

# The Lowell Ledger

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Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, November 1, 2006

## Special use permit required for proposed banquet hall

By Emma Palova

A proposed banquet hall on Lincoln Lake Ave. will have to overcome several hurdles before its portico welcomes the first anxious bride.

Kent McKay, with 17 years of experience from a five-star diamond resort in Phoenix, AZ, vows to bring an upscale facility to the Lowell area.

"It will be a point of pride for Vergennes Township and the city of Lowell," he said. "I have no intention of building a pole barn. It will be something with flair and class."

In the meantime, however, the voters will have to approve a Nov. 7 ballot question on whether spirits should be served at licensed establishments in the township.

"It is not about my business, but the outcome will affect it," said McKay.

Currently, only Arrowhead Golf Course can serve beer and wine, but not spirits.

McKay, who plans on serving cocktails at the banquet hall, has circulated a petition to place the question on the ballot.

Whether the proposal is approved or not, McKay

needs a special use permit from the township to build the banquet hall.

The 6.89-acre site off Lincoln Lake, south of Equine Medical, is located in a commercial/industrial zone known as the Vergennes Business Park.

However, the township ordinance has no provisions for a banquet facility in such zone.

In June, the township planning commission determined the banquet facility may be considered an unclassified special use.

Zoning administrator Jeanne Vandersloot said the banquet facility requires a

special use permit because of the nature of the business.

"It needs more review," she said.

According to Vandersloot's report, the facility is consistent with the master plan which calls for a mix of industrial, service and residential uses.

"There isn't really anything like this in the area for weddings or meetings," she said.

In her review, Vandersloot states the facility has access to Lincoln Lake Ave. which provides an ultimate connection to M-21 and I-96.

"I do not need the high traffic count on M-21 because a banquet facility is not an impulse purchase," said McKay.

McKay is proposing a 25,372 sq. ft. facility to seat 500 people with an outdoor ceremony area.

"It is the next generation of banquet facilities," he said. "People will be pleasantly surprised this is in Vergennes Township and Lowell."

McKay, who has surveyed 33 competitors, said there is a definite need for such facility in the area.

"Brides specifically do not want the same type of reception their parents had," he said. "This is rethinking the entire banquet celebration."

If McKay receives the special use permit, he hopes to break ground yet this winter with completion slated for summer.

"It is a considerable hurdle," said McKay.

A public hearing for a special use permit for the hall has been set for Nov. 13 at Vergennes Township Hall.

## Franciscan music marathon to benefit therapy program

By Emma Palova

The famous homemade "CinnamonSets" will sweeten this year's Music Therapy Marathon at the Franciscan Life Process Center (FLPC).

Although the Franciscan

Heritage Foods bakery in Ada has long closed its doors, the much sought after baked goods will be available only during the marathon.

The 6th annual marathon is a benefit for the center's music therapy program.

It will feature a different

musician every hour from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Nov. 11. The public is invited to come to the entire program, or to any portion of it.

"Our goal is to raise \$1,000 an hour," said Sister Mary Margaret Delaski, director of music programs.

The entire program is

an eclectic mix of music ranging from classical to light rock, jazz and blues; and dancing will be taught by The Thunder Floor Cloggers of Lake Odessa.

Among the performers will be the FLPC music students.

"These are wonderful

performers," said Sister Delaski. "People can stay as long as they want to."

The marathon will start off with pianist Judy Lacks, followed by pianist Dr. Kenneth Bos at 11 a.m. The Ransom St. Big Band will perform at noon, followed by the FLPC music students at 1 p.m.

Dr. Robert Shaffer will put on Irish folk music at 2 p.m. Melvin Crawford, a contemporary gospel singer, will perform at 3 p.m. Broadway show tunes by Deb Mulcahey with niece Abby will fill the halls at 4 p.m.

Guitarist and singer Michael Everhart will perform light rock, jazz and blues at 5 p.m. The Thunder Floor Cloggers will take to the floor at 6 p.m.

"It would be wonderful if we could raise \$10,000," said Sister Delaski. "We'd like to get more audience, we're encouraging people to come."

The FLPC music therapy program was established in 1978, and has been growing ever since.

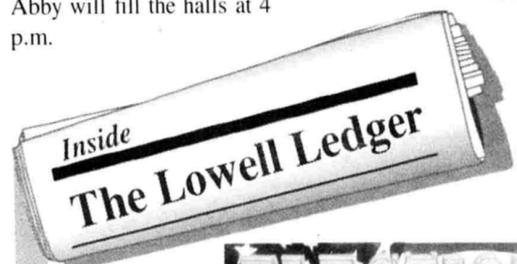
Music therapy, cont'd., pg. 13



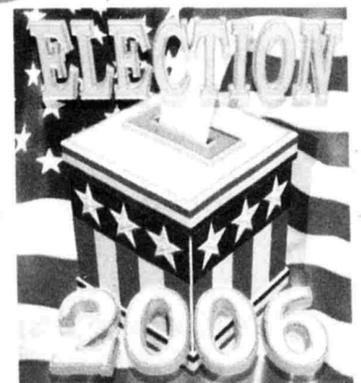
# We SAW him

## Did you?

Totally creeping out the staff, the maniacal clown from the movie "Saw" came pedaling past the Lowell Ledger office this Halloween. The clown (a.k.a. Ken Gregersen) spent the last couple of weeks creating his own custom tricycle to complete the ensemble.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE NOV. 7!



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# Obituaries

## ESSENBURG

John Essenburg, aged 84, of Ada, formerly of Holland, died Sunday, October 22, 2006. He was preceded in death by his first wife Gladys in 1992 and by many brothers and sisters. He was a member of Ada Community Reformed Church and was a former member of Bethany Christian Reformed Church in Holland where he was active in the Men's Society, the Ushering Committee and the Boys Club. He served his country in the Army during WWII in Europe. John was passionate about teaching youth about hunting and fishing and being outdoors. He is survived by his wife

Eileen; step-children Carol and Bill Mack of AZ. Susan and Gary Scoles of Lowell, Orin Comdure of Lowell, Joyce Comdure of GA; six step-grandchildren Cheryl DeGood and Marc Creswell, John DeGood, Sarah and Drew Parsons, Chris Scoles, Nicholas Comdure, Chelsea Comdure; one step-great-grandson Colton Creswell; sister Jessie and Harvey Mast of Zeeland; in-laws Hazel Essenburg of Zeeland, Martha Schut of Hudsonville, Theresa Wiersum of Jenison, Florence and Bill Post of Cascade, Elsie Detmers of Florida, Elva and Frank Middlebrook of Belding;

Carolyn Hansma of NY, NY; many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Oct. 26 at Ada Community Reformed Church, with the Reverends Jacob Heerema and Julie VanDerVeen Van Til officiating. Burial in Graafschap Cemetery, Holland. Memorial contributions may be given to Hospice of West Michigan or Ada Community Reformed Church.

## HOLBROOK

Mr. Chester Dale Holbrook, aged 80, of Lowell, went to sleep in Jesus Sunday, October 22, 2006, surrounded by his family. Surviving are his wife Shirley Holbrook (nee Denton); children James (Kathy) Holbrook, Melissa (David) Jousma, Marilyn (Keith Williams) Holbrook, Bonnie Holbrook, Donna (Larry) Gumowski, Stephanie (Eugene) Carlisle, Vicki (Dave) Childs, Debra Holbrook; 14 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; two sisters Evelyn Warner, Elsie Johnson, relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Anna May and David Holbrook and sister June Warner.

## MERIGIAN

John M. Merigian, aged 53, of Kentwood, passed away Thursday, October 26, 2006, at Spectrum Health Butterworth Campus. John was born on December 27, 1952, in Grand Rapids, the son of John and Madeleine Simchak Merigian. He had worked in the tool and die industry for a number of years. John was married on September 10, 1999, in Las Vegas to Deborah Standen and she survives with his children Luke Merigian of Saranac, Annie Merigian of Lowell; step-children Clinton and Wendy Yarrington of Middleville, Holly and Steve Walker of Fremont; step-grandchildren Randy, Austyn, Destinee, Briannon, Casey, Ashley; brother and sister Dennis and Elizabeth Merigian and son Seth of Grand Rapids, Patricia Emkens and her daughters Amanda and Kimberlee

Chester served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and retired from Amway Corp. Truck Fleet in 1988 after 23 years. He is a member of Lowell Riverside Fellowship of Seventh Day Adventists. A funeral service was conducted Oct. 25 at Central Seventh Day Adventist Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to Lowell Riverside Fellowship of Seventh Day Adventists, of Grand Rapids; his great niece Marissa; his aunt Rose Merigian; cousins Lester Bagdasarian and George and Linda Bagdasarian, Carole Bagdasarian, Rose Mary and Vigen Darian and Marcie Salazar; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents. Funeral services were held Monday at Johnson-Feuerstein Funeral Home, Belding, with Pastor Bill Overton of Family Life Center Church of God officiating. Memorials may be given to Alcoholics Anonymous.

## MILLER

Helen Margaret Miller, aged 83, of Alto, died Saturday, October 21, 2006. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Robert A. Miller; children Robert A. (Linda) Miller of Ada, Gary (Doni) Miller of Plainwell, Connie Miller (Graig Larie) of Spring Lake, Dennis (Susan) Miller of Waterford; sisters Betty Mayer, Noreen (Bill) Roelofs; sister-in-law Louise Gauger; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Oct. 25 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pastor Robert Gerke officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the Metro Health Foundation.



## STARKWEATHER

Mary Alice (Bancroft) Starkweather, aged 68, of Alto, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, October 27, 2006 after a short battle with cancer. She was preceded in death by her parents George and Laura Dey Sr.; husband Dick Bancroft; brother George Dey Jr.; sister-in-law Jean Mulliken. She is survived by her husband Bruce Starkweather; children Karen (Greg) Eldridge, Sharon (Mark) Hines, Ron (Amy) Bancroft; grandchildren Betsy, Brad, Tom and Jay Eldridge, Curt, Kyle and Mallory Hines, Alanna and Riley Bancroft; step-children Brenda (Ray) Jensen, Brian Starkweather, Brad (Becky) Starkweather, Brent Starkweather; and many step-grandchildren; sisters-in-law Barb (Don) Sterzick, Dode Dey; many loved nieces and nephews. Mary Alice was a member of Woodview Christian Church. Her greatest loves in life were her children, grandchildren and sewing. She enjoyed watching her children and grandchildren participate in Lowell football, band, gymnastics, musicals and all of their other activities. She especially loved to attend Lowell's homecoming where she stood proudly singing Varsity. Mom will be so dearly missed. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at Roth-Gerst Chapel, 305 N. Hudson St. at 11 a.m., Pastor John Stradtner of Woodview Christian Church, officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the Radio Bible Class, 3000 Kraft SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512.

## Concert at Lowell Performing Arts Center this Sunday

Roger MacNaughton and Steve VanRavenswaay will team up on Sunday, Nov. 5 at 3 p.m. for a concert of Christmas and original music. Held at the Lowell Performing Arts Center, the live "CD release" concert titled "MacRaven" will feature MacNaughton on piano and VanRavenswaay on cello.

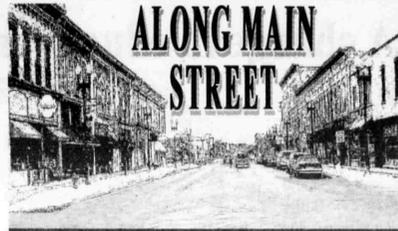
Each musician has made a career of performing:

MacNaughton by touring and recording with various rock, jazz and contemporary groups and VanRavenswaay as a 30-year veteran of the Grand Rapids Symphony.

