

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 34 Issue 39

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Wednesday, August 2, 2006

As if it wasn't hot enough - firefighters battle barn blaze

By Dan Schneider

A fire late Monday morning damaged a pole barn in Vergennes Township. "Everything in there of any value survived, but there's a big mess in there," owner Dustin Hawk said. "I'm glad everyone's all right. The fire department was very helpful."

Hawk was cutting an exhaust pipe with a torch when a spark ignited some transmission fluid on the ground and spread to the pole barn itself. Most of the damage was to the front half of the barn's roof.

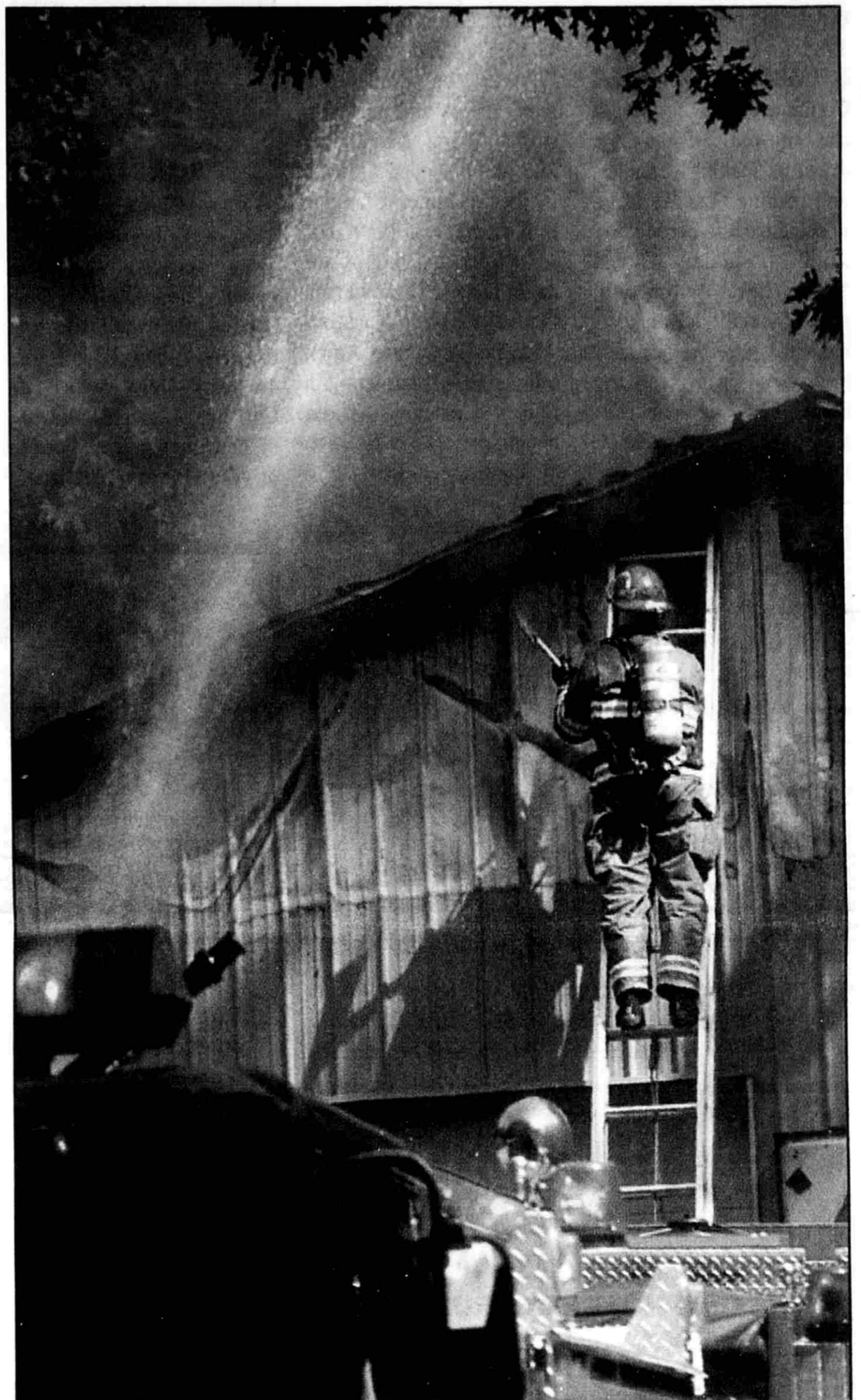
The fire started shortly before 11 a.m. It took firefighters about an hour to extinguish it. A total of 35 firefighters and several trucks from Lowell, Ada and Grattan fire departments responded to the blaze. Water had to be brought in by truck to the site on Beckwith Drive.

Temperatures hovered in the mid 90s as the firefighters fought the fire in full turnout gear. "As hot as it was, that was the biggest obstacle," Lowell fire chief Frank Martin said.

The last firefighters left the scene at about 3 p.m. after spending most of three hours cleaning up at the site.

Martin said the front half of the pole barn will likely have to be rebuilt, but its contents made it through the fire.

"There was a pickup in there, we saved that, most of his tools were saved," Martin said. A pair of snowmobiles and a classic Dodge Charger also made it through the fire.



Firefighters battled a Monday morning pole barn fire on Beckwith Drive.

New roundup added to 2006 county youth fair

By Dan Schneider

The biggest addition to this year's Kent County Youth Fair will happen at the very end of fair.

It is a rodeo, complete with seven different events. The rodeo starts at 7 p.m., rain or shine, Saturday, Aug. 12. It should inject some life into the last night of fair, which in the past has been a slow time.

"We just thought we wanted to do something big on Saturday night," fairgrounds manager Ron Wenger said. "We didn't have any facilities for a demolition derby or anything like that, but we do have facilities for a rodeo."

The rodeo will be a Flying Star Rodeo production and a Mid-States-Rodeo-sanctioned event. The seven events will

be bareback bronc riding, saddleback riding, steer wrestling, girls barrel races, calf roping, team roping and bull riding. A kids' boot scramble is scheduled.

Advance adult tickets are \$10 each. The gate charge for adults is \$15. Children ages five to twelve get in for \$5, advance or at the gate. Children under five get in free.

Wenger, who attended

rodeos put on by several different production companies before settling

on Flying Star, expects topnotch entertainment.

"It's a first-class rodeo," Wenger said. "They've got some tough bulls, they've got some good stock."

Some local riders and

ropers will be involved in the event.

The rodeo will take place in the horse arena, one of the most popular venues

Youth fair, cont'd., pg. 9



Clowning around the concerts series

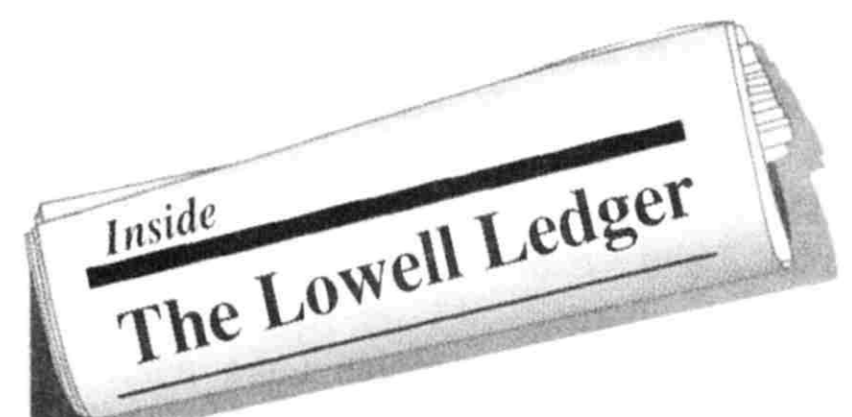
See More the Clown has been sighted at the Showboat Concerts subtly spreading the word on upcoming events in town. No telling when he'll show up next.

This week the Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts will feature Mane Street (western) this Thursday.

A wide range of music from kickin' country to rock's all time classics, plus a number of slow songs will be spotlighted. "Foot stompers" will enjoy some fiddling to the Orange Blossom Special.

The band features Dave Carter on drums, Ronnie Lee on keyboards, guitars, vocals and harmonica, John Potes on bass and lead vocals, Jim Stanford on primary vocals, rhythm guitar, fiddle and mandolin, and Larry Velej on lead guitar and vocals. Join Mane Street for an evening of entertainment on Aug. 3 from 7-9 p.m.

Photo submitted by Bruce Doll



Vandalism & The Amphitheater ... Page 4

Farmer's Market Catching On ... Page 11

New Tech Business ... Page 13

Obituaries

PHILLIPS husband Rex; children Mrs. Lucille Phillips, aged 65, of Lowell, went home to be with her Lord and Saviour on Tuesday, July 25, 2006. She was a graduate of South High School in 1958. Before her marriage to Rex, she worked as a clerk typist at the Kent County Clerk's office, and later in life from 1981 to 1994 she worked at Cumberland Retirement Community. For leisure she enjoyed oil painting, drawing, making ceramics, and reading. Lucille loved to socialize and particularly liked walking around Murray Lake. A wonderful mother, Lucille was always there for her children. She had a very strong faith and made sure her children attended Sunday school. Lucille is survived by her

consider Heartland Hospice, 500 Cascade West Parkway SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.



PORRITT

Anna Christina Porritt aged 82 of Alto passed away peacefully at her home Sunday, July 30, 2006. Beloved wife of the late Albert Porritt for 46 years. Dear mother of Christine (Joseph) Holysz of Parchment; Peter Porritt of Alto; Benjamin (Diane)

Porritt of Chandler, Arizona; Judith (Michael) Puntof Middleville. Loving grandmother of Samuel, Mary Beth, Amy, Ellison, Crystal, Esther, Laura, Jason, Timothy, Brianna, Kayleigh, Sierra, Mariah, Jennifer and Heather. Blessed great grandmother of Nathaniel and Luke and soon to arrive, Abigail and Christopher. Precious sister of Agnes Allington (late husband Lee) of Leland, Joan Nelson of Charlevoix and the late Ruth Sogge of Cadillac. Beloved daughter of Peter and Mary Forseth, niece of the late Christine Oienall of Suttons Bay. Also survived by loving sisters-in-law, Elizabeth (Ken) Palmer, Gloria (late husband, Marvin) Porritt, Marilyn Johnson (late husband, Harold) and Martha (Ellwyn) Welfare. Our dear Mother, Anna is peacefully at rest in Jesus' arms. We miss her and will remember how she loved,

always considerate of others, ready to share good will and willing to give up her comfort to help family and friends. She treated everyone with respect and kindness. Visitation will be 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM Friday, August 4 at Roth-Gerst Funeral Home 305 North Hudson, Lowell. Memorial service will be

10:30 Saturday, August 5 at Bowne Center United Methodist Church 12051 84th St. Alto, Reverend Dean Bailey officiating. Inurnment Bowne Center Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Visiting Nurse/Hospice 1401 Cedar NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

Lend A Hand VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



HELP PROMOTE LITERACY

The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled an information session on Thursday, Aug. 3 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 Gaines Township Library, 421 68th St. SE, Grand Rapids. Call 459-5151 to register.

STEPHEN IDEMA
12/31/42 - 8/04/96

Lovingly remembered,
- Your family

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal Public Accuracy Test for the August 8, 2006 primary election has been scheduled for Thursday, August 3, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. at the Lowell City Hall, First Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan.

Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk
(616) 897-8457

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF REZONING OF PROPERTY FROM "R3" SPECIAL RESIDENTIAL TO "C" COMMERCIAL

Public notice is hereby given that the Vergennes Township Board has amended the zoning ordinance to rezone the following described property from Special Residential (R-3) to Commercial (C). The property is owned by Cook Family L.L.C., of 500 Alden Nash SE, Lowell Michigan 49331, and is legally described as:

That part of the North 100.00 feet of the South 1342.00 feet of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 27 Town 7 N., Range 9 W, Vergennes Township, Kent County, Michigan lying east of the existing Railroad right of way, and west of Lincoln Lake Avenue (100 feet wide). Permanent parcel # 41-16-27-400-052. Property address 275 Lincoln Lake Avenue SE.

This zoning map change is on file at the Vergennes Township hall and may be inspected during regular office hours of 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF REZONING OF PROPERTY FROM "RA" RURAL AGRICULTURAL TO "R1" LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL

Public notice is hereby given that the Vergennes Township Board has amended the zoning ordinance to rezone the following described property from Medium Density Single Family Residential (R-2) to Industrial (I). The property is owned by Elizabeth Fahnenstiel, of 3100 Natures Place, Lowell Michigan 49331, and is legally described as:

The southern 3.2 acres of Permanent parcel # 41-16-34-226-003, in the NE 1/4 of Section 24, Vergennes Township, Kent County, Michigan. Address 501 Lincoln Lake Avenue, SE.

This zoning map change is on file at the Vergennes Township hall and may be inspected during regular office hours of 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays.

Mari C. Stone
Vergennes Township Clerk

BOWNE TOWNSHIP CITY OF LOWELL LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE

ABSENTEE VOTER INFORMATION

The City and Township Clerks will be available at the following locations on Saturday, August 5, 2006 for any registered voter who would like to apply for or return an absentee voters ballot for the August 8, 2006 Primary Election.

Sandra Kowalczyk Bowne Township 10 am - 2 pm 8240 Alden Nash Alto, MI 49302 (616) 868-6846	Betty Morlock City of Lowell 8 am - 2 pm 301 East Main Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-8457
Linda S. Regan Lowell Charter Township 10 am - 2 pm 2910 Alden Nash S.E. Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-7600	Mari Stone Vergennes Township 10 am - 2 pm 10381 Bailey Dr. Lowell, MI 49331 (616) 897-5671

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(USPS 453-830)

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Lowell Area Historical Museum seeks artifacts for exhibit on communications

By Dan Schneider

The Lowell Area Historical Museum is seeking submissions of communication-related artifacts for its upcoming exhibit titled "From Caves to Computers: The History of Communication."

Displaying artifacts on loan from local residents is one way the museum localizes its changing exhibits.

"One of the things

we try to do is provide a local perspective with a global context," museum director Judy Straub said. "Most of this exhibit will be objects from the museum's permanent collection that have been donated by local residents."

But some of the items necessary to tell the story of communication "from caves to computers" are not in the museum's collection. While the museum does not expect many Lowell residents to

be in possession of cave paintings, the museum is hoping residents can lend devices closer to the other side of the exhibit's time spectrum, like a Commodore 64 computer.

"What we are looking for from the community is working black and white televisions that are pre-1950," Straub said.

That is in addition to pre-1952 cameras, pre-1040 radios, old transistor radios, and pre-1960 telephones.

Also, Straub said, "we are looking for things that supported those different technologies." That includes things like computer cards and telegrams.

The exhibit will feature seven categories, most associated with a particular technology: writing, telephone, telegraph, television, photography, mail and computers. One portion of the exhibit will explore "what's next."

"Communication has so dramatically changed the lives of people throughout the world," Straub said. "Our world keeps shrinking and it truly is through the tremendous advances in communications technology. Now we are able to communicate with people throughout the world in nanoseconds."

Decorations and theme displays for the exhibit include telephone poles and a telephone booth.

"We are working to build in hands-on activities not just for children but for adults as well," Straub said.

