

The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, August 17, 2005



Down on Riverside

By Dan Schneider

Two houses on Riverside Drive were torn down Monday.

Located on the north side of the intersection of Elm Street and Riverside, and to the east of Roth Gerst Funeral Home, the houses are each more than 100 years old. They will be replaced with grass and shrubs, and kept as a "green space" according to David Gerst, owner of both properties.

"It's becoming difficult to find good tenants," Gerst said of his decision to knock the houses down.

Lowell resident Phil Schneider was on hand Monday morning. His camera in hand, he watched the excavator tear through the plaster walls of the house on the corner. Schneider's grandparents lived in that house when he was eight years old.

"My grandpa moved here when he retired, and then he went back to work, and then he retired and went back to work again," Schneider said. "He retired and then he ran out of money and went back to work."

Reminiscing about his childhood time spent at the house, Schneider recalls "just that I hauled an awful lot of ashes out of the basement. They burned coal and wood back then and that was my job when I stayed with my grandparents."

The properties are the second and third houses Gerst has had torn down adjacent to the funeral home in recent years. In the fall of 2003, the house on Hudson Street to the north of the funeral home was leveled. A grass lawn now occupies the space.

An excavator tears down the house at the corner of Elm Street and Riverside Drive. It was one of two houses demolished, Monday.

2005 youth fair wraps it up

By Dan Schneider

After the Saline Fiddlers rested their bows at the end of their second set Saturday night, the audience was on their feet in the stage tent of the Kent County Youth Fair.

The Saline Fiddlers are a group of 31 high school musicians from Saline, Mich. They play bluegrass music. The standing ovation the group of young musicians received was a fitting end to the 2005 Kent County Youth Fair, which, for 71 years, has been a celebration of youth in Lowell.

Hot weather at the beginning of the week didn't stop people from coming out to the fair. Returns from parking and from the carnival where both up from last year.

"It was bigger and better than ever," Kent County Youth Fair manager Ron Wenger said.

One measure of support for the 4-H youth every year is the livestock auction. This year a total of \$381,762 was raised. For many of the 4-Hers, the auction is the crowning of several months of hard work raising their animals.

Bidders at the auction pay well above market rates for the animals. The top bid

on a beef steer, for instance, was over \$3 per pound. The general market price for steers is around 80 cents per pound, according to fair livestock superintendent Dave VanderBoon. The 4-Hers use the money to pay back their parents for the animals' feed and veterinary bills. Then they use it to buy their next project animals. Most save whatever is left for college.

That's what Lowell 16-year-old Matt Barton plans to do with the money he got auctioning his two sheep. It was his third year raising sheep, his sixth year in 4-H, and he plans to raise more sheep next year.

It took him four months to raise the ewe and wether, both of the Hampshire

Fair wrap-up, cont'd., pg. 11

Township gives preliminary approval for phase four site plan

By Dan Schneider

At its meeting Monday, the Lowell Charter Township Board gave preliminary approval to a site plan for phase four of the Whispering Hills housing development, located west of Meijer.

Phase four will be constructed directly east of the third phase and will

include 27 lots. The latest version of the site plan adds light poles and fire hydrants, and preserves more existing trees than previous drafts.

The board also reversed its June decision to begin work on paving a section of 36th Street east of Segwun. On June 20, it voted to approve a course of action that would pave the road

in three phases. The board voted to reconsider that decision, and then voted not to pave the road by a 4-3 margin. This means the road will remain gravel for the foreseeable future.

While considering the minutes from its last two meetings, the board also

Township, cont'd., pg. 13

No change in local vicious dog ordinance

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

When it comes to the issue of vicious dogs, the Lowell City Council has decided that its current ordinance on the matter is sufficient.

At its Aug. 1 council meeting, a resident brought up a concern about a possible

vicious dog in his daughter's neighborhood, which led the council to have chief of police Jim Valentine and city manager David Pasquale look at the city's ordinance and compare it with other cities.

Valentine reported back to the council Monday night that he thought the city

ordinance addressed vicious dogs, recommending the ordinance be "decriminalized", turned into a civil infraction. Doing so, Valentine said, would simplify the legal process.

Currently, the city's ordinance does define a vicious dog as "any dog
Ordinance, cont'd., pg. 8



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**New Y
Director
... Page 4**

**Fair Scenes
... Pages
10 & 11**

Obituaries

BOULARD
Ward Porritt Boulard Jr., aged 86, of Alto, went to be with his Lord on Monday, August 8, 2005 after a brief illness. Ward was a retired farmer recently living at Luther Woods and Luther Home. He was preceded in death by his parents Ward Sr. and Mary C. Boulard; sisters Elizabeth Boulard and Frances (Boulard) Sislock. He is survived by one brother Clarke A.; sisters S. Barbara (Mike) Appel, Isabelle A. (Kenneth) Woods;

contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan or to Luther Home of Grand Rapids.

ELZINGA
Herbert C. Elzinga, aged 92 of Lowell, passed on to Eternal Life August 15, 2005. He was preceded in death by his wife Virginia. He is survived by his two sons Robert (Patty) Elzinga of Lowell, John Elzinga (Joyce Smith fiancee) of Addison, MI; sister Maxine Elzinga of Traverse City; sister-in-law, Lola Elzinga of Belding; brothers-in-law Fred (June) Hosley, Richard Hosley all of Lowell; grandchildren Heidi (Mike) O'Connor, Eric (Christine) Elzinga, Chris (Michelle) Elzinga, Betsy (Mike) McConnell, Becky Elzinga; great-grandchildren Lily, Keegan, Brady, Jonah; many nieces and nephews. Herb came to Lowell in 1937 to work for the State

Savings Bank of Lowell; he worked for 50 years, some of that time as president, retiring in 1987. He also was a longtime member of the First United Methodist Church of Lowell. Herb was a true gentleman and lived his 92 years to the fullest in remarkably good health. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. on Thursday, August 18, at First United Methodist Church of Lowell, 621 E. Main St. Dr. Michael Conklin officiating. Interment Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. at the Roth-Gerst Funeral Home, 305 N. Hudson. Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church of Lowell.

GARDINER
Memorial services for Daniel Jay Gardiner, aged 60, of Belton, were held August 13, 2005 with Rev. Gary DeSalvo officiating.

Mr. Gardiner died peacefully Tuesday, August 9 at his home. He was born in Grand Rapids, November 14, 1944, the son of James Inloes Gardiner and Ruth Eaton Gardiner. He was a veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy. Mr. Gardiner married Margie Hoyt, June 24, 1972 in East Grand Rapids. They moved to Texas in 1977. He worked as a technical analyst for Texas Instruments for 25 years, then for Goldsmith in Austin for five years. He was Catholic. Survivors include his wife Margie Gardiner of Belton; mother Ruth Eaton Gardiner of Grand Rapids; son Daniel Gardiner and his wife Wynonna of Ada; daughter Jodie Cowan and her husband Dan of New Braunfels; one brother Mark Gardiner and wife Laura of Santa Rosa, CA; two sisters Ellen Johnson and husband Ray of Alto, Diane Hall and husband Tony of Sterling Heights; three grandchildren

Devean, Daniel and James. Memorials may be made to the hospice service of your choice.

GREGERSEN
Mrs. Dorothea Marie Gregersen, aged 83, passed away Sunday, August 7, 2005. Surviving are her husband of 59 years, Everett; son and daughter-in-law Kenneth and Elaine Gregersen of Lowell; grandchildren Holly and Jason Fetterhoff, Kenneth Gregersen II and fiancée Lacey Gustafson; great-granddaughter Lani; sisters-in-law Florence Lauritzen of Gobles, Edna Jean Gregersen of L.A. Mass of Christian Burial was offered Wednesday, Aug. 10 at St. Pius X Catholic Church, Rev. George Darling presiding. Interment services were held at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens. Contributions in memory of Dorothea may be made to the American Heart Association or St. Pius X Catholic Church.

SCOTT
Mildred R. Scott, aged 84, of Lowell, passed away suddenly Monday, August 8, 2005. She was preceded in death by her husband Gerald and son Ronald. Surviving are her children Bob and Geri Scudder, Ruth Ann Scott, Mike and Leona Scott, Dave and Teri Scott, Jim and Jane Scott, Peg and Darrel Schutte, Fred and Cynthia Scott, Leonard and Laurie Dockett; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; sisters Teresa Czerney, Fran and Rex Baird; special niece Marilyn, many other nieces and nephews; dear friend Joyce Schank. Mildred loved playing bingo, going to the casino and being around her family. She will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her. Mass of Christian Burial was offered Friday at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church with Rev. Turk Rooney, C.S.R. as celebrant. Interment in Ada Cemetery.

Elizabeth A. Stepanchuk
2022 Hall St. SE
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616-247-1162

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF KENT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 05-180,044-DE

Estate of
JOHN J. STEPANCHUK
deceased

Date of birth: 09/20/1924
TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, JOHN J. STEPANCHUK, who lived at 2022 Hall St. S.E., East Grand Rapids, MI 49506 died May 8, 2005.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to ELIZABETH A. STEPANCHUK, named personal representative or proposed personal representative or to both the probate court at 180

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Lowell loses longtime advocate, avid golfer

By Dan Schneider

Herb Elzinga, a man known to probably every



Herb Elzinga

Lowellian of his generation and to many in the generations after, died early Monday after suffering a stroke the previous week. He was 92.

Born in Ellsworth, a small town north of Traverse City, Elzinga came to Lowell in 1937 after graduating from the business school at Ferris Institute. His first job was cashier at the Lowell State Savings Bank. He became vice president and later president during the 50 years he worked there.

Elzinga and his wife, Virginia, quickly became fixtures in the Lowell scene. She was a physical education teacher in the Lowell schools.

"Herb and his wife were just rocks of this community," said daughter-in-law Patty Elzinga.

Within 10 years of coming to Lowell, Elzinga became a member of the board of trade. The

precursor to the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, the board consisted of the area's business leaders. During that time, a policy went into effect that said all businesses in Lowell would shut down on Thursday afternoons so they could go golfing. It was a policy much to Elzinga's liking.

