

The Lowell Ledger

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Wednesday, March 28, 2007



Lowell takes it off!

Lowell beats Greenville in weight challenge

By Emma Palova

Lowell melted away more pounds per person than Greenville in the recent 10-week Community Wellness weight loss challenge.

So, Jerry Dykstra a.k.a. "Slim" of the Lowell Just Plain Losers winning team will have to get his wedding ring and blood pressure medication readjusted as a result of his lost weight.

"I may be able to get off blood pressure medication," said Dykstra.

And the winning team members vowed to continue with the weight loss program started through the Community Wellness in January.

The face-off with Greenville gave the program a competitive edge, even though Lowell lost only 0.4 pounds more person than Greenville.

"I am sure they'll think they lost more," said Community Wellness director Patty Sellner. "The point is to learn how to live right."

For many, the

participation in the weight loss challenge was exactly the push they needed, according to Sellner.

"It was a shove to get started," said Sellner. "Each team takes a life of its own."

Indeed, the Just Plain Losers, may have had an advantage. Their captain was Dr. John Mogor of Lowell Medical Specialists.

Mogor needed to lose 11 pounds to be within healthy weight margins. He called up Dykstra, Joe Melle and Scott Carpenter to form a team the morning of the weight loss start.

"I ate a more balanced diet in reasonable portions," said Mogor. "I exercised."

Weight challenge, cont'd., pg. 3

Scott Carpenter, Joe Melle, Jerry Dykstra and Dr. John Mogor pose with 1,339 pounds of bird seed, equal to Lowell's total weight loss, in front of Blue Ribbon Feed.

Power utility frustrated over tree cutting charges

By Emma Palova

Lowell Light and Power officials feel penalized by the City Council's action that required the utility to pay \$17,000 to the city for cutting trees last year.

Lowell Light and Power board chairman Dave Austin on March 20 expressed his frustration.

Two weeks ago the city council passed a motion requesting the utility to pay a lump sum into the city tree fund mainly for cutting trees on Bowes Road.

"For us to say yes we

approve, is like saying yes the board did something bad," said Austin.

The utility board instead would consider a periodic contribution to the tree fund not as a restitution or penalty if the city contributes the same amount as well.

"This will be a continued effort to show cooperation between the city and Lowell Light and Power," said Austin.

Last year, the utility cut down 83 trees on Bowes Road, and trimmed trees on the other side of the street to install transmission lines.

The trees were trimmed to comply with the industry standards of 10-foot clearances from the power lines.

Previously, council member Jim Pfaller questioned the utility's credibility in communicating

the extent of the project to the residents. "They didn't tell the whole story," said Pfaller.

Austin, who is leaving the LL&P board to assume new duties on a different board, admitted he was

shocked what Bowes Road looked like after the project.

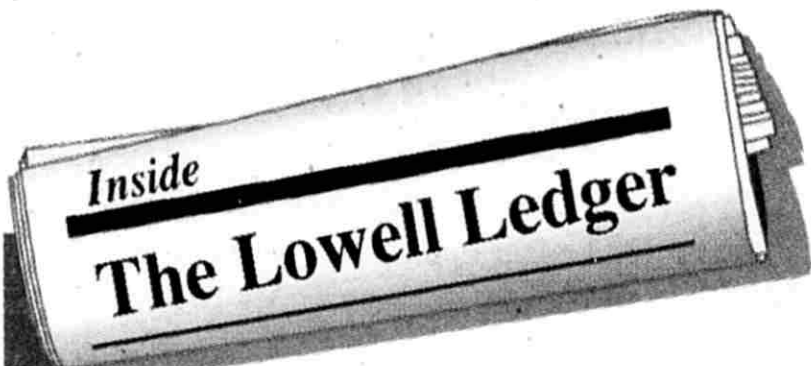
"We didn't have the vision," he said. "We focused on the installation of transmission lines. The utility shouldn't be in the tree business."

Last summer, in response to the tree controversy, the city developed a new policy. The cutting of trees in the city right-of-way has to be now approved by

Trees, cont'd., pg. 16



Lowell Light & Power board chairman Dave Austin, LL&P manager Tom Richards and city clerk Betty Morlock sit in a joint work session between the city and LL&P.



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Obituaries

COOK
James Byron Cook, Sr., age 85, died Friday, March 23, 2007 with his family at his side. He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years Dora Jane Thomas; son, James B. Cook, Jr.; sister and brother-in-law, Doris and Robert Herrick; and his sister-in-law and her husband, Ethel and Gould O. Rivette. Jim is survived by his daughter-in-law, Berdie L. Cook; three granddaughters, Jamie and Christopher Frain, Jennifer and Aaron Kik, and Cindy Cook and Randall Flynn; four great-grandchildren, Victoria and Taylor Kik, and Tyson and Boomer Frain; two nieces, Mary Del Hummel and Jane Ann Rivette; and great niece and nephew, Rosmond and Jacob Daniels. Jim grew up in East Grand Rapids and derived much enjoyment from playing high school football. He served in the United States Coast Guard Reserve, operated the family business, Attwood Brass Foundry, farmed with his wife, son and daughter-in-law, and served as the Vergennes Township Supervisor and Assessor. Funeral services were held

BOORSMA
Alice D. Boorsma, born November 22, 1920, died March 25, 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband Ernest "Boots" Boorsma February 19, 2003, and an infant son Gerald in 1943. Surviving are one son, Ronald (Jacqueline) Boorsma of Alto; one daughter Staranne (and her long-time friend Lyn Parks) Nicklow of East Grand Rapids; eight grandchildren, Judy Boorsma, Jill (Mark) Jewell, Jennifer Boorsma, Joel Boorsma, Jason (Megan) Boorsma, Barbara (and her friend Tracey Buksar) Nicklow, Beth (and her friend Scott Gillespie) Perez, Michael (Melonie) Nicklow; nine great-grandchildren; one sister, Patricia (Leonard) Webster of Crossville, TN; two sisters-in-law,

Wilma Boersen and Tres Robinson; many nieces and nephews. Memorial to the Parkinson's Association of West Michigan.

CULBERT
Robert W. Culbert, aged 87, of Lowell, formerly of Hastings, passed away Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at home. He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Katherine (Klump) Culbert, his son, Jeffery Culbert and baby boy Culbert. He is survived by his caring, loving wife of 61 years, Betty (Serven) Culbert, his daughters, Martha Shattuck and Carmen Melkild, grandchildren, Kyle Shattuck, Paul Melkild, Jason Shattuck, Amber Shattuck and his great-grandchildren. Robert was born, December 19, 1919 in Caledonia and lived his entire life in the Hastings and Lowell areas. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during WWII as an Aviation Metalsmith 1/C. He attended Hastings schools, graduating in 1937. He enjoyed auto race car driving, antiquating, and was an avid reader. His cat Rosco was his buddy. He was a caring, loving, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, always doing kind deeds for his family and friends. Respecting his wishes, cremation has taken place.

HEINTZLEMAN
Mr. Daniel Phillip Heintzleman, age 56, passed away Saturday, March 24, 2007. Dan was an avid golfer and enjoyed fishing and being an active member of his bowling league. He will be remembered for is many hours of service with the Wyoming Public School System. In recognition of Dan's technical and managerial contributions to the Fine Arts Program, the Wyoming Board of Education named the Fine Arts building the Dan Heintzleman Fine Arts Center, which will always be cherished by his family. Dan will be deeply missed by his wife of 28 years, Lucy; step sons, Brian (Jane) Tagg, and Eric (Jen) Tagg; grandchildren, Brandon, Alayna, Steven, Seth, Shane, Nolan, Daniel, and Jaden; parents, William and Josephine Heintzleman; brothers and sisters, Patricia (Dan) Nowak, Tom (Debra) Heintzleman, Nancy (Dale) Triplett, Bill (Susan) Heintzleman, Doug Heintzleman, Michelle (Mark) Hemstreet, and Teresa (Jerry) Cummings; and nieces and nephews. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered Wednesday, 11 a.m. at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 4102 Clyde Park SW, with Rev. Loc Trinh presiding. Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery.

Contributions in memory of Dan may be made to the Wyoming Public Schools Fine Arts Program.



KROPP
Betty J. Kropf, aged 85, of Lowell passed away March 22, 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Bernard and daughter Karen Ann Kropf. She is survived by her children, Gary (Joanne) Kropf, Roger (Rita) Kropf, Beverly (Ronald) Anderson, Randy (Dawn) Kropf, Bronwyn Harris; grandchildren, John, Karen, Amy, Tony, Stacy, Travis, David, Carly and Colten; and many friends; Betty's love of her life were family, grandchildren and sewing. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 24, at the First Congregational Church of Lowell. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: First Congregational Church of Lowell or Flat River Ministries.

SMOES
Viola F. (Moget) Smoes, born May 28, 1924, has triumphantly won her battle with cancer, and entered into the presence

of her Lord and Savior on Sunday, March 25, 2007. Viola (Vi) was an angel for God here on earth, sharing her love and kindness with all who knew her. Vi was loved deeply and a positive influence on her children Patricia (Richard) Grasmann, John (Patricia) Smoes, Joanne (Williams) Stedman, Jerry Smoes, Bonnie (James) VanEnennaam, Mark (Jelaine) Smoes, and her 24 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren. Vi was eagerly awaiting the birth of two additional great grandchildren due this summer. She is also survived by her sister and brother-in-law Beatrice (James) VanderMoere, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded by her husband Gerald and daughter-in-law Debra Smoes. Vi will also be missed by the Ada Christian Reformed Church family where she was affectionately called Grandma Vi and where she and her friend Margaret were called the huggers. The family gratefully thanks Dr. L. Pawl and staff, and those who gave her special and tender care at Porter Hills Health Care Center for her last 26 days. A Celebration of Life in honor of Vi will be Wednesday, March 28, 2007 at 1 p.m. at the Ada Christian Reformed Church, 7152 Bradfield, Ada with Rev. Bruce Vaandrager and Rev. William Buursma officiating. Interment Findley Cemetery. In lieu of flower the family suggests gifts in Vi's honor to the World Home Bible League.

Ordinance change to regulate advertising signs in city parks

By Emma Palova

The city planning commission will work on a zoning ordinance change regulating business advertising signs in the parks.

The parks commission recently approved the use of signs by Lowell Little League for this season only with the largest sign being 32 square feet. However, the signs must come down after the season ends in July.

Currently, Lowell, like most communities, has nothing in the zoning ordinance pertaining to advertising signs in public spaces.

Little League along

with the future dog park organizers requested the approval to use sponsor signs to offset their costs.

However, some commissioners were concerned the city parks may start looking like a billboard with too many sponsor signs.

"We need to look at a change in the zoning ordinance whether we want to turn our parks into billboards," said commissioner Mark Mundt.

"The potential is for a lot of signs on city property."

However, Toby Alderink of Little League argued the signs will show that local businesses support the kids.

"We're doing this for the kids," said Alderink. "This is what ball fields are for. They are for advertising."

Under fire came the Farmer's Market sign at the fairgrounds which is considered a governmental sign.

"What you're asking for is a sign from a vendor who is paying," said manager Dave Pasquale.

With the upcoming \$5 user fees for parks, the community organizations are facing increasing costs.

"We have new expenses with breakaway bases and user fees," said Alderink.

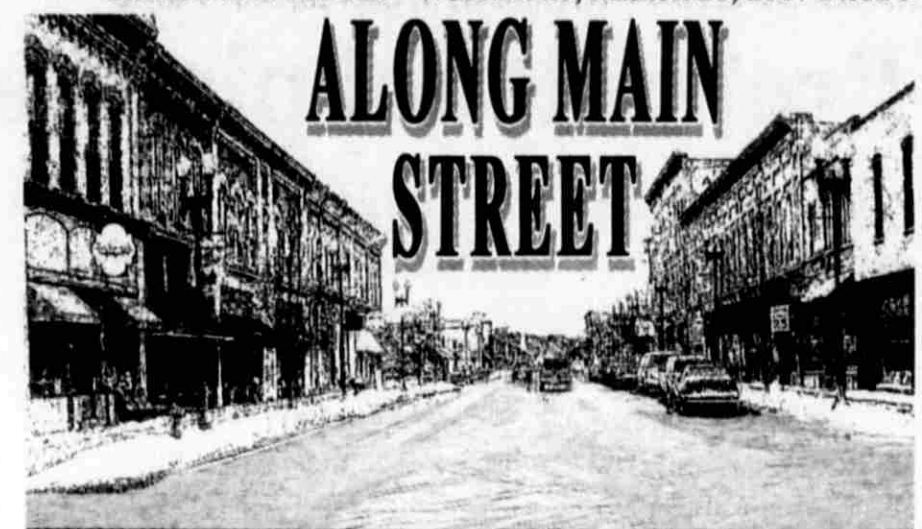
According to Alderink, bringing a tournament into the community would bring exposure to businesses.

"The signs will be right there," said Alderink. "We're not trying to make the city ball fields look like a billboard, but to look like a field where people play ball."

Parks commission chairman Perry Beachum said the signs at the fields are a means of support for local organizations.