The museum's current changing exhibit, "Childhood Dreams: Toys from the Past" will remain on display through the first week in September. The museum hopes to collect lent items from the community by the end of August.

Warrant issued for man accused of stealing from his grandmother

By Dan Schneider

Lowell police arrested an Alto man on drug charges last Thursday.

William Kevin Grant, 38, was arraigned Friday in 63rd district court on charges of cocaine possession, less than 25 grams, and open alcohol in a motor vehicle. The combined charges are a felony with a four-year maximum penalty. Grant's preliminary hearing is scheduled for Aug. 11.

An arrest warrant has been issued for a 26-year

old Ionia man accused of stealing his grandmother's purse. The man used his grandmother's credit card at the Lowell Speedway, then attempted to withdraw money from a Huntington ATM machine here. He also used a check to make what police called a large electronics purchase from the Lowell Meijer. Surveillance cameras recorded the man at all three locations, but he has not yet been located.

"This is one of those cases where it's very easy to prove because everything is caught on video," Lowell

Police detective Steve Bukala said.

If arrested, the man will face charges of uttering and publishing, a 14-year felony, and unlawful use of a financial transaction device, a four-year felony.

Ionia Public Safety will pursue charges of larceny from a building against the man for his theft of the purse.

Anthony Craig Hill, 38, of Lowell, was arraigned Tuesday on larceny from a building charges. He is accused of performing two thefts while cleaning after hours at Lowell Light and Power. He was working for a cleaning service contracted to clean the utility's main offices. The first theft was of an undisclosed amount of cash. The second theft, which was caught on surveillance video, was of personal property.

Hill is currently incarcerated at Ottawa County Jail for another offense.

Free day at the zoo

The lazy summer days are hurrying by and before you know it, school will be in session. So take time and visit John Ball Zoo! A free day is planned for all children, families and care groups this Friday, Aug. 4, from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

There will be activities from the YMCA and Grand Rapids Children's Museum, art by Easley Art, and storytelling by Pooh's Corner, to name a few.

Free tickets are available at all Macatawa Banks.

Grand Valley Health Plan locations, and Riverbank Books and Music. For a full line-up of activities, visit wgvu.org.

The annual event is made possible through WGVU and Bell Com Credit Union.

ADA-LOWELL 5
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First Run Movies
BARGAIN PRICES
\$4.00 LOWEST PRICE
All Shows 4:00 - 6:00 PM

MIAMI VICE (R)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
MONSTER HOUSE (PG)
11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
GLADY IN THE WATER (PG-13)
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND (PG-13) 11:15, 1:15, 9:50
YOU, ME AND DUPREE (PG-13)
3:15, 5:25, 7:40
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST (PG-13)
12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45

COUPON FREE 20oz DRINK
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of 46oz bag of factory program
at participating locations. See back for details.

LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

All Proposals Must Be Submitted No Later Than August 18, 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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ALONG MAIN STREET

SIZZLIN' SUMMER CONCERTS
Mane Street will perform this Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at Riverwalk Plaza.

RELAY FOR LIFE
Lowell's Relay for Life at Lowell Memorial Stadium, noon, Friday, Aug. 4 - noon, Saturday, Aug. 5. Proceeds benefit American Cancer Society research. Contact person: Elizabeth Males, 364-6121.

KAYAKING CLASS OFFERED
Lowell YMCA will offer a kayaking class on Aug. 7 at Stoney Lakeside Park, 5:45 - 8:45 p.m. Equipment provided or bring your own. Register by 5 p.m. Aug. 3. Call 897-8445.

BLUEGRASS CONCERT
At the Kent County Youth Fair, there will be a free bluegrass music concert on Thursday, Aug. 10 at 6 p.m. No Sizzlin' Summer concert at Riverwalk this week.

RIVERFRONT PARK OPEN HOUSE
The Lowell Twp. park will have its grand opening celebration on Saturday, Aug. 12, 12-4 p.m. at 12025 Grand River Dr. Fun, games, food and entertainment. Everyone welcome.

TAI CHI CHUAN
Lowell YMCA is offering Tai Chi Chuan beginning Saturday, Aug. 12 for 8 weeks. For more information, call 897-8445.

LAAC ART ATTACK 4
The LAAC annual fundraiser with a Caribbean theme will be held Saturday, Aug. 19 from 6-11 p.m. at 149 S. Hudson in the gallery and on the green. Tickets: \$35. For more information, call 897-8445.

FUNDRAISER FOR JENI
Jeni Rummelt is paralyzed from the waist down from an auto accident in 2001. A fundraiser will be held at the Monterey Center, 6661 Alden Nash, Alto, Friday, Aug. 25 to cover costs for a stem cell procedure in Russia. Doors open at 6:30; dinner at 7. Donation: \$45 per person/\$75 couple by Aug. 18. \$50 person at door. Tickets at Solid Impact Fitness or Monterey Grille. Make checks payable to Help Jeni Walk. Call 891-2994 or 891-2928 for information.

LHS 5TH CLASS REUNION
Lowell Class of 2001 will be having their five year reunion at Fallsburg Park on Aug. 12th from 3-6 p.m. BYOB and dish to pass (hot dogs and hamburgers provided). RSVP: LHSClass2001@hotmail.com.

Support the Trails but Save the Trees!
LARA Trailway Meeting
Wed., August 9 at 6:00 pm
Lowell City Offices
Be informed, show your support!

Rodeo

August 12, 2006
7:00 PM Rain or Shine
Kent County Fairgrounds
Advance Sale Adult Tickets \$10
Available at Fair office;
Springgrove Variety or Lowell Chamber office
Adult Tickets at Gate \$15;
Children 5-12, advance at Gate \$5; Children under 5 - FREE
A Flying Star Rodeo Production
Mid-States Rodeo Sanctioned
Proudly Brought to you by the
Kent County Youth Fair
www.kcfg.org 225 South Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331 616-897-6050

After vandals add insult to injury, bleacher cleanup underway



Lowell Area Schools is in the process of removing the wooden planks and rusted metal brackets that were once the bleacher seats in the Lowell Showboat amphitheater.

By Dan Schneider

Lowell Area Schools (LAS) is removing what is left of the benches from the former Lowell Showboat amphitheater.

At this time last year, the bleacher seats were already in rough shape. The wooden planks that formed the seats were rough and weather-worn.

Then, last November, vandals found a way to make it look worse by smashing the planks and scattering them around. LAS, which owns the property, installed a chain link fence around the amphitheater shortly after that incident. One reason LAS installed the fence was to facilitate anti-trespassing enforcement.

Earlier this year vandals spray-painted graffiti on a wall on the south side of the amphitheater. That has been painted over. The district will also clean up graffiti on the stage itself, but LAS director of transportation and

operations Larry Mikulski said the main focus will be on removing the planks and the metal brackets.

"We're tearing those things out of there," Mikulski said. "We're going to take them all out of there and clean the whole place up. I just want to get everything out that's dangerous."

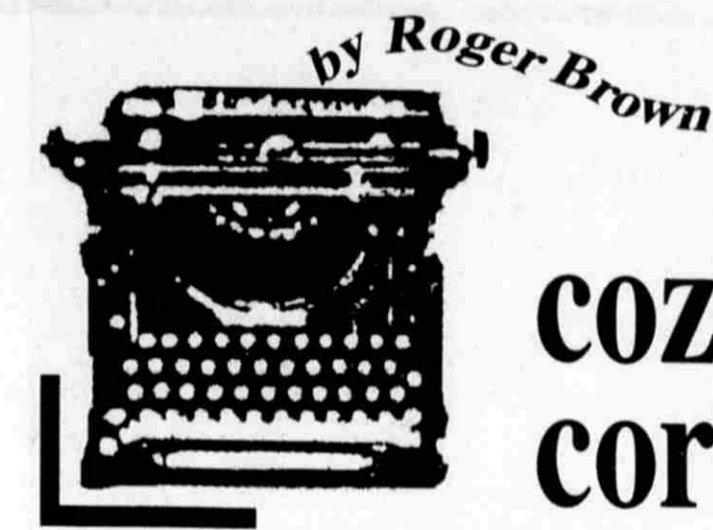
The stepped concrete will be left bare, and the fence will be left in place, which will hopefully deter further degradation of the site.

"We don't want it to be a haven for illegal activity," Lowell police chief Jim Valentine said. "And we wouldn't want people to get hurt down there."

Mikulski said the district would consider making further improvements to the site, but there wouldn't be much point if it did not get used.

"No one uses it and no one's asked to use it," he said. "The safety is what I was most concerned about."

Viewpoint



cozy corner

Day four of my trip dawned beautifully in Three Forks, Montana. I had packed a single burner propane camp stove and a coffee pot. Breakfast was hardboiled eggs, jerky and some really good camp coffee. As I broke camp and packed my gear away in the plane I couldn't help but think about how enjoyable this little campsite had been and wondered why more small airports don't offer something similar. I made a mental note to explore the possibilities back at the Lowell Airport.

With my maps spread out on the picnic table the night before, I had planned my attack on the Bitterroot Mountains. The old Stearman lifted off easily in the cool morning air, despite a field elevation of over 4,000 ft.

Tracking west I soon came to the city of Anaconda. Here I was shooting a pass between

The Anaconda Mountains to the south and the Flint Creek Range on the north. The Anaconda range has peaks upwards of 11,000 ft. The tall ones were snowcapped. I was crossing the Continental Divide at about this point and looking down at the sizeable Georgetown Lake. A better writer than myself might take a stab at conveying the beauty of this particular open cockpit view. I'll just leave it at, "Wow!"

After another 40 miles of cruising over and around these peaks at 9,000 ft., the terrain dropped off rather quickly into a wide valley running north and south. The Bitterroots loomed along the western side of the valley.

I landed in Hamilton, Montana for fuel. And, more importantly, I was looking for tips on getting over the mountains. Louis and Clark did the same thing, bartering with the local Indians for horses and dogs and seeking advice about the mountains.

As I pumped fuel, bought oil and paid my bill I was asking questions. Everyone seemed more interested in the map on the side of the plane. There was a café on the field where I soon had my sectional chart (map) spread out and obtained some local advice. I got the sense these regular mountain flyers had trouble with the timidity of a flatlander like me.

Fueled and armed with a few tips, I rumbled off the runway at 3,600 ft. I needed to climb another 7,000 ft. to feel comfortable in the mountains. At 10,500 ft., I could clear most of peaks I'd be flying by. After several lazy circles, climbing and climbing in the valley, I turned to the west. I soon found myself surrounded by snow-covered peaks. I've included a picture, but my little digital camera certainly didn't capture the beauty of this. Another, "Wow!"

This flight was cold and exhilarating. It was also over way too quickly. The next thing I knew the mountains were

falling away to luscious deep green valleys with streams flowing to the west. I was in Idaho.

I had chosen Orofino, Idaho as a fuel stop, an official Idaho logbook entry and a sticker on my map. Again, I would question the wisdom of my choice of airports.

The airport, the town and everything else are down in a deep, steep valley of the Clearwater River. To land there I had to approach downwind following the high ground above the valley. As I turned my base leg I began a descent into the valley. I continued a descent on final. I was now way down in this valley, following the river with the runway out of sight around a bend up ahead. Like I said, us flatlanders aren't used to this kind of flying.

Other than rattling my nerves a little, the landing worked out fine. It was unbelievably hot on the tarmac, and I quickly began peeling off the heavy clothes I'd worn for the mountain crossing. Orofino looked like a pretty place from the air, with a large reservoir lake nearby. Nevertheless, it was time to saddle up.

Taking off I had to wonder if there might not be a plane on final, but out of sight around the bend in the river. I stayed busy on the radio announcing my intentions.

Staying with the Lewis and Clark theme, I followed the Clearwater River as it wound its way to Lewiston, Idaho and joins with the Snake River. From Lewiston the Snake winds its way well north but I followed it anyway. Boy, was I glad I did. The Snake River Canyon is magnificent. The weather was extremely warm. I was glad I'd stripped down to a t-shirt for this leg. I rode along the Snake drinking in the beauty and enjoying the warm ride.

A couple hours later I had arrived at the confluence of the Snake and the Columbia Rivers. I wanted a picture of this, and found I'd somehow opened my camera's battery compartment. The four AA batteries were below the floorboards and beyond my reach. Guess this would be a fuel stop if I wanted that picture. I picked out Kennewick, Washington. It was 110 degrees on the ramp. Despite the heat I took the time to put my Washington sticker on my map.

With full fuel and the batteries back in my camera I left Kennewick, and the heat, for somewhere up in the "Gorge Region" of the Columbia. Oh yeah, I circled back for that picture I wanted.

This section of the Columbia was a bit dull compared to what I'd experienced so far this day. It was also downright hot, even from my seat behind a giant fan.

Soon enough, the scenery began to change. I could start to see the magnificent Mt. Hood up ahead on the left and Mt. Adams on the right. The terrain was changing to small peaks with the river winding through them. I flew past The Dalles (pronounced The Dolls) and set my sights on Hood River, Oregon as my last landing of the day.

A few miles out of Hood River the plane began to get buffeted around pretty good. I had noticed whitecaps on the

Fly to page 10

Ledger Entries

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



By Priscilla Lussmyer

100 YEARS

THE LOWELL LEDGER AUGUST 2 1906

Elmdale: the New Mennonites are holding tent meeting at King's wood for two weeks.

The Lowell Lumber Co. has a contract to furnish lumber for a new \$1000 schoolhouse serving Lowell, Vergennes and Ada.

Bring a cake this week to the Bailey Church ice cream social in Vergennes to help fund painting and repairs.

Edelmann & Nerreter's Hardware is giving away a box of money FREE!

75 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AND THE ALTO SOLO JULY 30 1931

The editor notes the irony of sitting in his near-100-degree office while ten tons of coal rattle down the chute a few feet away.

An article about Chief Cobmoosa, who left Lowell about 1857, is part of the Centennial news.

Residents are reminded to lock up the house when they attend Centennial activities, with all the visitors in town.

A "magnificent steer" from Harwood Hereford Farms near Ionia is on display before the Centennial barbecue; guess its weight and win \$20 in gold.

50 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER AUGUST 2 1956

The reckless driver did not hit the Fallsburg Park arch, but did hit a picnic table and two trees. Sorry; the details were fuzzy last week.

A long-overdue wheat harvest keeps King Mill open until 2:30 AM receiving a record 26,000 bushels.

This year's Showboat receipts: \$36,000, almost as high as 1952-53.

Trucks must now have an up-to-date weight slip to buy license plates.

25 YEARS THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER JULY 29 1981

With threatening weather, opening night of Showboat is shortened rather than moving to the high school gym.

This issue features photos from the 150th birthday of Lowell celebration last weekend. Beards (Brothers of the Brush) and bonnets (Bonnet Belles) lead off the four pages.

And a photo of a 1910 grocery store interior ("where 'Man's World' is today") is a bonus.

Mourning dove hunting will be on November ballot

A measure to stop the mourning dove season in Michigan is set for public vote on Nov. 7, and the National Wild Turkey

Federation (NWTFF) has donated \$10,000 to help fight anti-hunters' efforts to end dove hunting in the Wolverine State.

In 2004, a bill was passed to establish the state's first dove season. Petitions from anti-hunters, however, stopped dove hunting after only one season.

