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The Lowell Ledger

Volume 35 Issue 22

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Wednesday, April 4, 2007

Break-in under investigation

By Emma Palova

Shaking their heads in disbelief over busted cash registers and a trashed front counter, Pauly's owners Paul and Stacey Faba could not believe their fine wine and beer store was broken into late Sunday night.

According to Paul Faba, the suspects threw a rock into the glass entrance to get in. They stole the couple's laptop computer and caused property damage. The total amount of damage remains undisclosed due to an ongoing investigation by the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

"There are currently no leads," said Lt. Roger Parent. "We are analyzing the video."

The store is equipped with a Mid-State Security system and video surveillance. The video camera recorded the suspects, and Paul Faba burned a copy of the surveillance for the police.

Also, that same night, O'Brien's in Ada and Schnitz Deli in Grand Rapids were broken into. Parent said the other two events appear to be connected to the Pauly's break-in.

The building that houses Pauly's was broken into before when it was a fruit market. At that time, the perpetrators could have been the kids from across the street in Key Heights, according to Stacey Faba.

However, she said, this time it wasn't the kids. Most likely, the suspects were after big items. "It's the nature of the business," said Stacey Faba. The community has shown support and concern for the Fabas. In February, Pauly's celebrated its one year anniversary in Lowell.

Paul Faba stands behind a busted register Monday morning after his store was broken into.



Updated master plan will strengthen traditional downtown design

By Emma Palova

The updated city master plan will incorporate traditional downtown block design to promote walkability.

In a presentation to the city council two weeks ago, Jim Breuckman, of McKenna Associates, explained different land use categories within the city's boundaries. A draft of



The updated master plan strengthens traditional block design.

the master plan is expected this summer.

The draft will be sent to the surrounding townships for a public comment period. "The master plan is a guide to how the community will develop," said Breuckman. "It regulates more by design than land use."

In the master plan, any new development downtown will follow the existing block pattern with buildings located close to the streets.

The traditional block design in Lowell, which dates back to mid 1800s, gives a good starting base, according to Breuckman.

In the traditional design, buildings cannot be taller than three stories. The block perimeters are less than 1,200 feet with tight setbacks to promote enclosures.

