

The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Community expo draws crowds to Lowell High School

This year's event called biggest yet

By Dan Schneider

Lowell High School was a crowded, bustling place Saturday for the 10th annual Lowell Community Expo.

Local businesses and organizations, and groups from places outside of Lowell, were presenting what they have to offer to the public. That included everything from dog grooming to worship. There were churches, music groups, even a business that sells African hunting safaris.

The parking lot was packed throughout the day, starting at 9 a.m. when the expo opened.

"I truly believe it was probably our best expo ever," said Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker.

The chamber presents the expo every year along with Lowell Area Schools and, for the last few years, business sponsor Ionia

County National Bank.

The chamber has experimented in past years with various methods of calculating attendance at the expo. No such method was in place at this year's expo, but the event clearly attracted a large amount of visitors.

"I know without a doubt it was our highest attendance ever," Baker said.

One of the visitors who plans to move to Lowell soon was Lowell Area Schools' newsuperintendent, Gregory Pratt. He spent four hours at the LAS booth, but also had a chance to learn about the community in general at the expo.

"It's a wonderful event," Pratt said. "It gives you a flavor of what Lowell's all about and what the people are all about."

Lowell area resident Marcia Host was also excited to learn more about what is going on in the community.

"We're very interested right now because we have

a development and new families, and we want to know the latest, what's going on in Lowell, to pass on to people," Host said.

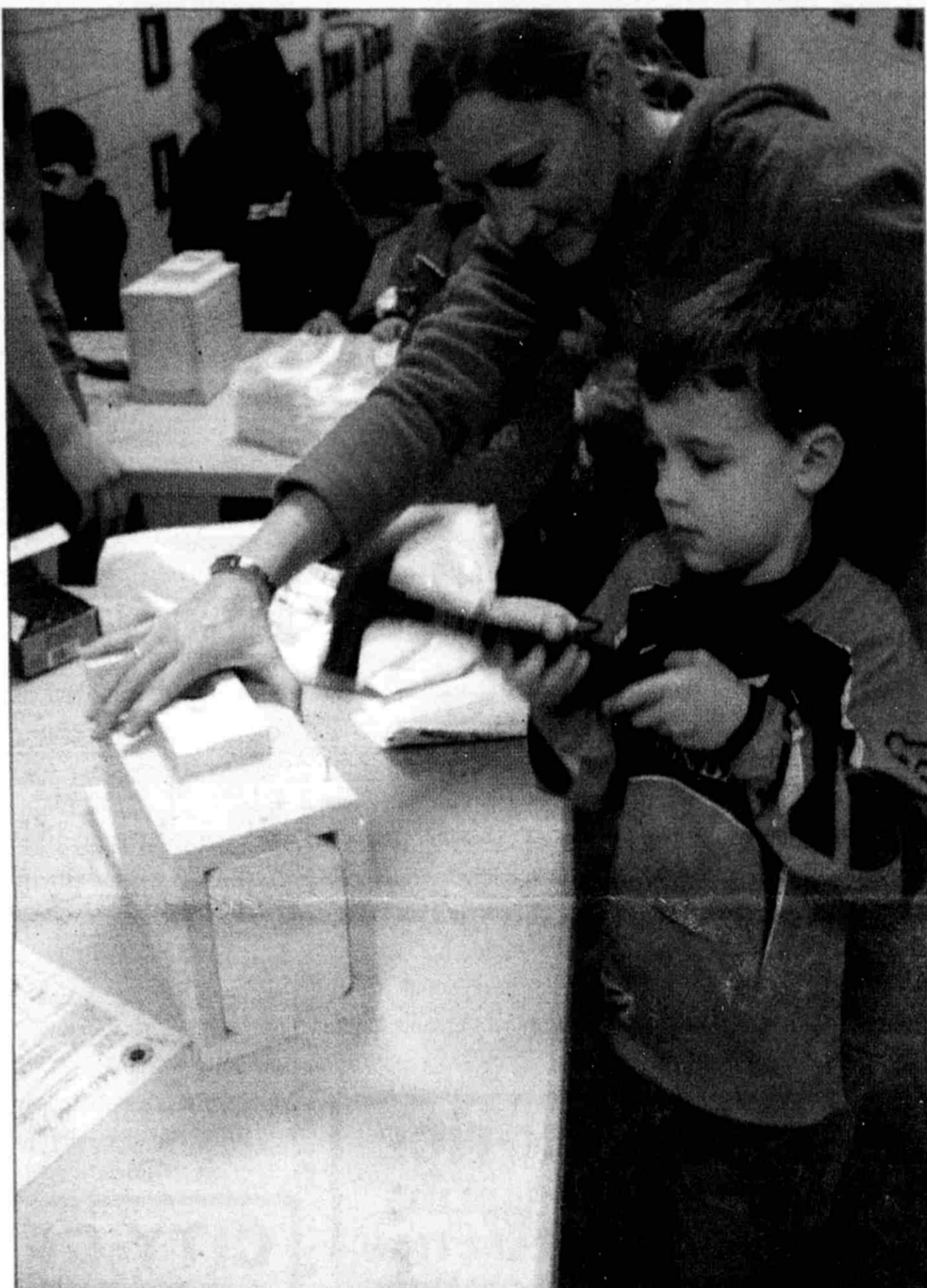
Lowell YMCA associate executive director Staci Messersmith said the expo is timed perfectly for getting people interested in the Y's spring activities.

"With our spring session just starting, we've had a lot of interest in soccer and softball," she said.

The expo is also an opportunity for organizations to get more in touch with the people they serve.

"It's so nice to be able to come out and see members outside of the YMCA," Messersmith said.

Bethanie Pollock helps her son, Austin, 6, by holding his birdhouse steady while he pounds in a nail. B&G Services offered a birdhouse construction workshop for kids at Saturday's expo. More pictures of the event on page 9.



Arrest warrant issued for local man suspected of fraud

Suspect allegedly used false cancer claim to get money from benefits

By Dan Schneider

Lowell police were granted a warrant last Thursday for the arrest of a 35-year-old Lowell man suspected of defrauding the Lowell community of thousands of dollars.

The investigation began after an anonymous letter was sent to local news outlets, including the Lowell Ledger, and then forwarded to police. The letter alleged that Stan Lenneman defrauded as much as \$10,000 with a false cancer claim. Police would not confirm or deny whether the man they are seeking is the man named in the letter.

"He allegedly took advantage of people's generosity and defrauded

the entire community that took part in events for his welfare," said Lowell police detective Steve Bukala.

The letter stated that Lenneman first made his claim of having pancreatic cancer in March of 2005. By April 2005, he said he was given three to six months to live in a second opinion from a different doctor.

On May 27, 2005, Lenneman's family held a cancer benefit to raise money for his medical expenses. That date has been confirmed. As much as \$10,000 was raised at that event and via other means, such as collection canisters placed at local businesses.

People became suspicious after time went on without noticeable deterioration of his

health. The anonymous letter was written in early February. Shortly thereafter, Lowell police began an investigation.

They said he was allegedly able to defraud citizens as late as February. Police said even family members believed Lenneman still had cancer. The investigation has identified 14 victims, but there are most likely many more.

"One of the problems we ran into is that a lot of these victims are untraceable with cash donations and sparse record keeping," said Bukala.

Police obtained enough evidence for probable cause to review the suspect's medical records while executing a search warrant

for another incident in which he was involved. That incident is still under investigation. Bukala said there were enough discrepancies in the medical records to warrant an arrest.

The arrest warrant is for felony charges of false pretenses \$1,000 or more, but less than \$20,000. That charge carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine.