To date, more than 50 conservation and hunting organizations donated time and money in support of getting the dove season reinstated.

The federal government classifies the mourning dove as a migratory game bird, and 40 states currently have an active dove season.

Dove hunting is a long-standing tradition in many states and would create a positive economic impact for Michigan.

For more information about the NWTFF, call (800) THE-NWTF.

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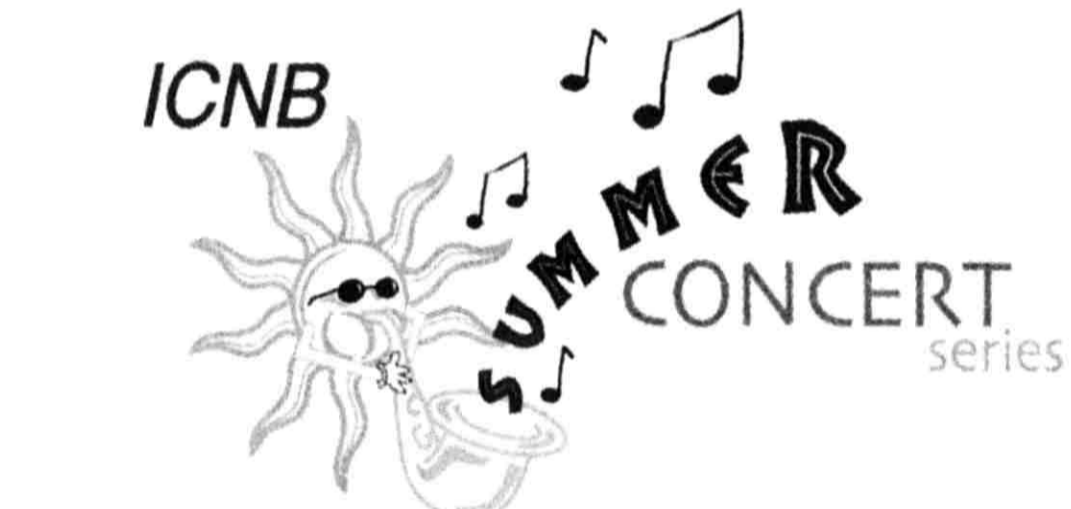
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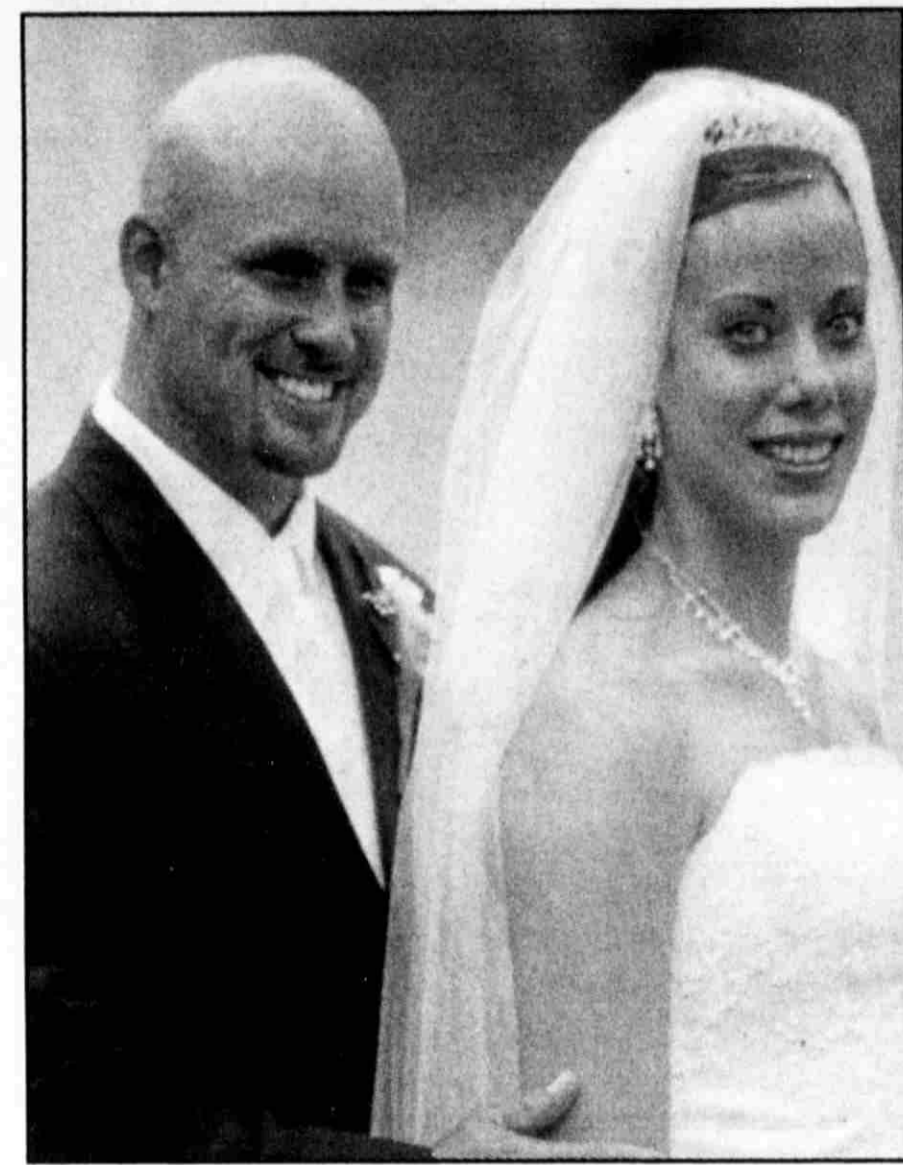
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Letters... We love to hear from you!

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 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.

Weddings

Mabry/Tarney



Mr. and Mrs. John Mabry

The July 16, 2006 wedding of Mindy K. Barbara and John Mabry of South Port, VA. The bride will be attending Mary H. Baylor. The groom will be deployed to Afghanistan. Parents of the couple are Dena Hofman and the

New Arrivals

Holst

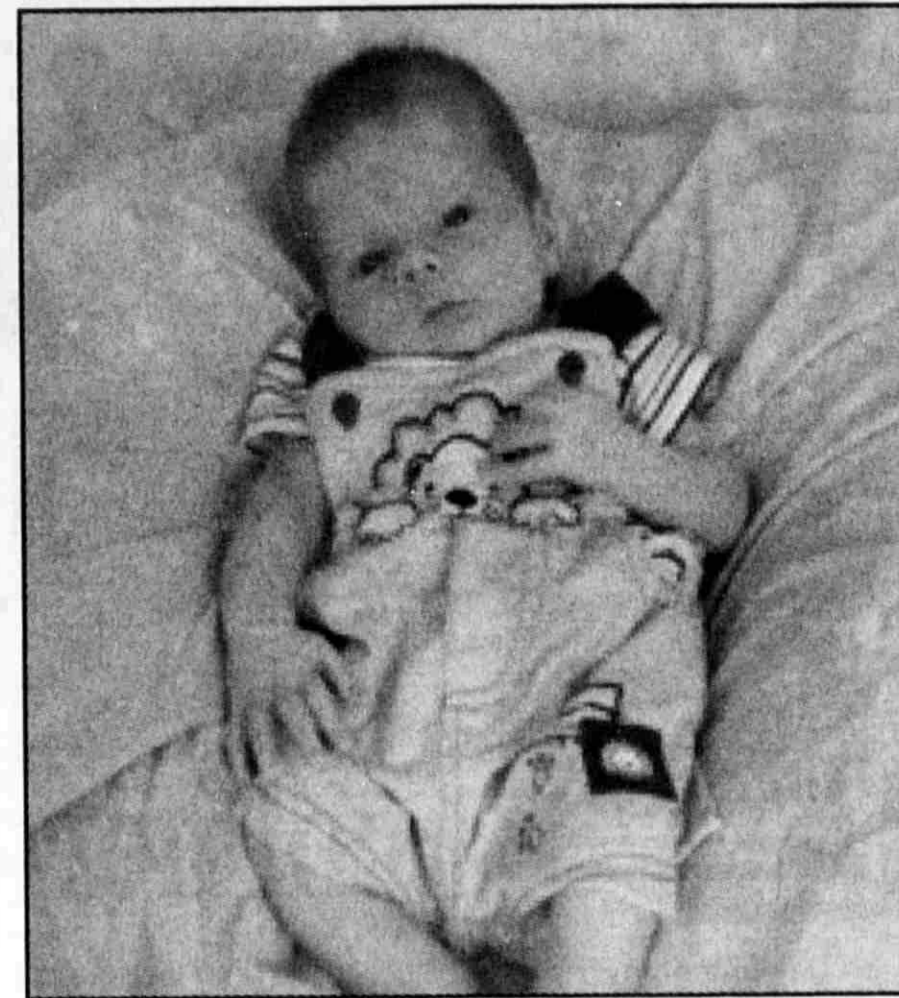


Brayden Jay Holst

Brayden Jay was born to Kyle and Nicki Holst on July 11, 2006. He weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and measured 19 1/2 inches.

Proud grandparents are Dave and Jackie Deters of Greenville, Kelly and Marianne Holst of Lowell, and Rick and Kim Triplett of Grand Rapids.

Coan



Austin Loukas Coan

Justin Samuel and Angela Coan of Mulliken, Mich., are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Austin Loukas. Austin was born July 5, 2006, at 2:41 p.m. He weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz. and measured 20 inches.

Proud grandparents are Barry and Pat Vezino of Mulliken and Bill and the departed Sally Coan of Lebanon, Ind. Great-grandparents are Helen Vezino of Lowell and Virginia Bristley of Indianapolis, Ind.

I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it.

- Harry S Truman (1884 - 1972)

Reflections of faith

Bob Roush, Friendship Country Chapel

PEACE

"Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest, take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly at heart and you shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:28-29.

The common response received from many people these days when asked how they are is that they are tired. Ours is a tired society of people who are caught on the merry go round of life and don't know how to get off. Our society has more gadgets and gimmicks to make our lives comfort-

table and pleasureable than any nation in the world, yet the products of this "better life" is road rage, up tight, unhappy people, many of which walk around with a line drawn in the sand just challenging you to cross it.

For 35 years I was one of those people. I tried to fill all my days with what I thought would bring me happiness, always knowing I fell far short of the goal I was aiming at. Although I occupied my time doing what felt good to me I was unable to shut out the nagging question that dogged me, and at night when I laid my head on my pillow, just before the lights went out I knew there was something more, a hole in my soul that no matter how much I acquired would not be satisfied through the means I sought. I believe it was St. Frances who said "there is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every person that cannot be filled until it is filled with God." Jesus said to His disciples one day, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not like the peace of the world is the peace I give to you, let not your heart be troubled. It appears that Jesus indicated that there was

a peace the world offered, but it had no comparison to the peace He was offering them. His is a peace that surpasses all human understanding. It's a peace that makes you to know that everything is all right between you and your creator. It's a peace that lasts long into the night and wakes with you in the morning. It's a peace that cannot be purchased or gained through good behavior. It is freely given to all who trust and believe in what God accomplished through Christ when he died on the cross. The peace that God offers goes into the emergency ward, the hospital room and the funeral parlor. Nothing acquired on this earth offers that, it is only distributed through God.

Lee Iococa had it right when he said "No one on their death bed will say I wish I had spent more time at the office." I completed my 67th trip around the sun in February and I realize how very true that is. I am so thankful that 32 years ago I found the true meaning to life and made peace with God. May you complete your journey around the sun this year in His peace. Shalom.

Many Lowell residents involved in first Relay for Life

"The more people I talk to in Lowell, the more impressed I am," says Elizabeth Males, community development director for the American Cancer Society. "It's your first-ever Relay for Life and you already have 20 teams signed up. That's very significant."

Males explains that each of those 20 teams has already raised between \$250 and \$2,500 and has spent the past three months holding fundraisers and getting additional pledges.

"I hadn't ever heard of Relay before," said Carol Briggs, lifetime Lowell resident, "but it sounded like just the kind of thing I wanted to help with." Briggs, who says she's trying to reduce her volunteer activities, felt it was such a great cause that she had to get involved. "And it's just the kind of thing Lowell is so well known for. The community pulls together every time there's a crisis," she says. "Someone's house burns down. Someone needs medical care. If it tugs at your heart strings, we'll be there." Briggs is a team leader for the First United Methodist Church of Lowell's Relay team and is on the Cancer Survivors' Dinner subcommittee.

One of the important

outcomes of Relay, according to Males, is that it increases awareness of lung cancer. Many people within any community have been touched by cancer. It helps to give the disease a human face, and to change long-standing beliefs that cancer is always fatal or somehow the cancer patient's fault.

"When cancer survivors walk around the track, in what we call the Victory Lap, everyone can see them, cheer for them, and honor them," says Males. The goal, she says, is to open a dialogue within the community and begin to reduce the loneliness and fear that cancer can generate. She continues, "We want everyone, from the smallest child up, to see their parents, friends, teachers, neighbors, store owners, police, fire fighters, and leaders united, standing up for hope against cancer."

There are already 37 Lowell-area residents signed up for the Victory Lap, including Anna Organek, whom some may recall from last year's community-wide effort to raise money for her treatment, Patty Elzinga of Heidi Christines Salons and Spas in Ada, and Vance Dimmick, pastor, and resident of Lowell.

Elzinga has just written

a book, called "Over my Dead Body!" in which she discusses her battle with lung cancer. "I'd never heard of anyone surviving lung cancer," she says, "and it took two weeks for the diagnosis to sink in. When I was finally able to begin researching it, all I could find were clinical descriptions that told me exactly how I was going to die."

She went from hardly believing she would live to deciding how she was going to survive, to reaching out to others with cancer. Today, she says, "Cancer is a gift I have. Who can say if it's my "purpose"? All I know is that it's my ministry."

A large public turnout is expected at the Relay, which begins at noon at the Red Arrow Memorial Stadium (the Lowell High-School outdoor track). Relay is a 24-hour event, with teams committing to keep at least one member walking around the track at all times. The event will continue for the entire 24 hours, rain or shine.