Little League board members will be in charge of putting up the signs and taking them down this year, mainly at the Creekside Park.

"We need some limit so the signs aren't everywhere," said commissioner Laurie Noall.



LOWELL MOOSE EASTER EGG HUNT
Saturday, April 7 at Creekside Park. 1-3 yr. 11a.m.; 4-6 yr. 11:45 a.m. 7-9 yr. 12:30 p.m.

BLUEGRASS HOTBANDS FUNDRAISER
April 7 at TJ's Bar & Grille in Lowell. Two bands, big jam session, food. All for \$5. Begins at 6:30 p.m.

LAS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB MEETING
The Athletic Boosters will hold their regular business meeting in the high school staff lounge on Monday, April 9 at 7 p.m. Please come and help support our athletes.

LOWELL AREA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
Open meeting, April 10, 7 p.m. at the Lowell Fire Barn, 315 S. Hudson. Public invited. 897-5314.

COMMUNITY GARLIC MUSTARD PULLS
April 18 at 6 p.m. at the Boy Scout cabin, end of N. Washington Street. April 22 at 2 p.m. at Stoney Lakeside Park. For more information contact Peggy at 897-7948.

TOTS SPRING ALMOST NEW SALE
April 28, 9 a.m. to noon at the Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center Gym, 300 High Street, Lowell. Bring your own tables. Set-up from 8 - 9 a.m. Call Kathy at 987-2532 to reserve space. Participation is free.

FIRE & WATER ART
Will be featuring photographers Patti Sevensma and Kim VandenBerg. Community event with an open house Sunday, April 29, 2-4 p.m., 219 W. Main, downtown Lowell.

SHOWBOAT NOSTALGIA TALENT SEARCH
Don't pass up this historic opportunity to perform at Showboat Nostalgia this summer. Amateur Act application deadline is May 1. Visit www.discoverlowell.org for further details.

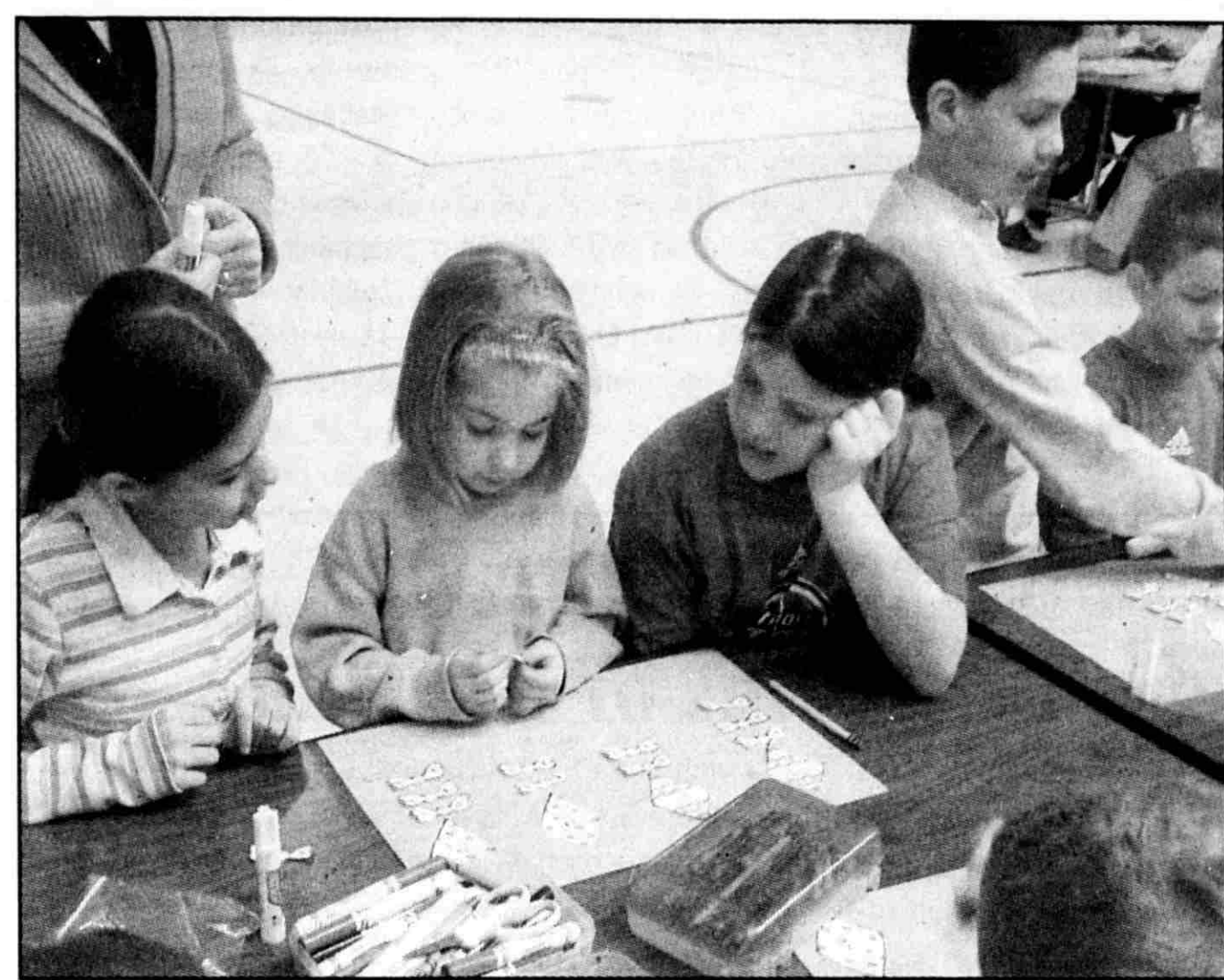
CLASS OF 1997
Attention Class of 1997, it is our 10 year class reunion this summer. August 18 is the day reserved. Please contact Heidi Barber (Noskey) at 616-642-0738 or by email hbarber79@hotmail.com, with your address or if you are interested in helping.

DIRECTORS/PRODUCERS NEEDED
The Thebes Players are seeking directors and producers for the following productions: Velvetene Rabbit (Youth Theatre Production) Oct. 2007; Moon Over Buffalo, Production: Feb. 2008; Honk! (Youth Theatre Production), May 2008; Jake's Women, Production: June 2008. Interested applicants must submit a theatre experience resume by April 28 to LAAC (Thebes Players), PO Box 53, Lowell, MI 49331. For more information call 616-897-8545 or e-mail: info@lowellartscouncil.org or go to our website at www.lowellartscouncil.org.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The City of Lowell is seeking an F-4, F-3 or F-2 licensed water plant operator or person with the ability to obtain the required state license within one year to work in their lime softening and filtration plant. Salary commensurate with experience and education. College, science and mechanical background is preferred. Send resume to Lowell City Hall, Attn: City Manager, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331 by Friday, April 13, 2007.

Math buddies help each other add up the answers



Rachel Millhisler's fourth grade students are partnering with first grade students in Marilyn Hughes' class at Alto Elementary. The two classes get together twice a month to do math activities. This gives the first grade students extra math practice in a one on one situation. The fourth-graders are also benefiting by using their math skills to help their "buddy." They have done fact family activities, place value, and practicing basic facts. Both classes look forward to getting together. Pictured left to right: Hanna Fallstrom (4th grade) Anna Smith (1st grade) and Breanna Oesch (4th grade).

Weight challenge, continued ... From Page 1

Mogor said the weekly monitoring of weight helped determine what works and what doesn't.

"The program was very informative and encouraging," said Mogor. "We had a good supportive environment."

Mogor recommends

avoiding empty calories, while eating more vegetables, fruits and carbohydrates.

"It was very energizing to watch them melt away pounds," said Sellner. "There will be success stories like Jerry's and Dr. Mogor's all over the town."

To celebrate Lowell's

victory, Carpenter, of Blue Ribbon Feed, stacked up 1,339 pounds of bird seed to match Lowell's total weight loss. Later, Carpenter and Dykstra took off for lunch not disclosing what they were going to eat.

The next Community

Wellness program is the walking program starting Memorial Day and running through Labor Day.

I ♥ BNI

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SHOOTER (R) 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35
PREMONITION (PG-13) 1:35, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50
300 (R) 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40
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Professional planners to review site plans

By Emma Palova

Professional planners will now review the city's site plans mainly to go over technical issues such as drainage and lighting. The city planning commission Monday approved Williams and Works to contract with the city on hourly basis. Senior planners at the firm charge \$110 per hour.

Commissioner Mark Mundt recommended Williams and Works, chosen from five prospective planners, based on their work for Vergennes Township. The cost of site plan reviews will be passed on to applicants, while Williams and Works will set the minimum criteria needed for reviews based on the complexity of projects.

Complex planned unit development (PUD) projects will need professional reviews, according to manager Dave Pasquale. "We might do a hit and miss review," said commissioner Jim Hall. "That's where we fall short, who knows if we've covered everything."

For training purposes, the planning commission hired LSL Planning based in Grand Rapids for \$650. The planning commission is expected to hold a training session on the second Monday in May. Effective this July, the planning body will be downsized to seven members, following city council's action in March.

In related business, Greg Canfield requested the rezoning of property on South Washington from multiple residential to light industrial for the construction of a warehouse. Canfield will be coming back to the planning commission with a site plan and a request for an eight-foot setback variance. His site plan will already be reviewed by the newly contracted Williams and Works firm based in Grand Rapids.

Planning commission discusses fowl and slashes time for projects

By Emma Palova

The city planners Monday allotted more time to discuss fowl, and put time limits on construction projects.

Residential construction projects now must be completed within 12 months, and commercial projects within 18 months.

The city building inspector can extend the time limits in extenuating circumstances.

On the fowl issue, the commission further discussed the keeping of fowl inside homes although a proposed zoning ordinance change addresses outside fowl only. The amendment would allow for two animals on at least 0.5 acres by special use permit.

"What bothers me the most is that we are not setting a limit on keeping animals inside homes," said commissioner Garland Berry. Berry argued that if the city has a limit of three dogs per house, whether inside or outside, why does it not have a limit on other animals as well.

He proposed a limit of two chickens inside the house in addition to dogs. Planning commission Chair Maryalene LaPonsie said any action in this event would need to exclude hamsters.

It remained questionable though whether anyone would keep chickens inside the house.

However, commissioner Mark Mundt said the keeping of animals inside is up to the owners. "We don't need to regulate people in their homes," said Mundt. "That is up to the health department."

Berry continued to argue that the same limit on dogs inside should apply to chickens kept inside. The issue of inside animals not resolved, the commission voted to set a public hearing on the ordinance change regarding outside animals. The hearing will take place at the next meeting April 23.

Becky Bossard, a Lowell High School graduate, has received her athletic letter for Hope College winter sports. Hope teams captured one of the four Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) winter sports championships. Hope was champion in men's basketball. Women's basketball, men's and women's swimming/diving finished in second place.

Hope is also in first place in the MIAA Commissioner's Cup standings after the winter season. The Commissioner's Cup is presented to the MIAA member school with the best cumulative standings in the 18 sports sponsored by the MIAA.

College News

From Alto: **Joffrey B. Craven, Harmony L. Gould, Eric J. Gruber, Mike Meyers, and Lauren M. Ondersma.**

From Lowell: **Rachel L. Cattanaach, Bradley J. Eldridge, Lindsey E. Plescher, and Joseph A. VanLaan.**

More than 900 students earned degrees from Grand Valley State University in December.

From Ada: **Michael T. Fisher, Amy L. Gigandet, Andrew P. Johnson, Aaron M. Korodan, Philip L. Kowatch, Douglas W. LaFave, Katherine A. LaMore, Kathy J. Lee, Patricia L. Sabin, and Laura E. Sukup.**

Lowell students reach out to victims of Katrina

Alto Student Council and Lowell High School Student Council pooled efforts to help kids in the Biloxi, Mississippi area. Many families in the area are still living in FEMA trailers a year and a half after Hurricane Katrina. After school, The Boys and Girls Club of the Gulf Coast meets at Gorenflo Elementary School to provide fun, supervised and educational activities for the kids ages 5 to 18. During the month of March, Alto Elementary collected supplies and coins to help the kids. Students collected items such as construction paper, hot glue guns and sticks, craft kits, activity books, educational CD-ROMS and "prizes" students can "buy" at the club store. The coin collection became a challenge between grade levels to see who could collect the most coins. The coins were then used to buy additional supplies above what the students brought in. The supplies will be sent on the bus with Lowell High School Alternative Spring Break students in April.

The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four Americans is suffering from some form of mental illness. Think of your three best friends. If they're okay, then it's you.

- Rita Mae Brown

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Viewpoint



If you are a regular reader of this column, it won't come as a big surprise to learn that I'm not one to heed every warning that comes down the pike. Sure, my "caution on the winds" mentality bites me from time to time. No, at my age I'm not about to change much.

This design flaw of mine goes way, way back. My dad loved to tell a story from before I can remember. I was two or three and dressed in my Sunday best. Might have been Easter. I had been sternly, and repeatedly warned to not play in a mud puddle while waiting for the car to be loaded. You know what comes next. Yup, mud on my good clothes.