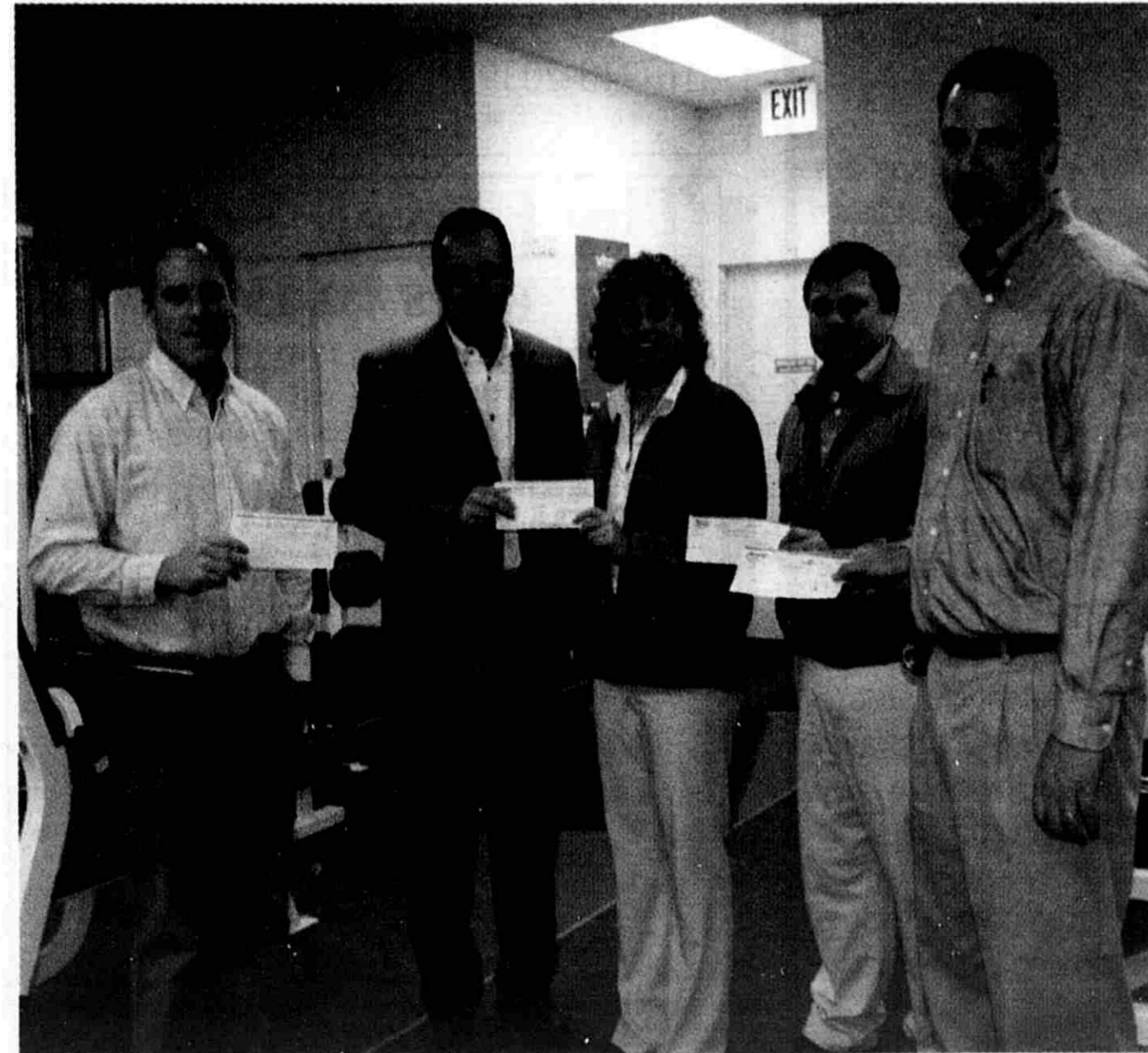
Breuckman explained the difference between traditional design and

the automotive strip development on West Main Street. The strip developments encourage speeding and cruising, while block developments cater to pedestrians. The downtown edges should be consistent with the downtown, again encouraging walking.

"A block network creates places to walk rather

Downtown design, cont'd., pg. 11

Car dealers support strong kids with Lowell YMCA



Dirk Eppinga, business manager of Good Chevy Buick; Charlie Jeffrey, general manager of Harold Zeigler Ford; Staci Messersmith of Lowell YMCA; Tim McCormick of Wittenbach Grand and Jack Vanderploeg of Grand Chrysler Dodge Jeep, pose with checks totaling \$1,800 for the YMCA's Strong Kids program. The car dealers donated \$50 for every car sold as part of the Buy American Buy Lowell promotion. The Strong Kids campaign ensures that YMCA programs are available to all, according to Messersmith. The amount of financial assistance provided is more than \$60,000. Last year, the YMCA raised \$38,000,

while this year's goal is \$45,000. Approximately one third of the members use financial aid. This means the organization impacts more than 2,500 kids in the

greater Lowell community. More money will be raised to serve more kids and families. No one is turned away because of inability to pay.



Sale For F.R.O.M. ... Page 3

Wege Land Donation ... Page 4

Shopping For A Living...Page 10

Lowell Beekeeper... Page 13

Obituaries



BOYD

Doris E. Boyd, aged 86, of Lowell passed away March 27, 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward (1987) and brother-in-law, Frederick Boyd. She is survived by her children, Edward James "Jim" Boyd of Bonneville, UT, Robert

Eugene Boyd and Janet Boyd both of Lowell; brother, James L. (Louise) Johnson of Grand Rapids; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild. Doris was an active member of First Congregational UCC; past treasurer for many years; held offices for Cheerful Doers, Esther Group and several others; she was active in several organizations such as Eastern Star; Showboat Garden Club; sold tickets and was treasurer for "The Showboat"; American Legion Auxiliary; Ladies Auxiliary of VFW; White Shrine of Ionia; Business and Professional Women's Club of Grand Rapids; Kent County Association

of Treasurers and several others. Mrs. Boyd worked for Lowell Township as Treasurer from 1960-1986. Drove school bus for ten years. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 31 at First Congregational Church of Lowell. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to; First Congregational Church of Lowell or Disabled Veterans.

