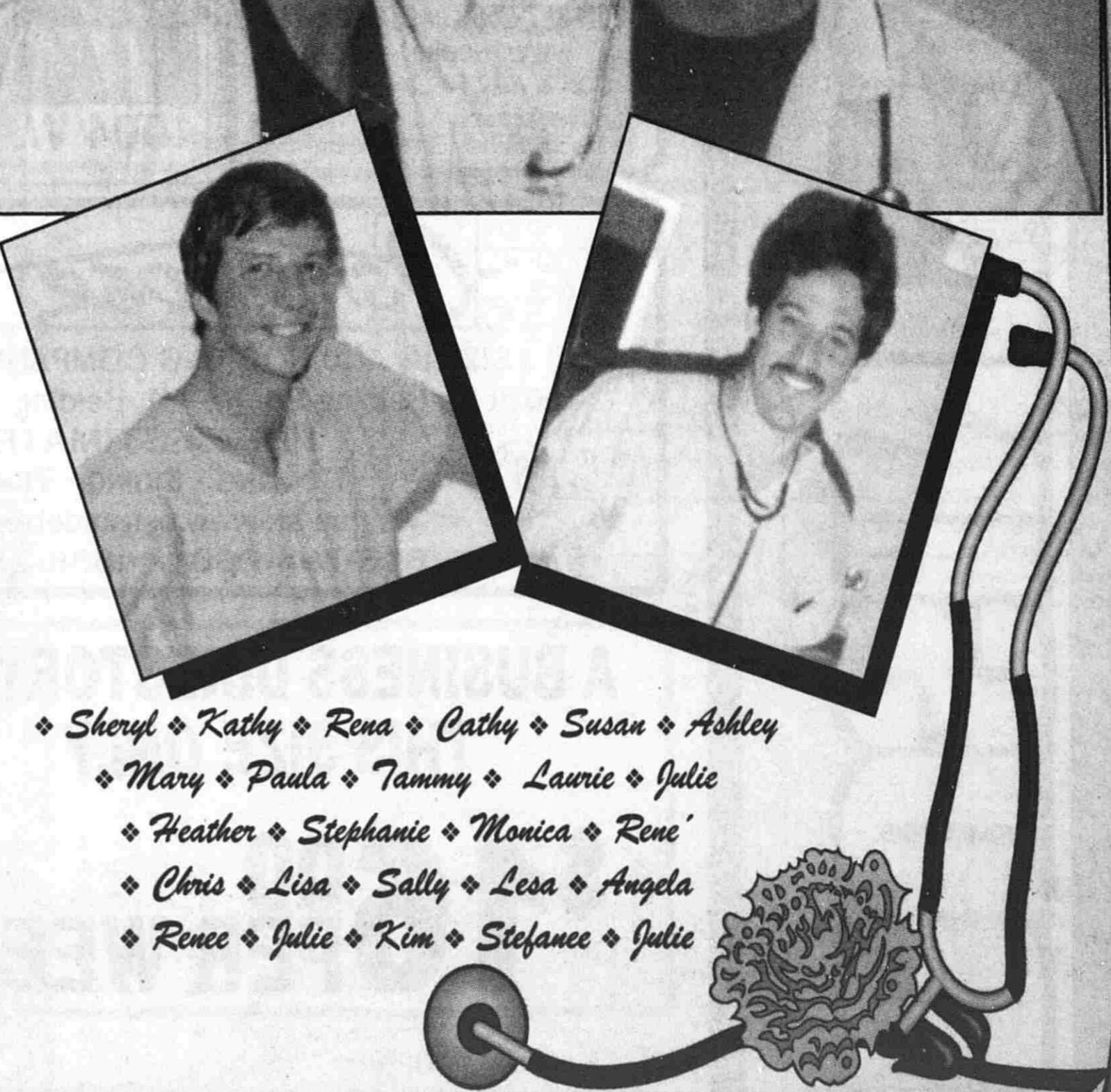
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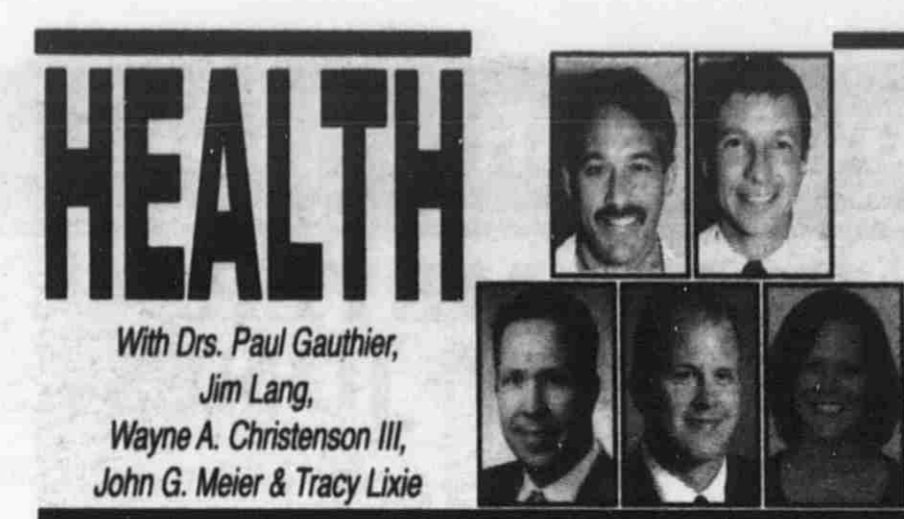
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NOSEBLEEDS