"I don't know if he was there when they started that tradition, but he sure helped keep it going," said his older son Bob Elzinga. "He loved golf."

The way his family tells it, calling Elzinga an avid golfer was an understatement. After retirement, he golfed every Monday and Friday morning. Age didn't slow him down, either.

"He was in remarkably good health," Bob Elzinga said.

Elzinga's sons said he outlasted more than one generation of golf partners ... and kept pace with all of them. Elzinga was in his 80s when he got his first hole in one. He would get a total of three holes in one during that decade.

His other passions were

Elzinga, cont'd., pg. 4

High Street will return to one-way

By J. Lobdell
Contributing Writer

Parents dropping off and picking up students at Runciman Elementary and residents in that area should take note: High Street is going to be one way this fall.

By consensus vote, the Lowell City Council decided to honor the request made by Lowell Area Schools Transportation director Larry Mikulski, asking that High Street be changed back to one way going east.

Lowell police chief Jim

Valentine said the street was, for decades, a one-way street but was changed, according to best guesses, about the time Runciman Elementary became the district's administrative building. At that time, there was minimal traffic at the site, Valentine said.

Since then, the district has expanded its offerings to honor the request made by Lowell Area Schools Transportation director Larry Mikulski, asking that High Street be changed back to one way going east.

"The street is a rather narrow street," Valentine

said, adding that congestion has made it difficult for drivers to get through. When two vehicles are trying to get around a school bus, the cars usually meet head-on in the middle of the road, kind of in a stand-off, he said.

Then there is the flow of pedestrian traffic with people trying to back up to let one car pass so they can get through, Valentine said.

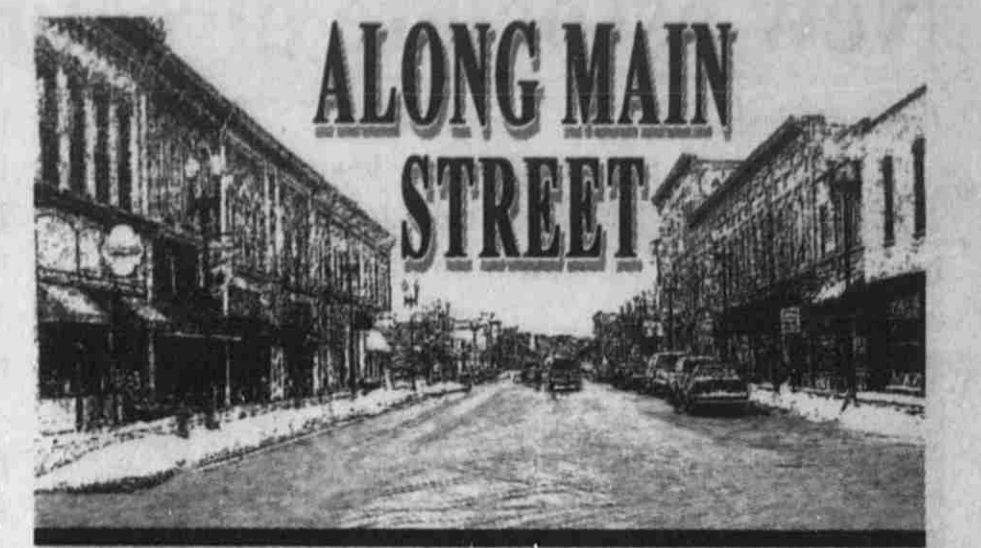
Currently, parking is allowed on both sides of the street. With the traffic change order, parking would be eliminated on the south side of the street from Monroe

to an area just east of the main building entrance and sidewalk; buses, however, would still be allowed to pull up and unload as would a car, provided the driver did not leave the vehicle.

Valentine said he spoke with a landlord who owns a rental property on the street and he welcomed the change to ease traffic problems. Public works director Dan DesJarden spoke to residents living on the corner of High and Washington, who indicated the change would not impact them.

Redesigning the street would cost about \$400; Valentine said he wanted to talk to the school about helping to cover the costs. Once that is taken care of, DesJarden indicated the change could be done before the start of school on Aug. 24.

The biggest issue, according to Valentine, will be re-educating people about driving one way on the street.



FROSH ORIENTATION

Smart Start for LHS is this Wednesday, Aug. 17. Those with last name A-K (9-11 a.m.), L-Z (1-3 p.m.). Bring picture form for Lifetouch school pics. Even if you aren't ordering from Lifetouch, all students are required to have their photo taken for ID card. Cost: \$1.

RIVERWALK SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERTS

Sweet Willie and the Dixieland Stompers will perform this Thursday from 7-9 p.m.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

LHS new student orientation is this Friday, Aug. 19 from 8:30 - 11 a.m. for upper classmen new to the district.

LACF ACCEPTING GRANT PROPOSALS

Proposals for the Lowell Area Community Fund must be submitted by this Friday (8-19) to be considered for its next grant round. Call Kate at the G. R. Community Foundation, 454-1751 or go to the web site: www.grfoundation.org/lowell.

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS MEETING

The regular business meeting of the Lowell athletic boosters will be held Monday, Aug. 22 at 7 p.m. in the stadium concession stand. After the business meeting, there will be concession training for new parent reps.

LHS OPEN HOUSE

Dinner at 6 p.m. in the Frosh Commons on Monday, Aug. 29; Open house in LPAC at 7 p.m. All parents are welcome to meet their son's/daughter's teachers and follow their class schedule.

INDIVIDUALS NEEDED FOR L.I.V.E. CLASSES

Lowell Leadership is accepting names of people who would like to be a part of the L.I.V.E. classes starting in October. Call Liz at 897-9161 or go to website www.lowellchamber.org.

1950'S REUNION PLANNED

Classes from 1952-1960 have been invited (but other classes are also welcome) to the LHS reunion at Fallsburg Park on Oct. 1 at 2 p.m. Call Judy Baird 897-9081.

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• SKELETON KEY (PG-13)
12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15
• DUKES OF HAZZARD (PG-13)
11:55, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
• MUST LOVE DORIS (PG-13)
2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00
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LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS

Last year new phone numbers were put into place for all buildings in Lowell Area Schools. For a complete listing, please check the Lowell Area Schools website at www.lowellschools.com or your local telephone directory.

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New associate director at Lowell YMCA

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell YMCA branch has hired a new associate director.

Staci Messersmith, who has been the child care director for the YMCA Child Development Center at the Runciman Elementary

building for a year, was hired last week to replace Andy Retberg. She is currently filling both roles until the YMCA hires a new child care director.

Messersmith, 34, lives in Comstock Park but already feels a connection with the Lowell community.

"The connections that are in this town are so neat to see," Messersmith said. "Everybody knows everybody here and it's neat to see that."

Messersmith plans to build on the connections the YMCA has with Lowell Area Schools and to encourage the Y to reach out more extensively to seniors.

"I think sometimes we're kind of separate from everybody else and I would like to see it grow as a partnership," she said. "We want to make sure we're offering programs that fit with the community and so people feel like they belong here. We'd just like to bring some new ideas to the community."

The new associate director hopes to integrate YMCA sports more closely with school sports. She envisions the Y as a place where athletes who don't make the high school teams can build their skills and feed back into the varsity, for instance.

The director position at the Lowell YMCA has seen some turnover in the past few years. The title became

associate director after the Grand Rapids YMCA dismissed longtime Lowell branch director Will Welsh two years ago. That was followed by Retberg's short tenure as associate director. Retberg will continue to teach some classes at the Lowell Y.

Messersmith said she plans to stay with the job for the long haul. "This was my goal, and I've reached my goal and I'm really excited to make a difference in Lowell," she said.

That chance to make a difference is what first drew her to a job with the YMCA.

"I believed in what they did and they're very passionate about people and

communities," Messersmith said. "I saw it as a way to grow professionally, definitely, but also as a way to have an impact on the community."

Messersmith doesn't think living outside of Lowell will interfere with her community involvement.

"I feel like I can easily connect with the community through going to games and attending community events," she said.

She sees a lot of good in the Lowell Y and the potential for bigger things in the future.

"I think it's got a lot of opportunity for growth," Messersmith said.

"The people here are just

phenomenal. The staff are supportive, the community is very supportive ... I think there's lots of things that we can do."

Among these is building on the YMCA's connections with the Lowell Parks and Recreation Commission. She mentioned helping build a local skateboard park as a possible future project for the Y.

Taking the associate director position was a big step for her.

"I do, but I'm very excited because fitness is my passion," Messersmith said. "I think it's a good transition for me. I enjoy getting out in the community, and I enjoy getting to know Lowell."



Staci Messersmith is the new associate director for the Lowell YMCA branch.

LOWELL AREA SCHOOL NEWS

Free and reduced price meal applications are available at any Lowell Area School office.

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College News

Drew Morrison, a Lowell High School graduate, received the Mary Alice Badgely Medallion Scholarship to begin his studies at Western Michigan University this fall.

Medallion Scholarships are among the highest honors WMU can bestow to an incoming freshman. Valued at \$32,000 over four years, they constitute one of the largest merit-based awards in American higher education.

Morrison, the son of Vaughn and Marjorie Morrison, plans to major in psychology.

Two local students have received the Albion College Presidential Scholarship worth \$12,500.

This award is reserved for students who earn a minimum ACT score of 27 (SAT 1220) or a minimum grade point average of 3.7. Recipients must also demonstrate substantial

involvement in both academic and extracurricular activities during high school.

From Lowell are **Jonathan Christiansen and Kristin Befus.**

Kim Stuckey, a 1999 graduate of Lowell High School, has been recognized on the dean's list at Grand Rapids Community College with a 4.0 grade point average.

Elzinga, continued ... From Page 3

his family, banking and Lowell.

"He loved the small town, he was from a small town and that's why he took the job in Lowell," Bob Elzinga said.

After serving as the bank's president for several years, Elzinga partially retired from the bank. He would go to Florida in the winter and return in the summer to work at the bank.

"He just didn't want to give it up," said Bob Elzinga, who worked at the bank himself until 1990.

"Family was the most important thing to him, really," Bob Elzinga said.

"He was highly dedicated to his grandkids," his younger son John Elzinga said. "He was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word."