DIETZ

Randy Dietz, age 44, of Sand Lake, passed away March 27 at his residence. He was born September 7, 1962 in Grand Rapids, the son of Leo and Grace (Boice) Dietz. During his working years he worked for Great Day/Family Fare in Cedar Springs for over 15 years. Randy enjoyed electronics, movies and listening to music. Surviving are five brothers, Donald of Saranac, Raymond (Marilyn) of Sand Lake, Gary of Sand Lake, Marvin (Pat) of Lowell, Gene of Sand Lake; three sisters, Doreen Cheek of Dorr, Karen (Don) Segavac of Grand Rapids, Cheryl (Gary) McIntyre of Alpena; several nieces and nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents. Funeral services were held Saturday at the Heckman Funeral Home.

MILLER

Otto (Sony) William Miller, age 79, of Saranac passed away March 28, 2007 in Grand Rapids. He was born May 18, 1927 in Detroit the son of Otto W. and Johanna

Miller. Otto married Harriet Thomas Weeks January 21, 1967 in Saranac. She preceded him in death March 1, 2003. He served in the Army for eight years. Otto is survived by his son, Bryce and Sharon Weeks of Saranac; daughters, Sandie and Jerry Risher of Saranac, Linda and Paul VanBennekom of Saranac; brother, Robert and Lavonne Miller of Bear Lake; sister, Grace Nowak of Lowell; grandchildren Alan and Kathy Risher, Bryan and Tiffany Risher, Andrew and Meagon Weeks, Jason and Crystal Weeks, Tina Ruid and Teri and Jason Wardell; 12 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and granddaughter Barbara. Funeral services will be held at a later date. You may make memorial contributions in Otto's name to Saranac Fire Department.

PFARRER

Mr. Frederick Daniel Pfarrer, of Coopersville, formerly of Grand Rapids, passed away Thursday, March 29, 2007. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Lee and his sister, Caroline Sandy. He is survived by his daughter, Diane and Scott Struyk of Coopersville; his grandchildren, Michael Struyk, Tina Struyk, Heather (Michael) Simon of Flagstaff, AZ; also nieces, Karen (Dick) Lyons of Greenville, Marcia (Ed) Knott of Lowell, and nephew, Douglas Sandy.

Frederick graduated from GMI (now Kettering University) in 1946 with a degree in Industrial Engineering. He worked as a process engineer for Diesel Equipment on Burlingame. He retired in 1980 as the General Supervisor of Manufacturing Processes. Funeral services were held Monday at the Throop Funeral Home, Clarksville. Memorial contributions may be made to Spectrum Health Hospice or Kettering University.

TOLLIVER

Wilbur E. "Will" Tolliver, age 75, of Greenville, formerly of Holland and Grand Rapids, died suddenly on March 27, 2007. He was born in Nelsonville, Ohio on June 26, 1931 the son of Gordon and Ada McDonald Tolliver. He graduated from Nelsonville High School and then attended Ohio University and Indiana Tech earning an engineering degree. He served his country in the US Army and for years worked for New York Wire Mills traveling the country. He formed Tolcon Steel Co and Tradco as a concrete construction consultant. He was married to the former Jacqueline Daughtry of Ft. Wayne IN and she preceded him in death on May 20, 1987. He married Rose M. Miszewski on August 15, 1998 and she survives him along with his children; Steven Tolliver of Seattle WA, Scott Tolliver of Muskegon, Carrie Conroy of Holland, Nancy and Andy DeBoer of Lowell, Lynn and Tom Nichols of Shelbyville, Patrick and Michelle Tolliver of Greenville and Libby and John Boykin of Zanesville OH, 15 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren, his

brother Darrow and Brenda Tolliver of Nelsonville OH, his brothers-in-law, Paul Miszewski of Lansing, Carl Miszewski of Houston TX and Richard Miszewski of Muskegon, Jim and Peggy Daughtry and sister-in-law Beverly Carter of Ft. Wayne IN. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 31 2007 at the Hurst Funeral Home, Greenville. Memorial contributions may be given to American Diabetes Association or American Heart Association.