Organizers anticipate one highlight of the event to be the silent auction of 29 watercolor paintings donated by Karen Latva's Cherry Creek fifth-grade class. These paintings were

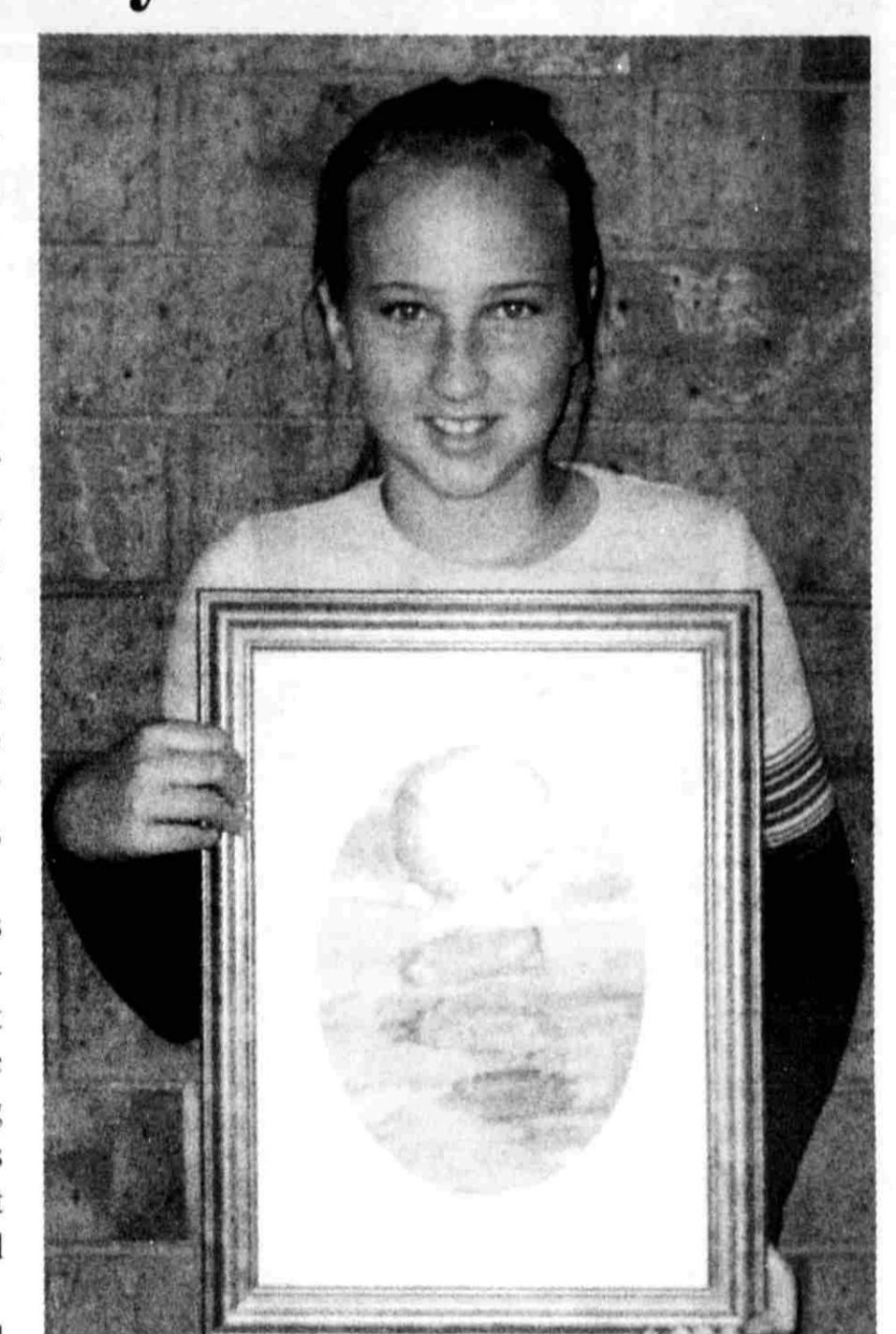
created to honor Jan Herb, elementary school bus driver and para-educator at Cherry Creek, who was diagnosed with cancer in the fall of 2005.

Janet Johnson, a well-known watercolor artist in the Lowell area, instructed the class in watercolor techniques and Latva mounted and framed each one, over the summer. The class all painted to a "Serenity" theme and, says Latva, "I don't even have the words to express how much heart these paintings have."

She continues, "This began as a community-service project, but it evolved into a real altruistic exercise, with breathtaking results." All 29 paintings will be on display with silent bidding to start at 4:30 and end at 9:30 p.m.

Other events planned include face painting, games, and crafts, geared to families with children and available for a nominal fee. Stroll and munch hamburgers, hot dogs, or popcorn, drink your favorite non-alcoholic beverages, and listen to area bands. Say hello and get your picture taken with Blinky, Blitz, Griff, Bucky, or Crash, mascots from sports, media, and business teams.

At every booth, you'll find a donation can, for your spare change. All profits go



A fifth-grade student from Karen Latva's class with one of the paintings for the auction.

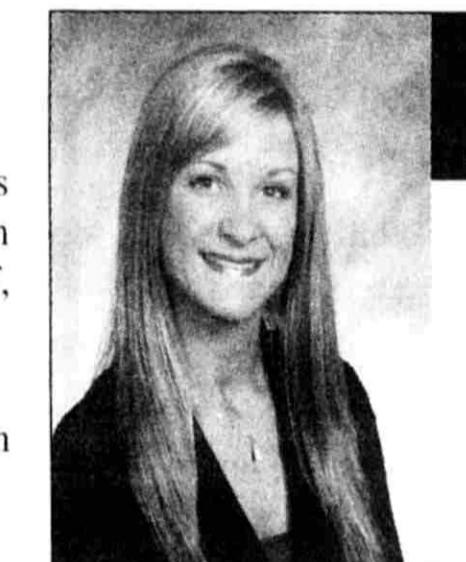
to fight cancer through the American Cancer Society which has raised \$921,000 from 14 events this year alone.

Area resident Sue Lindhout points out that the cans have been prominently displayed at many Lowell area businesses for the past few months. "Just yesterday, I was downtown collecting some full cans, and a man walking past me on the sidewalk stopped me to ask what the cans were for. When I told him, he put in a \$20 for the cause." Throughout Relay trackside shows are featured. Some are serious and moving, like the Survivors' Lap and the Luminaria ceremony, and some are lighter, like the "Miss Relay" contest (all the entrants are men), a limbo contest, and a pizza party.

Happy Birthday

- AUGUST 3:** Rebecca Heinicke, Becky Shindorf, Kelsey Brenk, Hillary Smith.
- AUGUST 4:** Irene Willmarth, Scott VanDyke, Cody Bieri, Nick Tykocki, Thomas H. Mahalic, Joann Childs, Kayleigh VanKeulen.
- AUGUST 5:** Robin Abel, Stephen Martin, Jr.
- AUGUST 6:** Jessie King, Kim Foster, Steven Vickers.
- AUGUST 7:** Barbara Wright, Don Grummet, Jaimi Smith, Steve Newell.

- AUGUST 8:** Jennifer Kimble, Chris Goggins, John Rasch, Allen Hoekstra, Sharell Wolf, Debra Lenneman.
- AUGUST 9:** Pamela Esparza, Steven Burrows, Busha Wilson.



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<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>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 Noonan, Asst. Pastor John King, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: Worship: 10:00 a.m. - LIFE Home Groups & "XL" Youth Sunday evenings WEDNESDAYS: Family Night (For All Ages): 7:00 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmarys-lowell.com Weekday Masses: SAT. 5 PM, SUN. 9:30 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 BRENNI SERING 897-7515 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWIN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (United Church of Christ) 404 North Hudson • 897-5906 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.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 J.C. Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided - Barrier Free</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave., SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith 9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>		<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 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>

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Youth fair, continued ... From Page 1

at the fairgrounds. The equestrian segment of 4-H has grown even more this year. Horse entries have outnumbered the 253 stalls available in barns on the ground.

"We've got more horses than ever," Wenger said. "We've got the Guikema barn, but we still have to put a tent up for them because we outgrew it already in three years."

The big, white Marilyn K. Guikema Memorial Barn opened in 2004.

The many horses will be among 9,481 total entries in this year's fair. That includes thousands of still exhibits in addition to the animals; 100 feet of new still exhibit booth space had to be added in the Foreman Building this year to accommodate the increase in still exhibits.

A conservative estimate of market entries, animals such as cows and pigs that are sold in the livestock auction, is more than 600. The livestock sale is scheduled for next Thursday, starting at 2 p.m. with the small animals auction. The main livestock auction is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m.

There will be 1,109 4-Hers exhibiting at this year's fair.

The Kent County Youth Fair has a new midway this year, provided by A.J. Carl Shows. The carnival company is owned by a Lowell High School graduate, Debbie Carl-Badami. A. J. Carl Shows has been at the Berlin and Charlotte fairs already this summer. It will travel to Harrison before coming to Lowell.

Another new sight at the fair this year will be a bright red barn for the 4-H ice cream and milk sale fundraiser. It will be located along the main thoroughfare through the fairgrounds, next to the Reath Barn. A number of 4-H fathers teamed up to build the barn.

"The old barn was 25 years old and it was getting wore out so the guys built a new one," Wenger said.

The fair's first events begin Saturday with dog showmanship and still exhibit judging. The official opening ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m., Sunday. Todd Kuperus, youth pastor at Heritage Christian Reformed Church will be the keynote speaker, followed by the coronation of this year's royal court.

Judging of various animals and 4-H skills takes up most of the daytime hours during fair. In the evenings, a variety of entertainment is scheduled. Monday night at 7 p.m., for instance, there is a youth talent contest in the stage tent and an antique tractor pull on the track. Tuesday night the Elmo Thumm a capella group will perform. Wednesday, the Chicago Honey Bears dance team will perform two shows at the stage tent while the National Lightweight Horse Pull is taking place on the track.

Thursday evening from 6 to 9 p.m., the West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association presents Heart to Heart, Creekside and Deadwood at the stage tent. Meanwhile, a garden tractor pull is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the track.

Friday there will be country line dancing in the Reeth Barn at 8 p.m. Saturday night in addition to the rodeo, Christian band 11th Hour will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the stage tent, along with performances by DJ the Clown.

I was so naive as a kid I used to sneak behind the barn and do nothing.

- Johnny Carson (1925 - 2005)

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Cozy Corner, continued ... From Page 5

river and lots of sailboarders and kite-boarders having fun. I looked down at my G.P.S. for my groundspeed. It said 52 knots. Huh? In dead air my plane cruises at about 82 knots. I had a thirty-knot headwind. My stomach knotted up at the thought of landing in this gale.



This was the snow-capped view off the left wing as I flew over the Bitterroots. The view off the right wing, ahead and to the rear was pretty much the same.

Hood River has an automated weather frequency and I tuned it in. They were reporting anywhere from five to seven knots out of the west. Basically, it was just a light breeze coming right down the runway. How could this be?

When I had finally struggled to the airport I could see what was going on. The airport was just a couple miles up the Hood River Valley, south of the Columbia. It was tucked away just far enough to protect it from the gale force winds being funneled up the Columbia River Gorge. The windsock was almost limp. Whew!!! Oh yeah... scratch Oregon of the

list and put that sticker on the plane. Just four states to go. The airport directory said there was "camping on the field". As I found to be the case on this trip, that line often means only that nobody cares if you pitch a tent, but there are no facilities. I opted for the courtesy car and my first

night in a motel and a good shower. They charged me \$15.00 for a "courtesy car". It was a total piece of junk and they had to jump it to get it started. When I asked to take the jumper cables with me, just in case, they said, "No, they were borrowed."

The courtesy car got me to a motel downtown on the Columbia River. I did a lot of walking around and found something to eat. Hood River is haven for adventure types... hikers, mountain bikers, sailboarders, kayakers, four-wheelers... you name it. Lots of young, fit people out having fun. It was a cool town to hang out in for a night.

The next morning my \$15.00 courtesy junker was dead as a doornail. It was at least an hour before anyone

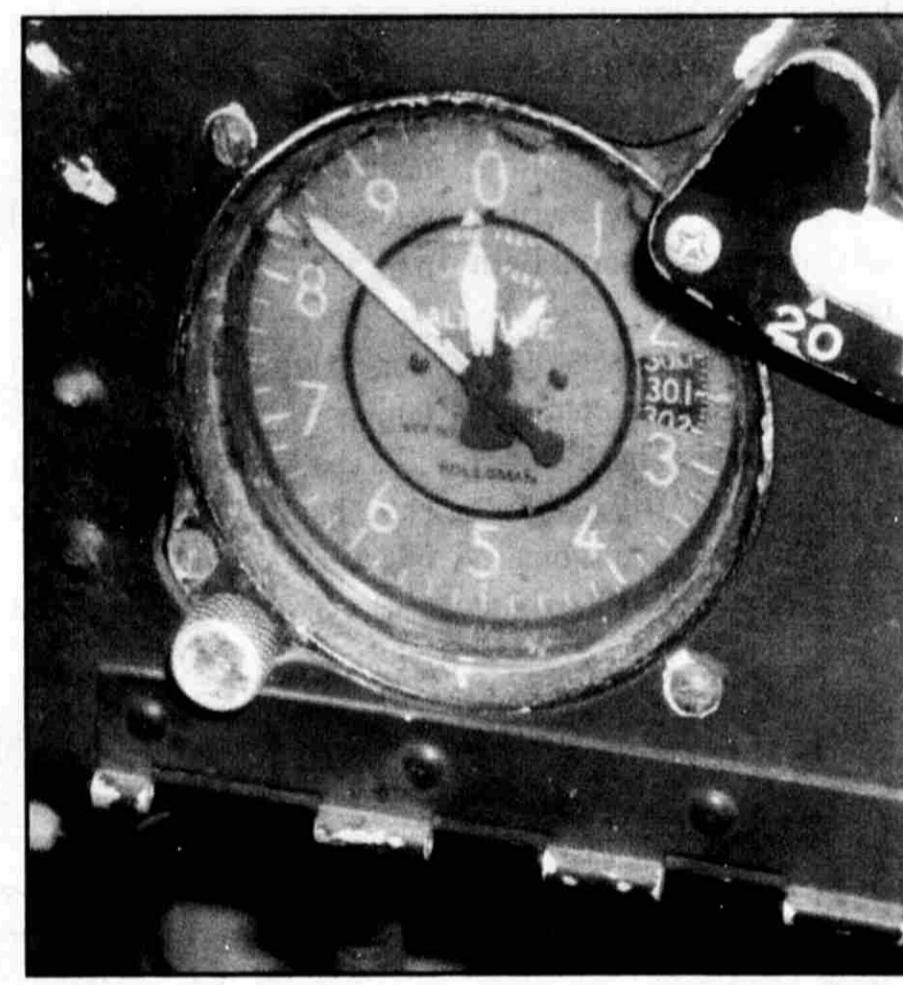
would be at the airport. I called a cab. A nice Mexican lady picked me up. For just ten dollars she had me at the airport. I left a note at the F.B.O. as to the whereabouts of their junker.