The surprise was that my mother rolled her cool. She threw me down in the mud puddle and lusted me around in it until I was covered in mud. She had to clean us both, and then change us into something less than our Sunday best. Back in those days, people didn't have a closet full of clothing choices. The Gap wasn't around yet. Oh, and we didn't have any money either.

So, did I learn a lesson from this? Heck no! Another good example comes from a few years later. It was summer and I was staying with my cousins on their dairy farm. The story involves bananas, pop guns and my Aunt Kakkie. A cousin and I figured out that a piece of banana smushed down the muzzle of a pop gun made a pretty good projectile. As they say, boys will be boys.

My cousin and I were outside, perched on the old Farmall Super C and blasting away at each other with bananas. Aunt Kakkie stood in the kitchen window doing dishes. She hollered that we should eat our bananas and not waste them. We took aim at her. A stern warning about being very sorry if we shot at her was, of course, interpreted as an invitation. We missed Aunt Kakkie, but bananas splattered the window.

Aunt Kakkie was a no-nonsense farm gal with five kids, a husband and a herd of cows. Before we knew what hit us she had us each by an ear. We spent a nice summer afternoon washing windows. Did it teach me a lesson about warnings? My cousin maybe...not me.

It has been about 50 years since the pop guns and bananas incident. I'm guessing I could finish out the year with columns written on this subject.

Such a series of columns would include 10 years of smoking cigarettes with a cancer warning on the package. How about super sizing my Big Mac while letting out my belt and reaching for the Lipitor? Another column might include automaker recalls regarding possible brake failures or engine fires. Those are wadded up and "sky hooked" in the direction of the circular file. The list goes on and on.

There have recently been product warnings about lettuce, dog food and peanut butter contamination. Just for grins I made myself a "PBLMB." That's the "PB" from a PB&J (peanut butter and jelly). The "L" is from a BLT (bacon, lettuce and tomato). The "MB" is a Milk Bone. We were out of bread. Just kidding, but we didn't throw out our lettuce, or peanut butter. And, we especially didn't throw out 50 bucks worth of dog food!

So, you get the drift. I'm not prone to heeding a warning. I wish you could see this keyboard I'm pecking away at. My O negative is everywhere. And that brings us to my latest failure to heed a warning.

I have been working on a ceramic tile project here at the

house. I've monkeyed around with a small tile job here and there, but this is about 600 square feet. I went at it with my usual disregard for caution. Think of a highly-caffeinated teenage boy on a snowboard.

Directions on the bags of thin-set mortar are covered with warnings about the caustic effect on exposed skin. Eye protection, gloves, protective clothing and all that stuff is highly recommended. Yeah, yeah, yeah and I've worked with concrete and mortar before. Sure it tears your hands up a little. No big deal.

I worked setting tile for two solid days over the weekend. No gloves. No long sleeves. I did wear kneepads, but that was it for protection. The tiles have a sharp edge so I now have several small cuts on my fingertips from wiping away excess mortar. I also worked up a couple blisters. There also may have been an existing cut or nick. The end result is, the warnings on the thin-set were there for a reason.

The caustic thin-set went to work in every, cut, nick or blister. My right hand now looks like hamburger. I have band-aids everywhere I can keep one in place. All day Monday I would have answered to "Lefty." Ever try to zip up your pants with your left hand if you're a "rightie?"

This is Tuesday morning. When I went to bed last night I had serious doubts about being able to type this column. By morning the swelling in my hand has gone down considerably. The wounds are beginning to heal over and I'm on the road to recovery. I do have to clean up this keyboard before my wife sees it.

My travels took me by a building supply center yesterday. I picked up not one, but two pair of heavy-duty rubber gloves. I'm only about half done with that tile job. Hey, I may not be very good at heeding warnings, but I've only been rolled in the mud once. I have only washed banana-smear windows once. And, I'm only going to go through this hamburger-hand thing once.

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

A recent article in the Lowell Ledger stated "Council blasted for lack of action on North Washington property." The 27-acre city-owned property has been an ongoing controversy for over a year. I see the outcry from the constituents of the City of Lowell as only going to deaf ears. The city Council said they are not looking at selling all the property and only want to put a few homes in the front. It is hard for me to understand what a couple of homes is going to do to benefit the city of Lowell? My estimate not much. I have come to the conclusion that the Boy Scout Troop 102 is just being jerked around by the City Council and the City Council's only intention is selling this property. I can't speak for the Lowell community, but I would like to believe that they are fully behind the Boy Scout Troop 102 that has given more to the community of Lowell than the city of Lowell would ever gain monetarily from selling this property. I also believe that the mayor and the city Council are servants to the constituents of Lowell and the constituents of Lowell should be looking for a mayor and a council that conforms.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard

Dear Editor,

Perception and truth do not always meet in the same sentence. The promotional name "2 penny tax" on services gives the perception of a painless and inexpensive way to gather more tax dollars. The two percent tax is only two pennies when you are referring to one dollar to one service provider. Doing the math shows that the two percent tax will cost us 20 cents on ten dollars, \$2.00 on every one hundred dollars, and if we should spend \$100,000 to buy a home the tax will be \$2,000. If you use two or more services in that same purchase, you will pay the two percent tax again and again on each taxed service used. This is an insidious way to overtax the citizens of Michigan. Improving our economy makes more sense than overtaxing us. Increasing taxes will

not improve the economy. The better the economy, the more the spending, and the more tax dollars gathered. We do need tax reform in Michigan but the governor's plan, a pyramid plan of taxing, does not consider the negative ramifications of this type of taxation to our state's economy.

Sincerely,
Suzie Reinbold

Dear Editor,

My car was stuck at the Lowell boat launch last Thursday, being late we decided to get it out the next day. Meanwhile the river rose about three feet that night and at 3 a.m. The Kent County Sheriff's Dept. decided they better have it towed to ensure it wasn't swept away. No problem. They called one of the companies on their "towing list" and when we went to pick up the car (14 hours later) we were charged an unbelievable \$298! "Affordable" my butt. Companies should not be allowed to gouge people, especially when it is apparent they are abusing the situation to their advantage.

Mike Bowers

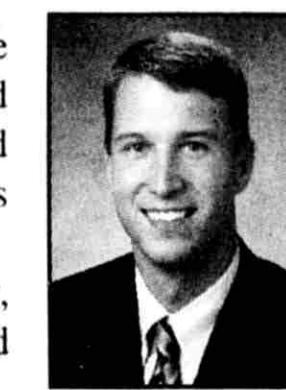
CORRECTION:

Last week in *To The Editor* a letter beginning, "I submit yet another installment to the occasional reports..." the signature was omitted. It should have been signed, G.M. Ross. We apologize for any confusion.

Letters, Letters, Letters...

We love to hear from you!

The Lowell Ledger - welcomes all "Letters to the Editor" for publication on its "Viewpoint" page. Letters can be typed or written. However, we ask that they not exceed 250 words and not be strictly thank you letters. "Letters to the Editor" should be sent to the Lowell Ledger, 105 N. Broadway, P.O. Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or emailed to: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com. Letters must be signed and please include a phone number. Editing may be necessary for space, clarity and to avoid obscenity, libel or invasion of privacy. The Lowell Ledger thanks you in advance for your cooperation.



Plan to bring relief to Michigan property taxpayers

With Rep. Dave Hildenbrand

While families across Michigan are being hit hard by increases in their property tax assessments, my state House Republican colleagues and I are responding with a comprehensive and long-term plan to provide property tax relief and reform for Michigan homeowners.

Homeowners across the state are faced with dramatic increases in their property taxes while the value of their homes is decreasing. Our plan offers vital relief for the countless Michigan families already struggling to pay the bills.

The plan would:

Create a "supercap" on property tax increases by limiting or prohibiting increases in the taxable value of a home when the market value of that home increases by less than inflation;

Establish a Homeowners' Bill of Rights to ease the burden on Michigan taxpayers; and Reduces the amount a property's taxable value increases when sold (the "pop-up tax") and equalize tax rates across communities.

A prosperous state economy will come when we have people who can afford to live and work in Michigan, not by forcing the ones already here to pay more taxes. With real reform and by restructuring our tax system, we will help to bring Michigan out of its single-state recession and help families and the state prosper.

Representative Hildenbrand can be contacted toll-free at: (877) 328-3086; or via e-mail: HYPERLINK "mailto:rephildenbrand@house.mi.gov" rephildenbrand@house.mi.gov; or P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909.

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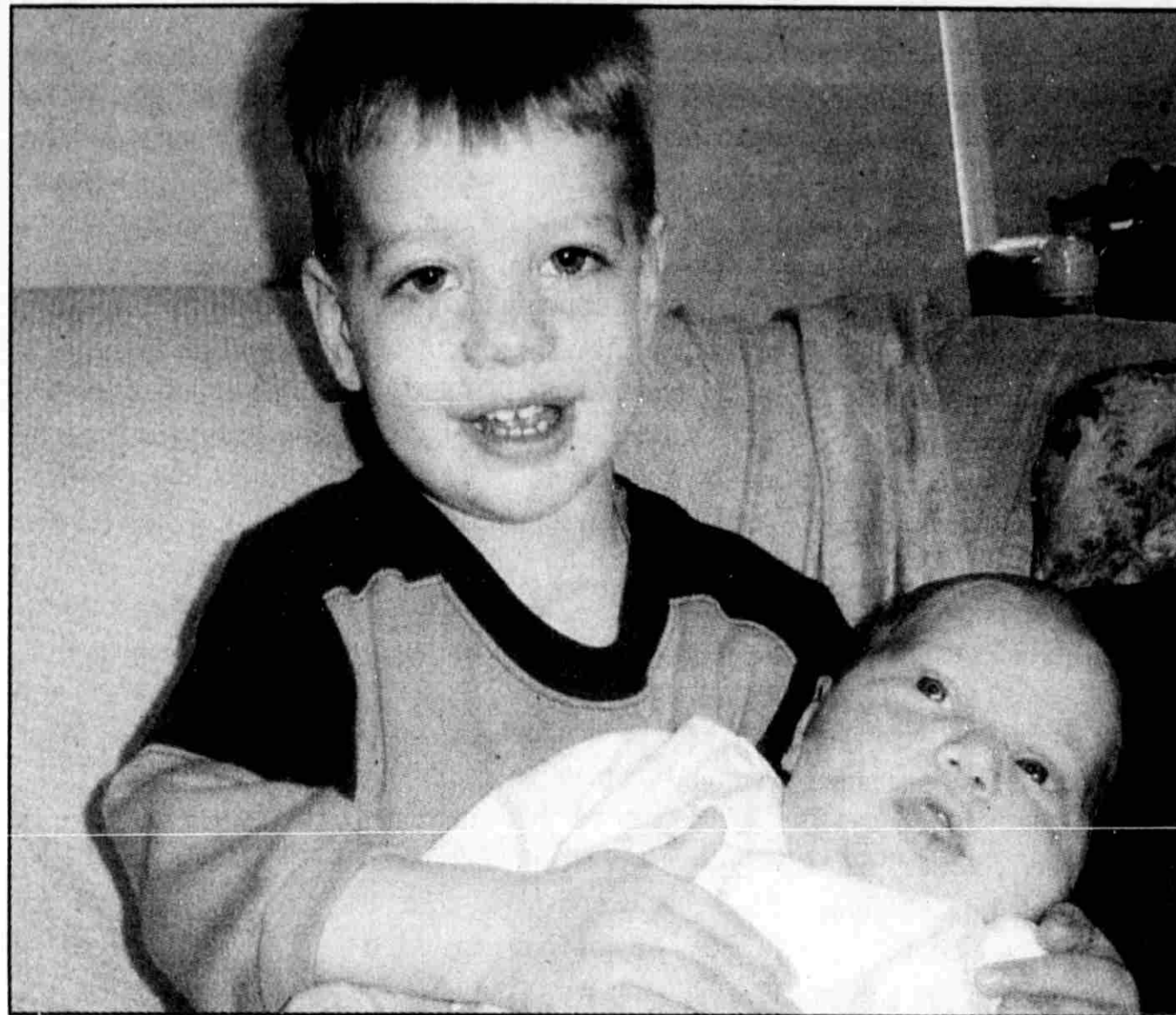
"Does not include prize money"

Welcoming our new Superintendent Trent Bartman, formerly from Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel

*New Members Only

New Arrivals

Acheson



Logan and Ella Grace Acheson

Ella Grace Acheson came home to join big brother Logan. She was born February 20, 2007, weighing 9 lbs. 14 oz. and measuring 23 inches.

Proud parents are Ron and Alana Acheson. Grandparents are Howard and Gail Acheson and Jim and Chery Valentine. Great Grandparents are Boots and Neva Valentine and Don and Bernie Goodmoot, all of Lake Odessa.

Reflections of faith

By Mike Rhodabarger
Pastor, Lowell Church of the Nazarene

"Stop and smell the roses!" We have all heard this age old adage at some point in our lives haven't we? What does it mean? Certainly we all understand that it is a message that challenges us to take time out every so often just to relax and enjoy the finer things in life, like the aroma of roses.