Nosebleeds happen when the lining of your nose is hurt or becomes dry. This damages the blood vessels in your nose. Nose picking is a common cause of nosebleeds. Irritation of the inside of your nose from allergies, infections or the

THE LOWELL LEDGER - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2005 PAGE 7
drying effects of heat or air can also cause nosebleeds. Blood vessels in the back of the nose bleed much less often than vessels in the front of the nose, but when the source of bleeding does come from the back of the nose, these bleeds are much more difficult to control and stop. Since most nosebleeds happen in the front of the nose, the first thing you should try is squeezing your nose. Squeeze firmly just below the hard part of your nose, not at the very end. Lean forward slightly and pinch your nose for five to 10 minutes. This will usually stop the bleeding. If not, repeat the squeezing for another 10 minutes. If you cannot control or stop your nosebleeds, your doctor may want to cauterize (use an electrical device) to stop the bleeding. Applying petroleum jelly or using a salt water nose spray keeps your nose from getting dry and bleeding again. Use either of these at bedtime and also run a vaporizer at your bed side.

Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.

- Carl Sandburg (1878 - 1967)

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell Across the street from the Vennan Dodge dealership. 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.</p> <p>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>Cherry Creek Community Church Contemporary Services Cherry Creek Elementary (Nursery & Children's Ministry Provided) Sunday Mornings.....10 AM The Wake (Sunday at YMCA Teen Center).....5 PM Phone us @ 897-0333 hccmcc@stcglobal.net Call for a free CD Service Sample</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A. M. Sunday School.....11:20 A. M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P. M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Services 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>EVERGREEN MISSIONARY CHURCH 10501 Saddlewood • Ph. 897-7185 Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....11 A.M. Evening Service.....6:00 P.M. Prayer and Praise - Wed., 7:00 P.M. Rev. Rick Ferguson - 987-6475 ALL ARE WELCOME! (Barrier-Free)</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Senior Pastor Dave Noonon, Asst. Pastor Jonathan & Stacy Holmes, Youth Pastors SUNDAYS: Worship: 10:00 a.m. - LIFE Home Groups & "XL" Youth Sunday evenings WEDNESDAYS: Family Night (For All Ages): 7 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM; SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL BRENDA BERG 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALTO 6015 Bancroft Ave. • 868-6403 www.fbcalto.com Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Service.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA (School year) 6:30 P.M. Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study: 7:00 P.M. Nursery provided Steven Harduk - Pastor Preaching the whole counsel of God. ALL ARE WELCOME!</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremmer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:45 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:50 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M. PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>	<p>LOWELL MISSION of the Evangelical Apostolic Church of North America Located at 404 North Hudson (First Congregational Church Facility) Christ Centered Sunday Worship.....4:00 PM Bishop Alex McCullough.....Clergy In Charge Reverend Deacon Mark O. Fleet, Clergy In Assistance Parsonage.....(616) 897-2587 Corporate Web Page.....http://www.eacna.org May the Lord fill you and bless you this day!</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906 Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>

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BUSINESSES SERVICES

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Annual Art Attack auction set for August 20

By Dan Schneider

At the age of eight, Santana Boulton already has a handle on her favorite artistic subjects.

"I like to draw a lot of pictures that include trees and flowers," she said.

She also doesn't want to limit her color palette.

"I like all the colors," she said.