He had a reputation for being among the best dressed men in Lowell. And he liked to take people out to dinner.

"Whoever he went with could never have the check, it was against the rules," said Patty Elzinga.

Another love of

Elzinga's was the outdoors. Deer camp was a yearly ritual.

"He and his brothers and nephews would go to deer camp every year," John Elzinga said. "Sometimes they'd take their guns."

Elzinga lent his banking skills to various causes around town. For years, he was treasurer of the 4-H fair board and Lowell Showboat. He served at least 20 years as treasurer of the First United Methodist Church of Lowell and also served on the Lowell City Council.

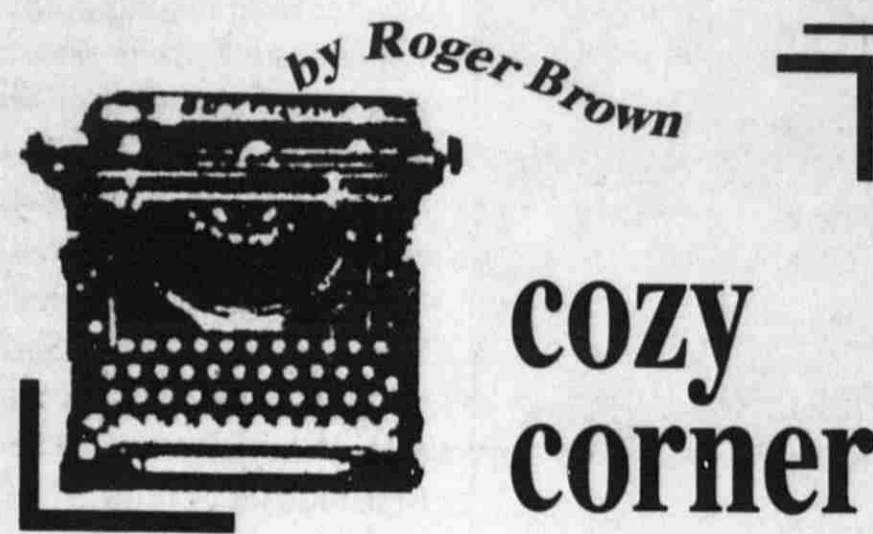
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DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS WILL BE AUGUST 31, 2005

Viewpoint



A long dreaded day arrived last week. For years my wife, Terese, has declared that this day of reckoning was coming. The kids and I have been ducking and dodging the issue for at least ten years. She finally caught up to us.

A building I rent has long been a convenient repository for, dare I say it, "junk." The place had taken on the appearance of the "Sanford and Son" set, and Terese was determined to do something about it. Involved was fifteen years of residue from life in three homes and a cottage. Also involved was the clutter from the kids' transition from home life through college, the army and on into adulthood. As you can imagine, we're talkin' a pretty good heap-o-stuff.

The kids had been forewarned. They had sorted through the dusty loft area where most of this stuff was piled. My daughter came away with a box of photos, high school yearbooks and a few small keepsakes. She also claimed her varsity jacket and wedding dress. Everything else was condemned to the large dumpster we had scheduled.

My son's search was a similar scenario, army uniform, yearbooks, a few photos, and that was about it. Everything else, big heavy, clumsy stuff like futons, ski equipment, dorm furniture, boxes of textbooks, etc., was left for dad to drag down a ladder and lug off to the dumpster. Some things never change.

I can't gripe too much, as the vast majority of the accumulated junk came from a big old gray-haired pack rat. Most of the stuff hauled down from the cramped and dirty loft was hauled up there in the first place by you-know-who.

There is an oft-quoted rule of thumb that says, "If you haven't used it or worn it for a year, it's junk." You could apply a median figure of about ten or twelve years to most of this stuff. Therefore it was "junk to the power of ten."

The big day came last week, and as previously noted, the work detail was comprised of Terese and me. Of course, we had picked one of the hottest and most humid days of the year. This probably worked to Terese's advantage. After only an hour or so I was so hot, tired and sweaty that I gave up on sorting and salvaging. The stuff just went in the dumpster pile with little resistance from me.

I do have an ingrained resistance to simply tossing stuff

that might have a use, if not to me, someone else. A carload of good, but outdated or outgrown clothes went to Goodwill. Other stuff found a different destiny.

With a piece of plywood and a can of spray paint I made a graffiti-like sign that declared simply, "FREE STUFF." A truckload of junk I felt was too good for the dumpster was hauled out to the road. The junk was unloaded and I tacked up my sign. Two cars had stopped and a neighbor had walked over before I could finish unloading. WOW! This was a great idea. I was beginning to wonder why I had spent all that money on a dumpster.

By the time I returned with a second load, nearly everything from the first load had vanished. All kinds of stuff simply disappeared. Furniture, framed prints, baby cribs, child car seats, comforters, sofa pillows, lamps, boxes of dishes, ski equipment, hockey skates ... "POOF" and it was gone! I lowered my standards for what went to the road instead of the dumpster pile. Amazingly, the stuff still evaporated.

As I was pulling stuff off my truck from one trip to the road, a woman stopped and approached me. She said, "I thought this was a yard sale, but the sign says it's free?" The statement was posed in the form of a question so I responded, "Yup, the wife is pitching stuff faster than I can price it and sell it, so it's free." Whether she believed me or not, my answer was pretty much the truth.

Load after load went to the road and disappeared. My standards continued to decline. One class of stuff did linger at the roadside and was repeatedly passed over. That stuff was exercise equipment. There was a weight bench and assorted weights. There was an inclined, padded board for sit-ups and a rowing machine. Apparently the people who are attracted to roadside "FREE STUFF" aren't into the exercise thing. They will haul off a framed print of tropical fish with a broken glass, and pass over a rowing machine that cost me a week's pay.

After two days of hauling things to the road, I only had to bring back two items. Those were the inclined board and the rowing machine. Ironically, the rowing machine was easily the most expensive item taken to the road. It was also in much better condition than most of the other items. The fact it had little use can be verified by a quick look at my non-existent abs.

I didn't have the heart to toss the rowing machine. It went back up in the loft. The heat had apparently gotten to my wife as well. She didn't fight me on sparing the contraption.

It's a good thing I came up with my "FREE STUFF" idea. The sizeable twelve yard dumpster showed up on Friday. I spent Saturday morning carefully loading it, so as to maximize the available space. It was heaping full when the pile was gone. Told you I am a pack rat!

Ledger Entries

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

By Priscilla Lussmyer



125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL AUGUST 18, 1880

Cooledge's harness shop is new on the bridge. "Vast quantities of peaches are being shipped from Lowell this season."

The district school library has received over 50 new books.

Common Council has done some nice street improvements.

"What shall we do for our girls?" Fix their corsets so they won't show through their dress waist behind.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AUGUST 17, 1905

Many sidewalks about town are hedged with sandbars. Please get rid of them.

All persons indebted to John Giles and Co. are requested to call and settle.

Upstairs apartments in the Masonic Hall Block have been painted and wallpapered, and electric lights installed.

Several Arctic explorers are rescued after their Steamer, The America, is crushed by ice floes.

The Stokoe Cement Fence Post Machine will also make steel posts with cement bases.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO AUGUST 14, 1930

Dexter G. Look is honored by the Board of Trade in his 50th year as a businessman in the community.

"Resnagging" streams—restoring brush, rocks, old logs, etc., to streams that had been cleared for log drives—will build game fish population, says the Dept. of Conservation.

Michigan is the third state to have its cattle declared practically free from tuberculosis.

The old school bell, first rung in April 1863, and silent for 15 years, will ring again in the new schoolhouse on Sept. 1.

Lowell has 735 telephones.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AUGUST 18, 1955

With good weather, a record-breaking crowd attends the first day of the 4-H Fair.

At least five grass fires in the past week bring warnings about the continuing hot and dry conditions.

The schools explore ways to handle textbook sales, now that Hartman's Drug Store is out of business.

Another barn burns, this one the Sam Ryder barn on Bailey Dr. Someone got a picture.

Carl Rasch gets a protective deer license from the Department of Conservation after a small herd strips 250 newly-planted cherry trees.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER AUGUST 13, 1980

The annual meteor shower (not the Perseid) should be visible after midnight tonight.

The now-popular practice of preserving foods by home-drying doesn't work in Michigan: too cold and wet.

Reserve a place to view a demonstration of the new microwave oven at the 4-H Fair.

Editor Brown describes winning a very large pink stuffed bear and getting it home in a teeny sports coupe.

The DNR reports good fishing throughout the state and Great Lakes bordering.

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Our appreciation goes out to the city of Lowell, the 4-H extension of Kent County and numerous volunteers for their time and efforts for the fair this year. It was a success. 4-H is such a wonderful and fun learning experience. This was our family's second year and there have been so many opportunities for our children. Not only have they had the chance to show animals, but also were required to learn

extensively about each animal. They completed record books and animal science projects.

Besides showing animals, they have made many projects for the still exhibits. The Foreman building was packed with woodworking projects, paintings, drawings, agricultural and sewing projects, jewelry, photography, arts and craft projects, sports and outdoor activities, service and community projects, and more.

Many, many people put in time, effort and money to make a youth fair successful. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rod and Tena Bartholomew

Letters • Letters • Letters

The Lowell Ledger - welcomes all "Letters to the Editor" for publication on its "Viewpoint" page. Letters can be typed or written. However, we ask that they do not exceed 250 words. "Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O., Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or emailed to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com.

Letters must be signed and please include a phone number. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy.

The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.