VAN WESTERIENEN

Jeffrey Van Westrienen, aged 51, of Lowell and Grand Rapids, passed away on Tuesday, March 27, 2007. He was preceded in death by his mother, Frances S. VanWestrienen in 2000, and by his father, Gerrit VanWestrienen in 2005. Jeff is survived by his sister, Lynn Myers of Dallas, TX and a brother Dirk VanWestrienen of Corrales, NM. He is also survived by a half sister, Barbara M. Galecki of Worth, IL and two half brothers, Gerrit J. VanWestrienen of Oakland Park, IL and John A. VanWestrienen of Lockport, IL. Jeff leaves behind many extended family members of Independent Acres in Lowell and The Benson Home in Grand Rapids. The family wishes to express their deep gratitude to the dedicated caretakers of these group homes for the love, compassion and joy showered on Jeff during his life. A Funeral and DeBoer of Lowell, Lynn and Tom Nichols of Shelbyville, Patrick and Michelle Tolliver of Greenville and Libby and John Boykin of Zanesville OH, 15 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren, his

Lowell merchants plan sale to benefit F.R.O.M.

Lowell's first annual Outside In Sale to benefit Flat River Outreach Ministries will take place on Saturday April 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

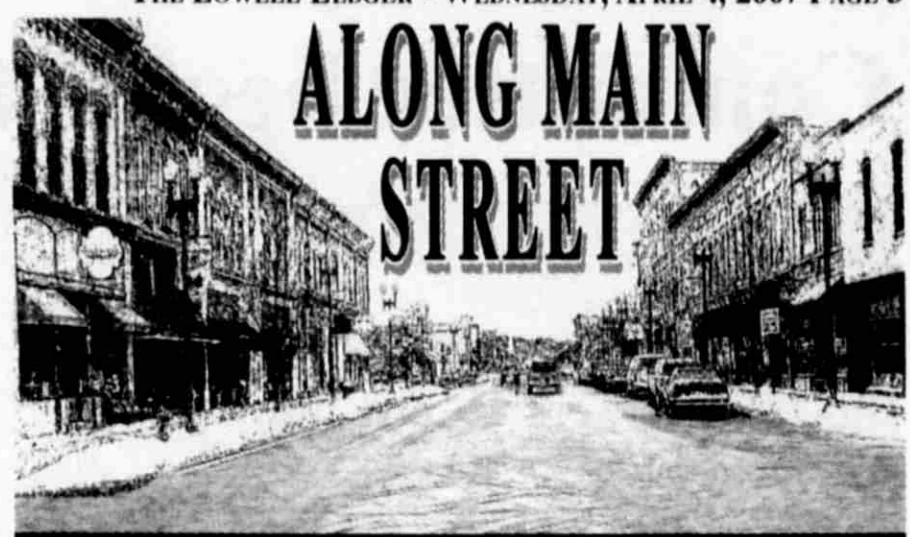
The Lowell Merchants Committee, part of the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce, came up with the "win-win" idea that will benefit customers and merchants alike, according to committee member Cliff Yankovich who co-owns Chimera Design. Yankovich said that customers will win because it is like a sidewalk sale held inside.

The merchants are looking to sell off old inventory and display items. There will be all kinds of things on sale up and down Main Street.

FROM will benefit because every participating merchant will have a Mason jar that they will put 25 cents in for every one of the first 100 customers coming into the store. Hopefully this will inspire the customers to put in a donation of their own. Customers should look for the Mason jars collecting quarters at participating merchants on the day of the event.

"Our goal is to raise several hundred dollars for the Flat River Outreach Ministries," said Yankovich. "We appreciate what FROM does for our community and we thought of this as a way that we can give back to them and support the great work they do in Lowell."

The list of participating merchants is growing every day. As of March 28 there are ten who are committed and



EASTER EGG HUNT
Saturday, April 7 at Creekside Park. 1-3 yr. 11 a.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.

TOTS LITTLE DOODLERS
Art classes for children 2-5 yrs. begins April 9, 9:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. for 4 weeks. \$1 per class. Call Kathy at 987-2532 to register.