I was challenged by a very wise statement. This statement was not from a great theologian or a well-known,

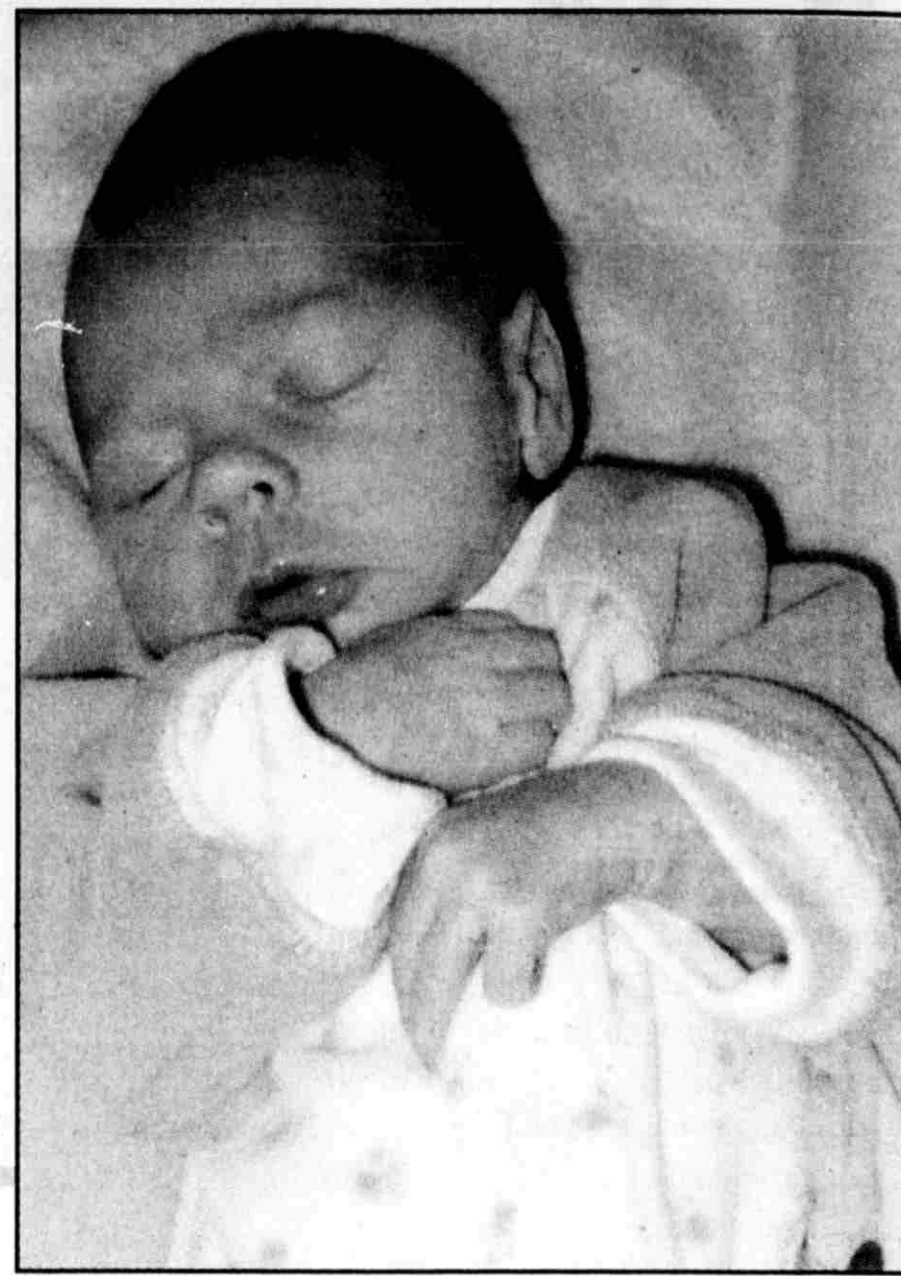
biblically educated scholar; it was from a professional fighter. After one of his victories he was asked, "When do you think you will get a chance to fight for the title?" His response challenged me as he stated "I am not looking that far ahead. I am still young and I know that I will get there. Right now I am just going to enjoy the journey." Wow! Enjoy the Journey! Personally, I did not think it was an arrogant statement. I am sure he recognized that there will be failures along the way. I am sure he took the reality of opposition very seriously, but he still decided to "enjoy the journey!"

I find myself tempted and often guilty of wishing my life away. I say things like "I can't wait until..." or "I wish I could have..." You fill in the blanks; I am sure you have plenty. Jesus said in the 10th chapter of the book of John "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Bowen

My name is Braeden Loren Everett Bowen, I live in Lynchburg Virginia. I surprised my Mommy and Daddy by arriving five weeks early on February 7, 2007. I weighed 5 lbs 7 oz. and was 19 1/4 inches long. My Mommy and Daddy are Ernie Jr. and Amy Bowen and my big sister is Maddie. My Grandmas and Grandpas are David and Beth Bowen of Belding and Ernest Sr. and Robin Bowen of Lowell.

Braeden Loren Everett Bowen



Happy Birthday

MARCH 28:

Amie Thaler, Aaron Kastanek, Beck Butler.

MARCH 29:

John Ellison, Sandra VanWeelden, Laura Rasch, Carl Rasch, Robin Burns, Casey Yonker, Brianna Homrich, Priscilla Nearing

MARCH 30:

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

MARCH 31:

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

APRIL 1:

Christopher Vollink, Denny

McClure, Kurt Wernet, Blanche Mullen.

APRIL 2:

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

APRIL 3:

Hayleigh Borton, Jamie Barnes, Darwin Lambert.

Sometimes we look for joy and satisfaction through various avenues and other times we look for satisfaction somewhere in the future. We have the privilege to enjoy life right here and right now. The question is will you look in the right place.

I have decided that I am going to "stop and smell the roses" from time to time. I do have a lot on my plate, not unlike you, and I am expected to complete those tasks. However, I want to find out what Christ has for me right now and through that knowledge I will enjoy the journey.

Do you find yourself lacking contentment? Are you constantly looking for greener grass but find it to be as elusive as the end of the rainbow? If this is you, ask God to give you a new perspective. Ask Him to help you change your attitude toward your current situation. The Bible promises you the best journey you have ever experienced.

Lowell Women's Club raffle winners announced

The winners of the Lowell Women's Club raffle for six donated art products/offerings by local artists were drawn at the March 14 meeting. Proceeds from ticket sales are used for scholarships and community projects.

First prize was a 12" fused glass plate by Susan Molnar won by Dave Jackson of Grand Rapids. Janice Yeiter of Lowell, along with a friend, will be enjoying a watercolor class with Kathleen Mooney as second prize. Sharon T. Goedel, Lowell, was the winner of a lariat beaded necklace and earrings set designed by Karyn DeKaiser Moulton.

A twin quilt and pillow went to Barb Harrington of Saranac. Lowell's John B. Wellman D.C. received the fifth prize of an art glass night light designed by Robin Roberts. The final ticket drawn netted Pat Allchin, Lowell, felted mittens made by Virginia Tyler.

The tickets were drawn by Michael Pietzsch of Duesseldorf, Germany. Lowell High School exchange student.

The soup and salad luncheon was prepared by the high school senior girls who are honorary members for 2006-07 under the

direction of Tori Parsons. Stephanie Wade presided at the meeting. Haley Briggs and Jessica Nelson gave a mini report on international affairs. Amanda Vezino introduced the six exchange students who entertained the ladies with their brief talks on their home countries and experiences.

Exchange students were: Sebomi Jang, South Korea; Natalia Chagas, Brazil; Lucas Pio, Brazil; Marius Arbogast, Germany; Mariel Biancardi, Brazil; and Michael Pietzsch, Germany.



Karyn Moulton and Stephanie Wade hold the quilt won by Barb Harrington of Saranac.

Celebrating St. Pat's Day

Wyatt Lee enjoys dressing up like a leprechaun to celebrate his school spirit. St. Patrick School has a long and proud Irish history. That is why second grade students are celebrating National Reading Month with the theme: Irish history and culture. Parents, siblings and friends were invited to come into the classroom to share a favorite story with the students. The students studied land forms and the climate of Ireland. They also researched Irish saints and each student wrote and illustrated a report about one of the saints. During math class they measured and mixed the ingredients for Irish soda bread and sampled the finished product with a wee bit of Irish tea.



Leprechaun and second grade student Wyatt Lee.

In The Service

Army Reserve Sgt. Adam L. Rogers has deployed overseas to a forward-operating location in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Rogers, a team leader specialist with three years of

military service, is normally assigned to the 384th Military Police Battalion, Fort Wayne, Ind.

He is the son of Rex M. and Sarah L. Rogers of Vincent Ave., Alto, Mich.

College News

Connor Boals, of the College of Arts and Sciences, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2006 semester at the University of Vermont. Boals, an Environmental Studies major, is a sophomore in

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<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Services.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. 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>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor SUNDAYS: 10:00 a.m. - Worship & Evening; LIFE home Groups & "The Source" Youth WEDNESDAYS: Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God... Loving People!</p>	<p>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmary-lowell.com Weekend Masses: SAT. 5 PM, SUN. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM & 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10-10:30 AM Prayer & adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETER WIGANS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL (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 LaWare.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA CLUB JC.....Wed. 6:15 & 8:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurian Meredith 9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>		<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M. PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>

I show you doubt, to prove that faith exists.

- Robert Browning (1812 - 1889)

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Palm Sunday, April 1
"Hallelujah to the King of Kings"
Good Friday, 4/6 • 7:00 P.M.
"Love So Amazing" +

Easter Sunday, April 8
"Christ Has Opened Paradise"

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 7 • 9:30 A.M.
Children 3 yrs. - 10 yrs. gather eggs and hear the Easter message

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• Fun Songs • Zany Games • Super Snacks
• Make New Friends • 4 yrs. to 6th grade
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Parents... Please stay at the church with your children.

2007 Expo makes noise in community over the weekend

By Emma Palova

This year's Lowell Community Expo last Saturday made some noise in the community with a cross section of local and greater Grand Rapids area vendors.

The variety ranged from \$1 wooden noise makers offered by Kaylyn Koza, senior at the Lowell High School, to passport service from the City of Lowell.

Nikki Jankowski of Paws-itive grooming showcased Ragamuffin in a pink ballerina dress by Pampered Pals dancing around visitors. Pawsitive Canine Training was represented by Liz

Fahnenstiel and Deb Cankin who posed with their golden retrievers.

It wouldn't be an expo without a large beauty, fashion and wellness sector.

Visitor Carol Elve, with her head stuck in a neck mount, didn't want to leave the Trombly Chiropractic's massage chair where she got a massage from Olivia Negrete. "It just feels so good," Elve said.

Bill Schaefer of Lowell used the opportunity to get a hair cut from Dawn Polmanteer of Great Clips.

Personal shoppers Sarah and Yvonne Harmon made their debut on the Lowell scene with their



unique Shopping Made Easy business.