Boulton, Quinn Summerfield (9), Brandon Strzyzewski, and Dylan Bevan are the youngest artists to donate work for the art auction at Art Attack III, the Lowell Area Arts Council's annual fundraiser. The four pieces are florals.

"There's some daisies and some Queen Anne's lace and also black-eyed Susans," Boulton said of hers. "I mostly used pencil but I also used a little bit of paint."

They made the drawings two weeks ago during a three-hour workshop in the studio of local artist and art teacher David Davis. Crooked Tree Gallery and Gifts owner Jonathan Shuff donated the custom frames to make all four pieces look first-rate on the wall.

Their creations along with work by more than 40 other artists will be auctioned

off. The workshop is one example of what the arts council does to promote the art scene in the community.

"I think they're doing a lot of cool things there," said Alto photographer Dennis Grantz, who donated a photograph for the auction. "They're an active group and that's cool, so you like to support that."

"I think they always have a really good show there, that regional show."

He said his wife Jody, who is working on an arts organization in Caledonia, brought a group of Caledonia elementary students to Lowell to see the Artrain when the arts council brought it to town. His piece is a photograph of an old railroad warehouse in Mount Pleasant.

In addition to the art for auction, 47 businesses (local and Grand Rapids area) and individuals have donated everything from art supplies to Michigan State University football tickets.

People from outside the Lowell area are also interested in the arts council. Watercolor painter and multi-media portraitist Linda Hopkins has driven from Stanton for four years to take classes in Lowell.

"I've taken classes through the arts council and I think they provide this area with a lot of culture and opportunity for artists," she said, adding there is nothing comparable near Stanton.

"You've got some great people who are organizing and promoting it from within," Hopkins said. "They have a lot of good volunteers within the community."

Art Attack, cont'd., pg. 13



Young artists Quinn Summerfield (from left), Santana Boulton and Brandon Strzyzewski stand to the right of the artworks they created for the Lowell Area Arts Council's Art Attack III fundraiser.

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LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

All Proposals Must Be Submitted No Later Than August 19, 2005 to be considered.

To receive a grant application form call Kate Luckert, program director at 616-454-1751 or download an application from the website at: www.grfoundation.org/lowell You may also pick up an application at any of the following locations: Lowell Township Hall, Vergennes Township Hall, City Offices of Lowell, Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the Englehardt Public Library or any Lowell Area School.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

Miles add up in a variety of ways for "100 Mile" participants

By Dan Schneider

Lowell Community Wellness's "100 Miles in 100 Days" walking challenge reached the two-thirds point last week.

With 140 participants, each trying to walk 100 miles by Sept. 6, organizers say participation has been enthusiastic, but mileage totals are hard to come by.

"It's going really well and people are out walking all over," said Lowell Community Wellness director Patty Sellner.

Walkers are putting in a lot of miles. It's hard to say exactly how many, though, since a number of the teams haven't been filling out the mileage blank on their weekly log coupons.

"People turn in their log coupons and they never write down their mileage," Sellner said. "We have database set up to track this but if we don't have numbers to put in there, it makes it difficult."

Some of the four-person teams have been keeping track, however. The leading team currently is the Mermaids, who have recorded more than 500 miles to date.

Besides walking in the evening, Caroline Jane Blough, 74, Mary Ann Gwatkin, 84, Donna Bieri,

74, and Jan Bieri, 68, meet every morning at 7:30 for an hour of swimming. That's the fitness equivalent of walking two miles.

"Two of us bike here, so we get miles for biking," Jan Bieri explained.

Booklets were provided to walkers at the start of the program which detail several activities and their equivalent in walking miles. Gardening for 45 minutes, for instance, amounts to the same fitness activity as walking a mile. Mermaids use pedometers to keep track of their walking.

"One day I had 15,000 steps," said Donna Bieri.

"Some of us have volunteer jobs and we count our steps when we're working," Blough said.

That reflects one of the goals of the walking challenge, which is to integrate fitness into everyday life.

The challenge is catching on outside of Lowell, as well. Community Wellness has signed up participants from communities as far away as Laingsburg and Pentwater.

"I think the woman who signed up (from Pentwater) probably did just so she could take the book and bring it back to her community," Sellner said.



"The Mermaids," consisting of Jan Bieri (front), Donna Bieri (left), Mary Ann Gwatkin (right) and Caroline Jane Blough (back) are the leading team in Lowell Community Wellness's "100 Miles in 100 Days" walking challenge.