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.

OUTSIDE/IN SALE
The Chamber is seeking 1/2 gallon mason jars for the Outside/In Sale. If you have some that you would like to donate, please call the Chamber at 897-9161. Need by April 10.

LOWELL AREA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
Open meeting, April 10, 7 p.m. at the Lowell Fire Barn, 315 S. Hudson. Public invited. 897-5314. N. Washington is to be part of the discussion.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Combat Boots and Hula Hoops - panel discussion on April 17 at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Township Hall, 2910 Alden Nash. Moderator Ivan Blough will interview panelists as they share their memories of what life in Lowell was like once the soldiers returned from WWII. Free admission, public invited, light refreshments served.

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

LOWELL/CALEDONIA JV HOCKEY TRYOUTS
Tryouts are April 24 and 25 at Patterson Ice Arena from 7 - 8:30 p.m. All players with birthdays from 1990 - 1993 will be considered. Tryouts are free for all Lowell and Caledonia students. Arrive early for registration. Full equipment is necessary. Contact Shad Propst, JV Team Manager for more information. PROPSTSS@aol.com.

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

SHOWBOAT NOSTALGIA TALENT SEARCH
Don't pass up this historic opportunity to perform at Showboat Nostalgia event 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.

CALL FOR AUDITIONS
The Thebes Players Community Theatre is seeking three male and two female adult actors for Deathtrap. Dates of production are June 15 - 24, 2007 at the Lowell Performing Arts Center at Lowell High School. Rehearsals for the play will begin on Monday, April 30th, 2007. Auditions are on April 26 - 27 at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Chamber of Commerce, 113 Riverwalk Plaza. For more information or to borrow a script for review call or visit the Lowell Area Arts Council at 149 S. Hudson, Lowell, MI 616-897-8545 or refer to our website at www.lowellarts council.org.

CITY OF LOWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Lowell City Hall Offices, Police Offices, Lowell Light and Power/Cable TV and Department of Public Works will be closed on Friday, April 6, 2007 in observance of Good Friday.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the regularly scheduled meeting of April 16, 2007, the Lowell Charter Township Board will consider an amendment to the Township construction codes (building, mechanical, plumbing and electrical) to comply with the State Construction Code Act (Public Act 230 of 1972). For purposes of clarity and consistency with the Act, the ordinance revision consolidates all of the Township construction code ordinances into one. The ordinance states that the Township is electing to administer and enforce the current Michigan Building, Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing Codes, and repeals its previous building code ordinances. It also provides that the building official currently responsible for enforcing the respective codes shall continue to have such responsibility and authority, unless and until the Township designates a replacement.

A copy of the complete text of the ordinance can be obtained at the Lowell Township offices, 2910 Alden Nash S.E., during regular Township hours or by calling 897-7600.

Linda S. Regan, Clerk
Lowell Charter Township

VERGENNES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING MASTER PLAN UPDATE

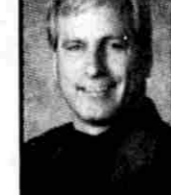
Public notice is hereby given that the Vergennes Township Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on **Monday, April 9, 2007 at 7:00 PM at the Township Hall, 10381 Bailey Dr, PO Box 208, Lowell Michigan 49331**, to accept public comment on the comprehensive master plan update.

Updates to portions of the text and maps are being proposed. Copies of the draft updates to the Master Plan are available for public viewing during regular business hours between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at the Township Hall. Written comments may be received by mail, in person or in the mail slot located at the office entrance until the night of the hearing. Comments may also be emailed to zoning@vergennestwp.org

If you plan on attending this hearing and are handicapped requiring any special assistance, please notify the Township by calling 616-897-5671 as soon as possible.

Vergennes Township
Planning Commission

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Committee begins to plan for Wege land donation



Superintendent Greg Pratt and city manager Dave Pasquale lead Wege land discussion.

By Emma Palova

A committee consisting of government, Lowell schools and YMCA representatives last week sketched out a plan for a possible land donation from the Wege Foundation.

The Wege Foundation recently proposed to donate between 20 to 40 acres of land on the northwest corner of Alden Nash and Vergennes roads, if the community can come up with a feasibility study and funding.