I was trying to get an early start because I'd been told those tremendous winds in the gorge begin building at about mid-morning. I was just about to

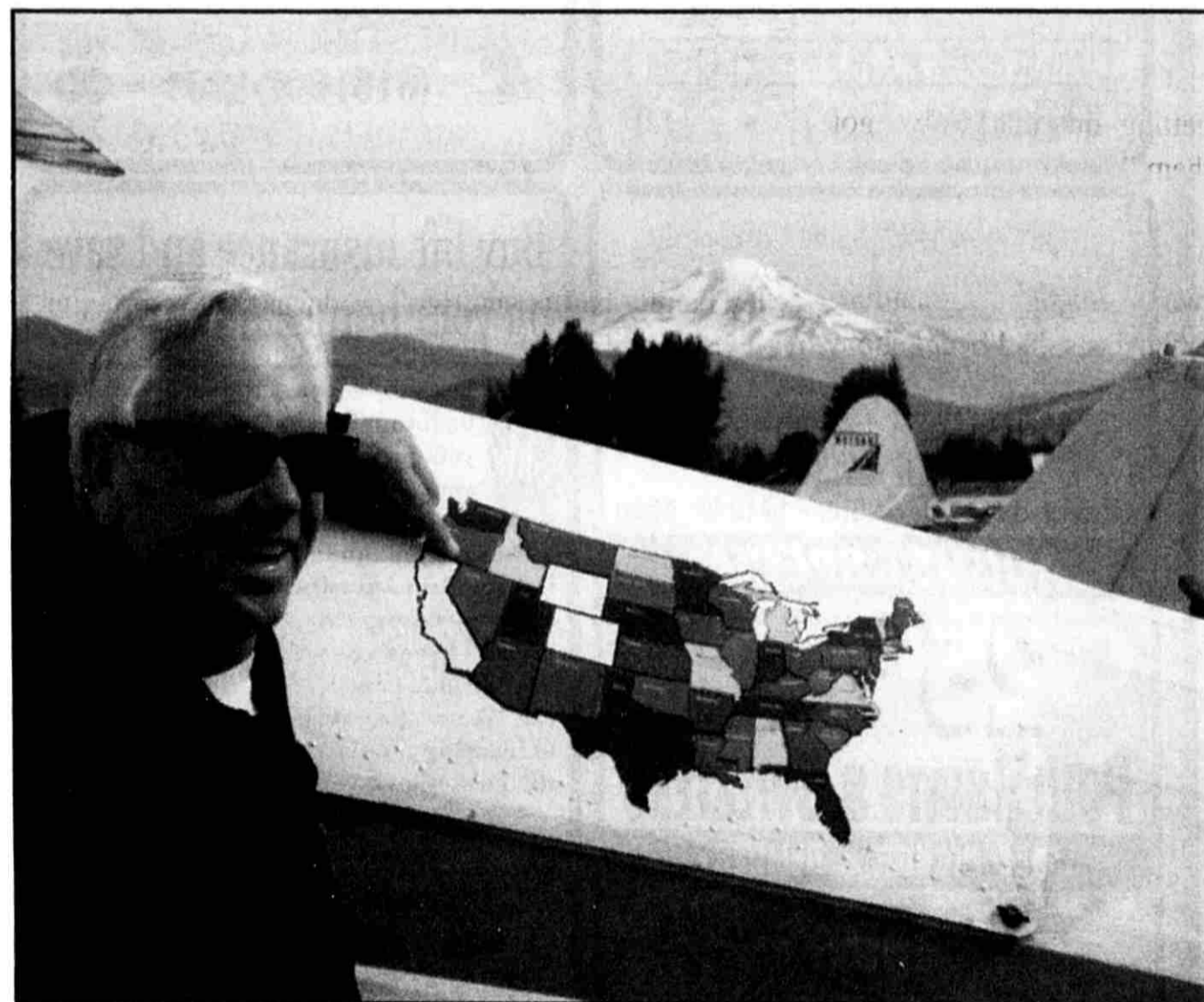
climb in the airplane when a guy wheeled up from across the field and began asking me a bunch of questions.

Next week... the answer to those questions, the end of the Lewis and Clark Trail and down the Pacific Coast to California.

P.S. To Tim, who kindly tipped me off to my mistaken references of "Class D" airspace at St. Louis and Kansas City as "Class C"... thanks for setting me straight. Honest, I know what the various restrictions are in the different airspaces, I just had a temporary lapse in my ABC's.



A shot of my altimeter as it approaches a 10,000 ft. reading. The Stearman hadn't been this high since I bought it 16 years ago and had to get over the Rockies on that trip.



On the ground in Hood River, Oregon. Mt. Hood is in the background. For those keeping track, the Nevada sticker is there by mistake. I bought the airplane from Northern Nevada Aviation at Wendover on the Nevada and Utah border. I had always assumed the airport was in Nevada. During the trip I found out I was wrong, yet again. Not to worry, I'd get plenty of landings in Nevada.



JULY 6 - OCTOBER 14
OPEN: 3 PM to 7 PM - Thursdays
 LOWELL FAIRGROUNDS
 No Pets Allowed
 (No Farm Market Fair Week)
 For more information call
616 -897-6050 or 616-292-9786

Friendly faces & fine produce have customers flocking to market

By Dan Schneider

Last Thursday's high heat slowed business at the Lowell Farmers Market, but the fledgling institution is proving popular in Lowell.

Last week was the fourth week of existence for the market, held weekly in the field at the west end of the Lowell Fairgrounds.

Helen and Phyllis Huver were buying produce at the market last Thursday.

"It's the second time for me and I think it's the smartest thing they've done in Lowell in a long time," Helen Huver said.

"It's my first time and I'll be back," Phyllis Huver said.

David and Betty Deans were at the first planning meeting for the farmers market back in June. Thursday, they were there selling blueberries and handing out recipes for blueberry salsa.

"I think the turnout's been really good and every Thursday it gets better and there are more vendors," Betty Deans said. "People are looking for fresh fruits and vegetables and word is getting out that we've got them."

Marty Heller and Michelle Ferrarese, two major agriculture enthusiasts, had heard about the market and stopped by last Thursday.

"We're actually on a bicycle tour of Michigan CSA farms," Heller said.

Their tour is stopping at community supported agriculture (CSA) farms from Ann Arbor to Potoskey. ACSA is a farm supported by people who buy memberships in a farm, often volunteering labor on the farm as well, in exchange for a share of the farm's harvest.

Last week, Heller and Ferrarese spent a few days at Riley Family Farm, a CSA near Alto. They thought the Lowell farmers market was off to a good start.

"It's great," Ferrarese said. "It has a nice variety of different things available."



Farmers market vendor Duane Rasch bags some peaches while Helen Huver inspects potatoes at the Lowell farmers market.

Erin Riley-Brandt of Riley Family Farms said she was interested in becoming a vendor at the farmers market.

Market master and fairgrounds manager Ron Wenger said he has received a positive response from people around the community.

"I'm so glad we finally got a farmers market. I think I've heard that a hundred times," Wenger said.

And the vendors like Lowell, too.

"One of the comments I keep hearing is 'I can't believe how nice the people in Lowell are,'" Wenger said. "And we're getting more vendors because vendors tell other vendors when they go to other markets: 'You've gotta try Lowell.'"

"The other thing

is, we've got some good produce, they're bringing in some quality stuff."

Overall, Wenger considers the market successful in its early going.

"It's been going better than I expected," he said. "We were hoping it would be like this."

The farmers market is open Thursdays from 3 to 7

p.m., or as late as people are there buying produce. It will be closed Aug. 10 because of the Kent County Youth Fair, but will open again the following week.

Notice of Public Hearing on Increasing Property Taxes

The Township Board of the BOWNE TOWNSHIP will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.0823 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied on property in 2006.

The hearing will be held on Monday, August 21, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at Bowne Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash S.E., Alto, MI.

The date and location of the meeting to take action on the proposed additional millage will be announced at this public meeting.

If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 3.30% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage rate is not approved, the operating revenue will increase by 1.84% over the preceding year's operating revenue.

The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

This notice is published by:

BOWNE TOWNSHIP
 8240 Alden Nash S.E.
 Alto, MI 49302
 616-868-6846

NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP

Accuracy Test of Voting Equipment

A public accuracy test of the voting equipment to be used in the August 8, 2006 Primary Election will be held on Friday, August 4, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. at the Vergennes Township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell, MI 49331.

Mari C. Stone
 Vergennes Township Clerk

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST

THURS., AUG. 3: Mane Street at Riverwalk Plaza, 7-9 p.m. Raffles, concessions, free admission.

THURS., AUG. 3: Vergennes Cooperative Club at Schneider Manor activity room at 1 p.m. Hostesses: Jan Bieri and Treva Johnson. Program: Clare Cain, director of Trail Management of North Country Trail Assoc.

FRI. & SAT., AUG. 4-5: Relay for Life at Lowell Memorial Stadium at Lowell High School, noon to noon. Proceeds benefit American Cancer Society. Call Elizabeth Males at 616-364-6121 for information.

WED., AUG. 9: Planning for Trailway at Lowell City Offices at 6 p.m. Questions, call 897-5671.

MONDAYS

Lowell High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes & Friends, 7-8:30 p.m. at Gallagher's. Call 676-1355.

Women's over 30 drop-in basketball, 7-9:30 p.m. at Cherry Creek Elementary. Call Dave (YMCA) 897-8445. Fee \$3.

Boy Scout Troop 102, 11 & up or completing 5th grade, meets 7-8:30 p.m. at Scout Cabin, end of N. Washington St. Call Tim Vanderwulp at 897-4302 for more info.

1ST MON.: Regular communication of the Belding-Ionia-Lowell Masonic Lodge #355 at 7:30 p.m. in lodge room, 211 E. Main, Belding. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. All Masons may attend.

1ST MON.: V.F.W. Post #8303 meets at 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 7 p.m.

2ND MON.: Lowell Board of Education meets at 7 p.m. in Administration Building, 300 High Street.

2ND MON.: Bowne Township Historical Society meets 7:30 at historic museum, 84th/Alden Nash.

3RD MON.: Women of the Moose meetings held 7:30 p.m.

3RD MON.: Peripheral Neuropathy support group, 7 p.m. at Schneider Manor Community Room. Canceled for July/August. Will resume Sept 18.

3RD MON.: Lowell Showboat Garden Club meets in the Fellowship Hall at Church of the Nazarene, N. Washington St. at 7 p.m. Does not meet during the summer. Will resume in September.

4TH MON.: Clark-Ellis American Legion Post 152, 3100 Alden Nash S.E. at 7:30 p.m.

EVERY OTHER MON.: The Lowell Area Juggling Club meets in the Community room at Englehardt Library, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Ages 12 or older. No dues. Call 897-9879.

MON., TUES., THURS.: Alpha Women's Center, 2251 W. Main. Call 987-9533 for appt. or stop by M. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tu. 6-9 p.m., Th. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula and clothing are available.

TUESDAYS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops M#372 meets at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Bldg. Weigh-ins are at 5:45 p.m.

Cub Scout Pack 3188 meets at 1st United Methodist Church (as long as there is school), 6:30 p.m. 1st-5th grade boys. Contact Clarence Whittum at 897-8194 after 11 a.m.

Weight Watchers at Alto United Methodist Church, corner of Kirby & Harrison meets at 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hour before meeting. 800-651-6000.

Flat River Woodcarvers meet at LAAC from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Women's Community Bible Study. Free nursery and preschool story hour/craft time 9:45 - 11:15 a.m./women only at 7:15 p.m. Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Call 897-7060 or 897-7555. Active September thru April only.

1ST TUES.: Grattan Historical Society at O'Brien Room of Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Rd. Public invited.

2ND TUES.: Diabetic Support group, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Schneider Manor Community Rm., 725 Bowes Rd. 897-2760 or 897-9160.

SAT., AUG. 12: Lowell High School Class of 2001 5 year reunion at Fallsburg Park, 3-6 p.m. BYOB and a dish to share (hot dogs and hamburgs will be provided). At 9 p.m. we will meet at McFadden's Bar. RSVP: LHSCClass2001@hotmail.com.

SAT., AUG. 19: Lowell Class of 1986 reunion at the BOB. Questions, call 616-866-7276.

FRI., AUG. 25: Fundraiser for Jeni Rummelt, a paraplegic who is having a stem cell procedure in Russia, at Monterey Center, 6:30 doors open. Dinner at 7 p.m. Donation \$45 person/ \$75 couple by Aug. 18. Includes door prize ticket. Checks payable to Help Jeni Walk. Call 891-2994 or 891-2928 for more information.

TUESDAYS

1ST TUES.: Adults with AD/HD at Calvin College, 7-9 p.m. Call Gary Engle at 897-6325 or 248-2423.

1ST & 3RD TUES.: Lowell Lions Club, 12 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. 897-5449 for information.

2ND TUES.: G.R. Chapter of the American Sewing Guild, Plainfield Senior Center, 5255 Grand River Dr. NE. 6:30 p.m. refreshments/7 program Olga -975-9977/June 231-780-1249.

2ND & 3RD TUES.: New facility: Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club, 8731 West Riverside Dr., 8 p.m. www.qua-ke-zik.org. New members welcome.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers meets at Fallsburg Park, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call 897-8304.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: Saranac Needlers, needleart/quilting bee, 5-8:30 p.m., 4 Health Wellness Center, Bridge St., Saranac. All are welcome. Contact Bev or Melissa, 642-6466.

2ND & 4TH TUES.: Knights of Columbus #7719 at St. Mary School at 7:30 p.m.

3RD TUES.: Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE/E. Beltline) at 7 p.m. Call Linda at 874-5662; teen group: call Sarah at 281-6588.

TUES./THURS.: Back to Basics Closed AA meetings at 1st Congregational Church, 404 N. Hudson. 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking.

WEDNESDAYS

Rotary meets at noon at City Hall, 301 E. Main, 2nd floor.

8 p.m. ALANON upstairs at 1st Congregational Church, 404 N. Hudson St.

Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 6-10 p.m. Larry 754-7104.

1ST WED.: GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th St. anytime between 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, walk-ins welcome. Jan 897-5759.

2ND WED.: Kent County Youth Fair Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., King Memorial Youth Center, 4-H Fairgrounds. Call 897-6050.

2ND WED.: Royal Arch Masons, Hooker Chapter #73 meets at 7:30 p.m. in Belding Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main; dinner at 6:30 p.m. All Royal Arch Masons are welcome.

2ND WED.: Lowell Women's Club, noon in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

2ND WED.: Support group for Peripheral Neuropathy, 4 p.m., St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church, Grand Rapids. Dorothy 897-9794.

3RD WED.: GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th SE anytime bet. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, all levels, walk-ins. Jan 897-5759.

THURSDAYS

Weight Watchers at Lowell Nazarene Church, 201 N. Washington St. 5:30 p.m. Register 1/2 hr. before the meeting. For info. 1-800-651-6000.

Saranac Area Musicians and Singers practice at Saranac High School Band Rm. Choir: 6-7 p.m./band: 7-8. Kathy Maatman, 897-5981.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM: Tues., Sat. and Sun. 1-4 p.m.; Thurs., 1-8 p.m. Families: \$10; individuals \$3; 5-17 \$1.50; members are free. Call 897-7688.

ENGLEHARDT LIBRARY: Mon.-Wed., 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri.: 9:30-5 p.m.; Sat.: 9:30-1:30 p.m. 200 N. Monroe. Call 647-3920.

ALTO LIBRARY: Mon. & Sat. 9:30-1:30 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 12-8 p.m.; Thurs. 1-5 p.m. 647-3820.

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Tues.-Fri.: 12-5 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. Monday/a.m. by appt. 149 S. Hudson. Call 897-8545 or www.lowellartsCouncil.org.

LOWELL SERENITY CLUB MEETINGS: (AA) Mon., Wed., Thurs: 12-1 & 8-9 p.m.; Tues./Fri.: 12-1, 4:30-5:30 & 8-9 p.m.; Sat./Sun.: 10-11 a.m. & 8-9 p.m.; (NA) Mon./Thurs., 6-7:30 p.m. 101 W. Main. 897-8565.

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP Wed.-Fri. 12-6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 519 E. Main St. Call 897-2037.

THURSDAYS

Pottery classes at Franciscan Life Process Center, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 897-7842.

St. Mary's Pregnancy Crisis Center, 402 Amity St., non-denominational help for pregnant women/adolescents, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Mondays: 5:30-7:30 p.m. 897-9393.