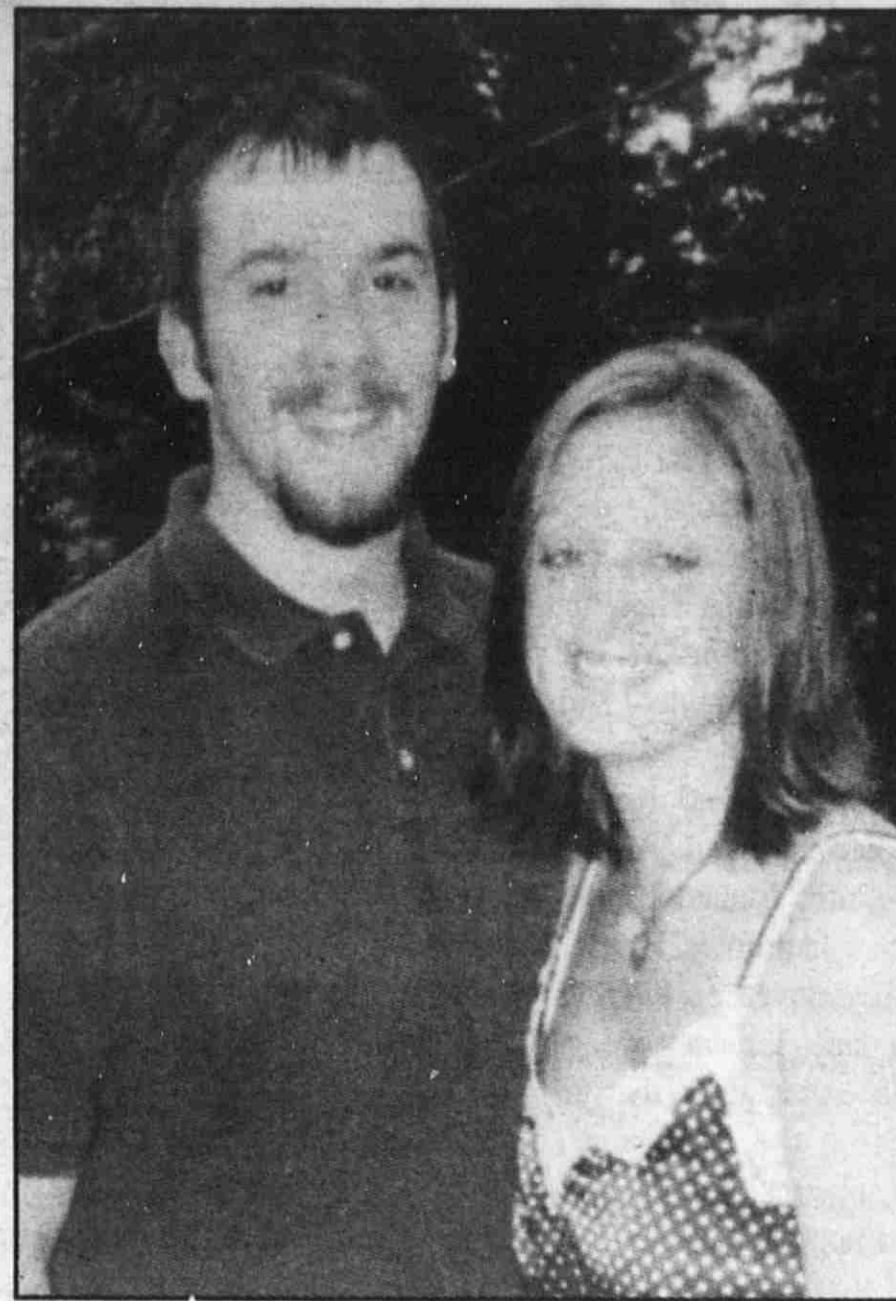
Engagements

Nowak/Stuckey

Daniel and Patricia Nowak of Lowell are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Angela Marie to John Carl Stuckey III, also of Lowell.

The bride-to-be is a 2003 graduate of Lowell High School and is currently attending Grand Rapids Community College.

The future groom is the son of John and Terri Stuckey Jr. of Lowell. He is a 2003 Lowell High School graduate and is employed full time at Ronda Lowell Tire Center.



John Stuckey III and Angela Nowak



Jennifer Haan and Mark Ruis

Haan/Ruis

Kenneth Haan of Lowell and Patricia Smith of Lowell announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Haan to Mark Ruis, son of Gary Ruis of Caledonia and Debbie Miller of West Olive.

The bride-elect, of Lowell, is a graduate of Lowell High School and Central Michigan University. She is currently working as an accounting assistant for the Grand Rapids Griffins.

The future groom, of Jenison, is a graduate of Jenison High School and currently works for Unified Title as an escrow officer.

An October 22, 2005 wedding at First Congregational Church of Lowell is planned by the couple.

Reflections of faith

Bob Roush, pastor
Friendship Country Chapel

Everybody complains about, and wants to eliminate, the middle man, the guy between the manufacturer and the consumer. Some people think the middle man is just another way of another person getting their hands on our money. But actually being in the middle is a precarious spot because you have to please the manufacturer and the consumer. It can be a very uncomfortable place to be.

As I close my eyes and picture a scene, 2000 years ago

on a hill outside Jerusalem, I see three crosses, one on my left and the other on my right. But the man in the middle is the one who draws my attention. A quick background check reveals the facts that the men on either side of the man in the middle were criminals of such magnitude that they deserved execution by crucifixion. This means if death was the lowest form reserved for the very worst criminals, it had no honor or dignity attached to its meaning whatsoever. On the other hand, the man in the middle was there for no particular reason. The charges against Him were trumped up by false accusers. Even Pilate was convinced that He was innocent and proclaimed the same by saying that he found no fault in the man. Yet Christ's accusers insisted on his death, so they drove him outside the city, stretched out on a cross and hung him between those two common criminals.

In the final hours of His life, as He hung between these two criminals, one of them turned to Him and sneered, "If you're the son of God, save yourself and us, come down off

that cross!" The one on the other side simply said, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

In response, Jesus turned His face toward THAT man and in doing so, turned away from the other. The scene is vivid. Jesus, the man in the middle hangs between two criminals, neither of which have any hope for their eternal destiny. During the last crucial moments of their life, the man in the middle became the object of belief for one and the object of denial for the other. These two men represent two groups of people today: those who believe and those who do not. Even as I write these words I muse on the fact that I was a sneering skeptic one day demanding certain things from God, but one day I simply believed the simple message of the gospel and joined the other side. The man hanging in the middle is Jesus Christ and He made all the difference in my life. He can in yours!

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. OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>Contemporary Services Cherry Creek Elementary (Nursery & Children's Ministry Provided) Sunday Mornings.....10 AM The Wake (Study) at YMCA Teen Center.....5 PM Phone us @ 897-0333 bcccom@sbglobal.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 Settlement • 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.....10:00 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 Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8900 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>SOUTH BOSTON BIBLE CHURCH (Kyser Road SE at Grand River Ave.) WE ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS • WE CARE ABOUT YOU Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. Word of Life (for Jr. & Sr. High).....6:30 P.M. Evening Praise.....7:00 P.M. Wednesday Kids Klub (ages 2-5).....7:00 P.M. Olympians (1st - 8th grades) Prayer and Bible Study Library, Nursery, College & Children's Services provided - Wheelchair Accessible Church 897-7623 • Parsonage 897-5464 • sbccb@juno.com</p>	
<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbcloowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/CLUB JC.....Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided - Barrier Free</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 Farnstone.....(616) 897-2587 Corporate Web Page.....http://www.caema.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>	

Annual tea party

Dot Lacie held her 7th annual summer tea party Wednesday, Aug. 10. In attendance, standing left to right, were: Dot Lacie, Jeannette Roberts, Edith Kloe, Louise Sickrey, Marie Grimes, Dorothy Denallo, Eleanor Hall, Elaine McDonald, Lois Schantz, Sandy Vennkamp, Harriet Ross; sitting were: Shirley Lasdahl, Kathy Modrey, Dorothy House, Adeline Brower and Eleanor Shimmel. Ross was the oldest in attendance; Brower was the farthest traveling guest. The tea was held earlier this year because Lacie's garden flowered earlier than usual. The hostess held her first tea party seven years ago after attending one hosted by her niece. "The girls were all dressed beautiful in their long dresses and their big hats," Lacie said. Big hats remain a staple of the tea party.



Lend A Hand



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HELP PROMOTE LITERACY

The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled an information session on Tuesday, Aug. 23 for prospective volunteer tutors. It allows interested persons to find out more about the council and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Kent County Literacy Council is a nonprofit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in our community. By training people to be tutors, the council can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). You do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The session will be held at the Yankee Clipper Library, 2025 Leonard St. N.E. The 6:30 p.m. session lasts one hour. Please call 459-5151 to register.

It is not how much you do, but how much love you put in the doing.
- Mother Theresa

Happy Birthday

AUGUST 18: Matthew D'Agostino, Sandy Dykhuizen, Sean Pawloski, Paul Reggie Owen, Paul R. Owen II.

AUGUST 19: Peggy Idema, Joseph Thaler, Lois Boonstra, Braydon Brown, Brian DeBold, Daryl Chamberlain, Charley VanKeulen.

AUGUST 20: Emily Boss, Mattie Dalziel, B.J. Rittersdorf, Alexis Holloway, Andrea Bryant, Katelyn Kaczanowski.