Tickets may be purchased by visiting [www.lowellartscenter.org](http://www.lowellartscenter.org) or calling 897-8545. Cost is \$7 general admission; \$5.50 LAAC members, seniors, students, and group discounts of 10 or more.



Steve VanRavenswaay and Roger MacNaughton.



## JEEPERS CREEPERS

Lowell Area Arts Council has an exhibit of mixed media works by area artists titled "Jeepers Creepers" at Huntington Bank, 414 E. Main through Nov. 27.

## FOOTBALL TICKETS

Ticket sales for Saturday's 1 p.m. football game vs. Muskegon at Lowell will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Lowell HS athletic office, 7:30 - 3 p.m.; also on Friday from 5-7 p.m. at the stadium ticket booth. Sales limited to 12,000 tickets. All tickets are \$5 (except babes in arms); no passes allowed. Ticket booth opens at 11:00 & gates open at 11:30 Saturday. In addition to the high school lots, parking is available in south parking lot of middle school, 750 Foreman; east parking lot of Cherry Creek Elem., 12675 Foreman. Shuttle buses will pick up and drop off in front of each of these buildings starting at 10:30 a.m. and ending at game time, then will begin shuttling back to those lots at the end of the game.

## BLUEGRASS FUNDRAISER

The Riverview in Lowell will have a bluegrass hotbands fundraiser this Saturday beginning at 6:30 p.m. Three bands, jam session, food; all for \$5.

## CONCERT IN LPAC

Roger MacNaughton and Steven VanRavenswaay piano/cello concert this Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Lowell Performing Arts Center at the high school. Christmas favorites and originals. Tickets: call 897-8545 or [www.lowellartscenter.org](http://www.lowellartscenter.org)

## LOWELL VETERANS PROGRAM

Lowell Area Historical Museum will present "Lowell Veterans Tell Their Stories: Letters Home - Love & War" on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. in LHS Performing Arts Center. Allen and Marian Wisner and Collin and Eleanor Williams will speak. Public welcome.

## SLEIGH BELLS AND HOLLY

A reception to meet the artists for "Sleigh Bells and Holly - A gallery of fine art and gifts" will be held Thursday, Nov. 9 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Lowell Area Arts Council, 149 S. Hudson. Over 20 artists/artisans with their artwork on display Nov. 9-Dec. 23. Visit [www.lowellartscenter.org](http://www.lowellartscenter.org) for more information and extended gallery hours.

## CANNONSBURG SCHOOL SKI/SNOWBOARD CLUB

For information contact Laurie Summerfield at 987-2900, [LSummerfield@lowell.k12.mi.us](mailto:LSummerfield@lowell.k12.mi.us) or Robin Briggs 897-9904, [Rbriggs@lowell.k12.mi.us](mailto:Rbriggs@lowell.k12.mi.us) or pick up at your school office. Nov. 15 deadline for passes for Thanksgiving break.

## Lowell High School receives ExxonMobil grant

By Emma Palova

Lowell High School received a \$500 grant from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program.

The Lowell Mobil Station worked with school officials to secure the grant which is one of 4,000 available to schools across the country. The grants were made possible by funding from the Exxon Mobil

Corporation.

Lowell High School principal Scott Washaw said he greatly appreciates the support and partnership of the local business.

"Lowell High School works hard to make learning interesting and fun," said Lowell Mobil manager Kathy Oshinski. "As an ExxonMobil retailer I am proud to help young people of Lowell."

The ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program is designed to provide Exxon and Mobil retailers with an opportunity to invest in the future of their communities through educational grants to neighborhood schools.

ExxonMobil believes that, as members of the community, local retailers are best qualified to work

with local educators to help identify schools and programs most in need of support.

Oshinski met stringent eligibility criteria before applying for and being awarded this grant, including having a commitment to provide a superior buying experience for customers.

## Local artists part of West Michigan Potters Guild

Mary Kuilema and Tina Doorn, both of Lowell, will be participating in the 22nd annual West Michigan Potters Guild Fall Show and Sale in Grand Rapids this month.

There are currently 68 members in the guild. Several sell their work through galleries across the U.S. while others maintain a presence in juried art fairs.

The guild was begun in 1983 by a small group

of potters who felt isolated working individually in their studios. The diversity presented ranges from functional to decorative, stoneware to earthenware, jewelry to sculpture; all are one of a kind creations.

The fall show is Friday, Nov. 10 from 12 - 9 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. It is held at the Cultural Center at St. Nicholas, 2250 E. Paris S.E. A raffle of a piece of pottery

donated by an artist is held hourly.

Visit the website [www.westmichiganpottersguild.com](http://www.westmichiganpottersguild.com) for additional information and photographs.

\*\*\*

## Nothing on Earth so beautiful as the final haul on Halloween night.

- Steve Almond

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ROGER K. BROWN.....PUBLISHER  
JEANNE BOSS.....MANAGING EDITOR  
TONI BLOUGH.....COPY EDITOR  
EMMA PALOVA.....LEAD REPORTER  
JUSTIN SWAN.....SPORTS REPORTER  
TAMMY JANOWIAK.....CLASSIFIED/ACCOUNTING  
JAY VEZINO.....ADVERTISING SALES

(616) 897-9261

E-Mail: [ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com](mailto:ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com)

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OSAW III (R)  
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TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING (R)  
1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30  
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH (PG-13)  
2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:10  
THE PRESTIGE (PG-13)  
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50  
FLICKA (PG)  
12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00  
THE GRUDGE 2 (PG-13) 12:00 PM

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**CORRECTION**

An article that appeared in *The Ledger* (Oct. 25) "Six man brawl at the bar sends one to the hospital" was edited incorrectly. The persons who were involved in the offense have not been arraigned yet, as such their names have not been released. The two men mentioned in the article, Christopher Hurst and Brandon Robinson, were the officers responding to the incident.

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## A change in educational funding - two sides of Ballot Proposal 5

By Emma Palova

A proposed law to establish mandatory school funding would provide a \$565 million increase annually to schools K-16. Proposal 5, a ballot legislative initiative driven by educators, parents and citizens, does not propose a constitutional amendment. "It's a reaction to citizens' concerns," said Greg Pratt, Lowell Area Schools (LAS) superintendent, "to ensure adequate funding for schools."

If approved, the proposal would generate approximately \$600,000 for LAS by capping the retirement fund contribution paid by the schools. Currently, the LAS district with an operating budget of \$32.7 million has a \$337,667 shortfall. The funding increase would be used for infrastructure and program improvements, and to fund state mandates, according to Pratt. The money could go toward mandates such as

the high school reform to possibly an increase in staff, based on the board's plan. The proposal is not a constitutional amendment," said Pratt. "It gives some latitude to legislators. They can still make adjustments to the funding." Any budgetary shortfalls in school funding would be funded from the state's general fund. The proposal would also reduce the funding gap between school districts receiving basic per pupil foundation allowance and

those receiving maximum foundation allowance from \$1,300 to \$1,000. Rep. Dave Hildenbrand, R-Lowell, said the proposal is dangerous. "It ties our hands to shift money as needed," said Hildenbrand. "We want to fund schools. They received a significant increase this year." Hildenbrand said the schools received a \$210 increase in per-pupil foundation for this school year.

The proposal, according to Hildenbrand, is not tied with a reform that would fund it. "It's a train wreck," he said. "I adamantly oppose it. We have been trying to close the gap." By capping the schools' retirement contribution, the state would have to pay more into the fund. "It just shifts onto the state," said Hildenbrand. Even if the proposal does not pass, it may generate discussion about

restructuring revenue streams for schools, said Pratt. "We're just putting out the information," he explained. According to the House Fiscal Agency, funding Proposal 5 and maintaining current categoricals in the School Aid fund would require \$698.9 million. In order to fund Proposal 5, taxes would have to be raised or programs cut to shift the money, said Hildenbrand.

## Outdoors

By  
Dave Stegehuis



### HUNTER RESPONSIBILITY

Participants of competitive sports, such as basketball and football, are closely monitored by officials to insure the rules of the game are followed. Penalties are immediately imposed when transgressions occur. Hunters must also follow rules and will face a number of ethical issues when afield this fall. There are not enough conservation officers to watch everybody, so the majority of hunters are on their own.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources

estimates that 725,000 Michigan residents and non-residents will purchase at least one deer license in 2006. These hunters will be scattered throughout the state in woods, swamps and fields from the Keweenaw Peninsula to Detroit. There is no practical way to monitor all of these hunters, so most will be left with his or her conscience to make responsible decisions. The following are some of the issues facing those who choose to hunt.

Responsible hunters learn and follow laws which are established to protect the game and the hunter as well as the general public and property. Hunters play a key role in the scientific management of game species by observing bag limits and cooperating with researchers.

Responsible hunters must follow firearm safety rules to the letter. Accidents only happen when one or more of these rules are broken. Hunters must also develop skill and knowledge related to the effective use of their firearm in

order to hunt safely and achieve good marksmanship. Responsible hunters do not trespass on private land and take care to be respectful of the landowner's property if permission is granted to hunt there.

Responsible hunters are respectful of game animals. Only high percentage shots should be taken to insure a humane kill. As much of the animal as possible should be put to good use. Proper handling will insure a healthful food source for the hunter and his or her family as well as others if the meat is to be shared.

Responsible hunters set a good example for others to follow, especially young people. It has been said that the greatest test of character is not what one does in the glare of public scrutiny but what one does when no one is watching. There is no one in a striped shirt to blow a whistle when you go hunting this fall. Your integrity and, for that matter, the future of hunting is on the line, so make the right call.



## Sharing

### The Vision

With Nancy Hopkins  
Board of Education President

In a time when public education is losing its once solid position as a cornerstone of our democratic society, it has become vitally important for public schools to improve and enhance their image. A district marketing committee comprised of parent, staff, administrator and board of education representatives started meeting last

school year to review and evaluate past and current district marketing practices, and develop initial concepts for an improved approach to marketing Lowell Area Schools. The committee's driving mission statement was: The LAS Marketing Committee will work to proactively communicate the positive things occurring in the District.

The committee's first efforts were focused on short-term projects and included a survey of parents outside of the District who chose to send their children to LAS and those from within the District who decided to send their children to another district. The survey produced valuable information that will be helpful as the marketing program continues to develop. Another product of the committee's work is the new district information brochure whose first

use was during this year's "Countdown to Kindergarten." (A complete summary of the committee's work is available at Central Office.)

While much discussion, planning and work need yet to be done, the marketing committee has laid necessary groundwork for developing an enhanced marketing plan for the District. The committee will continue its work, and now with input and guidance from Superintendent Greg Pratt, will determine how to enhance our image, position the District as an academic leader in the minds of prospective students and their families, and unite the community around the value of our public school system.

Sharing the Vision, cont'd., pg. 7

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The difference between a democracy and a dictatorship is that in a democracy you vote first and take orders later; in a dictatorship you don't have to waste your time voting.

- Charles Bukowski

We've added some new faces...



Jerry Christensen  
Dan Mitchell

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# Viewpoint



by Roger Brown  
**cozy  
corner**

Try as I might, it is impossible to completely ignore all this election year rhetoric being bantered about. One issue that has been a place for some politicians to hang their hat has been illegal immigrants and what should be done about them. Contained in the endless drivel is the notion that these immigrants will work at menial jobs we Americans find beneath us. Like any other issue, there is some truth in that. Taking the premise a step further, I've observed some jobs while here in China visiting my daughter's family, even illegal immigrants in the States aren't going to do. For starters, even the decent jobs might rub an American worker the wrong way. While out for my morning walk here in Chengdu, I often see the staff of various businesses lined up in front of their establishments. It might be a restaurant, hair salon, auto-dealership, whatever. The employees are lined up, in uniform, for the morning briefing. These formations remind me of basic training. A manager may be reading from some sort of "game plan" for the day. They often do stretching exercises and calisthenics. They may all be singing the company song. Somehow, I can't imagine getting the staff at the Ledger out on the sidewalk every morning for a pep talk, some jumping-jacks, and a few choruses of "Long Live the Ledger."