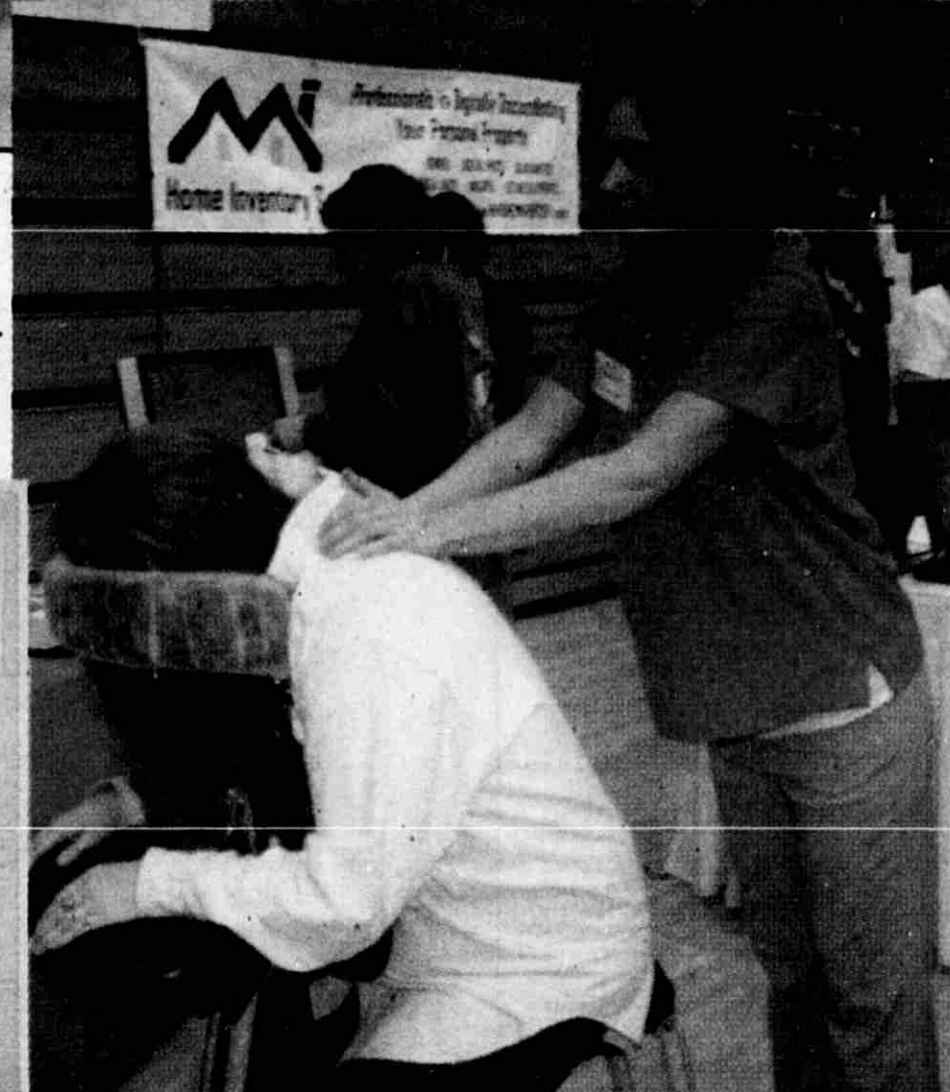
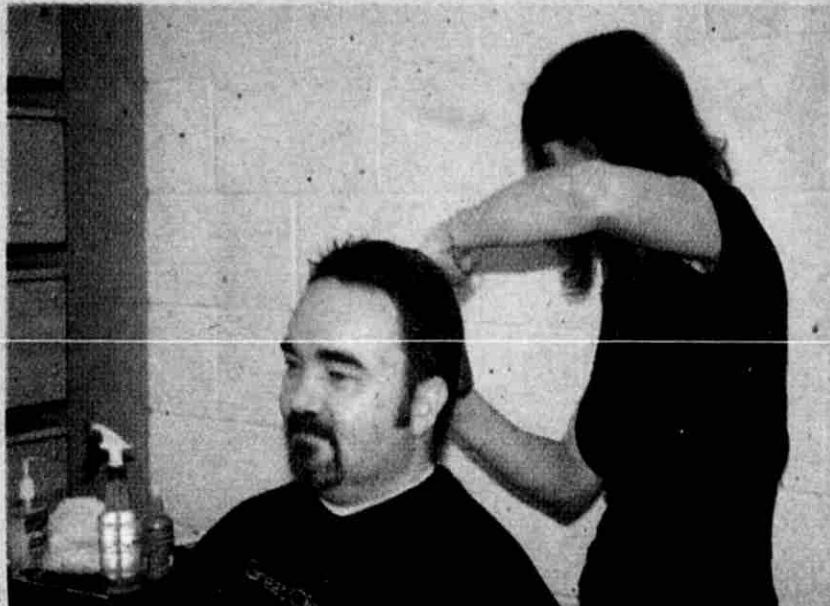
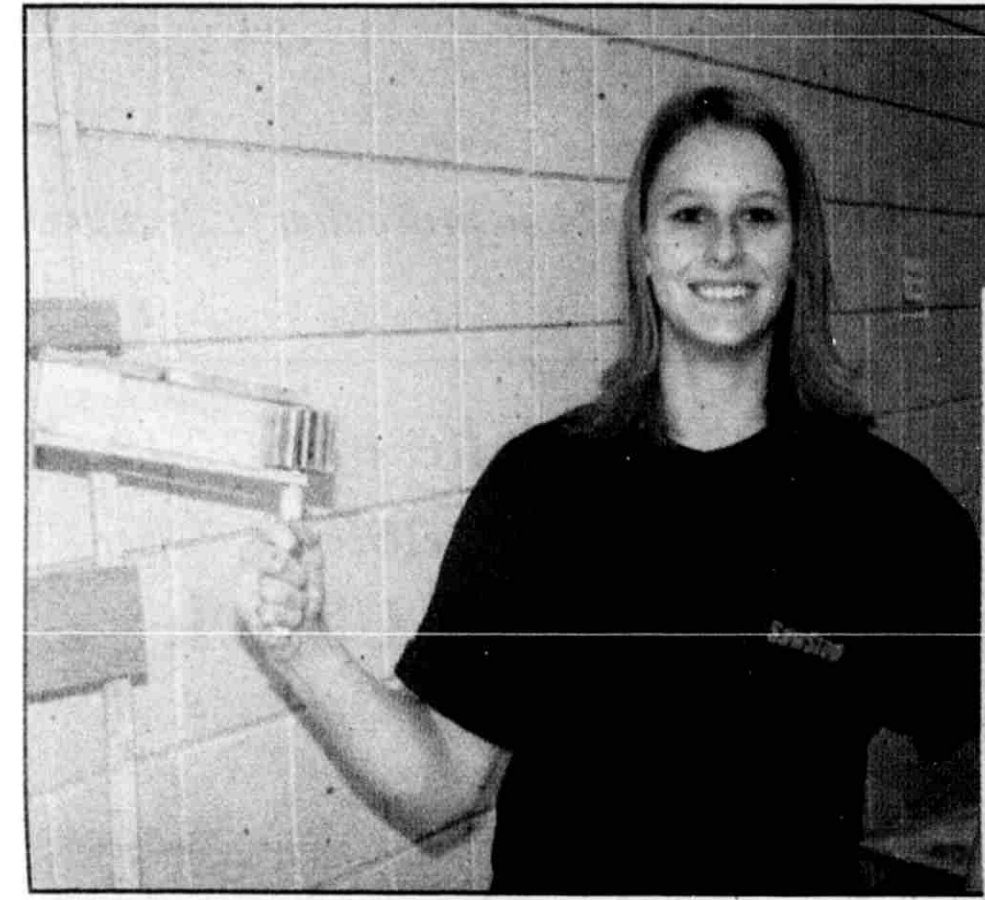
Also, new kids on the block were Wildflowers by Wildwood, Backyard Boutique and fashions by L4.

With spring here, Ron Wenger of the Lowell Farmer's Market offered maple syrup, while Wittenbach center director Steve Mueller enticed guests to a new exhibit.

Among the many community groups were the 1860s Fallasburg Cubs with manager Dan Stevens and John Kolb.

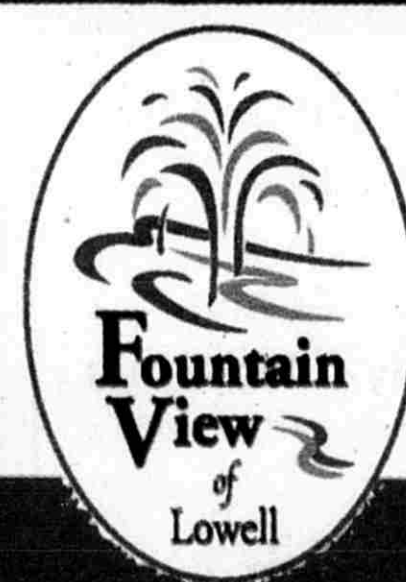
Clockwise from left, Kaylyn Koza with her noise makers, Liz Fahnenstiel and Deb Cankin with Pawsitive Canine Training, Carol Elve receives a massage from Olivia Negrete and Bill Schaefer being trimmed by Dawn Polmanteer.

More images from the Expo on page 9.



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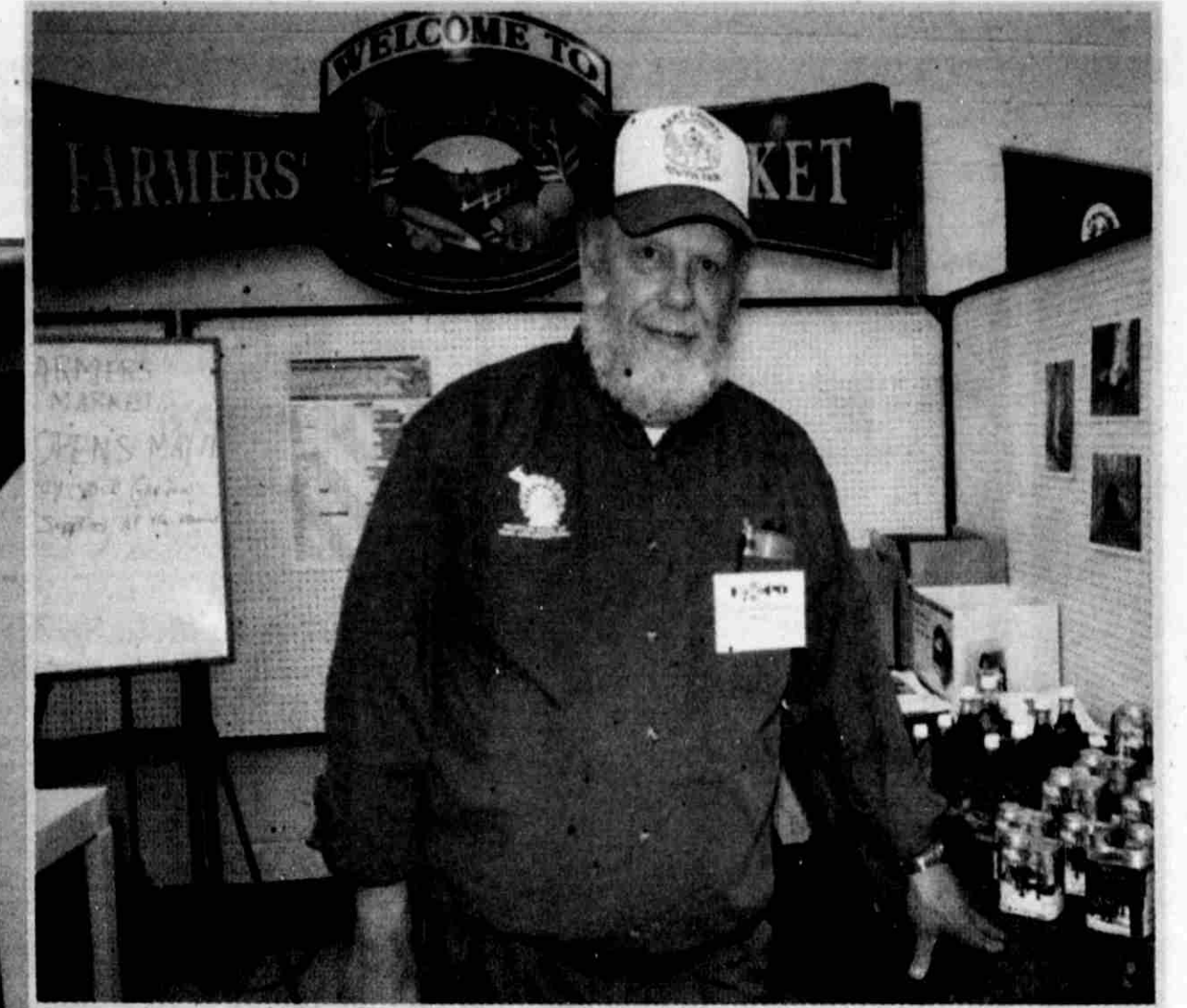
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Expo images, continued

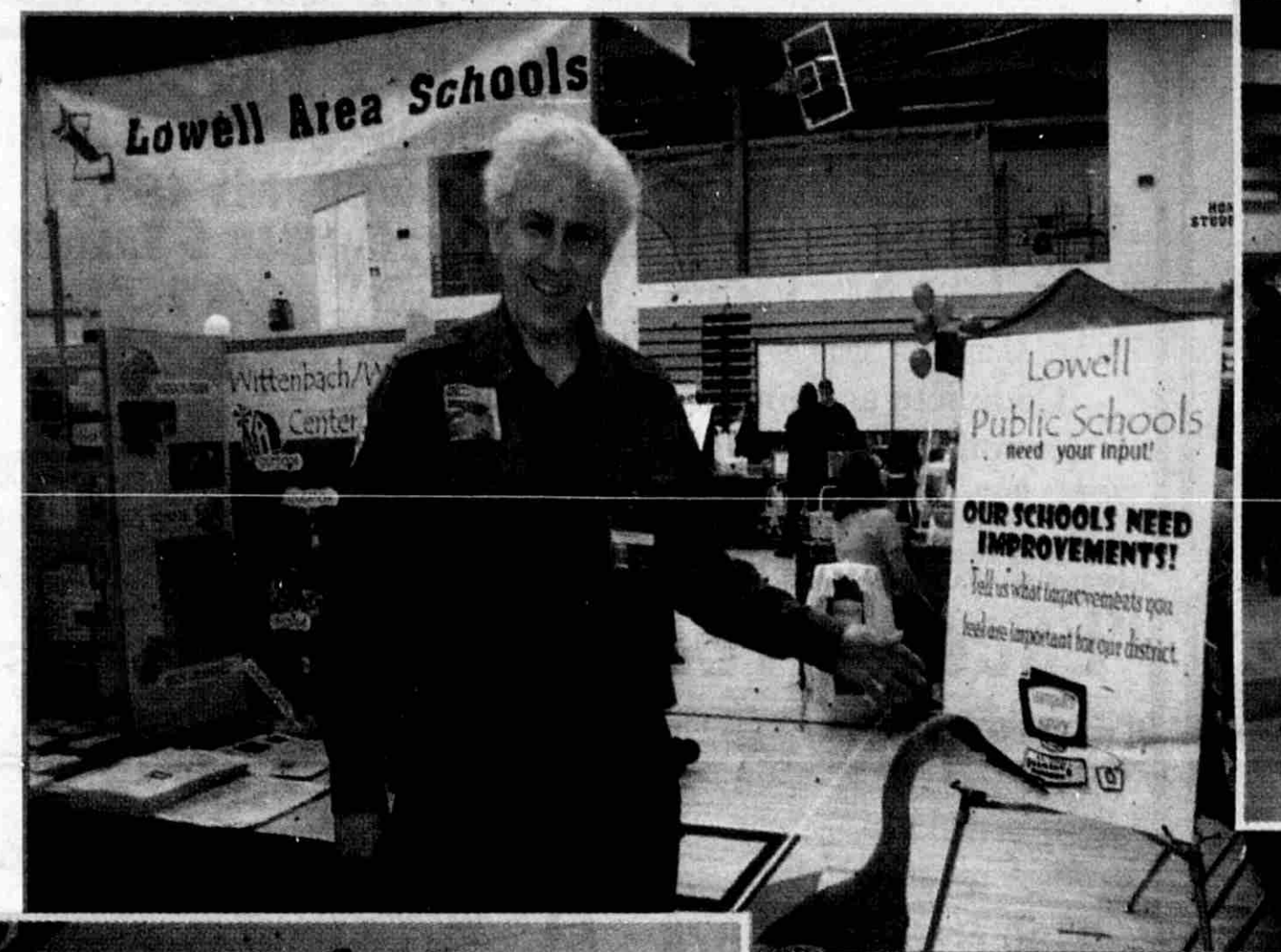
... From Page 6



Personal shoppers Sarah and Yvonne Harmon.