EVERY THURS.: Alcoholics for Christ. - 12 step Recovery Group for alcoholics, drug addicts & family members. 7 p.m. at Impact Church House, North Hudson St. Call Paul at 527-7796 for information. Family members may call Erin at 527-7796.

EVERY THURS.: Alpha Women's Center, 2251 W. Main. 987-9533, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula, clothing.

1ST THURS.: Michigan Hepatitis C Foundation support meetings, 7-8:30 p.m. 250 Cherry, Lacks Cancer Center, Grand Rapids.

1ST THURS.: 4-H drama club meeting, Lowell Middle School choir room. Call 897-1502 after 5 p.m.

1ST & 3RD THURS.: Alto Lions Club meets at Monterey Grill at 7 p.m.

1ST & 3RD THURS.: Bluegrass Jam inside Kountry Korner of Alto, 6077 Linfield. 868-6371.

2ND & 4TH THURS.: GR/W. Michigan Scrabble Club, 10 - 2 p.m. Round Robin, bring your board, all levels, walk-ins are welcome. Call Jan 897-5759 for location and more information.

2ND THURS.: N.A.R.F.E., 1:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E. Fulton.

2ND THURS.: Loyal Order of the Moose, men's meeting at 7:30 p.m.

2ND THURS.: Genealogy-Alto Family Tree Club at Alto Library 6:30 - 8 p.m.

3RD THURS.: VFW #8303 Ladies Auxiliary, 3116 Alden Nash S.E. at 3 p.m.

3RD THURS.: Parents Supporting Parents group, Franciscan Life Process Center. Call 897-7842.

3RD THURS.: LaLeche League of Ada, Cascade, Lowell 6:30 p.m. socializing; meeting 7. Support for pregnant/breastfeeding women, Ada 752-8300.

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

1ST & 3RD FRI.: Teen MOPS support group for pregnant teens and teen moms, 9:15 - 11:30 a.m. at Impact Church, 1070 N. Hudson. 897-8304.

FRI.: Arts/Crafts volunteers, Franciscan Life Process Center, 9:30-12:30 p.m. Pat or Judy at 897-7842.

2ND SAT.: Ada Historical Society, 10:30 a.m. at Averill Historical Museum, 7144 Headley, Ada.

2ND SAT.: Lowell Amateur Radio Club, held at Lowell Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake NE. 9 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

FRI., SAT. & SUN.: Averill Historical Museum of Ada, located at 7144 Headley. Hours are 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Call 676-9346.

SUN.: Tri-town Conservation Club trap & skeet league, 5616 Dunn Rd. 12-5 p.m. Call Larry at 754-7104. Public welcome.

"Gee" there's a new computer tech business in town

By Dan Schneider

A new computer business opened in Lowell Friday.

Michnet Owner Kirk Gee put the word "Tech" big, red letters in the front window of his shop at the corner of West Main and Broadway. He offers computer repair and a number of other services, including MyMich internet.

"The primary thing is going to be computer repair and we build custom systems," Gee said. "Secondary is going to be (printer) inks and internet."

Lowell is Gee's second location. Michnet also operates a storefront in Alma which has been open two years. A resident of Lowell Township, Gee thought Lowell could use a computer store.

"Every time I drove through Lowell, I thought there's no computer stuff around," Gee said. "It looked like a big, gaping hole so I thought I'd take a chance."

Michnet is a dial-up internet service. At \$9.95 a month, Gee said one of its strongest assets is affordability.

"With the decline in the economy, a lot of people can't afford cable so they are switching to the dial-up because it's more compatible with what they can afford," Gee said.

He said Michnet internet service is comparable to America Online and has the advantage of local tech support.

Gee, 45, has been working with computers professionally for 15 years. He got interested in computers 26 years ago while he was in the Air

Force. "They just took off about the year I went into the service," Gee said. "In the Air Force, I got into electronics and computers kind of came hand-in-hand."

The interior of his store is pretty spartan right now.

"I'm probably not going to carry a lot of retail until I get a feel for what people want," Gee said.

But he can order parts for most PCs without slowing the repair process.

"Generally, anything they come in for we can turn around in three to five days," Gee said.

He does have a full rack of printer inks in stock. These are also targeted at cost-conscious consumers. A typical cartridge for an HP printer, for instance, runs about \$19.95 at Gee's shop.

"They're remanufactured, but they're guaranteed to be just as good as the original," Gee said.

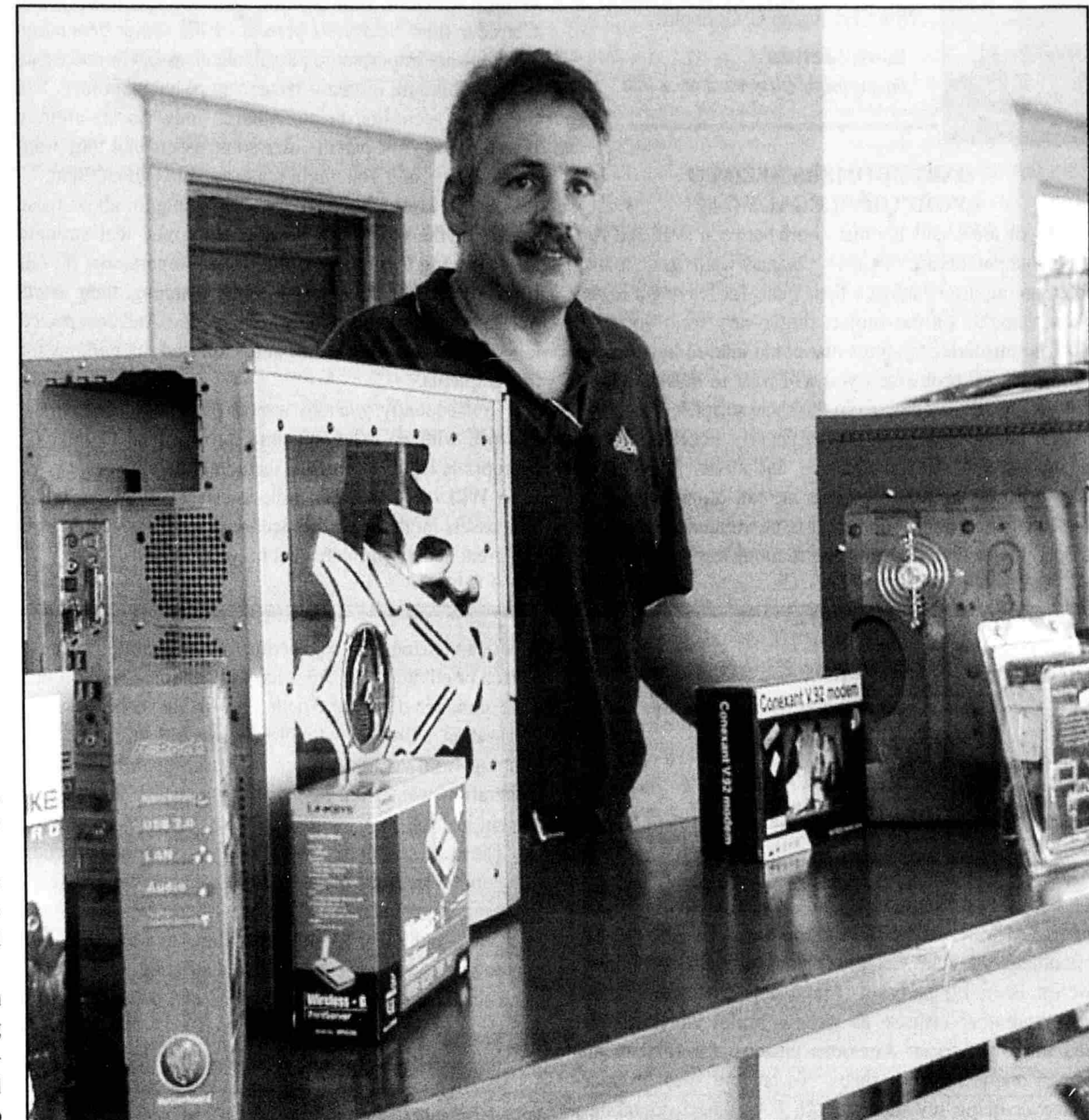
He approaches custom computers with something of a hotrodding mentality-faster motherboards, dual processors, high-end video boards. A lot of the market for custom computers is among computer game fanatics.

"They really want a machine... that's a screamer, and you can't get those at Wal-Mart," Gee said.

It's another instance where having a local storefront is helpful for the consumer, he said.

"This way they get to kind of have an active participation in (building) the machine, but it's cheaper than what they can do online," Gee said.

He has built heavy-



Michnet owner Kirk Gee in his computer repair and service shop which recently opened in Lowell.

Lowell Youth Football League

LAST SIGN-UP DATE



THURSDAY, AUGUST 3 6 - 8 PM

At Birch Field

In case of rain, sign-ups will be held in the Foreman Building

ALL NEW PLAYERS MUST BRING A COPY OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE!

(one that LYFL can keep)

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www.eteamz.com/lyfl • email: lyfl99@aol.com

To err is human, but to really foul things up requires a computer.

- Farmers' Almanac, 1978

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Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold

Edward Jones
Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

BABY BOOMERS NEED TO AVOID THE "LEGACY GAP"

If you are a baby boomer - born between 1946 and 1963 - and your parents are still alive, you may want to talk to them about an important subject: their plans for leaving a legacy. Their thoughts on the subject might vary from yours, so, to avoid misunderstandings that could lead to hurt feelings - and financial problems - you will want to make sure now that you are all "reading from the same script."

Of course, you may not be eagerly anticipating such a conversation. If so, you are not alone. Your fellow baby boomers and their parents are not doing a good job discussing inheritances and other issues related to "legacies." In fact, fewer than one in three families have actually had

a meaningful discussion on these matters, according to a study by Allianz Life Insurance Co.

Once you have this conversation, you may be surprised at how different your parents' attitudes are from yours. Consider this: Nearly 40 percent of the senior generation say it is very important to pass financial assets or real estate to their children, but only 10 percent of baby boomers feel the same, according to the Allianz study. So it's entirely possible that your parents own some assets that they want you to have - and you might not even know about them.

And it is not "greedy" for you to inquire about these assets. In the first place, your parents may feel strongly about leaving them to you. But just as importantly, if your parents have not done proper estate planning, their assets may not be distributed as they had intended. And unexpected inheritances may also result in unexpected tax burdens for the recipients.

Consequently, you may want to encourage your parents to work with an estate-planning professional to develop appropriate legal documents, including the following:

- **Will** - If your parents die intestate - without a will - their assets might be distributed by a court. This could lead to a great deal of problems within your family.

- **Living Trust** - Even if your parents have a will, their assets may have to pass through probate - which can be time-consuming and expensive. But with a properly established living trust, their assets can pass directly to their beneficiaries, without court interference, legal fees, lengthy delays and public disclosure.

- **Durable General Power of Attorney** - This document allows your parents to appoint another person to conduct their business affairs if they become physically or mentally incapacitated.

In addition, you will want to look over the beneficiary designations on your parents' life insurance contracts and qualified plans, such as 401(k)s and IRAs. It's especially important to update these designations if remarriages and stepchildren are part of your family picture.

Of course, it's not easy to manage the estate-planning process. So, in addition to working with an attorney, you and your parents may well want to consult with a tax advisor to make sure everyone's interests are protected.

Do whatever you can to help your parents leave the legacies they desire. You'll be doing them a great service - and you could be taking a large burden off their minds.



The Voting Rights Act Reauthorization Honors Our Heroes and Builds for the Future

With Senator Carl Levin

For 100 years after the Civil War, millions of African Americans were denied the right to vote. Despite the 15th Amendment to the Constitution specifically prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, poll taxes, literacy tests and grandfather clauses—as well as brutal violence—were used to deny African American citizens this fundamental right in many Southern states. To prevent such disgraces from ever being revisited, the U. S. Senate resoundingly reauthorized the Voting Rights Act on July 20, 2006.

Congress enacted the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to ensure that no federal, state or local government impedes an

American citizen from registering to vote or voting because of race or ethnicity. It had a stark impact on how elections were conducted in the South. In Alabama, black voter registration more than doubled between 1964 and 1968, jumping from 23 to 56 percent. Mississippi's black voter registration went from less than 7 percent in 1964 to 54 percent in 1968.

These are startling changes, but there is more that needs to be done. Hearings held in the Senate and the House of Representatives in 2005 and 2006 revealed a new generation of tactics, including at-large elections, annexations, last minute poll location changes and redistricting, which have had a discriminatory impact on racial and ethnic minority American voters.

Most provisions in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and specifically the portions that guarantee that no one may be denied the right to vote because of his or her race or ethnicity, are permanent. There are, however, three enforcement-related provisions that would have expired in August 2007. The first requires certain jurisdictions to obtain approval or "pre-clearance" from the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. before they can make any changes to voting practices or procedures. The second provision requires certain jurisdictions to provide bilingual language assistance to voters in communities where there is a concentration of citizens who have limited proficiency in English. Finally, other provisions authorize the federal government to send federal election examiners and observers when there is evidence of attempts to intimidate minority voters at the polls.

The Voting Rights Act Reauthorization of 2006, passed in the Senate by a vote of 98-0, reauthorized these portions

of the Voting Rights Act and will help protect the right to vote for every American.

The Voting Rights Act of 2006 also paid tribute to heroes of the civil rights movement such as Fannie Lou Hamer and Rosa Parks. We must remain mindful of the thousands of individuals who risked their lives over 40 years ago in a courageous challenge to the systems that prevented millions of Americans from exercising their right to vote. During the 1960s, securing this most basic right came at a terrible cost: church burnings, bombings, shootings and beatings.

This fight required the ultimate sacrifice of so many Americans, among them James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, who sought only to register voters in Mississippi; Jimmie Lee Jackson, whose death precipitated the famous march from Selma to Montgomery; Viola Liuzzo, a white Detroit homemaker and mother of five who was killed by a Ku Klux Klansmen's bullet after she participated in the Selma to Montgomery march; Medgar Evers, who had organized voter registration drives in Mississippi for the NAACP and was gunned down in his driveway; and the four young African American girls killed in the Birmingham church bombing - Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, Addie Mae Collins and Cynthia Wesley. Like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, their names are forever etched in American history.

The Senate's unanimous reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act is a tribute to the enormous sacrifices that so many Americans made in the pursuit of basic equality and justice. Our democracy depends on protecting the right to vote for every citizen, and this important legislation will build on the enduring legacy of those who struggled during the civil rights movement.

GREG VAN STRIEN HEATING AND PLUMBING

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ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LOWELL

Spirits will be on the ballot in Vergennes Township

By Dan Schneider

In November, voters in Vergennes Township will decide whether or not the township will remain "spirit dry."

Kent McKay, a businessman who plans to open an upscale banquet facility in the township, collected enough petition signatures to put the question on the Nov. 8 ballot. From June 29th to July 17, McKay collected 685 valid signatures on the petition; 565 were required to get the question on the ballot.

"It was more than enough to qualify for placement on the ballot," township clerk Mari Stone said.

McKay intentionally left a wide margin of error. He collected 709 signatures, 25 percent more than were required, and only 24 were determined to be invalid.

"The only way I could guarantee success was to get enough signatures to make sure there was no way it wouldn't get on the ballot," McKay said.