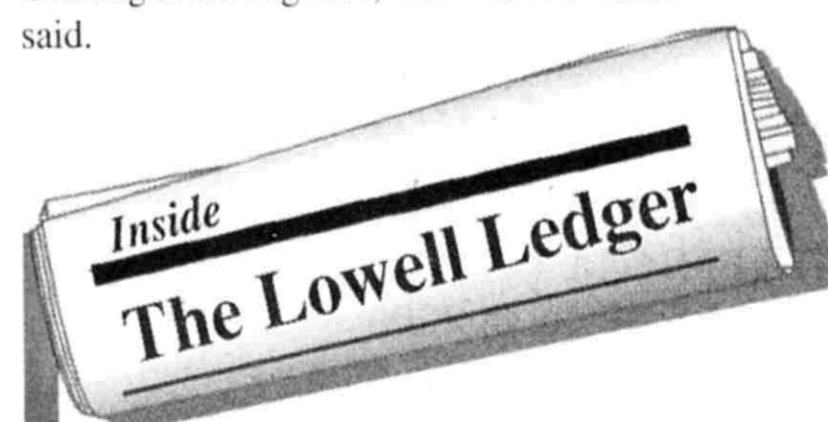
The letter claimed Lenneman planned to leave the state but so far that appears not to be the case. He was last seen March 15 having dinner at a restaurant in Lowell. Police believed he was still in the area as of last Thursday.

Bukala is concerned that this man's actions may

cause people to be skeptical about future benefits in the community.

"The unfortunate thing is, most of these benefits are legitimate, but now people's suspicions are going to be thinking of the negative," he said.

Individuals who feel they may have been victimized by this fraud, or who may have information that could lead to Lenneman's arrest, are encouraged to contact the Lowell Police Department at 897-7123.

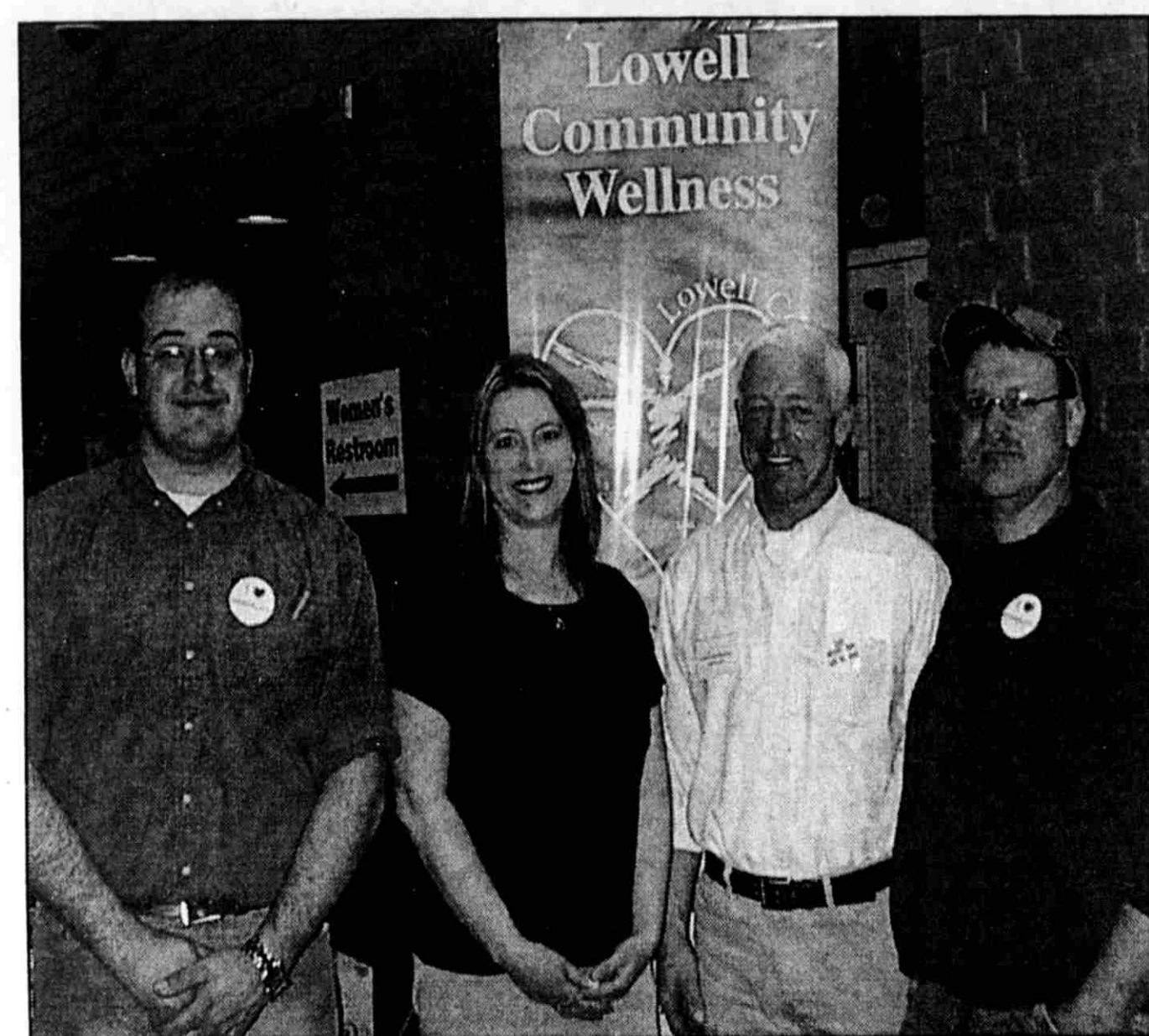


Superintendent Contract ... Page 3

Lowell weight loss ... Page 4

ICON Art Show .. Page 8

Lowell waistlines slimmer after weight loss challenge



By Dan Schneider

Lowell was only 92 pounds short of losing a ton this year during the Lowell Community Weight Loss Challenge, which concluded last Tuesday.

This year 28 teams of four competed in the challenge, which is put on by Lowell Community Wellness. In total, they lost 1,908 pounds.

The top team was the Hovey/Herbalife team which lost 111 pounds. The second place team was close behind: Six Guys and a Gal (actually three men who claimed to weigh as much as two men each and one woman) lost 110 pounds during the 10 weeks of the challenge. The Fantastic Four, consisting of Daisy Floral employees, placed third, losing 95 pounds.

"All of those teams

made huge lifestyle changes to get to that point," Lowell Community Wellness director Patty Sellner said.

Business teams composed of co-workers were a big part of the challenge this year. There were 17 business teams in the challenge, 10 family teams, six teams of Lowell Area Schools teachers and, Sellner said, "five teams of people who really didn't know each other but just wanted to be on a team."

Lowell fell short of the goal of losing 2,006 pounds for the year 2006. But the important thing is that the challenge helped people start and continue healthy lifestyles, Sellner said. And it seems people intend to continue practicing the healthful habits they learned.

"On the last week, people were just sad that it

was done and they wanted to keep going and going," Sellner said. "Lots of people were very dedicated."

The challenge also benefited Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM), which received a donation of \$1,000 from the event's proceeds.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan sponsored this year's event, which allowed Lowell Community Wellness to make the donation to FROM and have some money left over for its other community health events. Kent Butcher Supply donated the scale used for weigh-in days.

Lowell Community Wellness's next event will be the 100 miles in 100 days walking challenge. That will begin in late March.

Viewpoint



cozy corner

Whining...we're all guilty of it from time to time. Once in awhile I'll take off on a rant in this column. It might have something to do with rude cell phone users, rude smokers, a speeding ticket, etc. When I finish pieces along this vein I often feel like I've been whining, and wish I'd thought of something else to write about. I suppose that even sounds like whining.

So, is this going to be another whining column? No, in fact I'm going to try to relate a little story that might be a lesson in whining for all of us.