Ron Wenger of the Lowell Farmer's Market.



Wildflowers by Wildwood floral designer Mary Rieth.



Wittenbach center director Steve Mueller above, and at left, Dan Stevens and John Kolb of the Fallasburg Cubs.

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.

- Pablo Picasso (1881 - 1973)

Ada Hills Family Dentistry

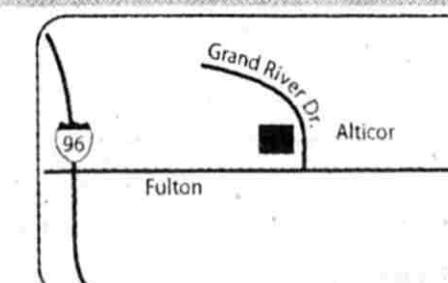
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Easter Sunday, April 8

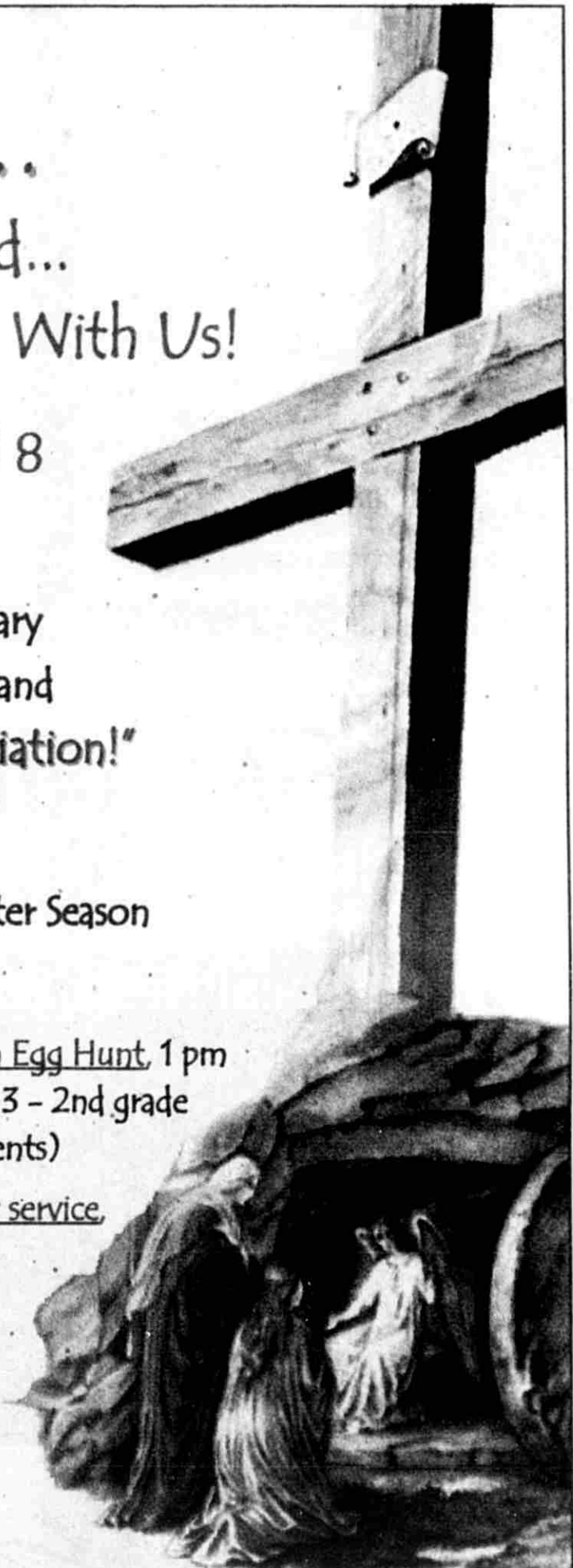
Join us Easter Morning for a delicious complimentary BREAKFAST (9:15 am) and "JESUS—Our Reconciliation!" music & drama (10:30 am)

We invite you to these Easter Season Activities as well:

- Saturday, 3/31: Resurrection Egg Hunt, 1 pm children age 3 - 2nd grade (& their parents)
- Friday, 4/6: Good Friday service, 7 pm



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HEALTH

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

ECZEMA

Many people visit the doctor's office when they are sick or have a chronic medical problem. Did you know that it is just as important to visit the doctor's office when you are healthy? A visit to the doctor when you are healthy is a proactive approach to staying healthy as you age. A preventative service might be recommended to you based on your age, gender, risk factors, or family history. A preventative service might consist of a test, measurement, immunization, or advice.

Lend A Hand
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE KENT COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL NEEDS VOLUNTEER TUTORS

The Kent County Literacy Council has scheduled an hour-long information session on Thursday April 5 for prospective volunteer tutors.

The meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Grand Rapids Public Library.

Those interested in becoming volunteer tutors can find

Children should have regular Well-Child Exams (physicals) to monitor their growth and development. In general, young children should be seen for well-child exams at 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, and 24 months after birth. Older children should then be seen yearly. Immunizations are one of the most important preventative services offered in this age group. In addition to monitoring growth and development, advice may be given on topics such as diet, exercise, seat belts, tobacco, and peer pressure.

Adults males should have regular complete physical exams every 3-5 years until age 40, every 2 years in their 40's, and then yearly once they turn 50. Preventative services covered typically include blood pressure, weight, cholesterol and testicular cancer screening. Prostate cancer screening usually begins at age 40 and consists of a blood test, along with a rectal exam. Colon cancer screening begins at age 50 and typically consists of a colonoscopy every 10 years form then on.

Adult females should have regular complete physical exams every 1-3 years until age 40, every 1-2 years until age 50, and then yearly. Services typically covered include blood pressure, weight, cholesterol, and breast and cervical cancer screening. Pap smears are performed to screen for cervical cancer, and should be done yearly on all sexually active, unmarried females. Females who are sexually active, but in a long-term monogamous relationship (marriage), should have pap smears done every 2-3 years. Breast Cancer screening is typically accomplished with breast exams with each physical, along with a mammogram. Mammograms are typically recommended for women every 2 years in their 40's, and then yearly at age 50. Women should be screened for colon cancer at age 50, typically with a colonoscopy, and then every 10 years afterward.

There may be circumstances which place a person at higher risk for certain disease states. This may require them to start preventative screens at an earlier age, and to be screened more frequently. Lifestyle choices such as smoking and unprotected intercourse increase a person's risk of cancer. A family history of certain types of cancer may also increase a person's risk for cancer. If you have a family member with colon, prostate, breast, or ovarian cancer, you should start your preventative screens earlier.

out more about the Council and its literacy programs. At the end of the session, there will be an opportunity to sign up for tutor training.

The Kent County Literacy Council is a non-profit, United Way agency devoted to reducing illiteracy in our community.

Based on 1990 census figures, at least 19,000 adults in Kent County can not read at a functional level. At least 6,000 adults can not speak or understand English well.

By training people to be tutors, the Council can offer one-on-one reading help to adults asking for assistance in reading or English as a Second Language (ESL). Volunteers do not need to speak another language to tutor ESL.

The library is located at 111 Library St., NE, Grand Rapids. The meeting will be held on the fourth floor, VanderVeen Center. Call 459-5151 to register.

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COMING VENTS

MARCH / APRIL

THUR., MAR. 29: Beltone Hearing, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Sponsored by Lowell Senior Neighbors.

SAT., MAR. 31: Resurrection Egg Hunt at First Baptist Church, 2275 W. Main St., 1 p.m. Children ages 3 - 2nd grade welcome with parent chaperones.

MON., APR. 2: Masonic Lodge #355, serving Belding, Ionia and Lowell, will hold its regular communication, 7:30 p.m. in the lodge room of the Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main St., Belding. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

TUES., APR. 3: Recent Explorations, a collection of works by artist Loretta Sailors and John Knight, runs through April 28 at Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes St NE, Lowell. Hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri., weekends by appointment. For more information, call the Center at 897-7842.

MONDAYS

Living Sober Group, New AA Group, 7:30 p.m. at 119 Lincoln Lake (behind Fireplace Plus).

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

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

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

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

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

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

2ND MON.: Bowne Township Historical Society meets Oct. thru March 10 a.m. & April thru Sept. 7 p.m. at historic museum, 84th/Alden Nash.

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

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

3RD MON.: Lowell Showboat Garden Club, Fellowship Hall at Church of the Nazarene, N. Washington St. at 7 p.m.

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

EVERY OTHER MON.: Lowell Area Juggling Club, Community room, Englehardt Library, 7-8:30 p.m. 12/older. 897-9879.

MON., TUES., THURS.: Alpha Women's Center, 2251 W. Main. Call 987-9533 for appt./open Mon. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tu. 6-9 p.m.; Th. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Diapers, formula and clothing.

EVERY MON.: Women for Sobriety, 7-8 p.m. Bowne Center United Methodist Church, 84th & Alden Nash. Call Sue 868-6219; www.womenforsobriety.org.

TUESDAYS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly Tops M1#372 at Key Heights Mobile Home Park Community Bldg. Weigh-ins are at 5:45 p.m.

Cub Scout Pack 3188 at 1st United Methodist Church 621 E. Main St. 6:30 p.m. Call Bruce Doll, cubmaster at 304-0082.

Weight Watchers, Alto United Methodist Church, Kirby & Harrison, 5:30 p.m. Reg. 1/2 hr. before meeting. 800-651-6000.

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURS., APR. 5: "Early Signs of Dementia" at 11:15 a.m. Sponsored by Lowell Senior Neighbors.

THURS., APR. 5: Vergennes Coop Club will meet at 1 p.m. Schnieder Manor activity room. Program: Alto Family Tree Club by Jan VanWyke. Hostess: Norma Noall and Donna Ford.

SUN., APR. 8: Complimentary breakfast at First Baptist Church, 2275 W. Main St. at 9:15 a.m. with Easter service immediately following.

TUES., APR. 10: Lowell Area Conservation Association open meeting at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Fire Barn, 315 S. Hudson. Public invited. 897-5314.

TUES., APR. 10: Doric Chapter #73, Order of Eastern Star will hold its regular communication in the chapter room of the Masonic Temple, 211 E. Main St., Belding at 7:30 p.m. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAYS

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

2ND TUES.: Doric chapter #75, Order of Eastern Star 6:30 dinner, 7:30 p.m. regular meeting. 211 E Main, Belding.

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

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers meets at Impact Church, 1069 Lincoln Lake, 9:15 - 11:30. 897-8304.

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

3RD TUES.: Parents of children w/AD/HD at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 32156 4 Mile NE/E. Beltline) at 7 p.m. Call Linda at 874-5662; teen group: call Sarah at 281-6588. No cost.

TUES.: Back to Basics Closed AA meetings at 404 N. Hudson St. 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking.

EVERY TUES.: Thornapple River Chapter BNI professional networking group, 7-8:30 p.m. Ada Bible Church, 8899 Cascade Rd. Cheryl 868-7551.

WEDNESDAYS

Living Sober Group, New AA Group, 7:30 p.m. at 119 Lincoln Lake (behind Fireplace Plus).

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

8 p.m. ALANON new location: 206 N. Jackson, north of 1st United Methodist Church, corner of Avery & Jackson. 897-5936.

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

1ST WED.: GR/W. Mich. Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th St. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. walk-ins welcome. Jan 897-5759.

2ND WED.: Lowell Area Trailway, 6 p.m. alternate locations. Call Mari Stone 897-5671 or www.lowellareatrailway.org.