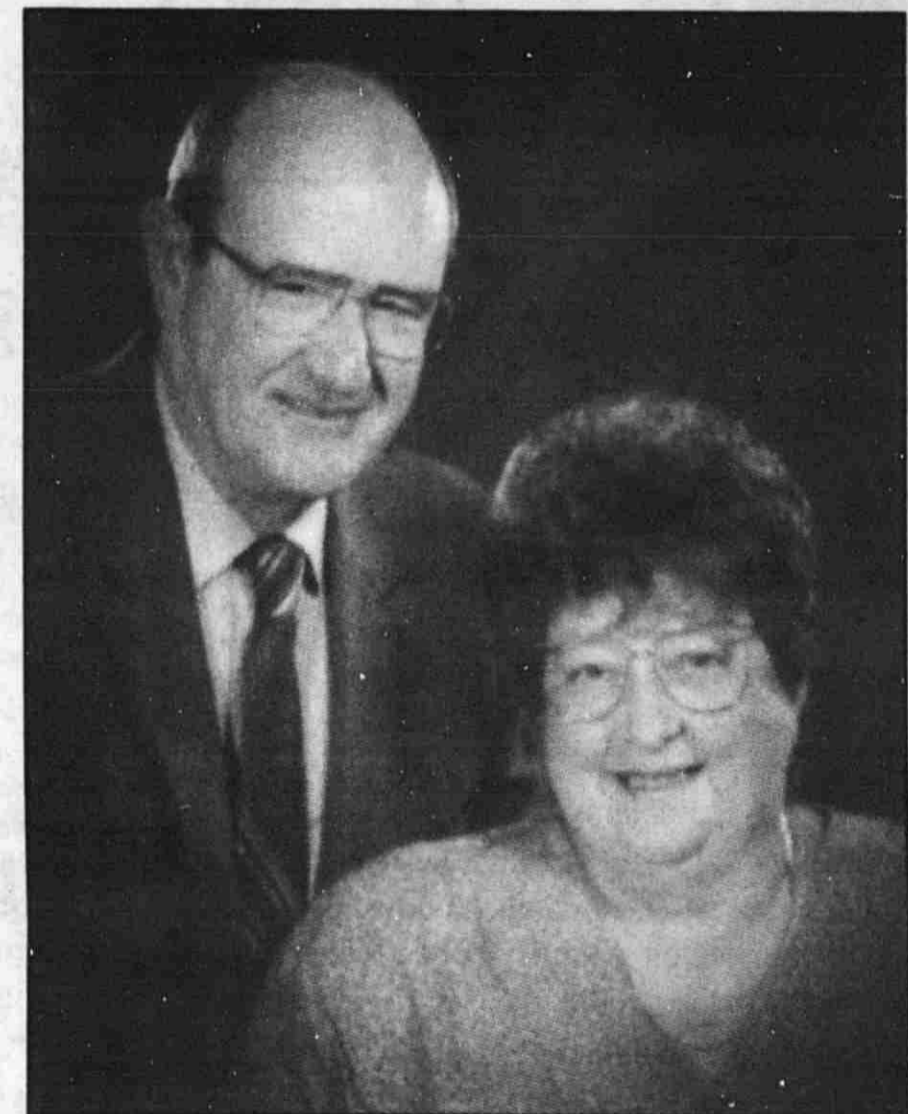
AUGUST 21: Madelyn Pfaller, Charlene DeShane-Dalga, Tim Aksamitowski, Joshua Hobria, Tom Barnes, Ethan Shindorf.

AUGUST 22: Mike Blough, Shane Teelander, Austin Goos.

AUGUST 23: Kacy Anderson, Rhea Bundy Anes, Stephen Rhodes, Brandon Taylor, Ron Kennedy, Jesse Carr.

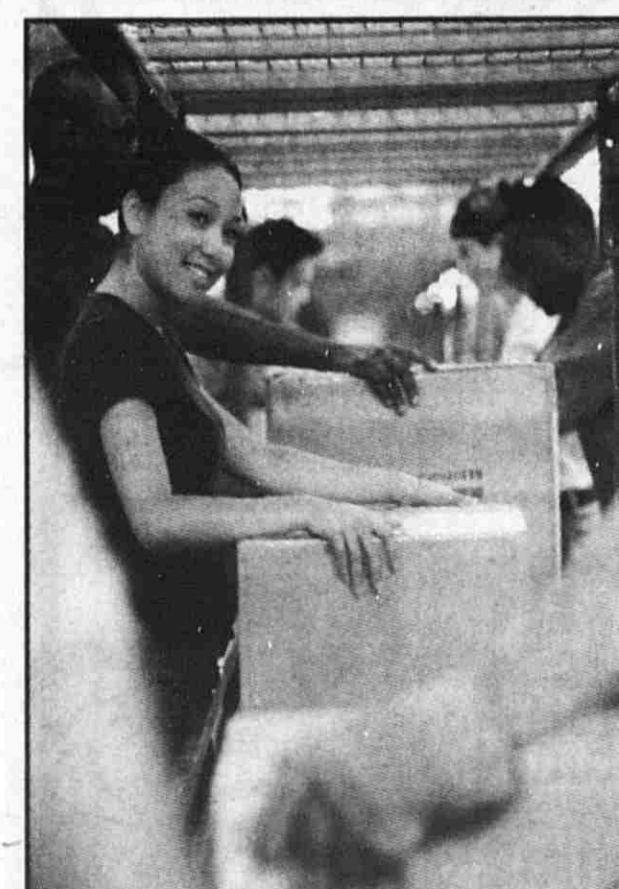
AUGUST 24: Tim Raymor, Angela Rasch, Don Geelhoed, April Barnes, Kelly Johnson, David VanKeulen, Nicholas Myers.

Golden anniversary



Ed and Pat Roth
The couple have five children: Ed and Connie, Terri and John, Scott and Julie and Tom.
Ed and Pat Roth of Lowell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 16, 2005 in Florida. They will celebrate the occasion with a dinner with their children.

Raising The Roof GARAGE SALE
Impact will be hosting a garage sale on FRIDAY, AUGUST 19 from 8 AM to 3 PM.
All proceeds will go towards our Extreme Makeover Building Campaign.
Come check out the furniture, antiques, appliances, clothes, books and more.
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A Message From Your Eye Doctors...

Eye To Eye

Dr. Kyle Booher O.D.
Dr. Michael Flohr M.D.

Many household chemicals, such as cleaning fluids, detergents and ammonia, are extremely hazardous and can burn the eye's delicate tissues. When using chemicals, always read instructions and labels carefully, work in a well-ventilated area and make sure spray nozzles point away from you and others before spraying. Be sure to wash your hands thoroughly after use.

Before using a lawnmower, power trimmer or edger, check for debris. Stones, twigs and other items can become dangerous projectiles shooting from the blades of a lawnmower, potentially injuring your eyes or those of innocent bystanders.

CAUTION EYE PROTECTION NEEDED!

"More than one million people suffer from eye injuries each year," said Dr. Flohr, a Lowell Eye M.D. "But 90 percent of these eye injuries could have been prevented if the individual was wearing appropriate protective eyewear (with "ANSI Z87.1" marked on the lens or frame).

"I tell people to keep a pair of goggles in the trunk for when they need to jump-start their car," says Dr. Flohr. "Battery acid, sparks and debris flying from damaged or improperly jump-started auto batteries can severely damage the eyes."

Prevention is the first and most important step in avoiding serious eye injuries, so be sure to protect your eyes with appropriate protective eyewear.

Advanced Eyecare Professionals
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Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-7000

Ordinance, continued ... From Page 1

which, without provocation, has bitten a person or domestic animal, or which by its actions, gives indications that it is apt to bite, without provocation, any person or domestic animal." The ordinance further states that a dog must be on a leash and cannot run freely, and that a vicious dog must be on a leash and muzzled. Valentine said a few other cities require an owner of a vicious dog to carry insurance and

carry a process in which an owner can appeal that title of "vicious dog" on their animal. Valentine felt defining a vicious dog in generic terms was a good move on the city's part. "About 15-20 years ago, Doberman pinschers were considered a vicious breed of dog," Valentine said, adding that if the city were to specifically identify a breed, it would be having to amend the ordinance every so often when a different breed is so labeled. "Almost any breed can become vicious if raised that way," said mayor Jeanne Shores, who, along with the council, agreed that keeping the definition generic was a good idea. A question was raised about whether the city should carry insurance; the council decided not to proceed with that measure at this time. Valentine said to date, the city has not had any serious dog/human incidents. It does receive a number of animal complaints that range from people not picking up after their pets to dogs running loose. If an animal does bite, the owner is required to contact the proper authorities and the animal is to be confined for 10 days to make sure it is not sick, Valentine said. The council did give its consensus to have the vicious dog ordinance moved to a civil offense.

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you.

This is the principal difference between a dog and a man.

- Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

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BUSINESSES SERVICES

BUSINESSES SERVICES

Amusement rides have interesting past



By Dan Schneider

The midway is part of the fair every year ... that collection of amusement rides which travels around the country on semi-trailers.

Several of the rides at this year's Kent County Youth Fair have some interesting history. The carousel, which made its first appearance at the fair this year, is one example. Barnesville, Ga.-based Jules and Beck Combined Shows, which provides the midway for the youth fair, acquired it last fall. It came from a defunct amusement park in St. Paul, Minnesota.

It's a 1957 Allan Hershel, an actual antique carousel. Since the attraction was built to stay in one place, it's not as portable as most midway carousels, which are typically built on trailers and more or less fold out once they get to their destination.

"We actually rebuild it every week," Jules and Beck booking and marketing director Becky Guthrie said.

They built a special trailer to carry all the individual pieces.

"It's got an actual canvas top which most merry-go-rounds don't have anymore," Guthrie said.

The Ferris wheel at the fairgrounds was the most brightly lit Ferris wheel ever manufactured by the Mulligan company. It has a total of 10,000 light bulbs mounted on its various surfaces. It had to be specially designed that way for its part in the movie "Mighty Joe Young." Disney bought the wheel, used it once for the movie, and sold it to Jules and Beck three years ago.

"When they built it, for the special effects, they needed more light output so that one has more light bulbs on it ... than any other Mulligan made," Guthrie said.

The lights on the wheel are situated visibly closer together than on most Ferris wheels.

The blur of the brightly lit Ferris wheel that towered over the midway last week at the Kent County Youth Fair.

Fair wrap-up, continued ... From Page 1

Suffolk breed. But it doesn't bother him to see them go to the auction.

"You really know they're going to go to market (from the start)," Barton said. "They might do breeding stock on a few, but usually they go to market."

For some animals, very few are sold to market. Out of about 100 beef steers sold at last year's fair, only 15 were resold by the

winning bidder. The rest of the winning bidders either kept the animals to eat or gave them to friends or employees. Some also end up at homeless shelters and food pantries.