You may remember from columns from nearly a year ago that my mother was battling a cancerous tumor in the sinus cavity behind her right eye. I'm happy to report that after a very difficult and lengthy treatment program of radiation and chemotherapy, she's doing pretty darned well. She has her sight back and is even capable of driving herself on short errands. She lives alone and basically takes care of herself. That's all the good stuff.

On the down side, she is eighty years old, still a bit weak from her ordeal and her hearing isn't so good. Because of her hearing issues, she doesn't enjoy television. Of course, given what's on TV, her hearing might be just an excuse not to tune in.

In a recent phone call I asked what the heck she does all day. She told me that lately she has been going through boxes of old photographs. She tries to at least identify the people, and maybe make a note of what the occasion is. There were no digital cameras back then, so making a photograph was something of a big deal. If the photo warrants it, she is prompted to commit a few lines to the story. In essence, she's writing her memoirs. To my way of thinking, that's a heckuva lot better than sitting around watching "I Love Lucy" re-runs.

One of these stories came out in a phone conversation last week. My mom grew up on a small farm near Blanchard, Michigan. It is still a very rural part of the state. She has a brother about a year older and a sister a year or so younger. Her parents were Lester and Leda. They had cleared the acreage, farmed with horses and lived off the land like a majority of Americans did back then. Yes, you had to be tough.

Without even the simplest luxury, like electricity, she

says kids had to make their own fun. She quickly added that they did have fun, but it was different from what kids do now. What, no Gameboys?

A particular photograph prompted this story about the summer of 1932. My mother prefaced with, "It was during the Depression and times were pretty hard." I felt like correcting her. Times were pretty hard before the Depression...they were REALLY hard during it.

The story went something like this. Like everybody else, my grandparents were broke and work was very scarce. In the summer of 1932 some jobs were available at a cannery near Scottsville, a small town fifty or sixty miles to the west. Along with an aunt and uncle and their kids, my grandmother packed up and took a job canning peaches. They lived in a tent near the cannery. One night a big storm blew away the tent, so they all slept in the car. They were at work the next morning.

The distance from Scottsville to Blanchard may not seem like much given today's modern road and cars. In 1932 it may as well have been California. The point is, Leda was gone for as long as the work held out.

I did some quick math. If my mom were born in '25, she would have turned seven that summer. Uncle Sy was eight or nine and aunt Joyce was four or five.

I know from other stories that my grandpa's workday was milking before dawn, work in the fields all day and milking at night. I asked my mom, "Who took care of you guys while grandma was gone?" My grandma came from a big family of eight girls and one boy. Mom told me that some of grandma's younger sisters, my mom's aunts, took turns looking after the kids.

If this sounds a little like "The Grapes of Wrath," wait...it gets even better. As I was trying to imagine this horrible scenario (they didn't call it the Depression for nuthin'), my mom threw in the ringer. She said something like, "Of course 1932 was the year of the big storm." I asked, "What storm was that Ma?" "The big hail storm that wiped out all your grandpa's crops" she replied. I swear I'm not making this up!

Incredulous, I asked her how they made out. As if it were no big deal, she said my grandma came home when the work ran out and the kids went back to school in the fall. She did wonder out loud about how they would have made it without that little bit of money her mom made working in the cannery that summer. And that was the end of the story.

I'm sure you all have "Depression" stories from your family histories. Maybe you can top this one. But, this was the first time I'd heard this particular story, it struck a chord with me and I thought I'd pass it along.

Back to the whining thing. The next time you're having a "pity party" for yourself, try to remember this little story about the Reynolds clan in the summer of '32. I'll bet you'll feel better about your problems right away.

Ledger Entries

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

By Priscilla Lussmyer



125 YEARS THE WEEKLY JOURNAL
MARCH 30, 1881

"A young man named Ripton had a finger Ripton two by a buzz saw at Grand Rapids Friday."

Thieves made off with six ducks and 30 young hens at Silas Beckey's in Cascade.

Ice has badly damaged the upper Grand River bridge here. It is impassable.

Friday evening Mr. Chapman's double A class of the West Ward School will give an exhibition.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
MARCH 29, 1906

J.A. Matern and H.A. Peckham are the new members of the Village Council.

A visitor to Lansing high school presses a button, thinking it would summon a person. It is the fire alarm.

Ohio and Iowa want a national constitutional convention to provide for senators to be elected by popular vote.

This is a three-page Ledger.

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
AND THE ALTO SOLO
MARCH 26, 1931

The April 6 state vote includes 3 constitutional amendments: state funding for airports, borrowing money to pay outstanding bonded indebtedness, and capital punishment for murderers.

A nationwide program is planned for scrapping three million automobiles annually.

The Hoyt Lumber Co. and Lowell Sprayer report increased business and hiring more workers.

"Remember When" mentions all the old barns standing long after horse and buggy days, as eyesores and fire hazards.

The Lowell Centennial delegation visits Marshall, which had one last year.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER
MARCH 29, 1956

An empty Lowell school bus on slick roads brakes for the car ahead and nosedives into a cattle viaduct under M-21, causing \$400 damage.

Sleet and high winds two days before the accident knocked down branches and caused telephone and power outages.

Snow freezing on the village fire alarm silences it, and the chief must phone around to get a crew for a garage fire.

It must be spring; four auction sales are scheduled for next week.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER
MARCH 25, 1981

A twin-engine Piper Apache airplane with engine trouble crashes near the Middle School, killing the pilot and injuring a passenger.

The burn ban is still on, says fire chief Frank Martin, after answering 10 fires in seven days.

Ada Township's new water system goes into operation, at 90 cents per thousand gallons.

The third and last of the LAAC concert series will feature jazz clarinetist Eddie Daniels.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF
KENT

ORDER FOR SERVICE
BY PUBLICATION AND
NOTICE OF ACTION

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CASE NO. 06-02341-DO
HONORABLE KATHLEEN A. FEENEY
Plaintiff
SHANI RAE MOGUEL
v
defendant
FEDERICO F. MOGUEL
Attorney for Plaintiff
Robert N. Swartz
(P21196)
1100 McKay Tower
146 Monroe Center N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-459-3303
TO FEDERICO F. MOGUEL
defendant
35 Celia S.W.
Wyoming, MI 49548

once each week in the Lowell Ledger for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.
4. The court waives mailing a copy of this order to defendant Federico F. Moguel at the last known address.
Kathleen A. Feeney (P40614)
Circuit Court Judge
March 7, 2006
...
STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF KENT
NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 06-181,109-DE
February 6, 2006
Estate of ROSE O. ROBERTS deceased
Date of birth Gary Roberts 108 York St. Chester, SC 29706-1484 803-581-4354

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To The Editor

Dear Editor,
I have found it very disappointing that we treat farm animals so badly and yet still buy the products with no second thoughts. Thinking of the slaughter houses having their animals arrive frozen or dead, having them put in scalding water for the hair removal process, and yet still eating them is sickening.
These animals are forced into such poor living conditions that they cannot eat due to pain, they are crippled by the time they are ready to be slaughtered, or are forced to live in over-crowded cages with other dead cage mates. With chickens, they suffer from such rough treatment that

their meat can only be used for chicken noodle soup, animal feed, or school lunch programs.
Many farmers pump their cattle full of human medicine just to keep them living for the slaughter houses. I think we are getting the raw end of the deal by eating meat that is beaten up and injected with high doses of medication.
Putting students at risk of swallowing bone fragments, and depriving ourselves of natural food is a risk for our health. I am not saying people need to become vegetarians, I am only stating the fact that the cruel treatment of farm animals should be changed to improve our lives and the quality of these foods.

Sincerely,
Jamie Phillips

Letters, cont'd., pg. 10

Letters... We love to hear from you!