A busy street near my daughter's house has been undergoing a major renovation. Trying to give it a European flair, they tore up the pavement and bricked the entire roadway, as well as the sidewalks. The bricks were mortared in place with little care given to cleaning the excess mortar. For the two weeks I've been here, there have been gangs of laborers chipping, scraping and wire brushing the mortar from the bricks.

I'm guessing the street, to include the sidewalks, is about a hundred feet wide. The project goes on for blocks and blocks. These brick cleaning crews pick an area, put out a couple traffic cones to fend off vehicles whizzing by, and go to work. They spend all day in that squat Asian pose so accustomed to. With their feet flat, they get down so far their butt will hit the ground. Some will even use a brick, maybe

two inches thick, as a cushion for their butt.

Using basic hammers, chisels, putty knives, wire brushes, etc., they tap, rap, chink, scrape and brush away at that mortar. Working in crews of a half dozen up to thirty or forty, they relentlessly clean those bricks ... all day ... day, after day, after day. Watching them work, I can't help but wonder what it would cost to get Americans to do the same job. Even if we could find people to do the job, it would be cheaper to buy, or if necessary, invent a machine. Not here.

One day last week, while the kids were in school and my son-in-law was at work, my daughter, my wife and I went on a day trip to a famous sacred mountain. It was nearly two hours to the park. Once at the park we drove almost another hour on a very well maintained two-lane paved road that winds up the mountain. The driver scared the daylight out of me, passing everything in sight on those switchbacks with no idea what's coming around the next curve. What was coming was often a big tour bus or dump truck. Horns blare, headlights flash, brakes squeal, but nobody seems to get upset. The driver's code in China must be "A miss is as good as a mile," or something to that effect.

Once at the parking area, we had to get out and hoof it. The trail went on for a half mile or so. The going was all up stairs, sloped sidewalks and more and more stairs. The elevation, nearly 10,000 feet, coupled with my sea level lungs, had me wheezing and resting frequently. As we neared the cable car station, there was a small shelter where some porters hung out.

The option to taking the twenty minute cable car ride to the summit is to be a purest and hike on up. The guidebook mentions some interesting things to see on the way and estimates three hours for the ascent. These porters were equipped with two man sedan chairs. The rider sits in a chair between two long bamboo poles. The poles rest on the shoulders of a porter in front and one in back. They wanted to lug us to the top for the equivalent of about \$25.00 U.S. apiece. Six guys, carrying that kind of load upstairs and a steep trail, all afternoon, to earn about twelve dollars for each of them.

Here's the really funny part. I tip the scales at about 250 these days. I know that's more than any two of those porters weigh together. And they wanted to carry me up that mountain. The scary thing is they probably would have done it while puffing on cigarettes, sipping rice liquor and singing porter songs. We opted for the cable car.

At the end of the cable car line, there were still a few hundred yards to reach the huge gold shrine and monastery

Cozy Corner, cont'd., pg. 12

## To The Editor

To The Editor,

What an awesome community we live in! Saturday, Oct. 21, the Backwater Cafe hosted a benefit for two of our employees who have recently undergone major medical expenses. The turnout for these fine women was heart-warming. We were able to raise over \$6,400 for them because of you. It was very impressive how Lowell turned out for two of their own, from the generous donations from area merchants to all the wonderful people who came Saturday night.

What an honor it is to be a part of this grand community. Thank you.

Bif and Jeff Altoft

Dear Editor,

In the upcoming election in November, there are five major proposals, three of which are important and one that is about hunting doves.

There have been several types of advertisements about hunting mourning doves. What about the other four?

Proposal one: conservation and recreation money, where do we use it? Number two: affirmative action; number five: mandatory school funding levels.

Using the birds, in my opinion, is a diversion from one of the most important proposals on the ballot, number four. It reads: "A proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit government from taking private property by Eminent Domain for certain private purposes." We, the common person, have heard very little about this proposal. If this passes and goes into action, the government will have the ability to take our homes and property at will and give it over for private or commercial use. Do we, the common USA citizen, have the right to keep our homes and land? Or do we allow the government to sneak this proposal through?

We need to inform other voters about this proposal, also get the proper wordage of this proposal to make sure we vote on it in an educated way. We, the common people, need to unite and show the government that we do have a say in our country.

I have read this proposal and it sounds like I should vote yes to protect my home and land, but I have talked to others who are just as concerned as me and they have said to vote no. This is confusing, along with not knowing about this proposal. But we know about the mourning dove proposal. It would be sad to have to take a lawyer to the voting booth with you; it sure does feel like this.

Peg Hefferan

## Ledger Entries

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



By  
Priscilla  
Lussmyer

125 YEARS  
THE WEEKLY JOURNAL  
NOVEMBER 2, 1881

This issue is missing.

100 YEARS THE LOWELL LEDGER  
NOVEMBER 1, 1906

The Lee Block of six businesses goes up in flames. All intend to rebuild, though none were fully insured.

The Pickle Bachelors have their annual banquet. One speech by John Lally: "Why We Remain Single." George Jackson of Campbell Township turns 103 years old.

The Owsosso Sugar Co. claims that their pollution of the Grand River, resulting in destroying many tons of fish, was purely accidental.

75 YEARS  
THE LOWELL LEDGER  
AND THE ALTO SOLO  
OCTOBER 29, 1931

Michigan Press Association Head George Averill highly praises Lowell and Editor Jefferies after the recent MPA convention here.

The County Federation of Women's Clubs meets at Lowell City Hall. Mrs. Chas. Doyle is Lowell's president and hostess.

Michigan tests feasibility of making license plates from Michigan copper.

Nellie McPherson prevails as Vergennes Township supervisor on a 9-vote margin, says the state supreme court.

50 YEARS  
THE LOWELL LEDGER  
NOVEMBER 1, 1956

Six auto dealers offer rides to the polls for those who don't have transportation for the Nov. 6 vote.

Art teacher Blanche Mullen's pupils made fantastic masks for the Halloween parade, from paper mache applied to balloons.

Jeanne Liscomb receives her Expert Rifle Rating from the junior division of the National Rifle Association.

There are 30,000 yards of fill dirt for the new M-21 bridge across the Grand River that come from a hill behind the Ada Christian Reformed Church.

25 YEARS  
THE GRAND VALLEY  
LEDGER  
OCTOBER 28, 1981

The Straw Basket, Yesterday's Child and Birchwood Gardens open in the new Rivertown Mall.

A meeting is scheduled in hopes of creating a community child watch program for pupils walking to and from school.

The fourth Fallasburg Fall Festival is attended by an estimated 27,000 visitors, has 10 food booths, and the quilt raffle nets \$1,458.

Seniors Ken Blain and Kathe Dey set new course records in their respective cross-country meets.

# Engagements

## Hough/Plutschow



David Plutschow and Nancy Hough

Nancy Jane Hough will become the bride of David L. Plutschow on January 6, 2007.

The Hastings couple will celebrate their new life together in love and harmony forever.

# Reflections of faith

Rev. Randy Meyers  
Calvary Christian Reformed Church

### CROOKED TREE

There once was a king who sent messengers to another of his high walled cities. Though the path between them passed through a wild wood it was well worn. About midway the foot path passed a wizened old tree. The tree was a favorite among the couriers because its knotted familiarity said half way. "Caution must always be used when passing the tree," they would tell each other, "because the tree's roots stick up in the path."

One day the king had a particularly important message. His messengers had been faithful. Yet the king wanted to be sure this important scroll was securely delivered. So he decided to send his eldest son. The young prince started out on the path. As he approached half way on the journey, he

## New locations for adoption document verification

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land recently announced that residents needing to authenticate documents for overseas transactions, such as an adoption, now have three locations to choose from - Detroit, Grand Rapids and Lansing.

The Grand Rapids Area SUPER! Center in the Centerpointe Mall (28th St. SE) is the most recent site to provide the service. It joins the offices in Lansing and in Detroit in helping residents certify documents intended for use in foreign countries.

Foreign exchange students and residents who are arranging overseas marriages or foreign adoptions are the primary users of document certification. About 50,000 documents annually are certified at the Office of the Great Seal in Lansing. In 2005, about one third

of the mail and in-person transactions requesting document certification came from Grand Rapids and the surrounding communities.

Certification attests to the authenticity of the signature of the official who signed a document and the capacity in which that official acted. Where appropriate, the identity of a seal or stamp that a document bears may also be certified.

The types of documents that are eligible for verification by the Secretary of State include certified copies of vital records (such as birth, marriage, divorce and death certificates) that were issued by one of the following:

- A Michigan county clerk or deputy county clerk
- The Michigan state registrar
- Certified copies of Articles of Incorporation issued by the director of the

Michigan Dept. of Labor and Economic Growth.

The cost is \$1 for each document requiring certification; payment by cash, check, money order or Discover credit card is accepted.

Land reminds residents that they can obtain complete information about document certification and all other services through the department's web site at [www.Michigan.gov/sos](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos). This site also helps customers determine fees and requirements before they visit a branch office.

## Happy Birthday

- NOV. 2:** Barb DeLoof, John Mogor.
- NOV. 3:** Connie Stencl, Jennifer Zoodsma, Denise Dommer, Christina Dixon, LeeAnn Brenk, Becky Myers, Ken Kline.
- NOV. 4:** Ken VanDerWarf, Carol Hunt, Meghan Plutschow, Laura Gildner.
- NOV. 5:** Mart DeYoung, Holly Stouffer.
- NOV. 6:** Cathy Kehoe, Kimberly Doyle, Becky Chamberlain.
- NOV. 7:** Keegan Geldersma, Charlene Butler, Kelsey Ligan, Carl Blough, Rachel Plotner.
- NOV. 8:** David Korte, Andrew Potter, Dick Rutherford, Joshua Chamberlain.

thought he saw a branch of the tree pointing into the forest. He wondered why none of the couriers had ever taken the obvious short cut that the gnarled tree was clearly telling him to take?

"I shan't be blocked from adventure like the mindless messengers," he said to himself as he started off into the woods. Of course quickly the prince became lost. The couriers sent to find him just as quickly found he had ventured off the path since they saw the scuff marks left by him tripping over the roots. One by one they too became lost. Every guide, in fact, that the king sent was lost in the woods looking for the young prince.

So much time passed that the actual path became overgrown. In its place were several forks which faded into the forest. So deep into the woods and so lost were the couriers and couriers that several set up little camps which became little towns and some small cities. Content to live in the forest's freedom they gave up looking for the prince.

Finally when all around him failed the king, he set out to find his son. He came to the tree and started to sing the same song he sang to his son each evening before he slept. And he started to walk into the forest following one of the forks. As he walked and sang he also worked. He had taken

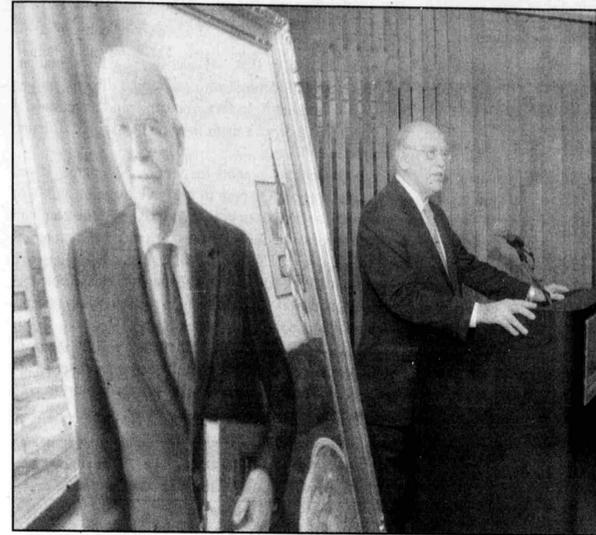
an ax with him. He chopped trees as he sang. He made a new swath deeper and deeper into the forest past the cities, towns, and camps until he found his son in a coma waiting to be rescued.