The wellness director said, "For some people it's a little cumbersome" to turn in their mileage every week. Since it is summer,

teams often lose members to vacations for weeks at a time. Sellner said teams can update their mileage

totals by e-mail. The address psellner@lowellschools.com to send the totals to is com.

Michigan's groundwater maps now available

Department of Environmental Quality director Steven E. Chester recently announced the completion of a two-year project to inventory and map Michigan's groundwater resources. The DEQ partnered with the United States Geological Survey and Michigan State University to produce a new database that shows groundwater aquifers and features, users of large quantities of groundwater, and other valuable groundwater information.

"The information this project has provided

allows us to have a greater understanding of the nature of Michigan's groundwater resources," said Chester.

"Now that we have this information available to us, we must take appropriate action to ensure that these resources are protected, and move toward comprehensive water withdrawal legislation for the state."

The report, mandated and funded through Public Act 148 of 2003, will be submitted to the Ground Water Conservation Advisory Council in preparation of their final

report to the Legislature in February, 2006.

"I am looking forward to reviewing these maps to know where we have ample groundwater supply and where there are inadequate amounts," said Sen. Patricia Birkholz (R - Saugatuck), chair of the Senate Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs Committee.

"This will help us as we move forward on groundwater issues and protecting our natural resources."

"It is urgent now that

we have this information that we move ahead with meaningful legislation to protect the Great Lakes from water diversion," added Sen. Liz Brater (D - Ann Arbor).

While the maps will be available in traditional paper copy, a highly interactive digital format is available on the internet as well. This one-of-a-kind internet product will make data easily available to users looking for information to help develop and manage the state's groundwater resources.

Groundwater maps, cont'd., pg. 13

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<p>MONDAY.....CHILI DOG BASKET</p> <p>WEDNESDAY.....MUSHROOM & SWISS BURGER BASKET</p> <p>FRIDAY.....BUFFALO CHICKEN SANDWICH BASKET</p>	<p>TUESDAY.....CHICKEN SALAD CROISSANT</p> <p>THURSDAY....."THE RANCHER" BBQ CHICKEN BREAST W/BACON & CHEPPAR CHEESE (ALL BASKETS INCLUDE SLAW & FRIES)</p>
- DINNER -	
<p>MONDAY.....3 CHEESE RAVIOLI</p> <p>WEDNESDAY.....CARAMEL APPLE PORK CHOPS</p> <p>FRIDAY.....OCEAN TRIO SAMPLER</p> <p>SUNDAY.....PORK POT ROAST DINNER WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS</p>	<p>TUESDAY.....BEER BUTT CHICKEN DINNER</p> <p>THURSDAY.....PASTA PRIMAVERA</p> <p>SATURDAY.....BBQ RIB & CHICKEN CONDO</p>

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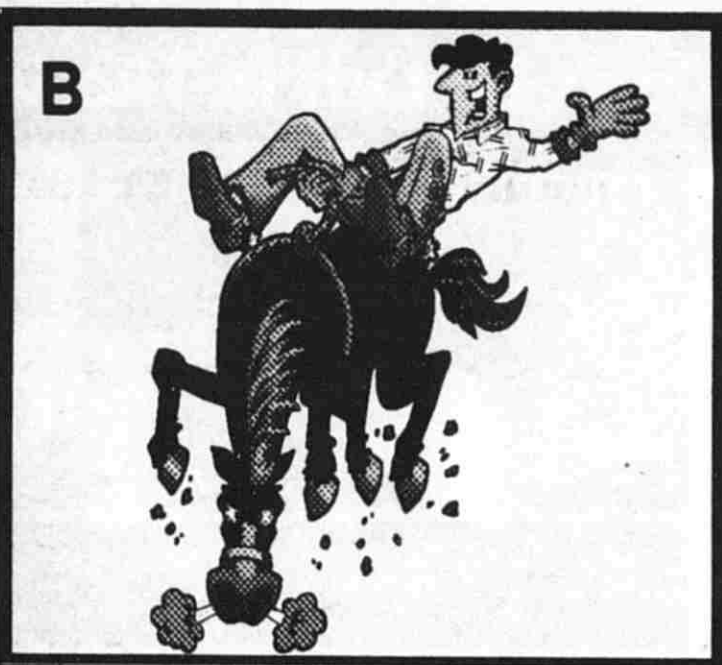
They can across up and down or diagonal

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What's the Difference?