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 not exceed 250 words and not be strictly thank you letters. "Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O. Box 1216, 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.

Reflections of faith

Pastor Michael Rhodabarger
Church of the Nazarene

Where is God? I remember the 9/11 tragedy spawning two phrases: "In God We Trust" and "Where was God?" I felt proud to be both an American and a Christian when we united with "In God we trust." Yet, in the midst of it all there were still those that wondered "Where was God?"

Reflecting back on the Old Testament prophet Elijah,

we find a very interesting event. God told him to go stand on the mountain because He was about to pass by. While Elijah stood there, a mighty wind blew through but no God. Then there was an earthquake but no God. After the earthquake came a fire, but still no God. But then the scriptures say that God finally did come, but it was in a whisper.

We have all listened to someone whisper and we know that it takes effort to hear them. You really have to be paying attention to get all that was said. Major events take place all the time in our lives such as blizzards, rain, storms, maybe a child getting married and even the occasional sinful attack on our nation.

To look for God in the larger context of these events would simply prove a failure. I can assure you that the 9/11 tragedy will not show the evidence of God. However, the

evidence of God can and will be found in the individual lives of those it affected. I can also assure you that during the 9/11 attack God was whispering into the ears of those that loved Him words of peace and assurance. It is in the quiet times of our lives that we train ourselves to listen to God. Then when the tragedy strikes, we are familiar with His voice and, like Elijah, will recognize it distinctively.

So, where is God? Read I Kings 19:11-13 and see if God will challenge you to stop looking for Him in the major events in our lives. It is out of the private and silent moments with God that we gain the confidence to know that He is whispering to you during the most tragic of events in your life. Where is God? Grab your Bible, find a quiet place and listen. He is there!

Happy Birthday

MARCH 30: Erin Wade, Deb Maxim, Delores Ellison, Laurinda Horsley, Patrick Drake.

MARCH 31: Katelynn Fonger, Jennifer McCaul, Tera Raab, Rudy Smith, Michaela Blough.

APRIL 1: Christopher Volink, Denny McClure, Kurt Wernet, Blanche Mullen.

APRIL 2: Kyle Geldersma, Ron Metternick, Alec Newhouse, Chris Rittersdorf, Blake Bergy, Nicole Wilcox, Alex Hazard.

APRIL 3: Hayleigh Borton, Jamie Barnes, Darwin Lambert.

APRIL 4: Troy Pethers.

APRIL 5: Doug Klahn.

"I wouldn't hold out much hope for the tape deck, though."
"Or the Creedance."

-Police officers from "The Big Lebowski"

Branch Adventures has Summer Camp Opportunities

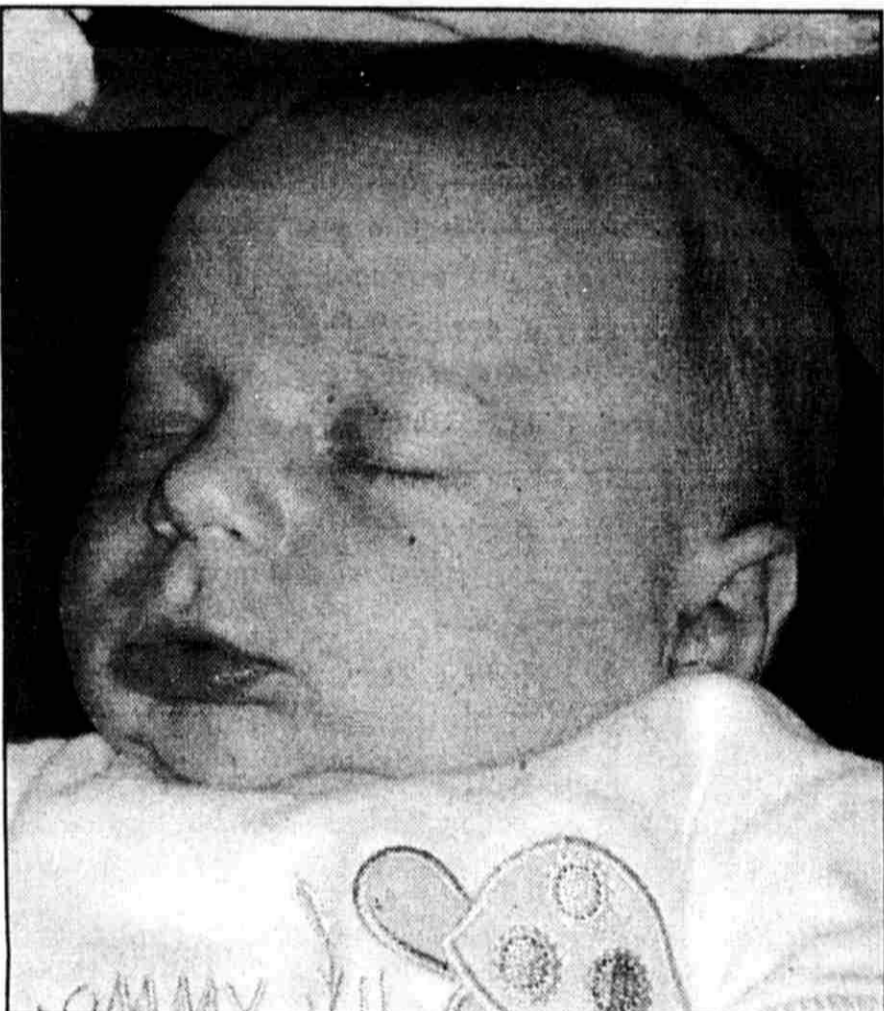
A new Christian Camp right here in your area!

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Registration at www.branchadventures.org or call 642-2315