Knowing how to return to the path was easy for the king. Yet doing so was difficult, for as he chopped he felled the trees into the swath to make it difficult for any to follow. Still with persistence he climbed, crawled and shinned back to the path. He even managed to find a few stragglers in the woods who were longing to return. When they reached the crooked tree he quickly sent his friends back to the castle with his son where he recovered. The king remained. He kept cutting the old path, wider now; singing he walked to the city with the scroll.

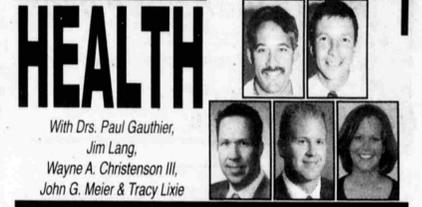
In John 14:6, Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me."

Questions for discussion: How did the tree contribute to the son's deception? Why did the son get lost first and not to the couriers? What steps off the path have you taken? How has returning to the path proven difficult? Why does it look more exciting in the woods than on the path? Even with the king clearing the path will it ever be wide? Why?

## Official McPherson portrait unveiled



Former MSU President Peter McPherson speaks to the crowd at the unveiling of his official oil portrait at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on Oct. 13. The portrait was done by Sam Knecht, an artist from Hillsdale, and will hang in the boardroom of the Administration Building. McPherson, who retired from MSU in January 2005, is currently the president of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, the nation's oldest higher education association.



### NONALCOHOLIC FATTY LIVER DISEASE

Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is a buildup of fat in the liver. NAFLD can be harmless, but sometimes it may cause the liver to swell. The most common causes of NAFLD are obesity, diabetes, and high cholesterol. It is not caused by drinking alcohol. Most people with NAFLD do not have any symptoms. Some may feel a fullness or pain on the right side of the abdomen. Your doctor may order blood tests or a scan of your liver.

For most people, NAFLD is harmless and doesn't cause serious health problems. It usually doesn't affect how well the liver works. In a few people, NAFLD may interfere with liver function. This is more likely to happen in people with diabetes or who are very overweight. Occasionally a liver biopsy is needed to assess liver damage.

People with NAFLD usually do not need treatment. The most important thing is treating the condition that has led to NAFLD. Controlling blood sugar and cholesterol is important. Losing weight quickly can sometimes make NAFLD worse, but losing weight slowly (1-2 pounds per week) may reduce the amount of fat in your liver.

## Sharing the Vision, continued ... From Page 4

Great things are happening in our District. Research studies consistently show that public education is doing a better job with more students than ever before. Here in Lowell we have the stories of accomplishment, the pride and the testimonials from successful graduates, satisfied parents and

community leaders that will build credibility for those looking at our schools and community. We don't know what the final marketing program will look like yet, but be assured that a primary message will be an assurance of consistent, quality education and a promise to parents that our

district delivers the same high-quality education to each and every child.

The community will be kept informed as the marketing program develops and launches. Timely updates will be given during Board of Education meetings and through various district

communication vehicles, such as the Directions newsletter and the district website.

Comments may be made to the Board of Education at [boardofed@lowellschools.com](mailto:boardofed@lowellschools.com)



## Business Matters

Paula Beeney, a sales adviser for lia sophia and a resident of Alto, recently received top honors as an Excellent Beginnings Program achiever for her outstanding sales accomplishments and professionalism. Hav-

ing just joined the fashion jewelry business, she earned this prestigious accomplishment in her first 15 weeks by attaining certain sales levels and by sharing lia sophia with other new advisers.

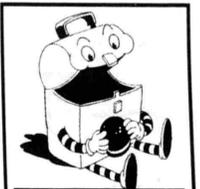
Greenridge Realty announced that Kim Schwacha received Realtor of the Month in October.

This award recognizes Schwacha for his outstanding success and achievements.

Join us on Sunday, November 12, 2006 to hear Dr. Donald DeYoung from Answers in Genesis.

- 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM "The Case for Creation"
- 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM "The Fourth Day"
- 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM "The Genesis Flood"
- 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM "Thousands not Billions"

First Baptist Church of Alto  
6015 Bancroft Ave.  
Alto, MI 49302  
(corner of Bancroft and 60th)  
[www.fbcalto.com](http://www.fbcalto.com)  
868-6403



**LUNCH MENU**  
ELEMENTARY MENU  
Week of Nov. 6, 2006

**MON:** Cheese pizza (Ravioli also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), fresh tossed salad, assorted fruit, milk.

**TUES:** Spaghetti & Italian meatsauce w/ garlic breadstick (hamburger on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), carrot coins, assorted fruit, milk.

**WED:** Soft taco w/ meat, lettuce & cheese (stacked ham/cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), green beans, assorted fruit, milk.

**THURS:** Chicken drumstick w/ homemade roll (fish/cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes & gravy, assorted fruit, milk.

**FRI:** Pizza dippers w/ sauce (sloppy jo on wheat bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), whole kernel corn, fresh fruit wedges, low fat milk.

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p><b>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS</b> If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell Across the street from the Vermont Dodge dealership. 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p><b>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.  <b>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS</b> Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p><b>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL</b> 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.  Nursery &amp; Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p><b>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> Rev. Randy Meyers • 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p><b>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH</b> SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 Visa And Master Card Accepted website <a href="http://www.aplighthouse.com">www.aplighthouse.com</a></p>
<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Services.....8:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery &amp; child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p><b>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH</b> 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><b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 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 &amp; "XL" Youth Sunday evenings WEDNESDAYS: Family Night (For All Ages): 7:00 p.m. "XL" Youth: 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. George J. Fajeta 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 <a href="http://www.stmary-lowell.com">www.stmary-lowell.com</a> Weekend Masses: Sat. 5 PM; Sun. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM &amp; 7 PM Saturday Confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer &amp; adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, ENTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaWarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise &amp; Worship</p>
<p><b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell &amp; Saranac on M-21 <a href="http://www.goodshepherdlowell.org">www.goodshepherdlowell.org</a> Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremmer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: <a href="http://www.fbcloowell.org">http://www.fbcloowell.org</a> Rev. David O. Sims &amp; Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB JC.....Wed. 6:15 &amp; 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p><b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> • 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurian Meredith 9:45 A.M. ....Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M. ....Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery &amp; Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>		<p><b>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 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>

**GREG VAN STRIEN HEATING AND PLUMBING**  
HEATING SERVICE & INSTALLATION  
AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE & INSTALLATION  
PLUMBING SERVICE & INSTALLATION  
WARM AIR/RADIANT HEAT  
OIL BURNER SERVICE  
(616) 897-5569  
Visa And Master Card Accepted

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 175**  
would like to invite all veterans and their families to come help us celebrate Veterans Day!  
Chicken dinner including potatoes, carrots and cake.  
5 PM - ?  
13 Bridge Street • Saranac, MI  
Any questions call 642-9674

**NOTICE VERGENNES TOWNSHIP**  
A Public Hearing will be held regarding a request for a Special Exception Use Permit and site plan review at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Vergennes Township Board on **November 20, 2006, at 7:00 pm** at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Dr., Lowell.

Dana and Deborah Drake of 20 Flat River Dr., Lowell, have requested a special exception use permit and site plan review to add to a pole barn that is placed within the front yard setback that is between their home and Flat River Drive. This request is addressed in the Vergennes Township Zoning Ordinance under section 201.402 (B) (5).

Copies of the application are available for public inspection at the township offices located at 10381 Bailey Drive, Lowell, 616-897-5671, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Public comment will be taken at the meeting, or if received by the Clerk in writing or by e-mail at [clerk@vergennestwp.org](mailto:clerk@vergennestwp.org) by 7:00 pm November 20, 2006.

Mari C. Stone  
Vergennes Township Clerk

**THURS:** Chicken drumstick w/ homemade roll (fish/cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes & gravy, assorted fruit, milk.

**FRI:** Pizza dippers w/ sauce (sloppy jo on wheat bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), whole kernel corn, fresh fruit wedges, low fat milk.



## Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold  
Edward Jones  
Serving Individuals Investors Since 1871

### CHANGES IN PENSION LAW CAN PAY OFF FOR YOU

It's not always easy to save enough money for retirement. But some recently enacted legislation might just help.

As its name implies, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 was designed to strengthen the private pension system, which currently covers more than 44 million workers and retirees. Under the new laws, those companies that maintain traditional "defined benefit" plans (which pay retirees a specific amount of money based on salary history and years of service) will face tighter plan-funding rules.

But even if you don't participate in a defined benefit plan, you may well benefit from other parts of the Pension Protection Act. Here are a few to consider:

- No reductions in retirement plan contribution limits - Over the past few years, the contribution limits have

increased for IRAs and for 401(k), 403(b) and 457 plans, and "catch-up" contributions were allowed for anyone 50 or older. These provisions were scheduled to be rolled back after 2010; however, due to the Pension Protection Act, the increases are now permanent. (The traditional and Roth IRA contribution limit for 2006 and 2007 is \$4,000. If you are age 50 or older, you can also make a "catch-up" contribution of up to \$1,000. The salary deferral contribution limit to a 401(k), 403(b) and 457 plan for 2006 is \$15,000. If you are 50 or older, you can make a "catch-up" contribution of up to \$5,000. In 2007 and beyond, contribution limits will be indexed for inflation.)

- Traditional and Roth IRA direct distribution donations to charities - Effective in 2006 and 2007, if you meet certain conditions, you may move up to \$100,000 per year directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to qualifying charities without having the withdrawal counted as income for the year.

- Rollovers by non-spouse beneficiaries - Starting in 2007, if you have been named a beneficiary of a 401(k) or other qualified retirement plan, you will be able to directly roll over your distribution into a new IRA that you've established (an "inherited" IRA). Previously this option was reserved for surviving spouses, who could roll over qualified plan assets into their own IRAs. This change could be a big

advantage to you. Instead of having to cash out a 401(k) or other retirement plan, and incur a big tax hit, you can now roll over the value of the retirement plan into an IRA and just take the "required minimum distribution" (RMD) every year, based on your own life expectancy. (To get the full benefits of stretching out withdrawals, see your tax adviser before taking action.)

- Tax refunds to IRAs - Under the new laws, you can now have the IRS deposit your tax refund directly into an IRA as a contribution. In fact, you can split the refunds, if you choose, and deposit them in as many as three different accounts.

- Permanent tax benefits for Section 529 plans - If you establish a Section 529 plan to help pay for your child's or grandchild's college tuition, withdrawals from the plan will be free from federal income taxes, provided the money is used for education. This tax benefit was scheduled to expire at the end of 2010, but it is now permanent. Please note that contributions are tax-deductible in certain states for residents who participate in their own state's plan.

All in all, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 seems to contain something for everyone. To see how you can gain the maximum benefits from the new tax laws, consult with your financial professional and tax adviser.

## Lowell's own competes in World Senior games

Senior players, 74 years old and older, competed in the Huntsman World Senior Games the week of Oct. 16. Held in St. George, Utah, Ivan Blough of Lowell competed along with athletes from 57 countries.

In the softball events, 350 teams, age 55 and over, competed. The Midwest Seniors, of which Blough is a team member, consisted of seven players from Michigan, two from Arkansas and two from Missouri. The team was coached by Tom Ambrose of Comstock Park.