There are five things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



ANSWER: 1. SHADOW IS MISSING 2. SHIRT IS DIFFERENT 3. SMOKE FROM HORSE
 4. HORSE IS DARKER 5. HAT IS MISSING 6. MAN'S HAIR IS DARKER

1. What Year Did The 4-H Youth Fair Start In Lowell?
2. What Do The 4 H's Stand For In 4-H?
3. What Is The Theme Of The 2005 Kent County Youth Fair?
4. What Do You Call A Baby Rabbit?
5. What Measure Do You Use To Determine The Height Of A Pony?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 17

How they SAY it in...

- English:** HORSE
Spanish: CABALLO
Italian: CAVALLO
French: CHEVAL
German: BOCK

new word

farrier

person responsible for shoeing a horse



Earth Tech pulls out of Grattan Township

By Dan Schneider

Earth Tech Inc. has quit as the maintenance contractor for a sewage lift system in Grattan Township after the township's environmental engineering firm discovered problems with the system.

The lift stations, which convey effluent to the township's sewage lagoon, serve residents on Murray, Ratigan, Crooked and Big Pine Island lakes along with St. Patrick Catholic School and Murray Lake Elementary. A preliminary report by Grand Rapids engineering firm Prein and Newhoff found a number of shortcomings in the system.

"Our engineers did an inspection that was in preparation for our sewer master plan," township supervisor Frank Force said.

Earth Tech was hired in 2000 to oversee and maintain the lift system. In 2003 and 2004, the township contracted them to make \$575,000 worth of upgrades to the system, paid for by a special assessment.

The Prein and Newhoff

preliminary report lists problems at every one of the 47 lift stations in the system. These include active concrete corrosion in wet wells, rusted control panels, the removal of galvanized pump guard rails and nonfunctioning pumps.

Frank Pollare, Earth Tech's vice president for communications at the corporation's headquarters in Long Beach, Calif., acknowledged that there were flaws in the system, but said Earth Tech did the job they were hired to do. He said the company was hired to perform repairs necessary for the system to operate with "reasonable reliability."

"We have met all of our obligations," Pollare said. "We're in agreement with it (the report), but it was outside the scope of our work."

Even Force said the township is happy with the work Earth Tech did in 2003 and 2004.

"The sewer system is in good shape, because when they rehabilitated it, they did a good job," Force said. "It's the maintenance issues that

have been brought to light here."

The report specifically mentions work Earth Tech performed that did not meet the engineers' standards. For instance, they removed galvanized pump guide rails, discharge pipe and control valves at several stations and installed PVC components. At the larger stations, the report said, "this is a concern because the transition from the PVC to the remaining galvanized pipe is not very strong and could break under the load."

Earth Tech also installed new electrical conduit at some of the stations without obtaining the proper permits from the state.

Earth Tech took over management of the system from the county. The township has been paying them \$10,000 per month to maintain the system. Before Earth Tech took over, Force said, the system had fallen into disrepair. It has improved, but there are still problems.

"We've had three SSOs since I've been here, which is a sewer overflow, and according to

the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality), that's unusual," Force said.

The case has been submitted to the state Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety, which will send Earth Tech a settlement proposal. On July 24, the company sent Grattan Township a letter giving 90 days notice that they were terminating their service contract.

"They had a hearing with the state the same day they terminated us," Force said. Since then, "there's been no communication from them."

Pollare said, "It's our full intention to maintain our commitment to addressing the issues," but would not go into detail about why Earth Tech decided to terminate the contract.

"We felt that there were philosophical differences as to how we should move our relationship going forward," said Pollare.

Earth Tech has managed the wastewater treatment plant for the city of Lowell since 1989, when the company was hired to bring the plant up to compliance

with state regulations. Lowell has had no problems with the company, according to city manager Dave Pasquale.

"It's been very good," Pasquale said. "We just had a renewal of their contract

so we have been pleased with how they've operated the plant."

Grattan Township, meanwhile, is looking for a new contractor to manage their system.

Groundwater maps, continued... From Page 11

The director unveiled the tool at the Aug. 5 Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee meeting in Saginaw. For those interested in a detailed demonstration, the DEQ and their partners will present the Ground Water Inventory

and Mapping at an Aug. 25 meeting in Lansing. The presentation will be held at the State of Michigan Library and Museum Forum Room at 10 a.m.

The interactive website is located at <http://gwmap.rsgis.msu.edu>.

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Clarence Thomas (1948 -)

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 August 20th - 9:00 - 7:00
 August 21st - 12:00 - 5:00

Art Attack, continued ... From Page 10

Besides the classes, Hopkins said she is interested in the gallery offerings at the arts council.