New Arrivals

Pfaller



Myles Maysen Pfaller

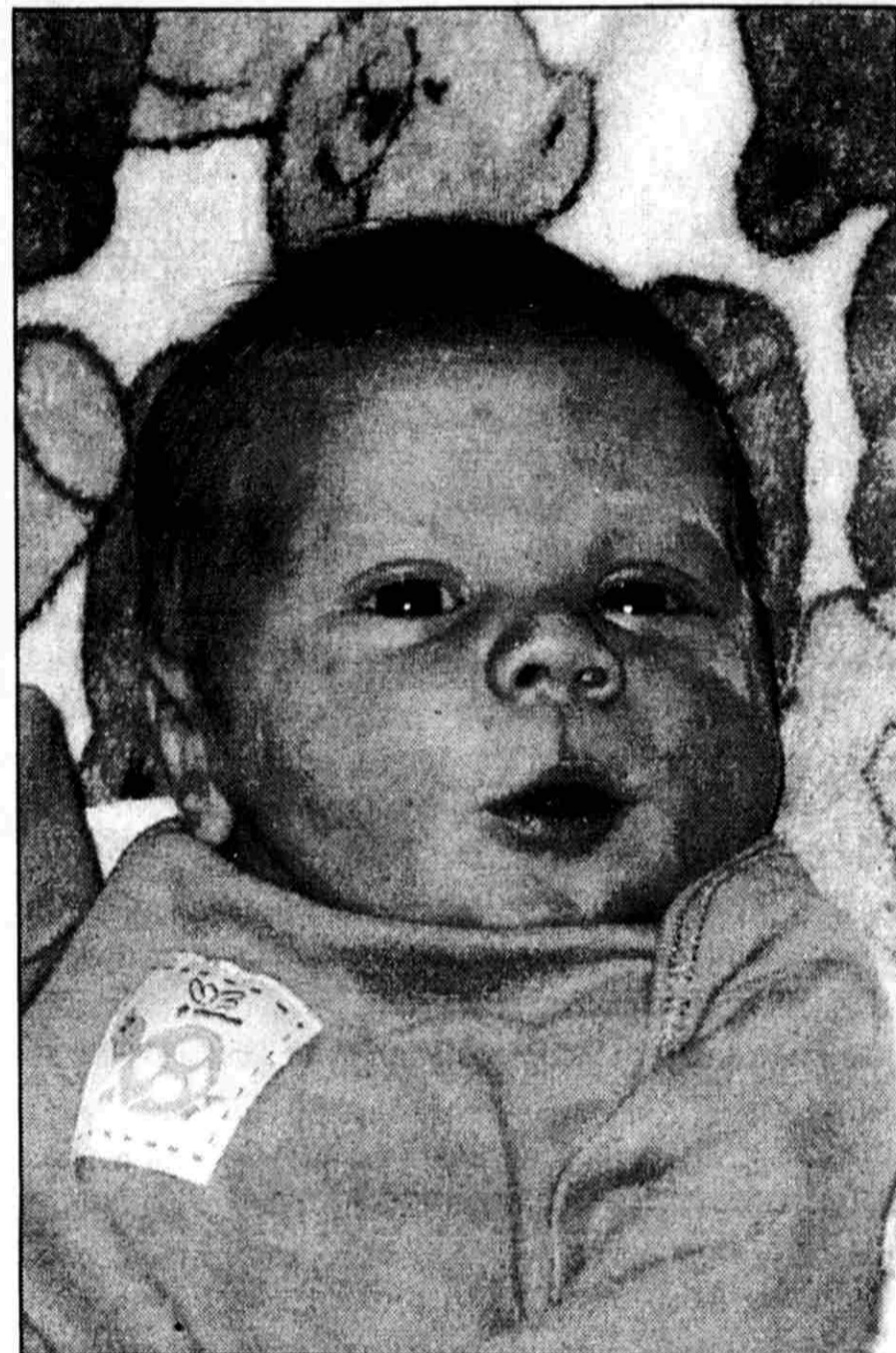
Jeffrey and Sandi Pfaller of Wayne, Mich., are happy to announce the birth of their son, Myles Maysen. He was born February 21, 2006, weighing 9 lbs. 10 oz. and measuring 23 1/2 inches.

Proud grandparents are Bob and Gay Pfaller of Lowell, Janell Spicer of

Jonison and Steve Spicer of Grand Rapids. Great-grandparents are Leo and Madelyn Pfaller, Beverly Homolka, Don and Ruby Spicer and Jerry Jarrett.

Also welcoming him home are Uncle Brian, Aunt Mari and Uncle Dan.

Boehr



Zachary Thomas Boehr

Big sister Ashley is excited to welcome home her new brother, Zachary Thomas Boehr. He was born March 13, 2006 at 2:46 p.m. at Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus,

weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measuring 18 1/2 inches.

Proud parents are Tom and Julie Boehr of Lowell. Grandparents are John and Leslie Magee and Richard and Corrinne Boehr.

Movie rental store now under local ownership

By Dan Schneider

Reel Tyme, the movie rental store at 11635 East Fulton Street, is now locally owned and operated.

The former L.A. Video, which was once located next to the Lowell Pizza Hut, has been owned by Courtney and Jason Willard since Feb. 3. Courtney Willard had worked for L.A. Video for nine years and was excited to have the opportunity to buy the business.

"Finally, the price was right and I wanted to be able to do what I wanted to do without having to answer to anybody," she said.

Before she and her husband bought the store, she was also required to split her work time between Lowell and Lake Odessa.

She's glad to be back in Lowell full time.

"I've always been a big people person, so I'm glad to be back in here again and seeing all the faces," Willard said. "It's exciting, it hasn't been that way in a long time."

She wants Reel Tyme to have a locally-owned, small town feel.

"I want to be the little guy that people come to because they're treated well when they come in the door," Willard said. "I want to make my customers my first priority."

One way the store participates in the community is by being a host site for Lowell High School's Community-Based Instruction program.

Reel Tyme features rental specials on different days of the week. Mondays are half-price rentals, which means a new release costs \$1.30. On Wednesdays, the deal is rent two, get a third movie free.

In addition to renting movies, the store can special order hard-to-find titles.

The grand opening will be held on April 8. That weekend (April 7, 8 and 9), all one- and five-day rentals will be \$1. The store will also be giving away a door prize of a DVD travel system.

Jason and Courtney Willard are the new owners of Reel Tyme, the movie rental store located at 11635 East Fulton.

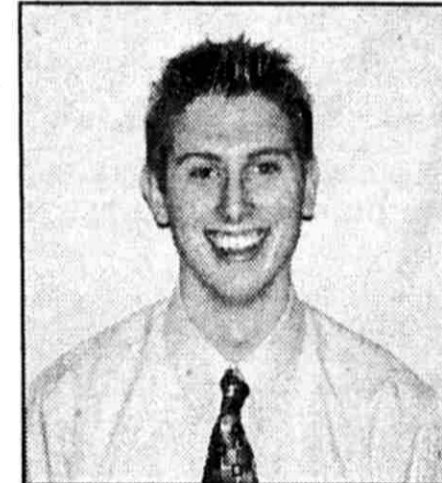


College News

Craig Carpenter, a junior at Olivet College, has received the top insurance and risk management undergraduate scholarship in the nation. The \$7,500 scholarship is sponsored

submitted. As a scholarship winner, he will participate in a mentor program with a member of the foundation's education committee.

Carpenter, a 2003 Lowell High School graduate, is the son of Scott and Barbara Carpenter of Lowell.



by the Spencer Educational Foundation, Inc. Carpenter's grade point average was the highest

Elizabeth Vezino of Lowell has been named to the dean's list in the University of Notre Dame's College of Science for outstanding scholarship during the fall 2005 semester. Students who achieve dean's honors at Notre Dame represent the top 30 percent of students in their college.

Vezino is the daughter of Joseph A. and Barbara Vezino of Lowell.

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<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Services.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Sunday School.....9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Kids Club Wednesdays After school to.....5:30 p.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</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>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 BEERING 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 43, ENTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</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 LaWare.....Pastor Shannon Hartley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>
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New exhibit explores artistic identity as seen in art

By Dan Schneider

Throughout most of the month of April, the walls of the Lowell Area Arts Council's Gallery will be covered with artwork of eight artists.

It is called the ICON Show, meaning the work on display was selected to exemplify each artist's style and feel. The show is about the common threads in each artist's work that make it symbolic (an icon) of who they are as artists. Each artist gets his or her own wall space, with blank wall in between, sort of individual exhibits within the larger show.

One of the artists in the show is Gene Ellens, a resident of Grand Rapids who teaches art in Lowell elementary schools. The common thread in his work is color, especially transitions between colors.

"The most common theme would be color transitions," Ellens said. "Most of it is linked to metaphors for life."

In one piece, for instance, the juxtaposition of the colors represents how different experiences are woven together into life. In another piece, the transition between colors moves the eye in what Ellens calls a maze, another metaphor for trying to find your way in life. His pieces are rigid or free, but always involving color.

"Some of it's very structured and some of it is very organic, sort of flowing with color, like a landscape," Ellens said. "I very rarely do something that doesn't have

the whole color spectrum."

Rockford artist Patti Sevensma said color is something that also ties together her art. She has a few colors that have become common in her pieces over the years.

"If I went through everything, it's almost always in those colors, and they almost always come out in the work," Sevensma said.

Those colors are only present in some of her work on display for the ICON Show. Her pieces are all digital photograph montages. She said her work typically defies common threads, or at least they are not something she tries for expressly.

"I really, really try to experiment, I don't want to put myself in a box," Sevensma said.

But, she said, friends often see her stamp on her work whether it is a painting, collage,

ceramic piece or montage.