The Midwest Seniors played in the round robin portion of the competition, losing to British Columbia 15-13, and to Arizona 7-3. They won the third game, defeating Milwaukee, 16-5.

Midwest lost to the Minnesota Legends 16-5, then came back to trounce Milwaukee 21-12. In a close game against the South California Jets, Blough got a 2-out, seventh inning hit to drive in the winning run, the score 11-10.

In the championship game for the gold medal, Midwest lost to the Minnesota Legends, 19-14. Their tough play, however, was good enough to win them silver medals.

Jim Buysse, from Lansing, was the hitting leader with an .826 average. Jim Hughes, from Arkansas, pitched all seven games; he issued only two walks during the tournament and contributed by hitting for an average of .650.

In double elimination,



The Midwest Seniors received silver medals in the Huntsman World Senior games. Pictured, back row, left to right, are: Marv Christensen, Norman Lantz, Jim Hughes, Jim Buysse, Ivan Blough, Bernie Borden and coach Tom Ambrose; front row: Dick Skinner, John Douglass, Jim Whisnant, Carl Bowles and Don Garratt.

## STATEWIDE PROPOSALS THAT WILL APPEAR ON THE NOVEMBER 7, 2006 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

**PROPOSAL 06-1**

A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE THAT MONEY HELD IN CONSERVATION AND RECREATION FUNDS CAN ONLY BE USED FOR THEIR INTENDED PURPOSES

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Create a Conservation and Recreation Legacy Fund within the Constitution and establish existing conservation and recreation accounts as components of the fund.
- Use current funding sources such as state park entrance and camping fees; snowmobile, ORV and boating registration fees; hunting and fishing license fees; taxes and other revenues to fund accounts.
- Establish the current Game and Fish Protection Fund and the Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund within the Constitution.
- Provide that money held in Funds can only be used for specific purposes related to conservation and recreation and cannot be used for any purpose other than those intended.

Should this proposal be adopted?

Yes  No

**PROPOSAL 06-4**

A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT GOVERNMENT FROM TAKING PRIVATE PROPERTY BY EMINENT DOMAIN FOR CERTAIN PRIVATE PURPOSES

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Prohibit government from taking private property for transfer to another private individual or business for purposes of economic development or increasing tax revenue.
- Provide that if an individual's principal residence is taken by government for public use, the individual must be paid at least 125% of property's fair market value.
- Require government that takes a private property to demonstrate that the taking is for a public use; if taken to eliminate blight, require a higher standard of proof to demonstrate that the taking of that property is for a public use.
- Preserve existing rights of property owners.

Should this proposal be adopted?

Yes  No

**PROPOSAL 06-5**

A LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH MANDATORY SCHOOL FUNDING LEVELS

The proposed law would:

- Increase current funding by approximately \$565 million and require State to provide annual funding increases equal to the rate of inflation for public schools, intermediate school districts, community colleges, and higher education (includes state universities and financial aid/grant programs).
- Require State to fund any deficiencies from General Fund.
- Base funding for school districts with a declining enrollment on three-year student enrollment average.
- Reduce and cap retirement fund contribution paid by public schools, community colleges and state universities; shift remaining portion to state.
- Reduce funding gap between school districts receiving basic per-pupil foundation allowance and those receiving maximum foundation allowance.

Should this proposal be approved?

Yes  No

**PROPOSAL 06-2**

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO BAN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS THAT GIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS BASED ON THEIR RACE, GENDER, COLOR, ETHNICITY OR NATIONAL ORIGIN FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR CONTRACTING PURPOSES

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Ban public institutions from using affirmative action programs that give preferential treatment to groups or individuals based on their race, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin for public employment, education or contracting purposes. Public institutions affected by the proposal include state government, local governments, public colleges and universities, community colleges and school districts.
- Prohibit public institutions from discriminating against groups or individuals due to their gender, ethnicity, race, color or national origin. (A separate provision of the state constitution already prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin.)

Should this proposal be adopted?

Yes  No

**PROPOSAL 06-3**

A REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 160 OF 2004 - AN ACT TO ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HUNTING SEASON FOR MOURNING DOVES

Public Act 160 of 2004 would:

- Authorize the Natural Resources Commission to establish a hunting season for mourning doves.
- Require a mourning dove hunter to have a small game license and a \$2.00 mourning dove stamp.
- Stipulate that revenue from the stamp must be split evenly between the Game and Fish Protection Fund and the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.
- Require the Department of Natural Resources to address responsible mourning dove hunting; management practices for the propagation of mourning doves; and participation in mourning dove hunting by youth, the elderly and the disabled in the Department's annual hunting guide.

Should this law be approved?

Yes  No

## MICHIGAN VOTES

### Michigan Voter Rights and Responsibilities

#### RIGHTS:

As a Michigan voter, you have the right to:

- ★ Be treated with courtesy and respect by the election workers.
- ★ Vote in private free from interference or intimidation.
- ★ Review a sample ballot before voting.
- ★ Review a summary of the state and federal laws which govern voting.
- ★ Ask for and receive help from the election workers if you are unsure about anything related to casting a ballot.
- ★ Obtain a replacement ballot if you make a mistake when voting.
- ★ Obtain an absentee ballot if you are qualified to vote absentee.
- ★ Vote a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the registration list and you assert, under oath, that 1) you registered to vote by the registration deadline and 2) you are a resident of the city or township where you are offering to vote.
- ★ Have your minor child (under age 18) accompany you in the voting station while you vote.
- ★ Obtain a ballot if in line when the polls close at 8 p.m.
- ★ Report illegal or fraudulent activity to the local clerk or the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES:

As a Michigan voter, you have a responsibility to:

- ★ Treat the election workers and other voters with courtesy and respect.
- ★ Respect the privacy and voting rights of other voters.
- ★ Request instructions or assistance as needed if you do not know how to use the voting equipment or have other questions about casting a ballot.
- ★ Be informed about the candidates and proposals on the ballot.
- ★ Check your ballot to ensure that it accurately reflects your choices.
- ★ Read and follow all voting instructions.
- ★ Register at least 30 days before the election.
- ★ Keep your voter registration information up-to-date with your current address.
- ★ Follow all federal and state voting laws.
- ★ Vote in person if you 1) registered by mail and 2) have never previously voted in Michigan. (Does not apply to voters who are age 65 or older, disabled or overseas.)
- ★ Provide identification before voting if you 1) registered by mail 2) have never previously voted in Michigan and 3) have not already satisfied the identification requirement. (Acceptable ID includes a current and valid photo ID or a paycheck stub, utility bill, bank statement or government document that lists your name and address. Requirement does not apply to voters who are disabled or overseas.)
- ★ Refrain from campaigning or influencing voters in the polling place.



Charlotte Ambrose, of Comstock Park, competed in two race walking events: the 1500 and the 3k, winning bronze and silver medals.

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## VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given that the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on **Monday, November 13, 2006 at 7:00 PM** at the Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Dr, PO Box 208, Lowell Michigan 49331, to accept public comment on the following application:

Linda Biggs (LLB Enterprises) is requesting a private road review and approval to construct a new private road to serve 11 parcels. The property is located adjacent to and surrounding 914 Aiden Nash Ave (north of Vergennes St, east side, in the NW quarter of section 22.

The proposed application is on file at the Vergennes Township Hall and may be inspected during regular office hours between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays. Public comment will be accepted at the public hearing and written comments received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the office entrance will also be considered if received prior to 3:00 PM on the day of the meeting. Comments may also be emailed to zoning@vergennestwp.org.

Vergennes Township Planning Commission

# Haunted Showboat



On a chilly Saturday afternoon, students from Lowell High School dressed up in costumes for the haunted side of the Lowell Showboat. There was also a kid-friendly side for youngsters. The water in the Flat River was steely gray with dark black wrinkles matching the spirit of the day.

## Halloween at FLPC

Preschoolers at the Franciscan Life Process Center enjoyed a Halloween parade last week. Emma Parsons reaches out for candy from Sister Mary Margaret Delaski while Aurora Fredericks watches.



# Jeepers Creepers exhibit reflects spirit of fun

By Emma Palova

The "Jeepers Creepers" exhibit at the Huntington Galleria opens the holiday season with artwork from local artists.

The second annual invitational exhibit, sponsored by the Lowell Area Arts Council, will run through Nov. 27.

"It's a chance for local artists to have fun instead of being serious all the time," said organizer and local artist, David Davis.

The main difference between the "Jeepers Creepers" exhibit and other shows is that it is an invitational show rather than a juried one.

"I just called on my students and friends," said Davis. "Let's have a show, something in the vein of Jeepers Creepers."

The exhibit consists of mixed media artwork from eight local artists; media such as watercolor, charcoal, photography and clay.

"It's a pretty colorful show for Jeepers," said Davis.

The artwork is not

necessarily Halloween related, although some pieces do frighten and scare.

"The Haunting" by Kendra Postma, for example, causes one to ponder what might be inside the dimly lit rooms of the pictured house, according to Davis.

Davis said he is always looking for fresh talent, preferably from the Greater Lowell area.

"We're presently booking three months ahead for shows at the Huntington Galleria," he said.

Davis started the Arts in Public Places program in conjunction with Lowell Area Arts Council 15 years ago. In his shows, Davis is looking for two-dimensional pieces.

"We're looking for anything as far as media, no theme," he said. "We'll be looking at the entire body of the artist's work."

The artists are required to submit five to six pieces, explaining what they are showing and why.

Exhibits, held at both the Huntington Galleria, 414 E. Main, and the Lowell

Area Chamber of Commerce, change every five weeks.

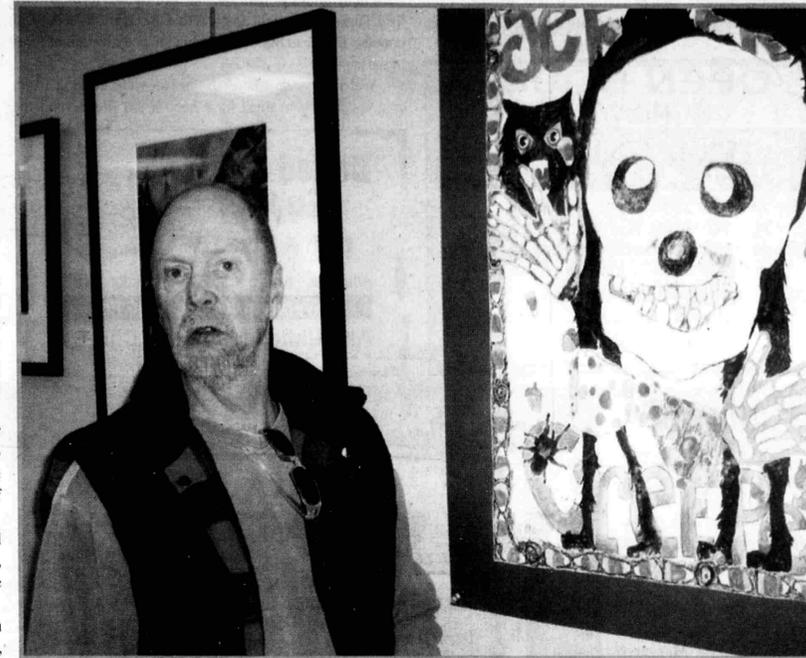
Most artwork is for sale with 30 percent of the sales

benefiting the arts council.

Postma's "The Haunting" sells for \$350. Huntington Bank team

leader Marea Borg said the bank will help customers with loans in order to

purchase paintings. Leave a message for Davis at the LAAC at 897-8545.



David Davis, "Jeepers Creepers" organizer, hangs up Kendra Postma's painting, "The Haunting."

## Exhibit at FLPC

Franciscan Life Process Center art director Kacey Cornwell stands next to an art exhibit by Elizabeth Halstead. It features woodcut and linoleum prints. The exhibit is on display through November 15.