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

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

2ND WED.: Lowell Women's Club, 11:45 a.m. in Schneider Manor Community Room, 725 Bowes Rd.

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

3RD WED.: GR/W. Mich. Scrabble Club at Schuler's Bookstore, 28th SE 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. walk-ins. Jan 897-5759.

3RD WED.: Alzheimer's Assoc. of West Mich. support group at Fountain View of Lowell, 11535 E. Fulton, 1 p.m. 897-8413.

THURSDAYS

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

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

Notices in the "Coming Events" are free to any nonprofit organization in the Lowell, Ada, Alto & Saranac areas. Keep notices brief; mail, phone - 897-9261, fax - 897-4809 or email - ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com. All submissions are subject to available space.

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

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

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

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Tues.-Fri.: 12-6 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. Monday a.m. by appt. 149 S. Hudson. Call 897-8545 or www.lowellartsCouncil.org.

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

FLAT RIVER OUTREACH MINISTRIES THRIFT SHOP Wed.-Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 11535 Fulton St. E. Call 897-8567. Pantry 897-8260.

THURSDAYS

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

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

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

2ND & 4TH TUES.: MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers meets at Impact Church, 1069 Lincoln Lake, 9:15 - 11:30. 897-8304.

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

1ST & 3RD THURS.: Alto Lions Club meets at Deer Run Golf Course at 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY

Living Sober Group, New AA Group, 7:30 p.m. at 119 Lincoln Lake (behind Fireplace Plus).

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

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

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

2ND SAT.: Lowell Amateur Radio Club, held at 11535 E. Fulton, Flat River Outreach Ministries. 9 a.m. social time; 10 a.m. meeting. LARC sponsors 145.27 MHz area radio repeater system.

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

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

Backyard Boutique will offer unique gifts for nature lovers

By Emma Palova

An oversized sand cast rhubarb leaf and a fisherman's soap that masks human scent are just a few gift items at Backyard Boutique.

Opening this Saturday, the shop will offer unique products that attract wildlife to backyard gardens.

Owner Teresa Baker of Lowell worked for 20 years in a corporate business environment and now has decided to turn her passion for gardens into a business.

"The downtown district offers a nice experience," she said. "It's a great place to visit."

Located next to North Country Trail Association, the Backyard Boutique carries gifts such as a rain gauge with dragon flies or frogs, and art décor. Seed wreaths for birds will grace any outdoors structure.

"These are things you're not going to find in big retail stores," said Baker. "I have great gift ideas for nature lovers."

Baker will be using several different distributors, as well as her own ingenuity. She plans on casting cement garden baths, bowls and statues in the future.

Right now, the Backyard Boutique carries an entire line of soaps made by a chemist out of Port Huron. These include a pet soap that repels fleas, garden soap that gets the grime out and bug off soap.

"I hope to have a successful business," said Baker, "and to make many friends in the community."

Baker can also offer advice on how to attract wildlife to gardens.

The grand opening of the Backyard Boutique is March 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The boutique is located at 219 E. Main St.



Backyard Boutique owner Teresa Baker offers gifts for nature lovers.

Financial Focus

With Christopher C. Godbold
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THE FOLLIES OF MARKET TIMING

Many investors try to "time" the market by "buying low and selling high." In theory, that's a great idea — but it's almost impossible to put into practice.

If you try to outguess the market, you run the substantial risk of guessing wrong — of buying stocks too soon, before they get even cheaper, or of selling stocks too late, after they've fallen from their highs. But these are only the most obvious of the problems that can result from market timing. Here are some others to consider:

- You could lose your investment discipline. The best investors are the disciplined investors. They choose quality stocks and hold them for the long term, through good and bad markets. In fact, they have conditioned themselves to ignore short-term price swings in either direction, based on their belief that their patience eventually will be rewarded.

- You could hurt your diversification. To succeed as an investor, you need to build a diversified portfolio. Your exact mix of investments will depend on your individual goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. Over time, as your situation changes — for example, when you move from the working world to retirement — you will need to adjust your portfolio.

But if you're constantly buying and selling in a vain attempt to time the market, you may well end up with a perennially "unbalanced" portfolio. Keep in mind, though, that even a diversified portfolio won't guarantee a profit, nor will it protect against a loss in a declining market.

- You could run up transaction costs. Stock transactions can be expensive, as you rack up commissions and other fees. Over time, these costs can significantly erode your investment returns. If you are always trying to "buy low" and "sell high" you'll be doing an awful lot of buying and selling.

- You could run up your tax bill. When you sell a stock for a profit, you must pay capital gains taxes. However, if you hold a stock for at least one year before selling, you will be assessed the most favorable capital gains rate, which is 15 percent for most investors. But if you were to pursue a buy low/sell high strategy, you could sell some stocks before a year has lapsed and pay higher capital gains rates. And if you're repeatedly selling a lot of shares in this accelerated time frame, you could face some unpleasant surprises when it's time to file your taxes.

Clearly, the buy low/sell high approach has some major drawbacks. So should you ignore the price of a stock when you're making buy or sell decisions? No — just look at more

than the price. If you're considering buying a stock whose price is low, try to find out why it's low. If it's a good company in the grip of a strong "bear" market, then a low price may indeed indicate a good bargain. But if a company's stock price is low because its products are no longer competitive or the company itself is part of a declining industry, then "buying low" with the hopes of eventually reaping big profits probably doesn't make much sense.

Make your investment decisions carefully. But until a crystal ball arrives, don't try to stay one step ahead of the market — or you could fall far behind.

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6:00-6:25 PM - Sign-up
6:30-7:30 PM - Meeting

MURRAY LAKE ELEMENTARY
Kindergarten Parent Meeting
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007
6:15-6:25 PM - Sign-up
6:30-7:30 PM - Meeting

Bluegrass music set for jammin' season

By Emma Palova

Jammin' will go all night long this summer, as the West Michigan Bluegrass Music Association (WMBMA) has solidified its grounds in the Lowell area.

Recently, WMBMA extended contract with the Kent County Fairgrounds for another five years making Lowell its permanent home.

"This gave us a base," said association director Dave Simmonds. "We have found a home, and we love it."

WMBMA will be presenting a Bluegrass Hot Bands Fundraiser on April 7 at TJ's Bar & Grill, 14043 Fulton St. E., the former Riverview.

"Bring your instrument," said Simmonds. "Jamming is encouraged."

The Hot Bands fundraiser will feature two bands, Lonesome Journey and Deadwood, who come to Lowell to play for free.

"Hot Bands helps us raise money for our organization," said Simmonds.

With the biggest annual festival Mayfest 2007 just on the horizon, bluegrass pickers and players may want to warm up at the fundraiser.

Jammin' on his Yamaha guitar at Larkin's last Friday, Simmonds explained the magic of Bluegrass music.

"Everyone gets a chance to lead," he said. "We just all don't play at the same time. I try to stay out of bands."

The other advantage of Bluegrass music is that it can accommodate any level of talent, from beginner to very good.

"One of the biggest draws of Bluegrass music is you get to play," Simmonds said.

And according to Simmonds, there is a growing market for Bluegrass music in the northern United States. Bluegrass music started in the Scottish and Irish areas, then came to the mountains of the southeast United States and spread from there.

The two bands will take p.m. The annual Mayfest will take place May 17-20.



Dave Simmonds, director of WMBMA, jammed Friday at Larkin's with one of his many fans, Jack Rutledge.

Sound Off

The Ledger "Almost" Anything Goes Column



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Don't miss a historic opportunity to perform on the Showboat this summer! - Rick Seese

How long will it take to repair the cannon at the cemetery?

I've lived in Lowell my whole life and if you

don't know who Faro's Pizza is you should go back to Cascade. -David

It's too bad the crossword puzzle solution can't be on a different page.

What's happening with the kid's skateboard park? It's so nice to see them out and active. Let's support that as a community.

Great Expo Lowell - thanks!

What do you mean who is Otis? Otis is my Grandpa. One of those

kids picking night-crawlers in Fallsburg is my Mother!

Is there only one elementary in Lowell because all I hear about in the Ledger is Murray Lake.

Smoking is not as bad as ignorance. I may choose to smoke but I don't bad mouth others. As for money stinking from smokers-money is very dirty and it is not from smokers.

Why is it okay to go to McDonald's and not wear shoes?

The new Lowell Directory says it all, the birds now have to roost on powerlines, where have all the old trees gone? Lowell View now looks like Bowes Road...who's auditing the tree removers?

I miss Faro's too! It was by far the best pizza in town!

Another talented skilled tradesman has had to leave the area to find a job in another state. We should all be saddened by the amount of talent that is leaving our state.

CITY OF LOWELL/ ALLIED WASTE SERVICES

YARD WASTE PICKUP SCHEDULE FOR SPRING AND SUMMER 2007

The City of Lowell yard waste program is scheduled for the first and third Thursday of each month, unless there is a holiday in that week and the pickup day will be Friday. Your waste pickup will be the same day as your refuse/recycling pickup is. The dates are listed below:

Yard Waste Pickup Schedule

- April 5th and 19th
- May 3rd and 17th
- June 7th and 21st
- *July 6th and 19th
- August 2nd and 16th
- *September 7th and 20th

*PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES ARE A FRIDAY PICKUP DUE TO HOLIDAY DURING THE WEEK.

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall (897-8457).

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE FOR SALE HELP WANTED FOR RENT SERVICES SERVICES

GOLF BALLS FOR SALE - Previously experienced. All in perfect condition - Titleist & Maxfli Noodle, \$6 per doz.; Pinnacle & Nike, \$5 per doz; Top-Flite, \$4 per doz or 3 doz. for \$10. Call 897-1355.

ROLL TICKETS AVAILABLE AT LOWELL LITHO - Single & double rolls, variety of colors. Single roll, \$5 ea. + tax & double rolls \$7.50+tax ea. Lowell Litho, 105 N. Broadway, Lowell, Ph. 897-9261.

8 YEAR OLD MINIATURE GELDING PAINT - great pasture pal, never been ridden. Owner moving, must sell. \$350 obo. Call 723-3569.

FOR SALE - Chapel Hill Deluxe Companion mausoleum crypt. Price \$6,200, will sell for \$3,000. Call 897-5883.

MATTRESSES - Large selection just like the big advertisers except for the cost. Twins \$100, fulls \$120, queens \$140, kings \$180 and up. ALL NEW. NO \$200 fake pillowtops. G.R. 616-682-4767 or 293-6160.

TIRES FOR SALE - 4 Chevy 8-lug aluminum 16x8, 6 spoke rims, Good-year Wrangler AT/S, LT265/75R16, 16,000 mi., \$400; 6' bed liner \$30. 897-6256.

1998 JEEP CHEROKEE - 4x4, 4 door, Limited, red, new tires, loaded, \$5,500. Call 897-1597 or 745-2161.

FISH FOR STOCKING - Most varieties. Ponds. Lakes. Laggis' fish farm, 269-628-2056 days or 269-624-6215 eves.

1997 BUICK REGAL GS - 1993 Ford Pickup, 4x4; 1990 Lincoln Town car. Call 889-6057.

TRACTOR FOR SALE - 2000 Millenium T280, 28hp diesel, 16 speed, 4 wd with 930 hrs. 5' bucket, 7' snow blade, forks, 72" finish mower, counter weight. \$9,450. 897-8458.

1998 GRAND PRIX GT - White, 4 door, loaded, 68,000 miles, \$6,000. Call 897-1597 or 745-2161.

FOR SALE - Two 400 series Anderson windows, 6'x4' gliders. Lists \$1,165.30 each. Will sell for \$750 each. Call Phil 485-4416.

WOODED ACREAGE! - Nice 6.7 acre parcel located off Pinckney Rd. West Michigan Real Estate 897-0530 or 813-5244.

A KING SIZE pillow top mattress set, never used with deluxe frame, still in box, cost \$1,050, sacrifice \$335, 616-452-8430.

EXTRA NICE - 2 bedroom large trailer in the country on private lot between Belding and Lowell. Remodeled. Washer and dryer hookup. 616-794-1109.

FOR SALE MUST SELL - table saw w/stand, \$50; misc. tools; 1993 Plymouth Acclaim, \$550. Call 642-6196.

SPRING IS HERE & SO ARE THE BLUE BIRD SCOUTS - Be ready for winter with a brand new blue bird house. Also wren houses, bat houses & feeders available. Excellent quality & the best prices around. Bob's Bird Houses, 12279 60th St., Alto, 868-6633.

GOLF BALLS FOR SALE - All in perfect condition with no scuff marks. Assorted brands, only 25c each. Practice balls, \$12 per 100. Call 897-1355.

2003 GRAND PRIX GT - 60,000 miles even, 4 dr., dark blue, new brakes and tires. Loaded! \$8,500. Call 897-1597 or 745-2161.

AMISH LOGHEADBOARD and queen pillow top mattress set, new in plastic, sell all for \$275, 616-248-4930.

AIR BED - Selecta comfort firmness for each of you. Dual chambers with remote & warranty. 50% less than the mall. All new. Queen \$795, king \$995 and up. G.R. 616-682-4767 or 293-6160.