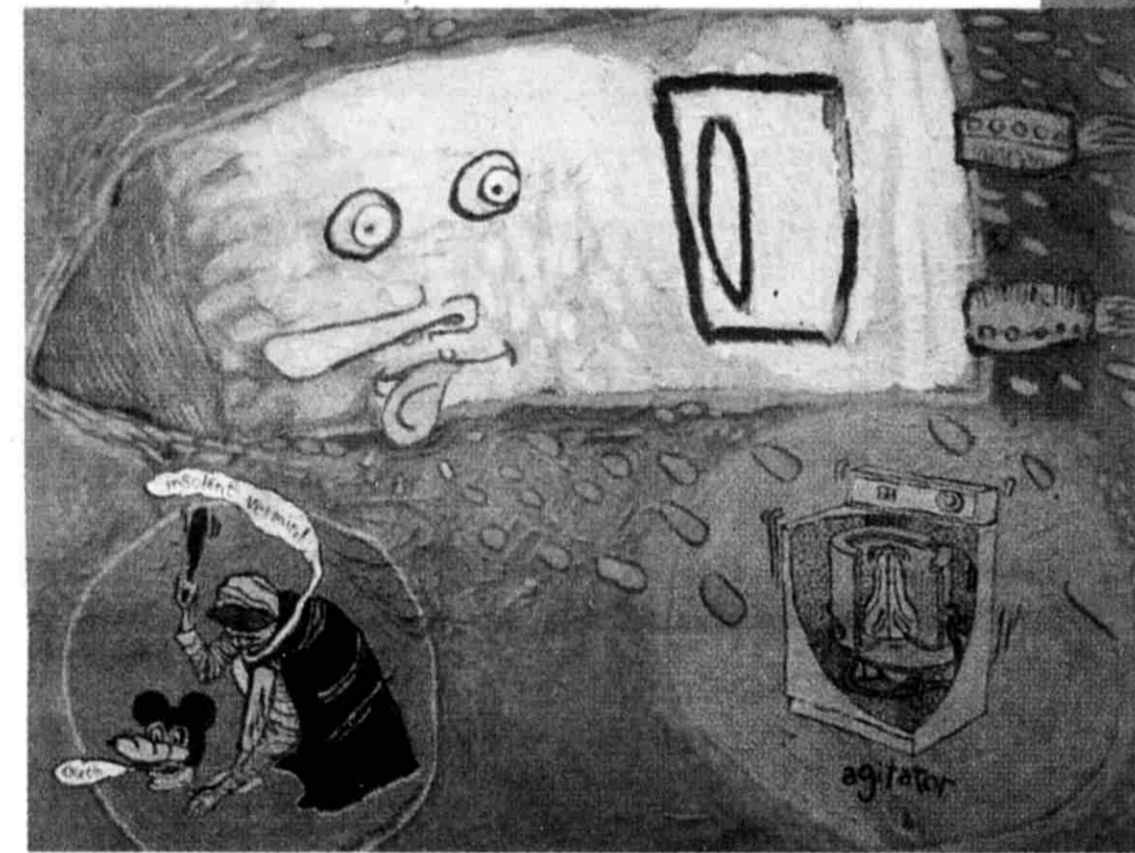
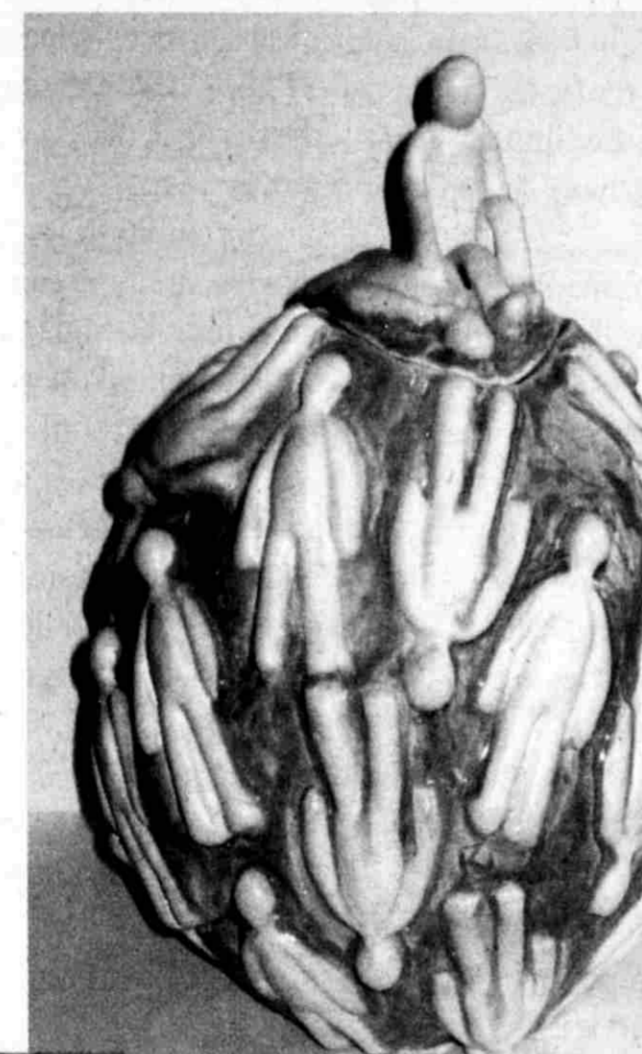
In her work for the ICON Show, the common theme that emerged is children. This is something she said developed in her work without her realizing it.

"I was amazed at how much I've been drawn to the children the last couple of years," Sevensma said. "I didn't realize how interested I've been in that subject matter."

Many of her pieces were put together from pictures she took during travels, of children she didn't know.

Jesse Hora, Janet Krueger, Kathleen Mooney, Daniel Pipe, Kendra Postma and Ed Rutowski are the other six artists in the show. ICON Show runs from April 2 to April 29 at 149 S. Hudson. A public reception will be held Sunday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Artwork featured in the ICON Show at the Lowell Area Arts Council, clockwise, from top right: "Child's Play" by Patti Sevensma, "Dream" by Kendra Postma (ceramic), "DYCE" by Jesse Hora, and "Saul's Trip" by Ed Rutkowski.



Scenes from 10th annual Lowell Community Expo



Dave Simmonds, left, Jim Strangways, right, and other members of the West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association jammed in the hallway of Lowell High School a short distance away from their expo booth. The association will be holding a fundraiser Saturday with jamming starting at 6 p.m. and bands at 7:30 p.m. at the Riverview on the east side of town.



Top, Right: All kinds of people were at Lowell High School Saturday for the 10th annual Lowell Community Expo. This year's event was estimated to be the best attended community expo in the history of the event.

Above, Right: Students from Lowell Area Schools' string music program perform on the entertainment stage. Several different groups of Lowell string music students performed throughout the day. It was a very musical expo.

At Left: St. Mary Church choir performed on the entertainment stage during the expo.



PUBLIC LAND DESERVES A PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The City's 27 acres on the river at the end of N. Washington is changing for the future. What is your vision? Join this informal discussion this Wednesday the 29th at the Arts Council on S. Hudson at 7 p.m. This matter is on the City Council's agenda for their meeting April 3rd.

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Art at Chamber Riverwalk Gallery
 "Leafscape E." at left, by Kevin Barrett is among the pieces in his show at the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. The show features digital photographs, some of them manipulated, that are both realistic and abstract.
 "I've done a cross section of some of the areas I've been working in from close-up, macro, to some more scene pieces," Barrett said.
 Barrett will have a public reception Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. during which there will be a 10 percent discount on the photographs for sale. There are 17 pieces in the show, but 25 will be on display for the reception.

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Correction
 In the March 22 edition of the Lowell Ledger, the outline in the article titled, "Plans set for some clowning around in Lowell this fall," had the incorrect date. It should have read Oct. 14 as mentioned in the article.