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## 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, November 4, 2006 for any registered voter who would like to apply for or return an absentee voters ballot for the November 7, 2006 General Election.

Sandra Kowalczyk  
Bowne Township  
10am - 2pm  
8240 Alden Nash  
Alto, MI 49302  
(616) 868-6846

Betty Morlock  
City of Lowell  
8am - 2pm  
301 East Main  
Lowell, MI 49331  
(616) 897-8457

Linda S. Regan  
Lowell Charter Township  
10am - 2pm  
2910 Alden Nash SE  
Lowell, MI 49331  
(616) 897-7600

Mari Stone  
Vergennes Township  
10am - 2pm  
10381 Bailey Dr  
Lowell, MI 49331  
(616) 897-5671

## Cozy Corner, continued ... From Page 5

at the summit. We began trudging up more stairs. As we climbed and rested, climbed and rested, I noticed porters lugging bricks, mingled in with us tourists. If you think you've ever done "backbreaking" work ... you may want to rethink your adjective.

These porters, which included a few women, each carried a crude wooden rack on their back with a large

wicker basket full of regular building bricks. They each had a heavy walking stick that doubled as a support for the basket when they stopped to rest. The porters usually took a short breather after each flight of ten to twenty steps.

With my daughter's help, we asked one of these guys how many bricks were in each basket. He told us there were fifty. I asked the weight and was told 100 kilos, or about 225 pounds. That load has to be double the body weight of most of these porters.

We never saw where the bricks were coming from, or going to. There must have been a job site beyond the

monastery, and the brick pile was somewhere below where we got off the cable car. Where we did see these porters working involved a fair distance, which included maybe two hundred stair steps. When we asked the porter how much he made, he told us six Yuan per load. That's about 75 cents. Given their pace, the distance I know they had to cover, loading, unloading, etc., somewhere between five and ten trips a day would have to be about it. Do the math. Run that out to a day, week or year. Wow!

No, you are definitely not going to get American workers to slave away like that for those wages. You are not even going to get illegal aliens to work that hard for that kind of money. I don't know about you, but these little glimpses give me a better idea of why more U.S. jobs keep going overseas and why there are more and more products on store shelves marked "Made Anywhere but The U.S.A." Hey, maybe this illegal alien thing will solve itself. When there aren't any jobs left in the U.S., the aliens will stop coming.

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## Music therapy, continued

... From Page 1

The program serves children with fragile physical and mental health, severe mental illness, elderly with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, patients with cancer and other medical conditions.

"I have seen children sit, focused on a music task, when nothing else would keep their attention," said Sister Delaski.

The director of music programs has used music therapy with people for the last 25 years.

"I know from all the experiences that music works," said Sister Delaski. "I have seen children sing who did not talk. In music they were the stars."

FLPC is a nationally approved clinical training site for music therapy interns. Music therapists use a set of planned musical techniques to influence brain functioning.

These techniques include vocalization exercises, movement through dance, instrument performance and musical games.

Donations, pledges and sponsorships will be accepted for the marathon.

For more information call FLPC at 897-7842 or go to www.lifeprocesscenter.org

\*\*\*

Ah, music. A magic beyond all we do here!

- J. K. Rowling,

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, 1997

## CELEBRATIONS NEED A TOAST!

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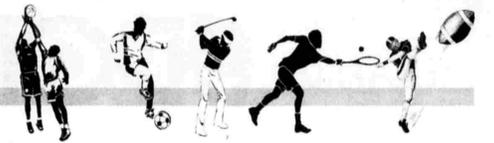
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## RED ARROW **SPORTS**



### Cross country season ends at regionals for tough Red Arrow team

The running has stopped for the Red Arrow cross country teams following a respectable finish at the Regional Tournament at Jackson, Michigan's Sharp Park.

The boys team finished with 259 points, 236 more than top school Pinckney's 23, but good enough for ninth place overall.

"The boys didn't do that bad," said coach Clay VanderWarf. "For them there were just some quality teams in the race, and Pinckney's score was unheard of.

Keaton Dilly, Andy Mark, Corey Fitzpatrick, Cameron Dilly and Kirk

Geldersma each posted times under twenty minutes, despite running in the final leg of the boys' competition, a stat VanderWarf found impressive given the conditions.

"The course was just beat up by the rain from the night before and the other runners," VanderWarf said.

"It was windy and cold, and we kept getting spits of rain. Based on the conditions and the teams we had to run against, I thought they did the best they could.

"When I found out where we were going to be placed and began looking at some of the schools, I real-

ized that they had some really fast guys."

The top 15 individual runners in the competition move on to state competition, while only the top three teams overall advance. The ninth place outcome left the Red Arrows just a few spots short of continuing the season.

Both of Lowell's boys and girls teams had to overcome a myriad of problems, not only with the weather, but also the soft ground had taken a beating from the day's previous runners.

"You try to get the kids not to focus on the weather," VanderWarf said. "But it's

tough to do when you've got 30 mph winds and the cold. That's going to have an effect on them."

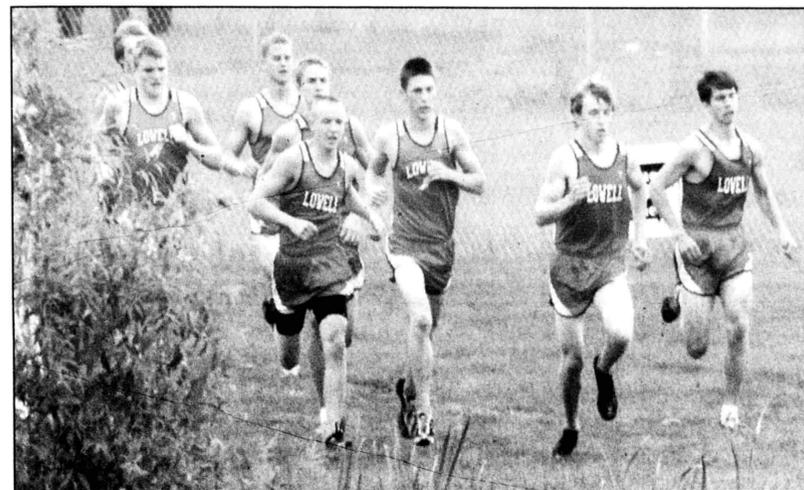
The girls didn't field an entire team, instead bringing four runners, in hopes that they could squeak into the State Tournament individually.

"I was looking to see if Karen Judd and Monica Fitzpatrick could place individually, and their times weren't bad," said VanderWarf. "But again they were facing some really good runners."

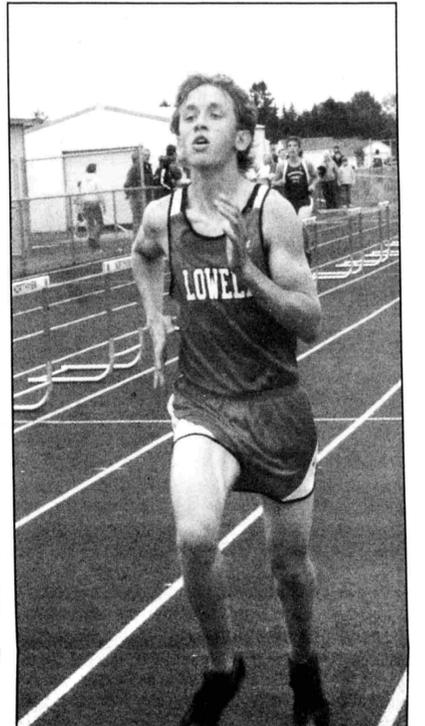
But there were some positives to be taken from the season, according to

VanderWarf. This season his team improved from a year ago, posting a 4-2 record, good for third place in the O-K White Conference.

And with solid runners developing through the junior varsity squad, VanderWarf has high hopes for next season.



The Lowell boys cross country team finished third in the O-K White this season.



All-Conference senior Keaton Dilly helped Lowell to a ninth place finish at Regionals last week in Jackson.

### Lowell players honored



Keaton Dilly, along with cross country teammate Andy Mark and golfer Brian Scheider were recognized for their athletic prowess this season. Dilly was honored with an All-Conference selection and was hands down the top runner for Lowell's cross country program this season.

"Keaton had a great season," said cross country coach Clay VanderWarf. "It will be hard to replace guys like him next season. Keaton and Andy anchored our success all year."

Mark and Scheider were recognized as All-Conference Honorable Mention.

8th Annual

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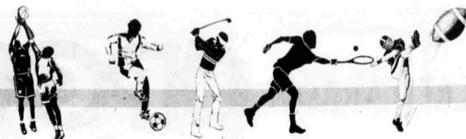
To register in advance or questions, please call and leave a message at 676-0408. Walk-ins welcome!

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12675 Foreman, Between Alden Nash & N. Hudson in Lowell

**SUNDAY, November 12**  
4:00 - 6:00 PM

Sponsored by Riverside Fellowship of Seventh-day Adventists

# RED ARROW SPORTS



## Lowell can clinch title against overmatched Wildcats



Lowell's aggressive defense, by Brittany Bueche, is a serious concern for opponents.

You won't get any arguments from Jay Plitzuweit. In girls basketball, Lowell is the team to beat. Entering Tuesday's game against Forest Hills Central, the Red Arrows (13-3) were riding a twelve-game winning streak, and barring an unlikely upset, will face Plitzuweit's Northview Wildcats (12-4) for the outright O-K White title.

"Lowell is a very good team and they're very experienced," Plitzuweit said. "All those girls have experienced championships in their life. They'll come out and play solid defense and great team basketball. They're coached so well; that's an expectation, and that's what you get every time you play Lowell."

Streak intact, the Red Arrows have more than just a defense and camaraderie to their advantage. They have intimidation and respect.

"Our approach and our mentality need to parallel what Lowell comes out with every game," Plitzuweit said. "We need to be 100

percent focused. I think Lowell's experience and how they go about business is a very good role model for us to follow.

"For us to match-up, lacking experience, is going to be a challenge."

Meanwhile, Lowell, whose only conference loss came to East Grand Rapids nearly two months ago, continues to show versatility and depth at every position behind solid senior leadership and aggressive play.

"We fixed some things from earlier this season," said Lowell coach Dee Crowley. "Our defense has picked up its intensity in what we want to do. Offensively we're in a rhythm. It's just a matter of having girls willing to work hard on the court."

Two of those girls are seniors Brittany Bueche and Lindsey Trierweiler, who combined for half of Lowell's points in last week's victory at Forest Hills Northern.

In the 44-23 route, the Red Arrows

characteristically jumped ahead with an early lead behind an aggressive full-court press defense and some precision shooting.

"Our press helps us to be aggressive and we were able to frustrate them with it and cause a few turnovers that gave us some easy baskets," Crowley said. "We had some really good three-pointers, but Trierweiler in the post was unbelievable. If you can get both the inside and outside going you can be really successful."

"We just came out with a lot of intensity," said Bueche. "(Lindsey) had all those lay-ups and that got us fired up. We worked the inside-out and I got some open three-pointers."

"At the beginning we were nervous because we didn't have our pre-game music during warm-ups," Trierweiler said laughingly. "But we just started to put it inside. Bueche hit some three's, and that just turned everything on for us." The Red Arrows finished

with a lopsided victory and solid statistics, collecting 14 steals and 24 rebounds along the way. Meanwhile, Crowley has little concern that the team has peaked too soon.