"I think it's always of high quality," she said. "They are certainly competitive with some of the high-end galleries in Grand Rapids."

Hopkins donated a floral watercolor for the art auction.

The auction is the focus of the evening, but there are several other things going on, as well. The theme is "Lazy Hazy Crazy Days of Summer." Bill Zinke and David Jones are providing live music for the event. There will be food and drinks from Flat River Grill served in tents on the greens behind the arts council gallery.

Art Attack III takes place Saturday, Aug. 20 from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Lowell Area Arts Council's Center Gallery at 149 S. Hudson. Tickets are \$30 each or two for \$50 and are

available at the arts council or by calling 897-8545. All proceeds from the event and auction benefit the Lowell Area Arts Council and its future programs and classes

in the visual and performing arts.

To preview the artwork and other items for auction, visit the Lowell Area Arts Council's gallery.

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Highway bill finally on the right track

With Senator Carl Levin

It has taken more than two years of work, several false starts, and twists and turns worthy of a soap opera, but Congress has finally passed a highway bill. Since the previous highway bill expired in 2003, we have been getting by on temporary legislation that has pushed off difficult decisions and has made it difficult for states and counties to plan projects.

Finally, we have a bill. It's not perfect, but it gets us closer to where we need to go. This funding for transportation infrastructure, such as roads, bridges and border crossings, will increase the mobility of people and goods, enhance economic competitiveness and reduce traffic congestion. In addition, it will have a large and immediate impact on job creation and economic growth. The Department of Transportation estimates that every \$1 billion in new federal investment creates more than 45,000 jobs.

This highway bill gets us a bit closer to equity for Michigan. When the formula for distribution of highway funds was established almost 50 years ago, about 20 states including Michigan, were "donor" states. In other words, these states were sending more gas tax dollars to the Highway Trust Fund in Washington than were returned for transportation spending. The remaining 30 states, known as "donee" states, received more transportation funding than they paid into the Highway Trust Fund.

This inequity originated from the reasonable need to connect various parts of the country together through the interstate highway system. Western states with relatively few people but long distances to cross had to get more dollars at

that time than they were able to send to Washington. That was fair enough. But they joined with a number of small, mainly eastern states to produce an unfair formula, which basically stayed the same ever since.

Each time the highway bill has been reauthorized, my colleagues from other donor states and I have fought to correct this inequity. Through these battles over the years some progress has been made. In 1978, Michigan was getting around 75 cents back on our federal gas tax dollar. The 1991 bill brought us up to approximately 80 cents per dollar, and the 1998 bill guaranteed a 90.5-cent minimum return for each state. This new version will bring us to 92 cents per dollar by fiscal year 2008. I am disappointed that it does not go further, but at least this bill makes a little more progress toward achieving equity for Michigan.

Overall, this bill will provide more than \$1.1 billion annually to fund transportation projects in Michigan - \$240 million more per year than the prior six-year highway bill. In doing so, it will create 61,500 new jobs across the state.

Further, we are proud to have helped secure significant additional funding for Michigan roads and highway-related

projects that will help make up a bit for Michigan continuing to be a donor state. For example, the bill provides \$41 million to reconstruct and widen I-94 in Kalamazoo and \$43 million for the Blue Water Bridge plaza expansion in Port Huron. It provides \$29 million for the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy to help establish a West Riverfront walkway and greenway along the Detroit River east from Cobo Hall to the Ambassador Bridge. The bill provides \$12 million for the construction of a new crossing and I-75 interchange in Gaylord to reconnect Milbocker and McCoy Roads and a new overpass to reconnect Van Tyle to South Wisconsin Road. And, among other projects, it provides \$13.3 million to repave a portion of H-53 in Alger County in the Upper Peninsula.

We still need to reach full equity for Michigan and the battle will go on until equity is achieved. We have succeeded in reducing the inequity a little more in each reauthorization bill, and we do so in this bill as well. And at long last, we have a highway bill that will help keep traffic and commerce flowing.

School board meeting, cont'd ... From Page 4

teaching aides with new information about HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, refusal skills and abstinence.

Kasmer reported on the district's performance in Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Michigan Ed Yes grades. AYP is part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. It requires schools to annually stay above an increasing score threshold

in literacy and math, with 100 percent proficiency in those subjects by 2014. All of the Lowell school buildings met AYP except for Unity High. Kasmer said that as the bar raises, this will become difficult to achieve, particularly in states with difficult testing programs.