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Letters, continued ... From Page 5

Dear Editor,

The Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, Lowell Area Schools and ICNB would like to extend our gratitude to the businesses, organizations and churches for their participation and dedication to the Lowell Community Expo! We believe this was the best ever expo with record attendance!

We appreciate all of the support that the community has given to this event and for making our 10th annual Expo a huge success! You are the reason these businesses,

organizations and churches put forth such a great effort. Our goals for the Community Expo are to show pride, maintain visibility, develop customer contacts and increase community awareness. We hope that when you are in need of a business, organization or church you will remember the contacts you made at Expo. The website www.lowellexpo.org will remain up for easy reference throughout the year.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the Expo Steering Committee for their months of planning and meetings: chair

Susan Serne - Litehouse, Marilyn McDougal - ICNB, Larry Mikulski - Lowell Area Schools, Ray and Barb Zandstra - Harding Enterprises, David Yomtoob - AirWave Computer Services, and Bruce Doll - Images of Vision.

We look forward to next year's Expo, March 24, 2007.

Sincerely,

Liz Baker & The Lowell Community Expo Steering Committee

Lend A Hand VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HELP PROMOTE LITERACY

The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled an information session on Tuesday, April 4 for prospective volunteer tutors. This session is held at 6:30 p.m. and lasts one hour. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training. 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 information session will be held at the Yankee Clipper Library, 2025 Leonard St. NE, Grand Rapids. Call 459-5151 to register.

"A prune isn't really a vegetable ... Cabbage is a vegetable."

-Frank Zappa

Senior neighbors holds fundraiser

Senior Neighbors, Inc., a Kent County nonprofit agency serving the needs of seniors, will have its annual fundraising event in May. The evening is an opportunity to show older adults how important they are while also supporting Senior Neighbors, an agency dedicated to enhancing senior lives. The fundraiser, "A Night to Remember 2006" will be held at the Centennial Country Club on May 9 from 6-9:30 p.m. It will have a country western theme with dinner, a silent auction and raffle. For reservations call Senior Neighbors at 459-6019 by April 28. Tickets are \$35 per person.

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Lowell youth wrestlers headed to individual state finals

The Lowell Youth Wrestling Club is sending 25 wrestlers to this weekend's Michigan Youth Wrestling Association (MYWA) individual state finals.

The Lowell wrestlers qualified at the western regional, which was held over the past weekend at Cedar Springs High School. Sage Serbenta qualified in the five/six division.

Qualifying in the seven- and eight-year-old division were Nate Stephans, Garret Taylor, Alexander Anshultz and Logan Blough.

In the 11/12 age division, Derek Krajewski, Kanon Dean, Joe Sweet, Matt Hoogenboom, Jordan Drake, Gabe Dean and

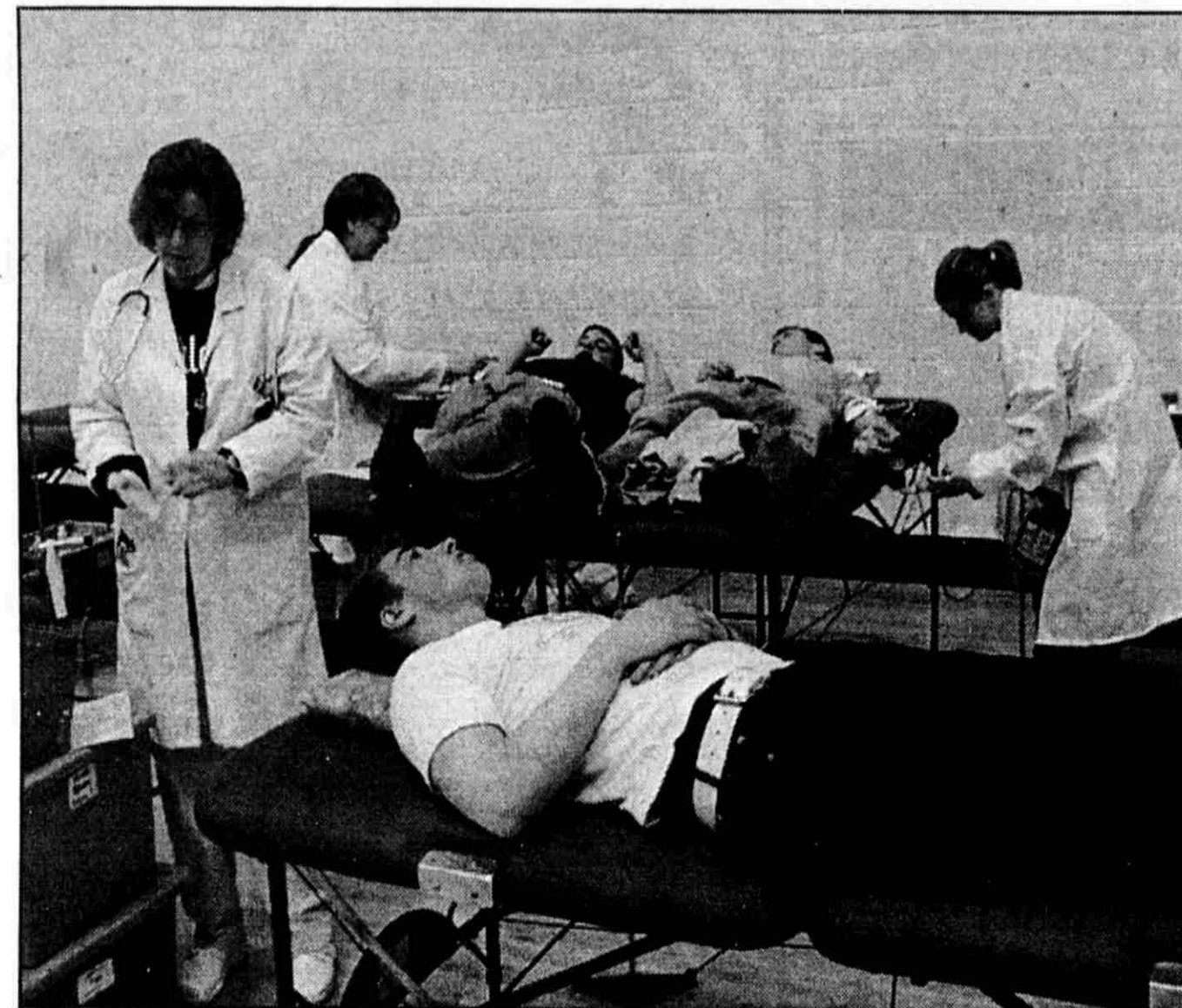
Luke Stephans were state qualifiers.

Gabe Morse, Andrew Morse, Zach Jefferies, Jake Fillingham and Dan Fleet are going to the state finals in the 13/14 division.

Alex Fleet and Tyler Jack qualified at the high school level.

The MYWA individual state finals will be held Saturday and Sunday at Jenison Field House at Michigan State University. Wrestling starts at 10 a.m., Saturday, for age groups 13-18 and 10 a.m., Sunday, for age groups 5-12.

High school blood drive a big draw



Lowell High School junior Matt Hodges, foreground; senior Adam VanderPols, at left in background; and senior Brock Graham, at right in background, were among the 100 students, teachers and community members who gave blood Friday during the high school's blood drive. A total of 121 people showed up. Of those, 100 were able to give blood and 36 were first-time donors. Michigan Community Blood Centers said it was the best drive ever at Lowell High School. The high school student council hosts two blood drives per year, one in the fall and one in the spring. This year, the council made an effort to offer the drive to more people from outside the high school, adding extra stations. The spring blood drive is typically the busiest of the two since a greater number of students have turned 17 by that time and are eligible to donate.