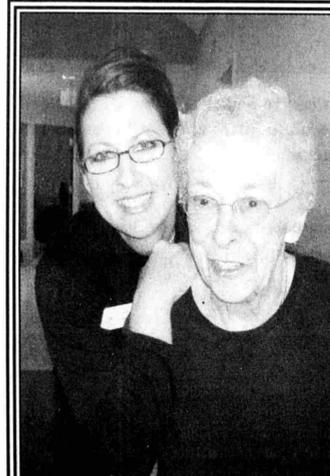
"No loss is a good loss this late in the year," Crowley said when asked if a late loss would help ground the team. "If you work hard and it's a well-fought game and you can learn from it, maybe. But right now we just really want to finish strong."

Northview's Plitzuweit would likely agree following his team's upset loss last week to Greenville, but will still offer some challenges to the Red Arrows, who need to continue to practice hard, according to the Bueche.

"We have a strong team and we all make each other work hard in practice, and I think that's what makes us so good," she said. "We're constantly pushing hard, this will definitely be a tough week but it's a good way to end the season and get us ready for districts."



Lindsey Trierweiler and Brittany Bueche combined for 22 points in last week's victory over Forest Hills Northern.



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# RED ARROW SPORTS



## Hype over "big game" provides motivational opportunities for coaches

There are a few certainties as this weekend's highly hyped football game between Lowell and Muskegon approaches.

Bob Perry Field is going to be packed, two teams are fighting to keep the season alive, and neither head coach is willing to provide added motivation for the other's team.

And with all the hoopla, all the hype, all the interviews, what's a little smoke screening going to hurt? In a world of sports journalism, coaches learn to use the media as a means of sending a message. And while no player or coach dared to guarantee a victory, there were plenty of subtleties and messages mixed into the comments of coaches Tony Annese of Muskegon and Noel Dean of Lowell.

Here's a look.

"I think that we have more than enough to prepare for," said Lowell coach Noel Dean. "They have so many different strengths, they can run the football so well, they're so big and they have great athletes."

Pretty standard comments given the nature of the opponent. Undefeated Muskegon has been whopping opponents offensively this season. In fact, their average margin of victory is a staggering 28 points. And behind a slew of standout players who won't simply crumble under the intensity of Lowell's defense, there's no question Muskegon deserves the praise. And then ...

"They have four Division One bound kids on their team," Dean added unexpectedly. "Doing the math we have one, they have four, so with that kind of situation coming in, it creates a lot of match-up problems for us."

And so the downplaying begins. And not just from Dean, but from Annese as well. As if reading from a 'How to Handle the Media Before the Biggest Game of the Year' self-help book, Annese, in kind, began his comments by touting the strengths of the Lowell Red Arrows, specifically praising senior quarterback Keith Nichol.

"They're obviously a well oiled machine and they're very well coached and have probably the best quarterback this state has seen in a couple of decades," Annese said. "Keith is an incredible football player and we're going to have

our hands full trying to throw them down. Add their scheming defense to that and they're good in every facet of the game."

Then the kicker ... "They're the toughest match-up we could possibly face," he added. "I don't see any team of the same caliber as Lowell High School."

But don't be misled. These two championship wielding coaches answer questions with sincerity and well-established respect for one another. But when opportunities to offer up some motivation are presented, you've got to take them.

For instance, who's the underdog when two undefeated teams, separated by a couple playoff points that could ultimately control the outcome given Lowell's home field advantage, take the field ranked #2 and #3 respectively?

According to Dean, his squad is going to need the Lowell faithful to make it happen.

"We're hoping the fans turn out," he said. "Because of the weather we haven't seen what we're used to. So we hope they turn out, we hope they support us, which they will because they're very loyal in those regards."

"We're going to give our best effort to see if we can't pull this upset off."

Upset? As the #3 team you can't argue with the statement. By the way, Lowell's margin of victory is 10 points better than Muskegon at 38 points per game. But both teams are undefeated and, according to Annese, both are the "most powerful teams in the state this year, who just happen to be playing for a district championship."

And, Annese took to Dean's comments with a chuckle.

"Obviously he's trying to downplay how good they are, which is the smart thing to do; but certainly we're the underdog," he said. "They're the more experienced team and Nichol has already quarterbacked a state championship team in 2004. 'Over half of our starters are still juniors,' he added in defense. "So we're the young, inexperienced team compared to them. They're the seasoned team."

But not so fast if you ask Dean.

"My business is to have my team focused on this game," he said. "Obviously there are a whole lot of different players and folks involved in this game than there were in 2004. Just trying to draw comparisons is illogical, but it's fun from a fan's perspective."

It should be noted that Dean was contacted first and wasn't aware of Annese's comments. Interestingly enough, neither coach would call out their own strengths or the other's weaknesses, only adding to the allure of what most are calling the 'Game of the Year.' One thing's for sure, both seemed excited to just be involved in the match-up, both as a coach and as fans of football.

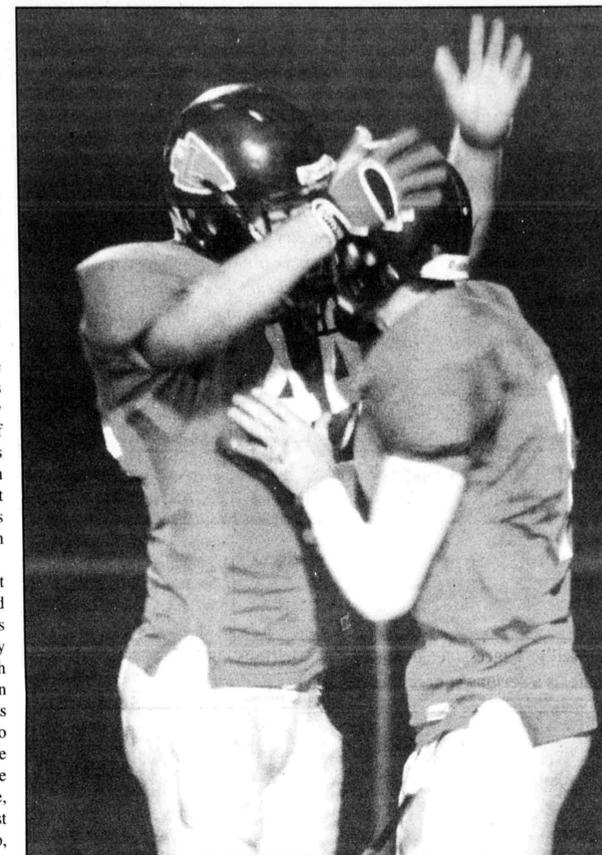
"You work hard and do what you do day-in and day-out through the months, through the years, and the hope is to build your program toward a game that is meaningful like this," Dean said. "From that standpoint it's very exciting."

"The hype is for the media and the fans," Annese said. "Every high school team that plays this weekend

has a winner and a loser, and that's the only issue we face. The hype doesn't make

sense to us, we just play the games, but it's going to bring some excitement because

we're the two powerhouses. Everyone can agree with that.



Travis Hippey and Keith Nichol celebrate a first-quarter touchdown against Greenville.



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# Sound Off

The Ledger  
"Almost"  
Anything  
Goes Column

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Or CALL...897-0787

Brief "Sound Off" comments are always welcome but will be, at times, edited for content and length. All comments are submitted by the public and do not necessarily represent the views of the Ledger. Feel free to sign your comment. For more lengthy views please consider a letter "To The Editor".

It's really nice to see cars yielding to pedestrians on Main Street. Keep it up Lowell.

Halloween trick or not. Return our gargoyle. No questions asked.



I am sick of the culture of fear the Republicans have created. The only thing I am scared of is if they stay in power much longer.

Republicans and Democrats must work together to do anything worthwhile. Those in office didn't and won't. Changing faces might help. It certainly can't hurt.

Way to go Lowell police. Keep an eye on the senior citizens. I was broadsided two times in one year. Both times by a senior citizen and yes, both times in the city of Lowell.

To the person who said the scarecrows need to go - my six year old son would be heartbroken! He worked so hard on his and he is so proud.

Send soldiers to war but don't harm embryos. Fix foreign countries, but don't fix New Orleans. Pass laws against gay marriage but do nothing about social security. We need changes.

Christopher and Brandon...shame on you for not cooperating with Lowell's finest! Oops! You ARE Lowell's finest!

A billion dollar fence won't work. Sending illegal immigrants home will. And it will save more than a billion dollars. Tell that to your gutless representatives.

Do not call lists - work. No wonder politicians exempted themselves from having to comply with the law like everyone else.

Please remember that a writer's story sometimes gets changed, but not by the writer.

Thank you Dan DesJarden for standing up for the regulations most business owners have had to comply with! It seems the planning commission needs to reread them. Rules are rules!

Come on Valley Vista neighbors. Streets are for driving on, not raking your leaves into to become someone else's problem. Bag 'em up!

Dear Pinkie, Why did you leave us? How are the rest of us flamingos to see in the dark without your neon pink to guide us? We miss you! Please come home.

Thanks to the person who decided to beat a poor defenseless cat on the windshield of my car & then leave it on my door step. You are sick!

Please let women make their own decisions. It shouldn't be determined by the law, or by men for that matter.

Contrary to belief... The Lily Pad Candle Shoppe is still open!

Why shouldn't Dick spend 41 million of his own money? Him & his friends stand to gain much more than that if he gets this office.

If you don't like the Republican or Democratic candidate, vote a "third party". Just make sure you vote.

Congratulations on your 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd and 1004th Lowell wins, coach Dean and all. The Lowell community appreciates you and will be there on Saturday to cheer on the team for win #105!

I took a lie detector test and lied to almost a quarter of the questions that were asked. I still passed the test. They are a joke and should be outlawed.

Well Mr. Black, I think you have been hanging around those marijuana patches a little too long and that's why you think dem dere little birdies are good to eat.

I want to thank Ruth W. She's very sweet, thoughtful and helpful to everyone that comes into Meijer. God bless you darling.

To the senior citizen the cops keep picking on. My son's been pulled over four times. They do look at the teenagers too.

There's no problem on the farm with mourning doves. Try deer, wild turkey and geese. Vote No on Proposal 3.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR RENT HELP WANTED SERVICES SERVICES

**BED** - A new king pillowtop mattress, with warranty, must sell. \$175. Call 616-949-2683. Can deliver.

**SINGLE/DOUBLEWIDES** - starting at \$615. 3 bed/2 bath. **Valley Vista Village**, 1800 W. Main St. 616-897-8427 Stop by and visit with us. Not ready to buy, ask about our new rent to own program. [www.HometownAmerica.com](http://www.HometownAmerica.com)

**MATTRESS/BOX SPRINGS** - Brand new, \$69/set. Twin, full, queen, delivery available. Dennis Distributing, 989-224-4822.

**2003 ARCTICAT/FIRE CAT F5** - snowpro, studded track, low miles, very well taken care of. \$3,600. Call 691-6007.

**BED & MATTRESS SET** - Queen pillowtop (new, in plastic), never used, comes with warranty, \$140. Call 517-719-8062.

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE** - By the bundle \$6, by the p/u truck load \$65, you p/u and haul. 868-0208. Seasoned hardwood: cherry, oak & maple.

**BUNK BED** - Deer hunter special, \$79. Solid oak, good condition. Dennis Distributing, 315 N. Lansing, St. Johns, 989-224-4822.

**FOR SALE** - 2000 Dodge Ram 1500 SLT ext. cab. New trans. Great truck. Must sell, \$12,000 obo. Call 885-4589.

**APPLIANCES** - Refrigerators, stoves, washers & dryers. Reconditioned & warranted from \$69. Delivery available. Dennis Distributing, 315 N. Lansing, St. Johns, 989-224-4822.

**FOR SALE** - 1997 Dodge 4-wheel drive pickup. New tires & brakes. 137,900 miles. \$5,500. Call 897-7726.

**I BUY FURNITURE, APPLIANCES** - (good shape). 989-224-1297.

**BED A VISCO TEMPUR-PEDIC** - style mattress set. Total support, relieves back pain. 20-year warranty. Store price \$1899, will sell \$899. Never used. 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160. Can deliver.