"Our state tests are quite rigorous," Kasmer said.

"Everybody is going down sooner or later, it's just a matter of who's going first and it won't be us."

The Ed Yes grade is a composite of AYP and a common set of standards for individual school buildings. LAS grades were as follows: Alto Elementary-A, Bushnell Elementary-B, Cherry Creek Elementary-B, Murray Lake Elementary-A, middle school-B, high school-B, Unity High-D Alert.

"We don't know of any school (in the state) that is an alternative school that made AYP," Kasmer said.

Harold Zeigler Ford general manager Charlie Jeffrey, representing the Lowell Area Automobile Dealership Association, read an open letter to the board of education expressing dismay that local dealerships were left out of the bidding process for a new plow truck for the district. The sale went to a Grand Rapids dealership. The letter stated that the dealerships have been supportive of the district, providing drivers' education cars, convertibles and float

pullers for homecoming parades, and muscle cars for varsity football posters and otherwise supporting the district.

"We have supported as many of these causes as we could afford," Jeffrey said.

The letter went on to state that the dealerships hope to get a chance at bidding the lowest price on future vehicles for the district. It also asked for a sealed bidding process in which bids would be opened in a public venue.

LAS superintendent Shari Miller said the plow truck purchase was an isolated incident, and 10 out of the last 11 district vehicle purchases were local.

"In the future, all of the dealerships will have the opportunity to place a quote that is lower ... or a bid," said Miller.

She concluded the meeting by thanking the district's custodians, maintenance and grounds workers for keeping its buildings and grounds in good shape despite the intense heat this summer.

Summer camp shape-up for cross country teams

The annual Sandy Foot Cross Country Camp was held last week in Ludington. According to camp director Michael Mull, both the boys and girls teams look to be more competitive than was expected.

With two to three

workouts each day, the 27 runners put in over 50 miles, and the eight counselors who attended the camp said it was very successful.

"We are going to have a majority of underclassmen as varsity runners. On the guys side right now, only one of

our top seven is a senior; on the girls side only one. This can only mean better teams in the future," said Mull.

Freshman Jonathon Woods was the boys' champion in the Big Dune Challenge with 55 laps; runner up was Andy Mark

with 53. Karen Judd was the girls champion with 52 laps; runner up was Erin Beddows at 49.

Mark won the Mohave race, which involves 9 miles of sand dunes, eight story ascent and several hills and valleys, in 1 hr. 12:27;

sophomore Kyle Ingebreton came home second in 1 hr. 16:00. Judd again was champion in the girls race at 1 hr. 29:00; runner up was Brittany Dietz in 1 hr. 44:59.

The traditional Sandy Foot 5k race ended the week. For the boys, Mark was the champion at 18:53; Ingebreton, 19:13. Judd came in one second from the all-time record after taking a wrong turn on the course; she finished at 21:00. Hayley Getzen was second with 22:32.

The Rookie of the Year award went to Mike Schummand Hayley Getzen;

Most Improved Runner was awarded to Kyle Ingebreton and Katie Riddle; and Most Valuable Runner went to Andy Mark and Karen Judd. Counselor of the Year was Scott Riddle.

Captains practices are being held Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Fallsburg Park pavilion; Tuesday and Thursday at the high school stadium; all are at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Official practice begins Monday, Aug. 15 at 8 a.m. at Lowell High School.

Anyone interested in joining the team or just getting some extra training in is welcome to attend.



Lowell High School cross country participants attended Sandy Foot Cross Country Camp last week in Ludington. Pictured, back row, from left to right, are: Andy Mark, Casey Randolph, Scott Riddle, Kyle Ingebreton, Mike Schumm, Adam Baker, Kenny Hayes, Ben Ritzema, Abbot Kastanek, Jesse Smoes, Cody Kastanek and Steve Ellison; middle row, kneeling: Kirk Geldersma, Steve LaFave, John Riddle, Will Bryan, Hayley Getzen, Emily Hauschild, Ely Drain and Katie Riddle; middle row, standing: Karen Judd, Shaun Hale, Jonathan Woods and Steve Ellison; front row: Monica Fitzpatrick, Erin Beddows, Hannah Kinney, Brittany Dietz and Teri Dingman.