But getting a good price at the auction isn't the only goal of the 4-H animal projects. The youth who raise animals learn responsibility and a work ethic and what it takes to successfully raise

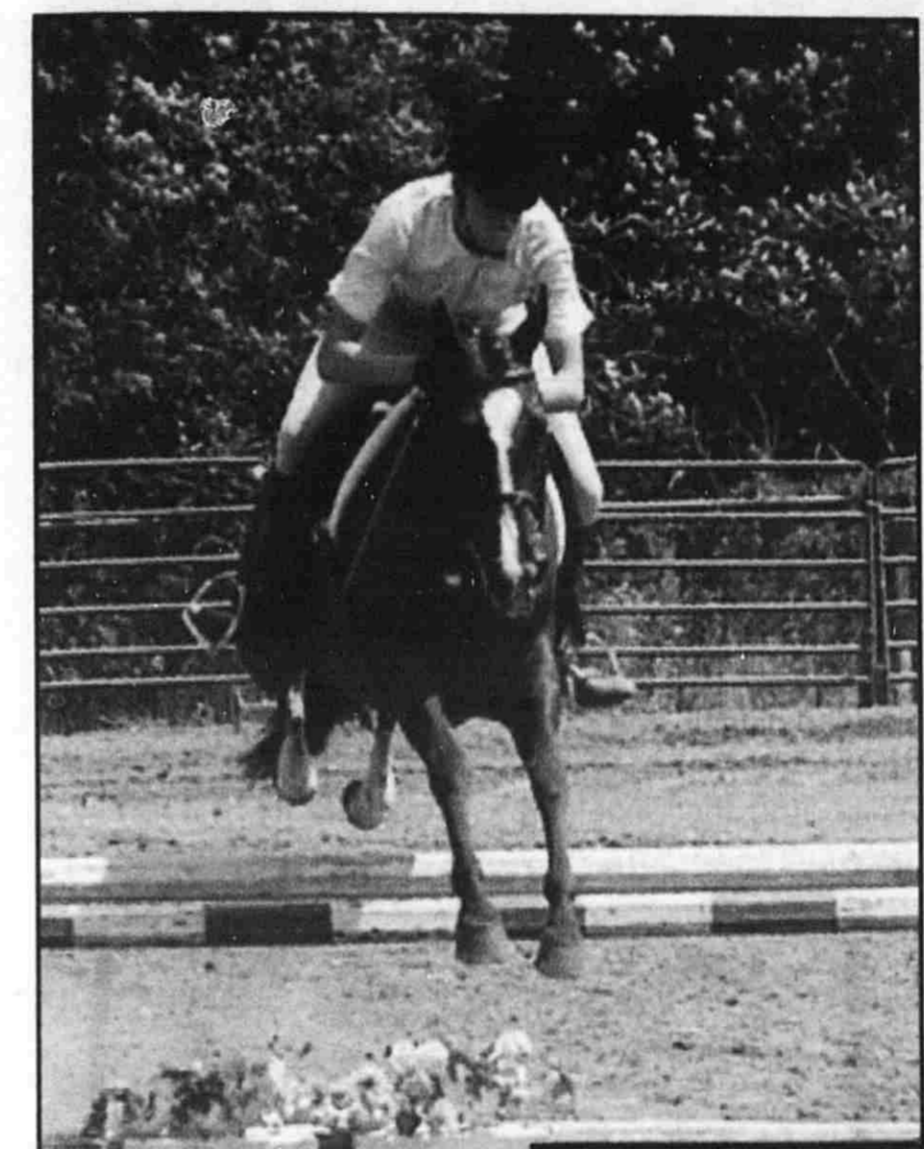
an animal. These are some of the lessons that motivated Bill Ruhf, of Courtland Township, to encourage his daughter to join 4-H.

"I think it's a quality program that teaches ideals that our family happens to believe in," Ruhf said. Emily Ruhf raised goats for this year's fair. Also taught through 4-H are practical skills for the next generation of farmers, such as choosing good livestock. Nicholas Hirsch, 9, of Caledonia and a member of the Byron Center Busy Workers 4-H Club, showed a holstein calf this year, taking second place in his dairy class.

"All he (the judge) basically looks for is their posture and how they look," Hirsch said.

Not all 4-Hers raise animals. The Foreman Building was packed again this year with still exhibits by 4-H youth. These varied widely, including informational displays, handicrafts, and insect collections.

The fairgrounds are quiet for now as the fair



Kristina Mast, of the Country Cowboys 4-H Club, jumps an obstacle on her horse "Majors" during last Tuesday's horse jumping event.

Kendra Zbkowski (from left), Lindsay Davidson, Karly MacQueen, and Marissa Brower of the Horse Lovers 4-H Club in Rockford, pose with Davidson's horse, "Sonny."

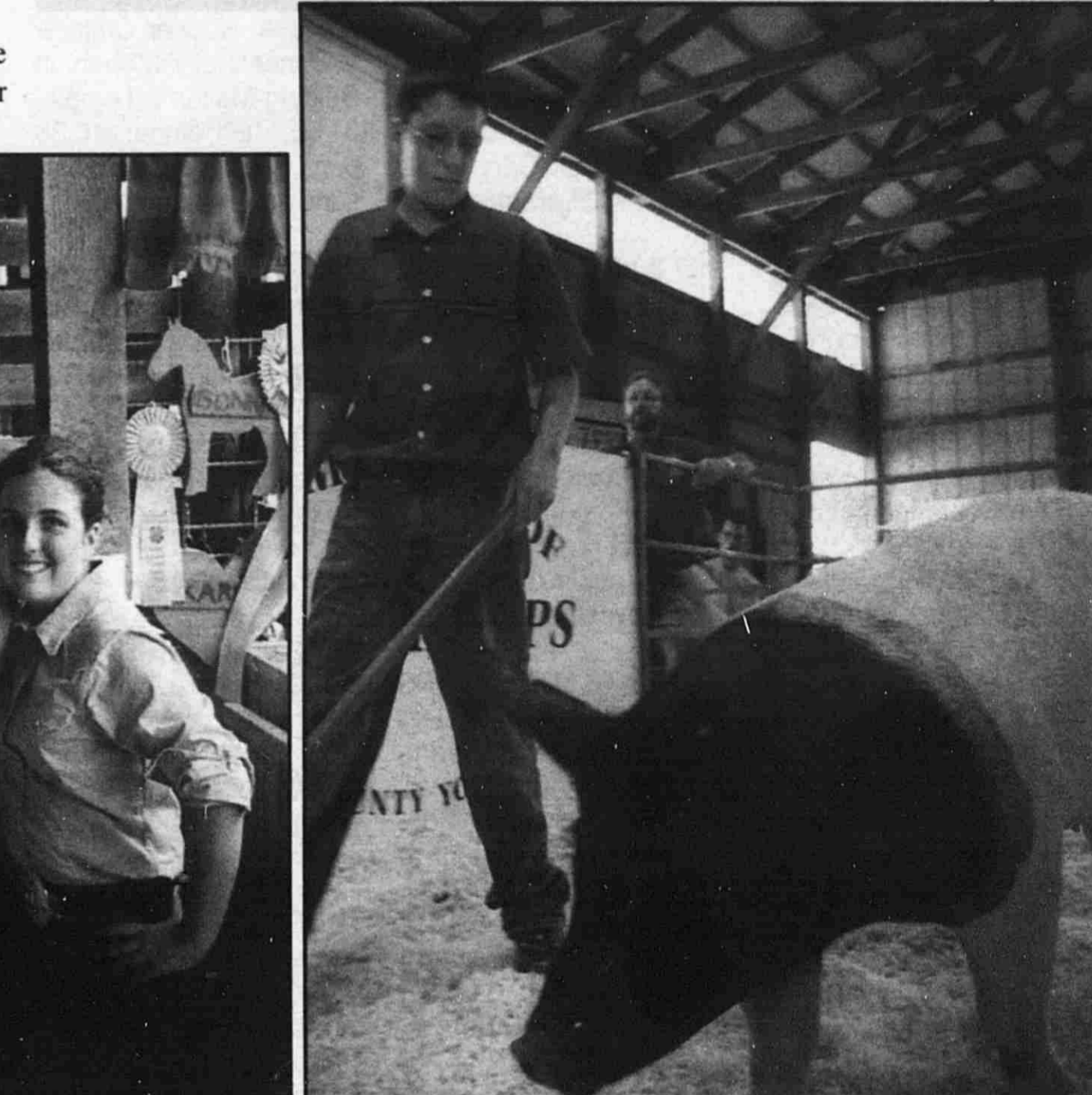
Below, participants in last Thursday's intermediate beef showmanship event line up their beef steers for judging.



staff and volunteers work to clean up wood shavings, bleachers, scattered litter and the midway churned up by rain and feet. But new sign out front already encourages people to come back for next year's fair, scheduled for Aug. 6-12.



Brian Sejat, 15, of the Working Paws 4-H Club, guides his husky Spider over an obstacle during last Tuesday's beginner dog agility event at the fair.



Austin Fischer, of Alto and the Cherry Valley Livestock Club, keeps his pig under control during the livestock auction.



Handlers keep their goats in line for last Monday's goat judging.

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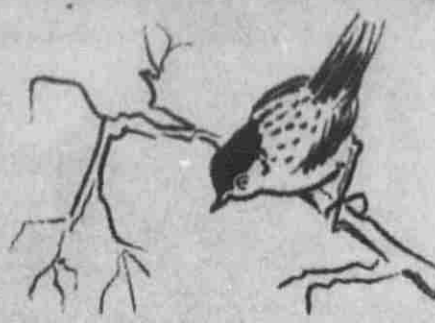
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Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



TRIPLE PLAY

Early August in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan means thimbleberries, low bush blueberries, and hot weather. On this trip, we encountered even more of the natural attractions of the area. In the span of several days while out and about in the Huron Mountains between Champion and Big Bay, we happened upon a cow moose, a young gray wolf, and a very large black bear.

I would like to tell you I saw these creatures while stealing quietly through the bush with fly rod or camera. Instead, with the exception of an eagle which I frequently saw from a small boat while fishing on a remote lake, I observed the illusive animals from the seat of an all terrain vehicle while riding over rocks, around washouts, and through standing water of sometimes unknown depth on abandoned logging roads.

The circumstances did not detract from the excitement of watching the wildlife in such awesome surroundings. The moose was the first I have actually seen in Michigan. There was always fresh sign around on previous trips, but tracks in the mud only mean the moose was there, not where it is.