**A BED** - A Queen pillowtop mattress set. Brand new, in plastic, warranty, \$109. Can deliver. 616-318-6998.

**AIR BED** - Selecta comfort firmness for each of you. Harmony 5000 pillowtop set. Dual chambers. Digital number remote. Never used. Mall price \$1799, sell \$1099. 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160.

**BEDS \* BEDS \* BEDS** - Year end closeout "Sale". All 2006 styles must go at reduced prices. All sizes. Large selection. No bait & switch fake pillowtops or used hotel. 616-682-4767 or 616-293-6160. Can deliver.

**GOLF BALLS FOR SALE** - Previously experienced all in perfect condition - Titleist & Precept, \$6 per doz.; Pinnacle & Nike, \$5 per doz.; Top-Flite, \$4 per doz. or 3 doz. for \$10.. Many other brands also. Call 897-1355.

**OPEN HOUSE** - Sun., Nov. 5th, 1 to 3, 11835 Alden Ct. New walkout ranch, new development near Murray Lake, \$199,900. Vander-Klok Builders, 897-7145.

**BEDROOM SET** - New 6 pc. set with sleigh bed! Value \$1,900, must sell \$575. Can deliver. 616-949-6525.

**HEAVY DUTY 42" LAWN SWEEPER** - gently used, pulls behind mower easily (pick up leaves/twigs). \$125. Call 691-6007.

**COMPOUND BOW FOR SALE** - \$45. Call 897-7145.

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**PAPASAN CHAIRS** - (2) & stool with cushions, \$25 each for chairs & \$10 for stool. 855-6371.

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**SOFA AND LOVESEAT** - stain resistant, lifetime warranty! Brand new, still in factory boxes. Value \$1,400, sell \$470. Call 616-318-6998.

**1986 DODGE 150 PICK UP** - has wooden flat bed, runs good. Would make nice farm truck. \$350 or best offer. Call 616-374-4109.

**BEAGLE DOGS** - 2 females, 1 male, registered with papers, field champion. Must sell due to illness. 868-7001.

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**FOR RENT** - 1 & 2 bedroom trailers in Lowell. \$400-\$420 per mo. plus 1 mo. rent deposit. No dogs please. Call 813-8041 or 616-754-0276.

**HOUSE FOR RENT** - in Ada. Large yard, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1st months rent & deposit. Appliances included. Call 676-3378.

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**INDOOR STORAGE** - Motorhomes, hot rods, RVs of all kinds. Also outdoor covered. Oct. 15 - April 15, \$150. Call 616-527-3974.

**AVAILABLE JAN. 1ST** - upstairs 1 bedroom apt. in Lowell, \$650 includes utilities. Call 897-7176.

**FOR RENT** - Lowell Veterans Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.

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**WANTED** - Trundle bed, 897-2655.

**EVENTS**

**LOWELL/CALEDONIA HOCKEY ALUMNI GAME** - 7-8:30 p.m. on Dec. 30, 2006 at Patterson Ice Arena.

**ANTIQUA SHOW** - November 4, Barry County Fairgrounds Complex. A large variety of antiques. Show located on M-37 south of Middleville. Sat. 10-6. \$3.00 admission.

**PUBLIC SIGHT-IN** - Quake-Zik Sportsman's Club will host a supervised fall sight-in at their range facility at 8731 West Riverside Drive. The sight-in will be November 4th and 5th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 per gun with targets and assistance provided. Everyone is welcome. For more information go to [www.Qua-Ke-Zik.org](http://www.Qua-Ke-Zik.org).

**MOVING SALE** - Fri. & Sat., Nov. 3 & 4, noon to 5 p.m. 251 Valley Vista Dr. Some handicapped equipment, furniture, antiques & office equipment.

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In loving memory of **Harold Bertran** who passed away 3 years ago November 3. Forever in our hearts. Dad, Wayne, Pam, Linda, Bob, Rob, Brian & Ryan

**SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** - at 3189 Snow Ave SE will serve a family style turkey & dressing dinner on Wed., Nov. 8, starting at 5:30 p.m. Adults are \$8, children 6-12 are \$2 & children 5 & under are free. Takeout dinners also available.

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**SALES**

**FOR SALE** - 2000 Dodge Ram 1500 SLT ext. cab. New trans. Great truck. Must sell, \$12,000 obo. Call 885-4589.

**APPLIANCES** - Refrigerators, stoves, washers & dryers. Reconditioned & warranted from \$69. Delivery available. Dennis Distributing, 315 N. Lansing, St. Johns, 989-224-4822.

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**Family Links**  
for Bushnell and Cherry Creek Elementary Schools would like to say a **BIG** thank you to all of the fathers for taking time out of your busy day to volunteer at our schools for "Dads Volunteer Day."  
Thank you again, you made our day.

**BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE SYNOPSIS**

Motions Approved:  
Minutes of September meeting.  
List of invoices presented,  
Advertise for Bids for Specific museum repairs.  
DDA Citizens Council appointed.  
Snowplowing bid awarded.  
Seminar for Treasurer.

Copies of entire minutes available at the website [bownetwp.cc](http://bownetwp.cc).

Sandra L. Kowalczyk  
Bowne Township Clerk



## MELISSA CASALINA

for the  
**86th District State House**

**Education**  
Our schools deserve better funding. Our families deserve higher standards.

**Budget**  
Replace the SBT. Be fair to business and don't hurt our kids or seniors.

**Environment**  
Our water makes us great. We need to protect our groundwater and stop diversification.

**Health Care**  
Make Michigan a winner. Provide real access to insurance and cut costs with prevention.

**Melissa Casalina**  
That's just common sense.

**ON NOVEMBER 7**

**VOTE MELISSA CASALINA**  
**86TH STATE HOUSE**

[WWW.86CASA.COM](http://WWW.86CASA.COM)

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT MELISSA CASALINA TO STATE HOUSE,  
P.O. BOX 388, LOWELL, MICHIGAN 49331



**Family Links**  
for Bushnell and Cherry Creek Elementary Schools would like to say a **BIG** thank you to all of the fathers for taking time out of your busy day to volunteer at our schools for "Dads Volunteer Day."  
Thank you again, you made our day.

**BOWNE TOWNSHIP NOTICE SYNOPSIS**

Motions Approved:  
Minutes of September meeting.  
List of invoices presented,  
Advertise for Bids for Specific museum repairs.  
DDA Citizens Council appointed.  
Snowplowing bid awarded.  
Seminar for Treasurer.

Copies of entire minutes available at the website [bownetwp.cc](http://bownetwp.cc).

Sandra L. Kowalczyk  
Bowne Township Clerk

**GO RED ARROWS!!!**

**Good**  
CHEVROLET BUICK

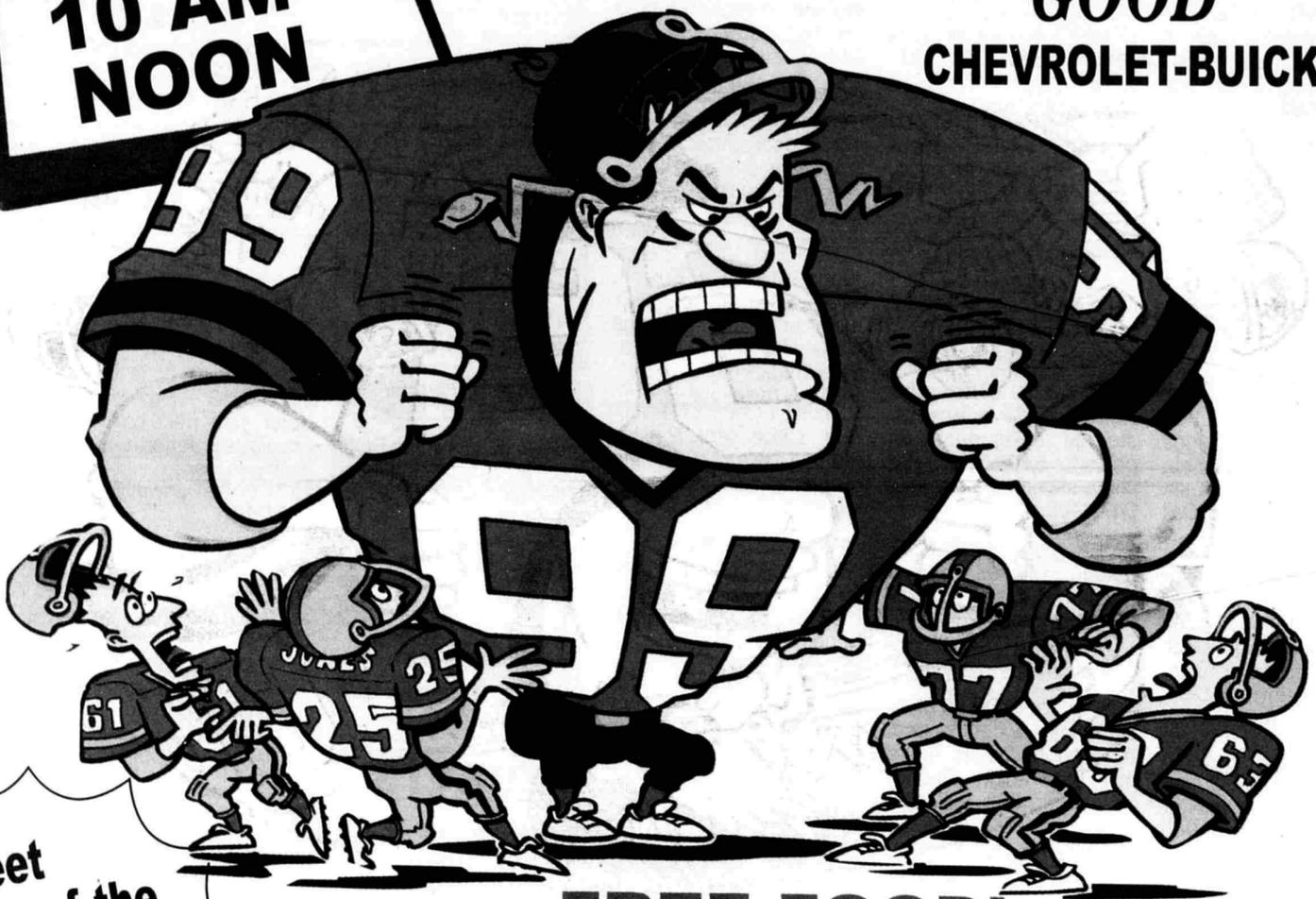
**& 1340am**  
**SPORTS**  
**WBBL**

LIVE RADIO  
PRE-GAME  
REMOTE  
**SATURDAY**  
10 AM -  
NOON

# THE BIG GAME

## TAILGATE PARTY *at*

**GOOD**  
CHEVROLET-BUICK



Meet  
members of the  
WBBL Game Day  
Broadcast Team!  
Including Brett Muller,  
The Hit Man  
from the Huge Show!

- **FREE FOOD!**
- **FREE** Face Painting for the kids!
- **FREE** Black & Red balloons!
- **FREE** Lowell-Muskegon Game-Day Gift!

**TAILGATE HELD REGARDLESS OF WEATHER -  
We Can Move Indoors If Needed!**

**AN AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION**

**Good**  
CHEVROLET BUICK

**BUICK**  
BEYOND PRECISION™

**GM**  
Certified  
USED VEHICLES

**“Great Deals From GOOD People”**

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HOURS: MON & WED - 8-8;  
TUES, THURS & FRI - 8-6; SAT - 9-1

Kurt Hieshetter • Charlie Craig • Steve Thomet • Clayton Marvel • Dirk Eppinga • Rob Stehley