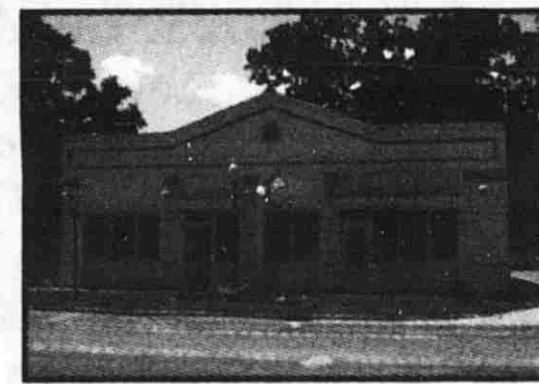
Child safety seat inspection offered

AAA Michigan is offering a free child safety seat inspection on Thursday, Aug. 11 at its Grand Rapids southeast branch location, 2650 E. Paris Ave.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly 73 percent of all child restraints are improperly used. And, at least four out of five children who should ride in booster seats currently do not.

The inspection is from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and reservations are suggested. Call 1-800-646-4222. Those without reservations will be given the first available opening.

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LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS VARSITY FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

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FOOTBALL	GIRLS BASKETBALL	CROSS COUNTRY	BOYS SOCCER
* Indicates a home game Red Arrow Stadium Games begin at 7 p.m. unless indicated	* Indicates a home game LHS Main Gym Games begin at 7 p.m.	* Indicates a home game LHS campus. Games begin at 4 p.m. unless indicated	* Indicates a home game Red Arrow Stadium. Games begin at 6:45 p.m. unless indicated
8/26 at Grandville 9/1 at J.W. Sexton 7:30 p.m. 9/9 Kenowa Hills* 9/16 at EGR 9/23 Greenville* Homecoming 9/30 Reeths Puffer* 10/7 at Forest Hills Northern 10/14 Forest Hills Central* 10/21 at Northview	8/31 at Unity Christian 9/6 at Rockford 9/8 Byron Center* 9/13 Kenowa Hills* 9/15 at EGR 9/20 Greenville* 9/27 at FHN 9/29 FHC* 10/4 at Ionia 10/8 at G.R. Christian 10/11 East Kentwood* 10/13 at Kenowa Hills 10/18 at Northview	8/25 at 8 a.m. EGR Invitational 8/27 at 10 a.m. Wayland Invitational 9/7 Kenowa Hills* 9/12 Thornapple Kellogg Invitational 9/14 EGR @ Kenowa Hills 9/17 at 8 a.m. Sparta Invitational 9/21 at Greenville	8/29 East Kentwood* 8/30 Caledonia* 9/6 Grandville* 9/8 at Rockford 9/13 at Unity Christian 9/20 Kenowa Hills* 9/22 at 7:15 p.m. EGR 9/24 at 11:30 a.m. E. Lansing Tournament 9/27 Greenville* 9/29 Reeths Puffer*
GIRLS TENNIS		BOYS GOLF	
* Indicates a home game LHS tennis courts. Games begin at 4 p.m. unless indicated		* Indicates a home game held at Deer Run Golf Course. Games begin at 3:30 p.m. unless indicated	
8/18 at Lakewood 8/22 at 8:30 a.m. G.R. Christian Tournament 8/27 at 9 a.m. Ionia Invitational 8/29 Portland*		8/16 at 8:30 a.m. Kent County Tournament 8/18 at 8:30 a.m. Lowell Invitational* 8/19 at 9 a.m. Big Rapids To. @ Katke 8/24 NorthPointe Christian*	

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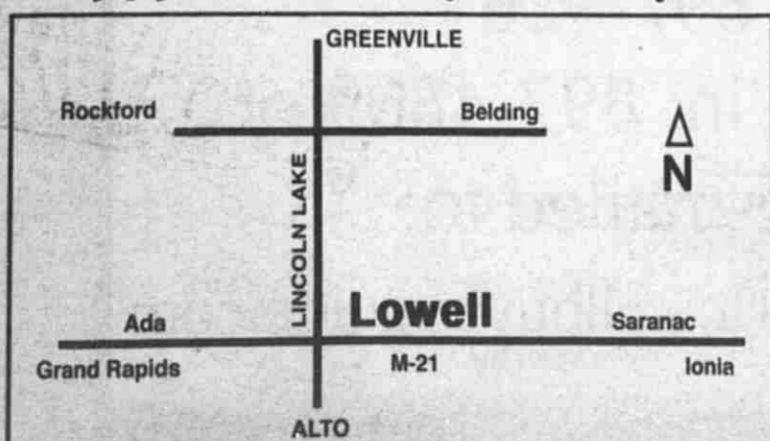
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