In 1985, 29 moose were air lifted (slung from a helicopter) from a provincial park in Canada, then transported by truck and released several miles north of Champion in Marquette county. The moose population is growing at about five to 10 percent a year. While the herd is holding its own, fatalities due to vehicle collisions, brain worm disease, and natural

causes such as drowning have had some effect on keeping numbers below the carrying capacity of the area. Believe me, there is plenty of rough wild country in the region. Heavy cover of hardwood and conifer mix, vast swamps, and rock-faced mountains provide the required habitat for these large members of the deer family.

The same remote country supports a large population of loons, eagles, black bear and a number of gray wolves. It is just a good feeling knowing that one can leave the pavement,

noise and bustle of modern life and return to a time gone by when nature was close at hand.

Hopefully, the inaccessibility of large parts of the Upper Peninsula will protect it from the development that has overwhelmed the rest of the state. The existence of the big three—moose, bear and wolf—means we still have the opportunity to save what is left of the wilderness. It is up to us.



Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones

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DON'T GET DRAGGED DOWN BY INVESTMENT "ANCHORS"

The financial markets will always be somewhat unpredictable. Some investors can cope with this fact, but others find it almost intolerable - and so they look for rules of thumb, or "anchors," to keep their portfolios stable during all economic environments. Some of these anchors may have some value, but, before you employ them, ask yourself, 'Are they right for me?'

Let's take a look at some common rules of thumb:

- Buy low, sell high - This would be a great piece of investment advice - except that it's virtually impossible to follow. Nobody can accurately predict when the market has reached a "high" or a "low." Consequently, you can't really use "market timing" as a sound investment strategy. Instead, buy quality stocks and hold them for the long term - at least

until your needs change or the companies themselves have moved in a different direction.

- Own a percentage of stocks equal to 100 minus your age - The rule behind this guideline is fairly straightforward: The younger you are, the higher the percentage of stocks you should own. So, for example, if you are 30, the "rule of 100" suggests that your portfolio should consist of 70 percent stocks, with the remaining portion being made up of fixed-income vehicles and cash equivalents. But if you're 50, your holdings should consist of 50 percent stocks, according to this rule, and once you're 70, stocks should only make up 30 percent of your portfolio. While the basic idea behind this rule may make some sense, the "100 minus age" formula could result in a portfolio that is much too conservative for you. Instead of allocating your investments according to a rigid numerical equation, try to build and adjust a diversified portfolio based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

- Save and invest 10 percent of your gross income - If you follow this rule of thumb consistently throughout your working life, you probably would be doing a lot better than most people - because Americans' savings rate is abysmal. And yet, the 10 percent figure, in isolation, may not be all that meaningful. The amount you need to put away each year depends on a variety of factors: your age, the amount you've already saved, the type of lifestyle you've envisioned for your retirement, how much your spouse is saving, etc.

- Count on all stocks to bounce back - Although past performance does not guarantee a future result, the stock market, as a whole, has always rebounded from down periods - but the same is not necessarily true for individual stocks. In fact, some of them never recover from major losses, or, if they do, it takes many years - and during that time, you could have found better opportunities for those investment dollars. Many investors hold on to losers far too long because they dislike admitting they may have made a mistake. Don't let this false pride get in your way; if a stock or other investment just isn't panning out, get rid of it and move on.

Chart your own course

As we've seen, some of these rules of thumb contain elements of truth - but they simply may not be right for your individual situation. In the long run, you'll increase your chances of success by making decisions based on your individual goals and needs, and on the qualities of specific investments.

Lend A Hand



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FAMILY HOSTS

Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) is looking for American families to host high school students from various countries for the 2005-06 school year.

Local volunteers are also needed to serve as mentors to the students throughout the school year. They help by first interviewing the potential families. Once the students arrive, they meet with the families, students, and the schools once a month, either in person or by telephone, to help them adjust to one another.

If you would like to volunteer as a mentor or be a host family, contact P.I.E. at 800-631-1818. Experience for the mentor position is not necessary, as training will be provided.

Lowell teacher visits fellow GLOBE School in Beijing

Jim Kovach, a fourth grade teacher at Cherry Creek Elementary and adjunct instructor for the Regional Math Science Center at Grand Valley State University, visited a sister GLOBE school during a visit to China this summer with the help of a teacher incentive grant from the Michigan Space Grant Consortium.

GLOBE (Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment), an international environmental program, was initiated in 1995 by former vice president Al Gore. Over a million primary and secondary students in more than 15,000 schools have taken part in the program; and there are more than 28,000 GLOBE-trained teachers.

Internationally, GLOBE is being implemented through bilateral agreements between the U.S. government and governments of partner nations. The National Science Foundation, NASA, NOAA, and the U.S. State Department support the GLOBE program, now in over 105 countries.

Gore visited this school in Beijing when setting up the program in China in 1997. Bill Gates of Microsoft visited in July of 2004 to "join hands in education" and establish 100 computer classrooms throughout the Beijing area.

Kovach met with Su Jianhua, senior teacher of the Educational Development Center of International Affairs Center at the

Experimental Middle School attached to Beijing Normal University. With the help of an interpreter, Jianhua and Kovach discussed the GLOBE program in China and the U.S., and shared their desire for students from both schools to interact with each other via the internet and the GLOBE site (You can visit the GLOBE site at www.globe.gov).

Although the partner agreement has expired with China, Kovach hopes his visit will re-energize this important international educational and scientific program with China. Jianhua indicated a positive interest in reestablishing the

partnership and beginning a GLOBE correspondence with Cherry Creek Elementary.

Kovach toured the school and university, and met with several teachers in the science department.

He also took time to visit the Museum of Paleontology and Palioanthropology in Beijing and the Peking Man Site outside Beijing. These visits will help him in the development of an after-school enrichment program and a new summer program for the Regional Math & Science at GVSU - "Jr Paleontologist," that he hopes to introduce next summer.

Certainly, travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living.

- Miriam Beard



Pictured, left to right, are: the school interpreter for Experimental Middle School at the Beijing Normal University; Jim Kovach, teacher at Cherry Creek Elementary; Su Jianhua, senior teacher of the Educational Development Center of International Affairs Center; and Kovach's interpreter, Kent Cao Xiaodong.

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LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a request to rezone the former Quake-Zik property located south of Foreman Road and west of Alden Nash Avenue from R-1, Rural Low Density Residential District to R-2, Medium Density Residential. The property consists of 121± acres.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
The property is legally described as follows:

Parcel 41-20-04-200-016

THE EAST 764.28 FEET OF THE NORTH WEST FRACTIONAL 1/4, EXCEPT THE NORTH 577.5 FEET OF THE EAST 513.0 FEET AND EXCEPT THE NORTH 660 FEET OF THE WEST 251.28 FEET; ALSO, THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST FRACTIONAL 1/4, SECTION 4, T6N, R9W, LOWELL TOWNSHIP, KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

The hearing will be held as follows:

WHEN: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP HALL
2910 ALDEN NASH AVENUE SE
LOWELL, MI. 49331

The proposed rezoning request is available for review at the Lowell Charter Township Offices, 2910 Alden Nash Avenue, SE, Lowell, MI. 49331 during normal office hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday or by calling 897-7600.

Dave Simmonds, Secretary
Lowell Charter Township Planning Commission

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LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS BOARD BRIEFS

Regular Meeting of August 8, 2005

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA -
The Board added the Student Council report to the agenda.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT
Brooke Liu, the Student Council President and Student Representative on the Board of Education, reported that many of the sports practices are now underway. The Student Council Executive Board has met several times this summer, and the full Student Council participated in team building activities at Fallsburg Park. Homecoming is September 23 and the student council membership is looking at ways to increase community involvement. Anyone interested in sharing ideas with Brooke can do so by emailing her at boardofed@lowellschools.com.

REPORTS -

World Studies Trip:
Steve Kampfschulte and Cari Slot along with students Chad Drenth and Ellie Drain reported on their recent trip to Europe. The students noted that they had learned about WWII in class and that it really became a reality as they saw firsthand the sights and battlefields. Experiencing the different cultures was also a highlight of the trip.

EPC Savings and Budget Update:
Connie Gillette reported that 25 teachers took advantage of the severance program and 14 teachers have been hired with 2 openings yet to be filled. The estimated district savings for 05-06 is \$942,977. **Budget Update -** Still no final word from Lansing. There is a possibility of a \$175 increase per pupil, with a possible \$25 additional for districts with foundation allowances below \$7200. No news is expected before school begins.

ACTION ITEMS -
The Board approved the establishment of the Reproductive Health Advisory Committee along with the term lengths, roles and responsibilities, and goals.

CONSENT ITEMS - Approved/adopted were:

- Minutes for July 13, 2005 Regular Meeting
- The following payment of bills for July 2005:
GENERAL FUND.....\$ 1,220,797.28
SCHOOL SERVICES FUND
A. Food Service Fund.....\$25,868.11
B. Athletic Fund.....\$14,376.95
2004 Construction Fund.....\$13,782.65
Scholarship Fund.....\$ 4,550.00
TRUST AND AGENCY FUND.....\$24,386.77
- Personnel Report - New Hires:
Stacy Kneibel-Special Ed. Teacher Lowell Middle School
Stephanie Robinson-Drama/ELA Teacher Lowell Middle School
Amanda Blyth-Science Teacher Lowell High School
Lisa Camfferman-Social Studies Teacher Lowell Middle School
Ron Acheson-Math/Science Teacher Lowell Middle School
Dustin Cichoeki-Social Studies Teacher Lowell Middle School
Lisa Keller-Speech & Language Therapist District
Jennifer-Vrooman Social Studies Teacher Lowell Middle School
- OK Conference to discontinue the practice of assigning each member school to a tier effective with the 2005-2006 school year.
- Bus bid for 3 buses from Holland Bus Company for the 2005-2006 school year in the amount of \$172,350 and bus financing resolution.