McKay hopes to secure a liquor license for the banquet hall he plans to open. If the proposal passes, that liquor license would actually allow him to sell liquor.

Since the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, Vergennes has been a "spirit dry" township. At that time, township officials decided that licensed establishments in the township could serve

beer and wine, but not liquor. So a liquor license is not truly a liquor license in the township.

The township board took up the issue earlier this year and decided it should be put to a vote of the people. McKay circulated the petition because he feels the ability to serve liquor would be an important asset for his banquet facility.

"It's something I would like to have as a businessman and it's something my customers are going to want," McKay said.

Local proposals are an uncommon thing in Vergennes Township. The last one was a 2000 initiative that reinstated regular annual meetings in the township.

"Those are the only

citizens' initiatives that we've had since I've been here," said Stone, who has been clerk of the township for 12 years.

The ballot question will read: "Shall the sale of spirits and mixed spirit drink, in addition to beer and wine, be permitted for consumption on the premises within the Township of Vergennes under the provisions of the law governing same?" McKay said he included the words "on the premises" in the ballot question to exclude package liquor stores. That way, the liquor would be served and consumed in a controlled environment. He said his banquet facility, if granted a liquor license, would be a controlled environment.

"People will not be just stopping by to get a drink on the way home," McKay said. "It's a very controlled environment. I control it, my customer who will be the host will control it and my employees will certainly control it."

McKay will still need to go through the regular application process to get a liquor license for his banquet facility, regardless of whether the proposal passes. He said while he was circulating the petition, he told people "my business it not on the ballot, the question is do you want to be able to vote on the issue."

He said people on both sides of the issue signed the petition. A number of people signed it in order to have the opportunity to vote no. The result of the election will depend on which voters turn out to the polls. Turnout is typically low for mid-term elections.

"If they want this proposal to pass, they must make the effort to go vote,"

McKay said. "I've done the leg work, now they need to flip the lever."

And McKay did a lot of leg work. He estimates he collected 77 percent of the signatures himself, taking a day off only once during the time he was collecting them. Vergennes Township, with large distances between many of its driveways, is not a place conducive to door-to-door petition circulation.

"There are only about three places where you can park in one place and walk to 15 or more houses," McKay said. "Some of the driveways are a half-mile long. I was astounded."

He said circulating the petition was enjoyable from a scenic perspective.

"It's a very pretty township now that I've gotten into it," McKay said.

Vergennes is currently eligible to grant two liquor licenses. One of them is already held by Arrowhead Golf Course.

HEALTH
With Drs. Paul Gauthier, Jim Lang, Wayne A. Christenson III, John G. Meier & Tracy Lixie

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS

With the month of August comes the risk for heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat-related problems typically occur during prolonged periods of high heat and humidity. The elderly are at greatest risk for serious problems.

Heat cramps are strong painful contractions of muscles that typically occur in young adults who are sweating heavily while exerting themselves. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include weakness, fatigue, headache, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. If treatment is not instituted, heat stroke can occur. This is a very dangerous condition in which the body's core temperature becomes very high and mental status changes occur. This requires emergency care. Risk factors for heat stroke include advanced age, alcoholism, residence on upper level floors, and lack of air conditioning.

You can prevent heat exhaustion and heat stroke by spending time in air-conditioned buildings (malls, stores), decreasing strenuous activity, and increasing fluid intake. Do not take salt tablets as this can cause more harm.

August 8 dedication ceremony scheduled for student memorial

A dedication ceremony for the student memorial at Lowell High School is scheduled for Aug. 8 at 7 p.m. The memorial is located at the southeast corner of the building. The observation deck and granite monument, which are in honor of LHS students who died before graduation, were a gift to the school from the class of 2006.

The soul of man is immortal and imperishable.

- Plato (427 BC - 347 BC)

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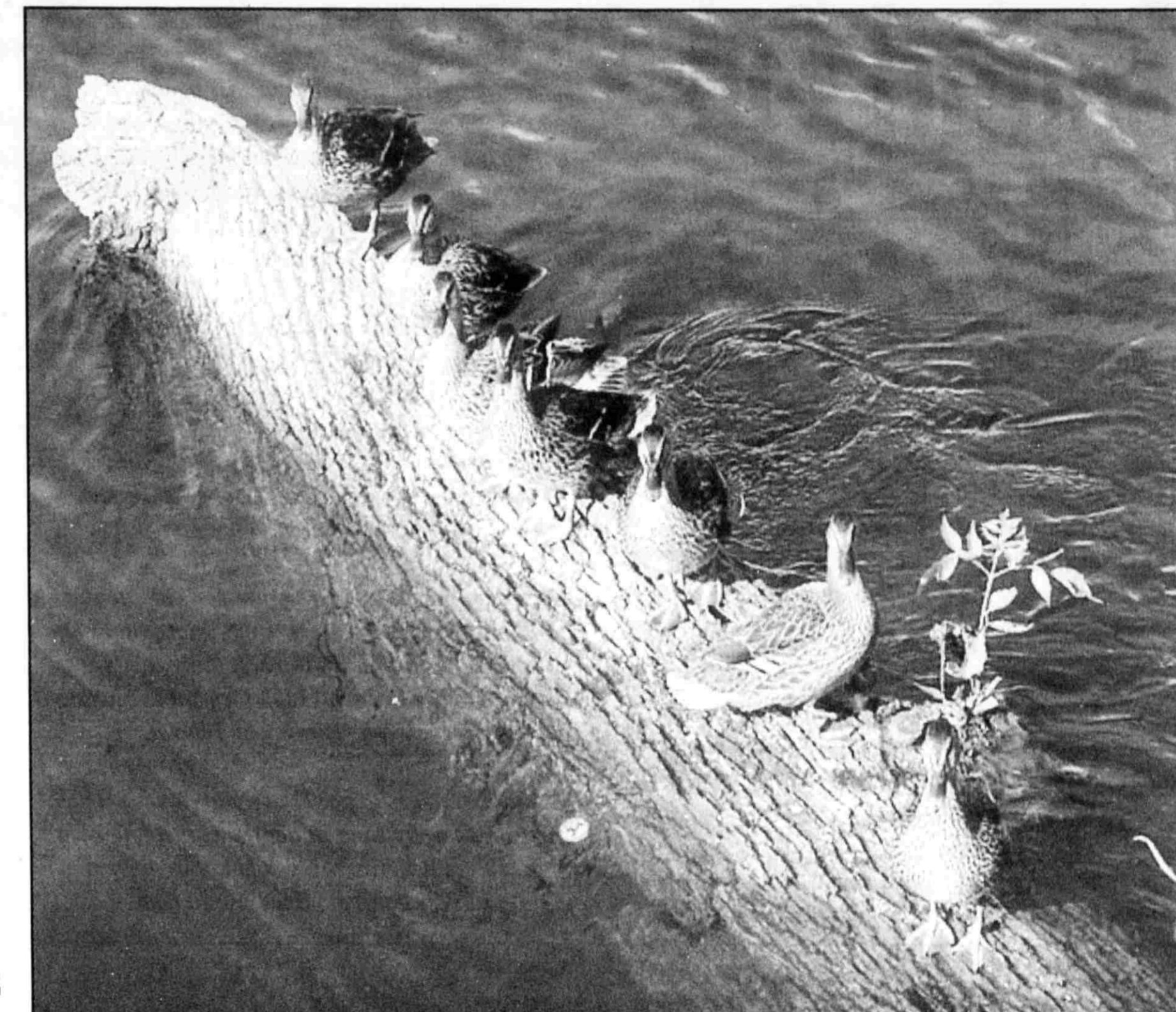
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Lowell has its ducks in a row

These seven ducks found a perch next to Main Street last Friday. The tree trunk came down river about a month and a half ago and lodged itself up against the bridge. The tree trunk has become its own small ecosystem, with plants growing from some of its crevices. It awaits removal by the Michigan Department of Transportation. Until then, it will be another hangout for Lowell's mallard population.



Legal Ease
 With Jonathan David

DEAR JONATHAN: I just paid off a land contract and the seller gave me a quit-claim deed putting the property in my name. When I told a friend about this, he advised me that I should have received a warranty deed and not a quit-claim deed. Is that true? What is the difference?

JONATHAN SAYS: You need to look to the land contract to determine what type of deed the seller is required to give you upon paying off the contract. Typically this is a warranty deed and not a quit-claim deed.

A quit-claim deed only conveys what interest the seller had in the property, which may be nothing. In other words, if the seller has no interest in the property and conveys a quit-claim deed to another party, that party receives the same interest the seller had in the property, which is no interest.

A warranty deed, on the other hand, is a deed whereby the seller warrants to the buyer that the buyer is receiving fee title to the property subject to whatever exceptions are listed in the deed. In other words, the seller, in this instance, is warranting to the buyer that the seller has clear title to the property subject to whatever exceptions that may be listed in the deed. Typically, warranty deeds are given in any instance where there is consideration paid for the property, i.e., when the land contract is paid in full. On the other hand, quit-claim deeds are typically used when property is transferred as a result of a gift or when no consideration is paid for the property.

I would ask the seller on the land contract to convey a warranty deed to you in satisfaction of the land contract.

DEAR JONATHAN: I recently set up a trust so that my assets can avoid probate upon my death. I want to transfer my home to my trust, but there is a mortgage on it. Can I do

this without screwing up my mortgage?

JONATHAN SAYS: Yes. A lender cannot enforce its due on sale clause on a mortgage if the borrower transfers his residential real property to his trust so long as the borrower remains the beneficiary and continues to occupy the home as his residence.

DEAR JONATHAN: What is a pour over will? Is this something I should have?

JONATHAN SAYS: A pour over will is simply a last will and testament which directs the assets of the probate estate, once probate is complete, to "pour over" into the decedent's grantor trust. It is used when a person creates a living trust during his/her lifetime with the intention that he/she is going to fund that trust during his/her lifetime so that those assets avoid probate upon his/her death. A pour over will acts as a back up to that trust and conveys whatever assets that the decedent failed to transfer to his/her trust during lifetime to that trust upon the completion of probate.

In order for assets to avoid probate, they need to actually be transferred to the trust while the decedent is alive. Any assets that are still in that decedent's name alone at death need to go through probate prior to being transferred to the trust and that is where the pour over will comes in.

Whether you need a pour over will or not depends upon what you are trying to accomplish with your estate plan. Do you want or need a living trust? I recommend that you meet with an estate planning attorney to review your personal circumstances, as well as what you are trying to accomplish with your estate planning and he/she can advise you appropriately.

The information contained in this column is not to be construed as legal advice or legal representation and should not be relied upon as such. If legal advice or legal representation is desired, please consult with an attorney.

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AUGUST 17, 2006 7:30 P.M.

There will be a meeting of the Bowne Township Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, August 17, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bowne Township office, located at 8240 Alden Nash S.E., P.O. Box 35, Alto, MI 49302, to hear the following variance application:

J. Scott Shurlow, Shurlow Custom Homes is requesting a variance at 10068 76th Street, located in Section 18 NE 1/4, Parcel Number 41-24-18-200-026. The request is for Article 3.24 Roads-Private Item D (8) Designs for Standards for Roads Serving Six or Fewer Parcels - the request is to be able to extend road length from the present maximum of 1000 feet to a maximum of length of 2592 feet. Road shall be a minimum of 15 feet wide and shall be paved. Ordinance requires width of 22 feet.

The complete application can be reviewed at the Bowne Township office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday and 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Friday. Public comments will be heard at the meeting. Written comments received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the Township office entrance will also be considered if received at the Township office prior to 7:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Comments may also be e-mailed to clerk@bownetwp.cc.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
 Bowne Township Clerk

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Did anyone ever give a good explanation as to why the new Lowell Billboard is after the Lowell exit on 96?

Don't call in Sound Off. They change it to say what they want it to say.

I know this is a little late but, I just want to give a big thanks to Veronica for the best senior trip ever! What a memorable way to leave LHS!

I bought blueberries from a stand at the Farmer's Market last Thursday. She kept the container and

dumped my berries in a plastic grocery bag. They were squished before I got to the car. Won't buy berries from that farmer again.

Don't advertise "free kitten" or "puppy" ads. People search for them to sell to laboratories where they are tortured. Ask a small fee. Even better, spay or neuter your pets!

We had a great time at the Sunny Day Classic golf outing in honor of Sunny Ann Moyer. Can't wait for next year!

Is any one else bothered by all the loud motorcycles in Key Heights? My lease says they are prohibited. What gives?

If Sound Off needs to go, why are you commenting in it? You must read it every week or you wouldn't know what it said. I think it's the best thing that's ever happened to the Ledger. I look forward to reading it every week. That's why I buy it.

Sound Off needs to go. That's a great idea. Let's just sweep everything under the carpet and hide all the negative things about our town so they don't get fixed. Great idea.

Sound Off is the best thing about the Ledger. Whoever proofreads it though is the one that needs to go.

Lowell is a great city to live in, having lived here 73 years. But we really need is a KFC and another grocery store.

Yeah for sound off. I love hearing people speaking out on all topics. Keep it coming.

Turning destruction into beauty. The bear on Lafayette is great! With a little vision and planning all this destruction could have been an asset to the community. Let's start getting the public involved in decision making. I hope that's not too long.

Now that the housing market is falling and the prices of houses are down, does that mean our taxes are coming down too?

Thanks to the Lowell Fire Department and the Light & Power guys for their very quick response to our electrical pole being on fire on Sunday evening, July 30th.
- Jane Ellen/Donna neighbors

Why are we pushing so hard to become big city and lose that small-town charm that Paul Harvey describes so eloquently?

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FOR SALE - 4 year old registered quarter horse, saddle broke, \$500 obo. all 897-7785.

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BED & MATTRESS SET - Queen pillowtop (new, in plastic), never used, comes with warranty, \$125. Call 517-719-8062.

SAUDER COMPUTER DESK - \$30; Captain's bed, pillowtop mattress, inner boxspring, super single, \$50. Call 868-6296.

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1995 L2900 KUBOTA TRACTOR - 4x4 w/loader unit, 29 hp, 942 hours, new paint, excellent condition, \$10,500 obo. 616-293-2237 or 868-0847.

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TELEVISION - 51" Hitachi big screen LCD rear projection television, works fine, 18 months old, paid \$3,200, asking \$1,200 obo. Call 897-8088.

READY TO MOVE INTO HOME - 3 bedroom, 1 bath, many updates, located at 186 S. Pleasant St. in Lowell. Asking \$118,000. Call 897-6815 or 893-4263.

REAL WOOD ENTERTAINMENT CENTER - (6 only). Less than 3 mos. old. Freight returns. Oak, mahogany, from \$98. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

WOODED ACREAGE! - Private 3-6 acre build sites. Saranac schools. Located on Pinckney & Rickert. West Michigan Real Estate. 897-0530.

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STOP * STOP * STOP - Don't send your student to school to sleep on someone else's "used" mattress. Brand new sets on "Sale" at RCD wholesale. Save over 50% off the retail store TV prices. 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160. Can deliver.

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LOWELL - \$500 moves you in 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Washer/dryer hookups. Air, garage. Cathedral ceilings. \$675/month. Open House Tues. 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Stoneridge Apts. 1-866-443-3098. www.wmpmonline.com.