Former LHS athletes receive All American honors in college

Two Lowell High School graduates received All American honors running for Aquinas College at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Indoor Track and Field

National Championships held March 9-11 in Johnson City, Tenn. Natalie Kent and Lisa Wojciakowski, 2003 Lowell High School graduates and former track athletes, were on the 3200

meter relay team that took fifth place with a time of 9:20.75. The time was the second-best in Aquinas school history. Also on the team were Stacy Hoffman and Andye Razmus.

Schneider to play volleyball at Davenport

Lowell High School senior Amanda Schneider, a member of this year's district champion volleyball team, has signed a letter of intent to attend and play volleyball at Davenport Uni-

versity. It will be the first year of a volleyball program at the university, which competes in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference with schools such as Aquinas College, Cornerstone

University and University of Michigan-Dearborn.

"It's a really good opportunity for her. We're excited that she will be able to do this," said Lowell volleyball coach Gigi Peal.

Buddy week announced

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land recently announced that Monday, April 10 has been selected as the start of this year's "Buddy Week," a time when organ donation supporters meet with the public at

branch offices to promote enrollment on the state's donor registry.

To enhance organ donation efforts, the Department of State, Gift of Life Michigan and the Michigan Eye-Bank have

extended promotional efforts from the traditional "Buddy Day" to the entire week. April is designated as "Donate Life Month" as part of a nationwide campaign.

Gift of Life Michigan and Michigan Eye-Bank volunteers, known as Buddies, will be in about 135 Secretary of State offices from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on April 10, "Buddy Day" to distribute organ donor information. Buddies have received a transplant, are waiting for one, are the family and friends of a recipient or donor, or are organ and tissue donor supporters.

Residents who will not be at a branch office during Buddy Week still have plenty of opportunities to enroll on the donor registry. The department's Web site makes registering easy with its online enrollment program at www.Michigan.gov/sos. Additionally enrollment cards are available at any branch office and are mailed with every driver's license and state identification card.

Gift of Life Michigan is the state's certified, full-service organ recovery organization. The agency acts as an intermediary between donors, physicians and hospital staff.

For more information about organ donation, contact Gift of Life Michigan at 1-800-482-4881.

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BOARD MEETING
MARCH 20, 2006

Motions approved:

- Minutes of February 20th meeting. List of all invoices paid.
- Motion to approve appointment of Lila Lee Grummet to a 4 year term on the Alto-Bowne DDA.
- Motion to approve the proposed budget 2006/07 as presented.

Complete copies of the minutes are available at the Township Office
Or on the website www.bownetwp.cc.

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Win loon On Golden Pond

Theater art and woodcarving art are coming together for the Thebes Players' dinner theater production of "On Golden Pond."

Doug Shassberger, a member of the Flat River Woodcarvers, has carved a loon for the production, which is the story of an aging couple spending the summer at their summer home on Golden Pond. The loon will be on display during the production, which runs from April 21 to April 28 at Larkin's Other Place. People who attend will be eligible to win the loon. The winner will be drawn after the final performance.

Shassberger has lived in Lowell for 32 years and has been carving wood for 15. He has been a member of the Flat River Woodcarvers for eight years. In 1999, he won a red and blue ribbon at the World Carving Competition in Maryland for his carving of a killer whale. He teaches carving classes through the



Doug Shassberger with the loon woodcarving he created to be raffled during the Thebes Players' production of *On Golden Pond*.

Lowell Area Arts Council and teaches homeschool students at Christ the King School in Lowell.

Tickets for "On Golden Pond" (which include a

raffle entry for the loon) are available from the Lowell Area Arts Council at 897-8545 or online at www.thebesplayers.org.

April showers/May flowers at Cherry Creek



The second grade classes of Cherry Creek teachers' Kim Lum and Jackie Tousley have created these wonderful flowers to help show the way to the second annual Perennial Fundraiser for teachers' classroom funds.

The sale will be held the weekend of Memorial Day at 520 N. Monroe on Saturday, May 27, 8-6; Sunday, May 28, 10-4; and Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day), 8-2. To donate plants or help with the sale, contact Karen at 897-7808.

"A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sound Off

The Ledger

"Almost" Anything Goes Column
Or CALL...

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What an exceptional expo this year! Congratulations to the chamber, sponsors and vendors!
Nancy Stroosnyder

The school board should be congratulated on the hard work and long hours spent to hire a new superintendent.

There is a stop sign at Boulder Dr. and Birmingham. There is also a 25 mph speed limit.

Did you know that using your turn signals is a

Who are all the crazy people that I see running at daybreak in Lowell? It's cold, it's dark, it's windy. I can't imagine out running at that time of day for any reason other than running from the law!

war on terrorism. Our freedom, safety and war are not free.

One reason not to vote Democrat is that we have not had a terrorist attack on our land since the President declared



Kimberly Smith

Independent Demonstrator
11549 40th SE • Lowell, MI 49331
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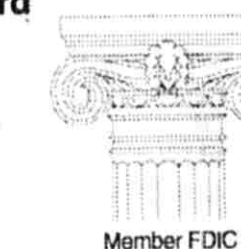
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LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

All Proposals Must Be Submitted No Later Than April 21, 2006 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.

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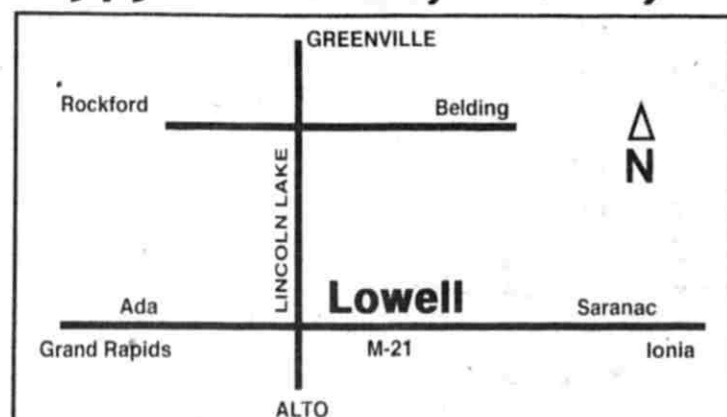


BLUE OVAL CERTIFIED

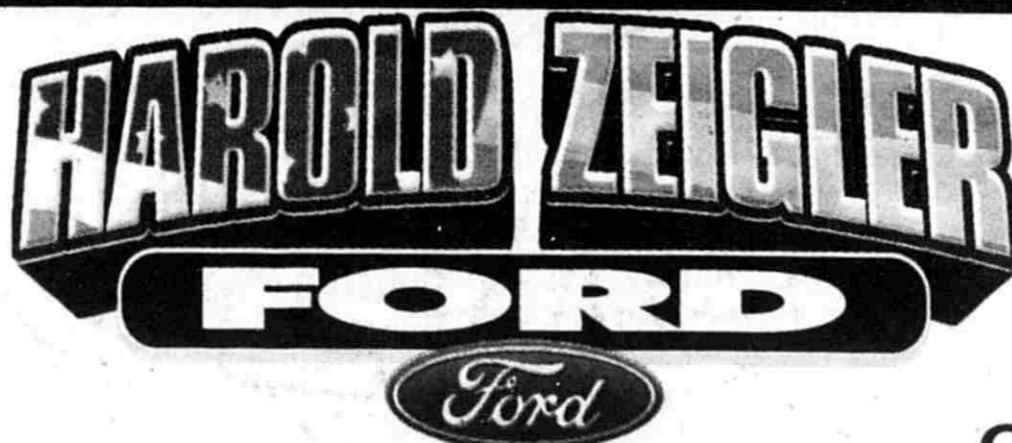
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