1994 FORD EXPLORER - white w/tan leather, Eddie Bauer, 4x4. Retail, \$2,980, sell for \$1,480/b.o. 682-0821.

AMERICAN GIRL DOLL CLOTHES - Handmade. Outfits, \$10 & under. 616-642-6097.

FOR SALE - Ionia Remodeled Homes. Completely remodeled homes starting in the 90's. Home Warranty Included. Call 616-723-2582.

TUFFLINER BRAND BED LINER - for '05 Chevy long box, \$100. Call 897-0064.

FOR SALE - Two 400 series Anderson windows, 6'x4' gliders. Lists \$1,165.30 each. Will sell for \$750 each. Call Phil 485-4416.

1997 BUICK REGAL GS - 1993 Ford Pickup, 4x4; 1990 Lincoln Town car. Call 889-6057.

QUALITY NEW HOME - Lowell, private flat, river frontage, walk-out, central air, fireplace, natural gas. \$214,900. Call Kim, Greenridge, 974-4228 or 485-0099.

MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS - Relieves back pain. YES it really does. All sizes. ALL NEW. Try it FREE. G.R. 616-682-4767 or 293-6160.

8 YEAR OLD MINIATURE GELDING PAINT - great pasture pal, never been ridden. Owner moving, must sell. \$350 obo. Call 723-3569.

2004 ROCKWOOD ULTRA LIGHT TRAVEL TRAILER - w/slideout, 33 ft., sleeps 5, excellent condition. \$14,500. Call 897-6331 bet. 5 p.m. & 9 p.m.

SPORTS REPORTER NEEDED - The Lowell Ledger is looking for a stringer to cover Lowell High School sports. Opportunity to earn some extra cash doing something you enjoy! Photography experience a plus but not necessary. Along with your name, address & contact information, applicants should send writing examples to: The Lowell Ledger, PO Box 128, Lowell, MI 49331 or email: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com in the subject line "sports reporter."

HELP WANTED - Accepting applications for cooks, cashiers & prep cooks. Staring pay \$10/hour + benefits. Please call 787-7875 to setup an interview.

NANNY NEEDED - Looking for our Mary Poppins! Live in nanny needed. All we ask for is someone to play with us, feed us and take care of us like our mommy. Please no live in boyfriends and take showers - good hygiene a must, and love kids. Pay negotiable. Needed now! Please call Patricia at 897-9135 or 901-834-8856.

LOCAL COMPANY - Over \$600 weekly. \$1,000 bonuses. Looking for dependable & energetic workers to staff our Lansing outlet. NO experience needed. Company training provided. Progressive pay, flexible hours, incredible bonuses & paid vacations are all part of this attractive package. Limited number of positions available. All details discussed at interview ONLY. Call Now! 616-522-9783. No calls after 4:30 please.

HELP WANTED - Are you looking? We are!! For a few good people. Company car, dental, optical, full medical, aggressive wages. Salary plus commission. Apply in person, Ionia Ford, 243 S. Dexter. No phone calls please.

QUIZNO'S - Looking for energetic smiling faces. Great company to work for. Applicants must apply in person at 4033 Cascade Rd. No phone calls please.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRY ONE TODAY! 20 Words for \$2, each additional word is 10c CALL 897-9261 FAX 897-4809, DEADLINE FRIDAY AT 4 p.m. for Wednesday Publication.

Visit our Website: www.lowellbuyersguide.com

IN MEMORIAM

STACEY LYNN WOLFE RUGE 1970-2002

Just to remind you that we will always be thinking of you, and our love for you will never fade. Tyler, Olivia and Todd; Shelly and family; Shannon and family; A big hug and I love ya, Dad.

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.

HOME FOR RENT - Newly remodeled 3 bdrm. Washer, dryer, dishwasher, & trash pickup included in rent. Large fenced yard, 2 car garage, at N. Washington and Sherman in Lowell. Small pets considered. References required. \$925/mo plus utilities. No smoking. Available April 1, 2007. 682-0269 evenings.

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

SENIORS!! - Rent could be as low as \$70 per month! 1 bedroom HUD subsidized apartments for rent! Rent based on income for those who qualify! BEAUTIFUL 6 acre country setting! Pets welcome! IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY! Conveniently located 20 minutes East of Grand Rapids. HURRY... before they are gone! Equal Housing Opportunity. 616-693-2271, hearing impaired dial 711.

OFFICE SUITES - Open house, refreshments, floorplans. 14 areas to view. March 31, Sat. 2-4 p.m. & April 1, Sun. 2-4 p.m. 6167 Suite #15 28th St. SE. T.L.C. 949-1536 or www.thornappleland.com.

HOUSE TRAILER FOR RENT - Two bedroom, south of Saranac, \$535/month plus deposit. 616-527-4418 or 616-291-1413.

FOR RENT - Country 2 br apt. upper level, washer, dryer, dishwasher, central air, deck and 2 stall garage. Most utilities included. \$775 per month. 897-8067.

FOR RENT - 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 stall garage, close to schools. 825 Hunt St., Lowell. \$800/mo. Call 560-0405

HALL FOR RENT - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050.

SARANAC, W. RIVERSIDE - 2 new mobile home sites for rent. Phone 642-6985.

SALES AUCTION - Thursday, March 29. Antiques, collectibles, estate items. Bid and view online or at Peddlers Market, 420 N. Lafayette, Greenville, MI. Go to peddlersmarketonline.net or call 616-225-2664 or 616-835-1844.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE - Discount home improvement materials - donations welcome. Hours Tu.-Fr., 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat. 9-4 p.m. Closed Sun. & Mon. 5701 S. Division, Grand Rapids, 616-531-4591.

SEAMLESS GUTTER - Bleam Eavestroughing. Free estimates, 50 colors, leaf guards. Since 1959. Choose the experience! (616) 765-3333 or 1-877-945-RAIN. www.bleameaves.com

WANTED - 20 people who need to lose up to 30 lbs. in a month. All natural, doctor recommended. Eat the foods you love, such as McDonald's. Call Kristin today at 616-304-3580 or email Krisd1981@gmail.com.

J&S LAWN SERVICE - General lawn maintenance wanted. Mowing, trimming, edging, cleanup & light landscaping. Low rates. Contact Jim at 693-2278 or 745-8320 for free estimate.

BRENDA B'S DAYCARE HAS OPENINGS - Christian home. We have lots of fun! Call today, 987-9351.

DIVORCE BY AGREEMENT - Save \$\$\$! Non-attorney. Free quote & brochure. David, 616-248-5045 ext. 51 or 888-381-6863 ext. 51 (24 hours).

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

ALTO DAY CARE - has 4 full time openings for 1st shift. Accept FIA and food program. Fenced-in back yard, CPR plus first aid. 868-0752.

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

WINDOW WASHING - House & deck power washing, gutter cleaning, air duct cleaning. Call Randy, R&R Enterprises, 616-581-8561.

FRESH IDEAS CUSTOM ORGANIZING SERVICES - DeCluttering Spring Special: half price on all March appointments! Call Lori at 318-3830. We Love Organizing!

HAVING AN OUTDOOR EVENT THIS SUMMER? - We rent: Tents, tables, chairs, lighting, food service equipment, keg coolers, complete DJ services. Karaoke available! Spring 2007 special - \$50 off any package. Look for the coupon in this edition! Offer expires 5/1/07. B & D Event Rental & D.J. Service, 885-0503 or 885-0502.

JOHN DEBIAK, certified farrier. Horseshoeing & hoof trimming with twenty years of professional, full-time experience. Call 897-4290.

NEW GALLERY - Fire and Water Art! 219 W. Main in Lowell. OPEN Wed. - Sun. 1-6 p.m. CUSTOM FRAMING. Sculpture, paintings, jewelry & more. www.fire-and-water-art.com or 890-1879.

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ITEEN CONSTRUCTION - 16 yrs. experience. Licensed general contractor. Roofing, pole barns, dry-wall, siding, garages, trim work, decks, remodels and more. Call for free estimate. Lee Iteen 616-835-3951

AVON - buy or sell. Call evenings/weekends 616-897-5086, e-mail: AvonbySherry@atcml.com. Website www.youravon.com/sgimm

REDFrog COMPUTERS - HIGH SPEED INTERNET! \$29.95. Dialup internet, \$9.95. Computer repair, virus removal. We build computers for you! Wholesale ink! Lowell - 897-5814. M-F, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., S. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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TK'S HEART PETSITTING - Loving & expert care for your pet(s) while you work or vacation! References available. Call Tera, 897-7347 or call 847-254-1734.

BILL'S CUSTOM-MADE FURNITURE & CABINETS - All types of wood: oak, maple, hickory, cherry plus others. Reasonable rates and free estimates. Call 989-855-3644.

NEED A DUMPSTER? Garage, attic, household cleanup, roofing, trash, junk etc. 14 to 20 yards available. Call for free estimates. 616-295-6640.

UPHOLSTERY - Furniture, RV cushions, boat seats, dinette chairs, 50 years exp. Low prices, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. Richard Kuyt Sr. 531-3309.

JOHN SCHLOOP BUILDER - New homes, additions & remodeling. Call 897-1335.

AIR DUCT CLEANING - reasonable rates. Call Randy at R&R Enterprises, 616-581-8561. Mention this ad for 15% discount.

BUYING ANTIQUES, COLLECTIONS, COMPLETE ESTATES & "STUFF" - Call today 616-550-0521 for appointment for free estimate.

PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE - By certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-0686.

SPRING CLEAN-UPS LAWN CARE - Manszewski Excavating Inc. Accepting new clients. Kyle 889-7548.

ZOOLAND DAYCARE - Full-time & part-time openings for 1st & 2nd shifts. Licensed. Special needs children accepted. FIA accepted. Food Program. Weekends available. Drop in's. 308-0195 or 897-8386.

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ITEEN CONSTRUCTION - 16 yrs. experience. Licensed general

Buck Stop barber shop offers more than a trim

By Emma Palova

Overlooking the Lowell Showboat, the Buck Stop barber shop offers more than a trim.

Singing "Here Comes the Showboat," owner-barber Trent Buck promises a show at his shop. After all why not, the barber shop, decorated with memorabilia from the Showboat, is a tribute to his grandfather Forrest Buck.

Forrest Buck was the longest serving citizen on

behalf of the Showboat, also known as the "Monarch of the Merry Minstrels."

The shop walls are decked with photos of Showboat entertainers, stars like Dinah Shore and Milton Berle.

Recently, Trent Buck decided to move his barber talent from Ada to Lowell to draw guys into his hangout. "I feel there is a need in Lowell to draw men's crowd rather than women's," he said. "Guys don't want to smell shampoos, perm and

nail polish." Moreover, guys talk and jokes could offend a female crowd, according to Buck.

"It's a guy's gossip place where guys can hang out without prejudice or offending a lady," he said.

Trent Buck himself has many fond memories of the Showboat that inspired the interior decor of the barber shop. He remembers when the Showboat still traveled "round" the Cattail Bend and past the Sawdust Island in late 1970s.



Trent Buck in his Buck Stop barber shop decorated with Showboat memorabilia.

Buck even shares some of the Showboat's best kept secrets. The Showboat moved because there were motors pushing the boat from behind, and the steam coming out of the smokestacks was made by pouring water on dry ice.

"I am excited to come home," he said. "This is where I grew up."

Buck, 1985 graduate of Saranac High School, likes

to call himself a "Singing Barber" as he hums a tune or two.

The remodeled barber shop is clean and smells of nothing. White walls with black framed photos are enhanced with yellow. Buck plans on rotating the exhibits on regular basis. In the fall, he will go with the outdoors hunting and fishing theme.

"I will make some noise in the community," he said.

If things go well under the Buck Stop umbrella, Buck will expand with a sporting goods shop in the back unit.

"I want to offer something unique to spark guys' interest," he said. "Stop by, say hello. Look at history."

The Buck Stop barber shop is located at 100 E. Main St. close to the dam.

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Lowell
Light & Power

Trees, continued

... From Page 1

Department of Public Works director Dan DesJarden.

The tension between the two boards may be attributed to growing revenues on the utility side, while the city coffers are empty.

"For the city to pay \$17,000 is not petty cash," said council member Jeanne Shores.

Also, the friction between the city and the utility may be due to lack of communication.

"The animosity between the two boards is due to lack of communication," said Shores. "We need to have quarterly meetings."

Utility manager Tom Richards said the boards need to communicate rationally rather than responding to ultimatums.

Richards' expressed his concern about safety now that a moratorium has been placed on all cutting until a tree policy is developed.

"While we're in a holding pattern we may have an accident," he said. "Non-compliance with the standard is evidence of negligence."

According to Richards, if someone gets killed the city could face a \$6 million claim. However, due to the moratorium, trees identified as hazardous are still standing.

"We have these issues sitting out there," said Richards. "We're in March which is heaviest for freezing rains. We're putting citizens at risk by having this moratorium."

However, Pfaller stated the city is not at any more risk than years ago just because the trees have been identified.

A tree committee is expected to come up with a tree trimming policy by a certain deadline yet to be set by the city council.

"Let's move things along," said mayor pro-tem Al Mathews.



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