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LOWELL - \$500 moves you in 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Washer/dryer hookups. Air, garage. Cathedral ceilings. \$675/month. Open House Tues. 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Stoneridge Apts. 1-866-443-3098. www.wmpmonline.com.

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JOHN DEBIAK HORSE-SHOEING & HOOF TRIMMING - Serving the Greater Kent/onia County area with 15 years of professional, full-time experience. Call 897-4290.

WATSON'S HANDY-MAN SERVICES - Basement remodels, doors, drywall, decks & much more. Small jobs welcome. Honest & dependable. Call 897-6906.

HOUSE CLEANING - Experienced, reliable, reasonable rates. Call 642-0395.

HOMETOWN AMERICA OFFERS - financing with awesome down payment assistance. Call today be in your home tomorrow. Valley Vista 1-877-634-6700. www.HometownAmerica.com.

FLAT RIVER ATV RENTALS - why buy when you can rent? Rent by the day or week, take them anywhere in Michigan. Helmets and trailer available. Call 897-8386 anytime for details.

LOWELL - \$500 moves you in 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Washer/dryer hookups. Air, garage. Cathedral ceilings. \$675/month. Open House Tues. 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Stoneridge Apts. 1-866-443-3098. www.wmpmonline.com.

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BUSINESS CARDS - For as little as \$26 for 250. (white card stock, black ink). We can also print cards in 4 color. Before you order your cards from somewhere else - check our rates! Call Lowell Litho, 897-9261.

NEED A DUMPSTER? - Spring Cleanup, roofing, trash, junk, etc. 14 to 20 yards available. Call for free estimates. 616-835-2238.

BOB FORD - Formerly of Hahn Hardware, is doing all kinds of service work. Call 299-3198.

CLEANING LADY - 20 years experience, reasonable rates, reliable. Call Pam at 794-2666.

JIM'S FLOOR COVERING SALES & INSTALLATION - 22 years experience. Best price & quality installation on vinyl, carpet, and laminate flooring. 897-0737 or 560-8515, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., leave message.

PLUMBER - Experienced. Residential Service or New Construction. Reasonable rates. Call 897-2575.

WE ARE HERE - to serve your housing needs. Rent to Own starting at \$498. Call today, Valley Vista 1-877-634-6700. New hours 10-7 Tues-Fri & Sat. 10-5. www.HometownAmerica.com.

LICENSED DAYCARE - uses 4C food program, all ages welcome, all shifts, & a variety of activities provided. Call Amy at 868-0752.

HORSE BACK RIDING LESSONS - will drive to your home or farm. Call Mary at 897-5124.

HIGH QUALITY CONCRETE - new, repair, replacement, 30 years experience. Large & small jobs. Satisfaction guaranteed. 322-2106.

STEPEK WELDING & REPAIR LLC - Custom fabrication & weld repair. Mild steel, stainless & aluminum. On or off site welding. Call Tim at 616-868-6215.

D.M. MOORE FINE HARDWOOD FLOOR REFINISHING & INSTALLATIONS - Over 25 years experience. Highest quality guaranteed. See www.dmmoore.com or call 616-802-0120 for unsurpassed 2006 Summer Specials.

KELLY'S CLEANING - home or business, references, thorough cleaning, reasonable rates. Call 691-7141.

The Lowell Ledger Garage Sale GUIDE

Let them know that you saw their ad in the Garage Sale Guide!

<p>LARGE 3 FAMILY GARAGE SALE Kitchen items, exercise equip., misc. 10190 W. Grand River, 1 mile E. of Jimmy's Grill. Aug. 4 & 5, 9-6 p.m.</p>	<p>YARD SALE Aug. 4-5, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 627 Cyrus St., Ionia. Tools, vintage fishing, camping. Some collectibles, carriage wheels and much more. No early sales.</p>	<p>GARAGE SALE Aug. 4 & 5, 9am - 5pm, 1270 Sibley. Truck cap, utility trailer, household goods, craft supplies, books, & much more.</p>
<p>MOVING SALE Friday, Aug. 4! One day only! 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 11748 Five Mile Rd. N.E. Murray Lake. Household: china cabinet, small tables, etageres (2), book cases, lamps, home decor, oval mirror, silver-plated items, etc. Collectibles: angels, etc. Gardening: tools; patio furniture: table, 4 chairs, etc. PLUS MORE!</p>	<p>ONE DAY MULTI-FAMILY SALE Fri., August 4, 8-6, Sudan Drive off Vergennes between Parnell & Cumberland. VSmile, bikes, bedding, housewares, home decor, seasonal, adult clothes, name brand kids clothes boys 3 months-10, girls 3 months-14 (some new), toys (some new), golf clubs, much more.</p>	<p>BONE MARROW BENEFIT GARAGE SALE Fri., Aug. 4, 10-5 p.m. & Sat., Aug. 5, 10-2 p.m. Clothing, linens, quilts, toys, household items, some antiques, something for everyone. 2355 Lowellview.</p>
<p>BIG BIG SALE Fridge, kid's quad, kid's battery gator, fishing boat, clothes (kids thru adult), toys, knock-knacks, and much more. August 3-4, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. 8816 Freepoint Ave. Rain date: August 10-11.</p>	<p>GARAGE SALE 3179 Emberwood. Aug. 3-5, 9 a.m. - ? New in the carton 32" leaded glass steel entry door, many unique handcrafted items. Lots of misc.</p>	<p>OAK HILL GARAGE SALES Thurs. & Fri.,</p>



"Blue Jeans and Country Dreams"

RODEO

Sat., August 12
at 7:00 pm

Presented by
Mid States
Rodeo

Advanced Tickets
only \$10.00

in the
Horse Arena

At the Door \$15.00 Adults,
\$5.00 ages 5-12 • Under 5 Free



August 7 - 12, 2006

LOWELL FAIRGROUNDS

225 S. Hudson • 897-6050 • www.kcfg.org

PLEASE VISIT OUR SPONSORS AND THANK THEM FOR SUPPORTING THE FAIR...
Honda, Fox Motors, Ionia County National Bank, Meijer, Durst Drywall,
Good Chevrolet-Buick, Good GMC Isuzu



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



DAILY:

Horse Drawn Wagon Shuttle - sponsored by King Flour
(Saturday, August 12 Shuttle will not start until approx. 1:00 p.m.)
Children's Barnyard - sponsored by Priority Mortgage & Meijer
Silent Auction for Wood Carvings - Tuesday - Saturday

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

9:00 am.....Dog Showmanship
9:00 am.....Dog Obedience
10:00 am - 3:00 pm.....Still Exhibit Judging

Beef Arena
Reath Barn
Stage Tent

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

4:30 - 6:30 pm.....Pork Dinner
6:00 pm.....Parade of Clubs
6:30 pm.....Opening Ceremony
Key Note Speaker: Todd Kuperus, Youth Pastor Heritage CRC
Followed by: Royal Court Coronation

Event Tent
South End Fairgrounds
Stage Tent

MONDAY, AUGUST 7

Veterans Recognition Day

9:00 am.....Horse Judging
ABC Grouping, Parade of Clubs
9:00 am - 2:00 pm.....ATV Safety Class
Presented by: Kent County Sheriff Dept. Register at (616)897-6050
9:30 am.....Goat Judging: Showmanship & Breed
Classes - Costume contest follows
10:00 am.....Cavy Breed & Showmanship
Noon - 2:00 pm.....Youth Talent Contest Registration
Noon.....Horse Judging Explorer Showmanship
1:00 pm.....Rabbit Breed Judging
1:30 pm.....Horse Judging: Showmanship
3:00 pm.....Horse Judging - Explorer Project Evaluation
5:00 - 10:00 pm.....Carnival Rides Open: Wristband Special \$10.00
6:00 pm.....Swine Showmanship
6:00 pm.....Beef Explorer Showmanship
6:30 pm.....Youth Fashion Show
6:30 pm.....Horse Judging
Special Presentation Horsemasters
7:00 pm.....Antique Tractor Pull - Open event
7:00 pm.....Youth Talent Contest
Special Thanks: St. Cecilia Music Society
7:00 pm.....Horse Judging
7:30 pm.....Beef Explorer Showmanship

Horse Arena
King Building
Reath Barn
Rabbit Tent
Stage Tent
Horse Arena
Rabbit Tent
Horse Arena
Horse Arena Office
Midway
Reath Barn
Beef Arena
Stage Tent
Horse Arena
Track
Stage Tent
Horse Arena
Beef Arena

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

Tuesday's Sponsor: King Flour

Grandparent's Day

Today.....Chainsaw Carving
8:00 am.....Horse Judging - Jumping, Ground Poles
9:00 am.....Poultry Judging
9:00 am.....Swine Judging: Market Class - Explorer Showmanship Following
9:00 am - 2:00 pm.....Boating Safety class
Presented by: Kent County Sheriff Dept. Register at (616) 897-6050
9:30 - 11:30 am.....Performing Arts Dance and Other Evaluations
10:00 - 11:00 am.....Free Grandparents Refreshments
Sponsored by Cumberland Manor
Noon - 10:00 pm.....Carnival Rides: Merchant's Day - \$2.00 Coupon
Midway Wristband Ride Special \$15.00
Noon - 4:00 pm.....Free Blood Pressure Check
Noon.....Horse Judging: Hunter Hack
1:00 - 4:00 pm.....Performing Arts Vocal & Instrumental
2:00 - 3:00 pm.....Free Grandparents Refreshments Sponsored by Cumberland Manor
2:30 pm.....Horse Judging: Reining
4:00 pm.....Dog Agility Registration
4:30 pm.....Dog Agility Judging
6:00 pm.....Rabbit Judging: Showmanship
6:30 pm.....Horse Judging: Stick Horse Event
7:30 pm.....Horse Judging: Versatility
7:30 pm.....ElmoThumm, A Cappella-Variety

Midway
Horse Arena
Poultry Barn
Reath Barn
King building
Stage Tent
Event Tent
Midway
Event Tent
Horse Arena
Stage Tent
Event Tent
Horse Arena
Football Field
Football Field
Rabbit Tent
Horse Arena
Horse Arena
Stage Tent

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

Wednesday's Sponsor: Meijer

World Community Day

Today.....Chainsaw Carving
8:00 am.....Horse Judging: Grand & Reserve Showmanship
Hunt Seat Equitation & Dressage Equitation
9:00 am.....Performing Arts Storytelling, Puppetry & Theater Judging
9:00 am.....Beef Steer Market Classes
Noon - 10:00 pm.....Carnival Rides: Merchant's Day \$2.00 Coupon
Midway Wristband Ride Special \$15.00
1:00 pm.....Feeder Beef Judging & Beef Breed Heifer Show
1:00 pm.....Goat Milking Contest - Goat Team Fitting & Showing Classes
1:00 pm.....Horse Judging: English/Western Riding
2:00 pm.....Goat Trail & Fun Class
4:30 pm.....Free Dance Camp with the Chicago Honey Bear Dance Team
5:00 pm.....Sheep Judging - Market, Showmanship & Breed
5:00 pm.....Vaulting Demonstration
6:30 pm.....Horse Judging: Flag, Cloverleaf
7:00 pm.....National Lightweight Horse Pull
7:00 & 8:30 pm.....Chicago Honey Bears Dance Team

Midway
Horse Arena
Stage Tent
Beef Arena
Midway
Beef Arena
Reath Barn
Horse Arena
Reath Barn
Stage Tent
Reath Barn
Horse Arena
Horse Arena
Track
Stage Tent

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

Thursday's Sponsor: Kent County Farm Bureau

Agriculture Day

Today.....Chainsaw Carving
8:00 am.....Horse Judging: Dressage Tests
8:00 am.....Beef Showmanship
9:00 - 11:00 am.....Goat Quiz bowl
10:00 am.....Rabbit & Cavy Explorer
11:00 am - 1:00 pm.....Performing Arts Clown Judging
Noon - 10:00 pm.....Carnival Rides: Wristband Ride Special \$15.00
1:00 - 3:00 pm.....Youth Variety Show
1:30 pm.....Horse Judging
Stock Seat Equitation, Saddle Seat Equitation, Gymkhana Equitation
2:00 pm.....Livestock Sale - Small Animals
2:30 pm.....Livestock - Sale Order: Swine, Sheep, Feeder Calf, Gallon of Milk, Beef
6:00 pm.....Garden Tractor Pull - Open Event
6:00 - 9:00 pm.....West Michigan Bluegrass Association
Presents: Heart to Heart, Creekside & Deadwood
6:30 pm.....Horse Judging: Explorer Pattern
7:00 pm.....Ice Cream Social - Courtesy of: Cherry Valley Livestock 4-H Club
7:00 pm.....Extrication Demonstration - Presented by: Lowell Fire Dept.
7:30 pm.....Horse Judging: Pleasure

Midway
Horse Arena
Beef Arena
Stage Tent
Rabbit Tent
Stage Tent
Midway
Stage Tent
Horse Arena
Reath Barn
Reath Barn
Track
Stage Tent
Horse Arena
Midway
Midway
Horse Arena

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

Friday's Sponsor: Clock Conversions

Handi-Capable Day

8:00 am.....Horse Judging: Trail
10:00 - Noon.....Carnival Rides for Special Needs Individuals
10:00 am.....Dairy Showmanship Classes
Dairy Type Classes immediately following
Noon - 5:00 pm.....Carnival Rides - Wristband Ride Special \$15.00
12:30 pm.....Horse Judging:
Grand & Reserve Horsemanship, Team Performance
2:00 - 4:00 pm.....Teen Leadership Judging
2:30 pm.....Tractor Driving Contest
4:00 pm.....Explorer Recognition
5:00 pm.....Freestyle Demonstration
6:30 - 7:30 pm.....Pizza Party
8:00 - 11:00 pm.....Country Line Dancing
6:30 - 10:30 pm.....Country Karaoke - Brought to you by: B-93 & Farrow's Music
7:00 pm.....Extrication Demonstration - Presented by: Lowell Fire Dept.
7:00 pm.....Horse Judging: Keyhole, Speed & Action
7:00 pm.....Cow Pie Bingo

Horse Arena
Midway
Reath Barn
Midway
Horse Arena
Event Tent
Track
Stage Tent
Horse Arena
King Building
Reath Barn
Stage Tent
Midway
Horse Arena
Beef Arena

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

Kid's & Family Day

9:00 am.....Showmanship Sweepstakes
9:00 am.....Horse Judging: Pro-Am Pleasure
10:00.....Barnyard Pull
Noon - 11:00.....Carnival Rides: Wristband Ride Special \$15.00
2:00 pm.....Rabbit & Cavy Awards
3:00 pm.....Puff the Dragon Pedal Pull - Youth Classes
3:00 pm.....Horse Combination Awards
7:00 pm.....Rodeo Presented by: Mid States Rodeo -
\$15.00 adults, \$5.00 ages 5-12, under 5 free
7:00 & 8:15 pm.....DJ the Clown
7:30 & 8:45 pm.....11th Hour - Contemporary Christian
11:00 pm.....Fair Closes for 2006 - Release of all Exhibits.

Advance
Tickets
Only
\$10.00

Reath Barn & Beef Arena
Horse Arena
Track
Midway
Stage Tent
Midway
Reath Barn
Horse Arena
Stage Tent
Stage Tent

We would like to thank you, the Community, for the Dedication & Support you have given to the Fair!