CURRICULUM REPORT -Mark Kasmer thanked all the staff who participated in the summer curriculum work. The district met AYP at the elementary, middle school and high school level. The schools received the following ED YES report card grades: Alto - A; Bushnell - B; Cherry Creek - B; Murray Lake - A; Middle School - A; High School - B; and Unity - D-alert.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - The following people addressed the Board: Charlie Jeffrey - Vehicle Purchase Policy; Kim Lum - District Calendar and Communication.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Shari Miller indicated that the district calendar is produced and mutually agreed upon by a joint committee. In response to the vehicle purchase mentioned in the public comments, the state gives guidelines and sets limits for purchases. In the future, Lowell dealerships will receive information on all vehicle purchases. Thanks was given to the staff who worked this summer on mowing, cleaning, technology work, and curriculum. Administrators have returned and participated in a crisis prevention training lead by Cyndi Gibson. Shari is looking forward to having students return on August 24.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:
Board Workshop
Monday, August 22, 2005 - 5:30 p.m.
Building Walk-Throughs beginning at Murray Lake and ending at Runciman Administration Building - Board Room

Regular Board Meeting
Monday, September 12, 2005 - 7:00 p.m.
Runciman Administration Building - Board Room

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World ranking for local rodeo bull rider

By Dan Schneider

Jason Seeley Jr. of Lowell recently rode his way to second place in the world rankings of the National Little Britches Rodeo Association (NLBRA).

Seeley, 17 and a senior at Lowell High School, competed in the National Little Britches Rodeo Finals July 25-30 at the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo, Colo. In the senior boys' bull riding division, he was one of three riders to make a scoring ride on all three bulls. For a scoring ride, the rider has to stay on the bull for eight seconds and not touch the bull with his free hand.

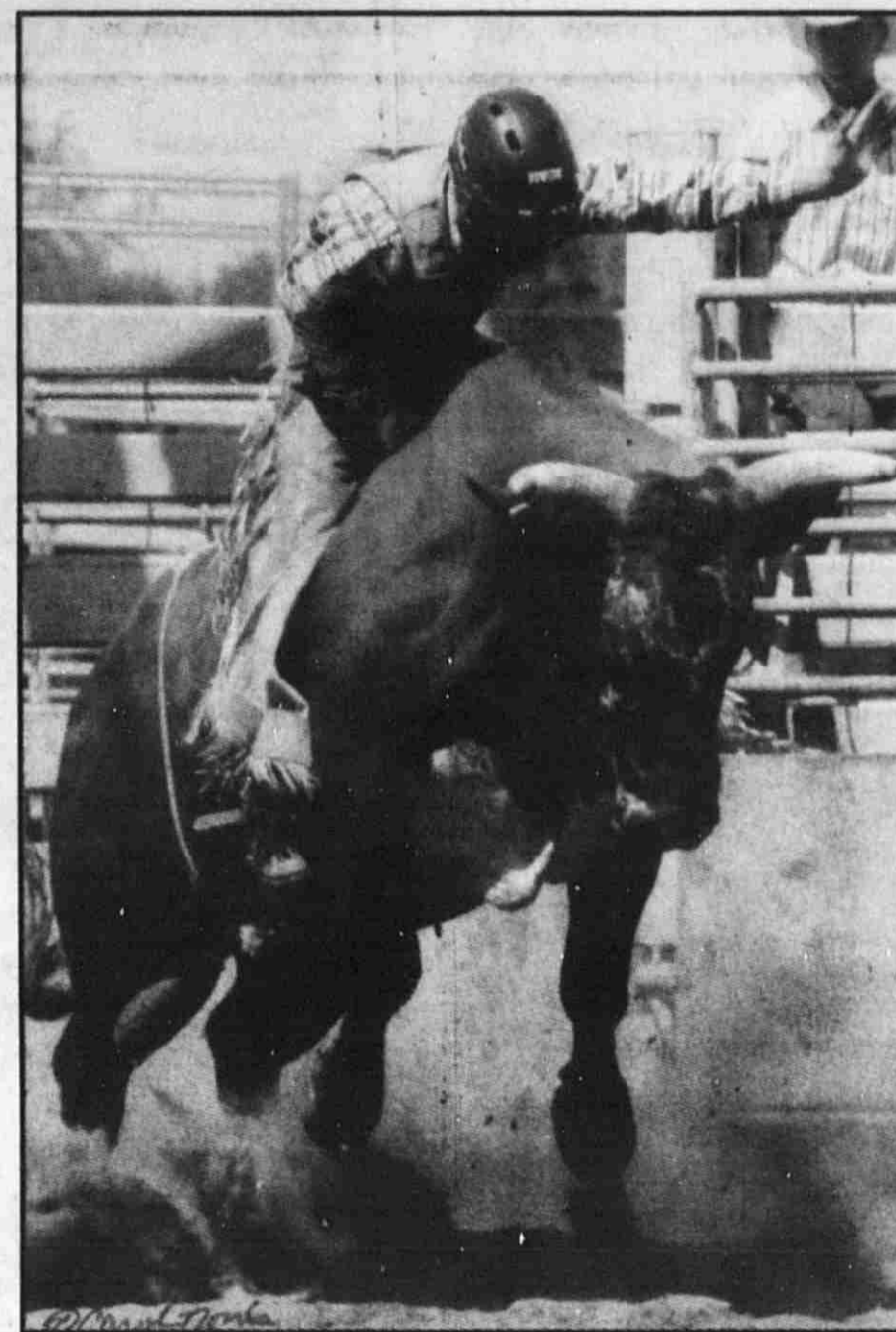
Seeley finished second at the NLBRA state event to qualify. He entered the national competition ranked 29th on the Little Britches circuit. During the first go, which is open to

everyone who qualified for the nationals, Seeley scored a 67. He scored 75 on his second ride, which put him in eighth place going into the short go round.

The short go is limited to the top 15 competitors in each division. Seeley saved his best ride for the short go, scoring a 79 to put him in second place in the short go and second place in the finals averages. He earned four belt buckles for his efforts: the first was for fourth place in the second go, then another for second place in the short go, a third for second place in finals averages, and a fourth for being the reserve grand champion in the world rankings.

Seeley rides bulls two or three times a week during the season on the regional Super Kicker tour, which is based in Mount Pleasant.

"I go to Morley, everywhere Super Kicker Rothbury, pretty much goes," Seeley said. "During



Jason Seeley of Lowell rides a bull during the National Little Britches Rodeo Finals in Pueblo, Colo.

school, I usually just stick to it on the weekends."

The senior, who has been riding bulls for two years, got into the sport with the encouragement of his uncle, Lanny Overholt, and Matt Reed.

"My uncle, he always rode broncs and bulls," Seeley said. "I played baseball but I rode horses too, and I wanted to take it in a different direction. More serious, I guess."

At the rodeo in Pueblo, Seeley said, the bulls were selected for their consistency more than their explosiveness.

"Actually, I wasn't really that impressed with the bulls down there," Seeley said. "The bull I rode last night (at a Super Kicker event in Mount Pleasant) was ranker."

The ranker the bull, the more it bucks and jumps, and the harder it is to ride.

Seeley has two more years of NLBRA eligibility and is working with his younger brother Kohl, who rides in the junior division. Seeley, the son of Jeni and Kevin Clouser of Lowell and Jason Seeley of Alto, competed on the Lowell High School equestrian team his freshman and sophomore years. He's ridden horses since the age of eight, having been taught by his grandparents Michelle and Arlan Overholt. "I'd really like to thank my grandma and my mom and my uncle and my sponsors," Seeley said. "Without them I couldn't have done it (won the reserve grand championship)."

First tennis tourney hosted by Lowell

The Lowell tennis program hosted the first community tennis tournament Aug. 10 at the high school courts.

"For our first year, we felt very encouraged," said Lowell High School varsity tennis coach and community tennis coordinator Bonnie Wall.

Josh Gerard was the winner of the 12 and under coed competition; Kaitlin Fitzpatrick was runner-up. Josh Hobria won the 14 and under boys final; runner-up was Chase Canning. Tanya Baker was the winner and Leara Glinzak was the runner-up in the 16 and under girls division.

Brett Hobria won the men's singles. The women's singles champ is yet to

be determined; finalists are Marcy Tawney and Terrah Tawney. The mixed doubles final is also yet to be determined; finalists are Roger and Bonnie Wall and Brian Kyllonen and Julie Hilliard.

All proceeds from the tournament after the cost of trophies will be used to purchase an entry sign and bulletin board for posting information at the entrance to the high school tennis courts.

Organizers anticipate next year's event will be bigger and better. One change will be holding the singles and doubles tournaments on consecutive days rather than all on the same day.

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TOWNSHIP OF GRATAN

COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Planning Commission of the Township of Grattan will hold a public hearing on September 7, 2005 at 7:00 p.m., at the Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road, within the Township, concerning a proposed ordinance that would amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Township of Grattan. The proposed ordinance would revise Section 14A.05.G of the Zoning Ordinance to require that the Township Board hold a public hearing, and provide prior notice of that public hearing, prior to making a final decision on an application for administrative approval of a proposed planned unit development under Article 14A.

A copy of the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment is on file and may be examined at the offices of the Grattan Township Clerk, during Township office hours. All interested persons may attend the public hearing and comment on the proposed amendment. Written comments concerning the same may be submitted to the Township office at the above-listed address, up to the time of the public hearing.

Dated: August 1, 2005

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To the people that think its cool to scream profanities at the high school band; its not! We are trying to learn and be the best we can.

Thank you to all fair livestock auction participants. Many businesses are missing out on a great public relations opportunity!

Who's the bonehead who keeps stealing the yard sale signs? I can see if the sign was there for a long time but I got mine stolen the morning I put it there!

Get out your bikes! The price of gas is not going down anytime soon!

Lowell needs to not be so tight with their money and pay for the skate park before a kid gets hurt playing in the streets. Little town Saranac did it!

Just because there are signs up saying to watch for pedestrians doesn't mean that the pedestrians can walk out in front of you without looking!
Use your head!

A business owner should respect their employees & treat them how they would like to be treated.

No - A redneck is when you steal the balloons & yard sale signs for Anna Organek's fundraiser! Real nice! There are some winners out there I tell ya!

Why is school starting so early and Christmas break is Dec. 16 - Jan. 1? I'd rather have the time in the summer.

Would the owner of the black and silver Sebring please turn down your stereo. The rest of the world doesn't want to hear your junk.

With the price of gas I can't go to the movies.

The fair was great! Where were our Thursday night cloggers and DJ the Clown? They were regulars and we miss them.

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