Upon completion of a successful plan, the land would be dedicated to recreation facilities such as a YMCA pool.

Pete Wege will use the remaining southern and northeast sections for a potential development, and maybe botanical gardens.

Since the donation comes with conditions attached, the

group led by Lowell schools superintendent Greg Pratt, addressed concerns.

"We have to start an open dialogue to address road blocks to this project," said Pratt. The major concern was a continued dialogue between nine entities with two representatives each, and funding.

After a short discussion, the group decided to retain the same structure of the original committee for consistency.

"Each entity has to be a proprietor in this," said Vergennes resident Dennis Steckler, consultant for Patni Computer Systems. "You need a consistent team."

If a millage is needed to fund a recreational facility, a structured committee would have more leverage, according to Steckler.

Wege land, cont'd., pg. 9

Reflective of the times, city presents tight budget draft

By Emma Palova

Next year's projected budget is tight again as Lowell city officials continue to struggle with harsh economic times.

A draft of the budget, expected to be adopted in June, was unveiled at the city council meeting Monday.

The general fund, one of the city's 10 funds, has been impacted mainly by declining state revenue sharing and the closing of Attwood which resulted in a loss of \$100,000 in personal property taxes.

Fewer building permits

were taken out during the past fiscal year. Overall, building permits have declined 50 percent since 2001 and the cost of health care insurance has also continued to rise.

"We've seen less residential and commercial activity," said City Manager Dave Pasquale.

During budget time, the focus is on the general fund, because all the other funds such as utilities, water and sewer, are restricted, according to Pasquale.

"General fund is the cornerstone of our overall

financial picture," he said.

On the other hand, revenues from property taxes have increased by 2.8 percent, and taxable value in the city has been rising. A mill is valued at \$93,582 compared to \$91,057 last year. So, the Downtown Development Authority continues its strong growth.

The budget proposed a one percent salary increase for city employees, and a one percent administrative fee added to property tax bills in the next fiscal year. Most council members did not favor the administrative fee.

On the expenditure side, the police department takes the biggest chunk out of the general fund pie with \$881,711, closely followed

by general government with \$692,693.

The third biggest consumers of the general fund are bond payments for the construction of the city hall at \$336,550.

Council member Jim

Pfalter also questioned an \$11,000 expenditure for the Lowell Area Historical Museum. The city budgets \$11,000 for museum operations from a tax payer approved millage, and

\$11,000 for the maintenance of the building.

The city parks get \$139,226 from the general fund. Therefore, Pfalter said the city has to start charging a \$5 user fee for the parks.

Public hearings set for ordinance changes

By Emma Palova

The Lowell City Council Monday set public hearings for May 7 for proposed zoning ordinance changes.

Recently, Canfield Plumbing requested the

rezoning of parcels on South Washington from multiple residential to light industrial for the construction of a commercial warehouse/garage. The planning commission recommended adding the adjacent Attwood lot to the zoning change. The parcel is currently owned by Mid Michigan Railroad.

The other zoning change will require the completion of a residential structure within 12 months, and commercial within 18 months. The planning commission will also be working on a zoning amendment regulating portable storage containers.

The public hearings on the zoning changes will take place during the City Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 301 E. Main St.

In other business, the council established dates for joint sessions with the Lowell Light and Power board. The sessions are scheduled for June 14, Sept. 13 and Dec. 13.

The council also authorized a temporary liquor license for Flat River Grill to serve alcoholic beverages during the summer concert series on June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26 and August 2, 16, 23.

LOWELL MOOSE EASTER EGG HUNT!

SAT., APRIL 7, 2007

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3 YR. ----- 11:00 A.M.

4-5-6 YR. ----- 11:45 A.M.

7-8-9 YR. ----- 12:30 P.M.

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Happy Easter

LOWELL AREA COMMUNITY FUND ACCEPTS GRANT PROPOSALS

All Proposals Must Be Submitted No Later Than April 20, 2007 to be considered.

To receive a grant application form call Kate Luckert, program director at 616-454-1751 or download an application from the website at: www.grfoundation.org/lowell

You may also pick up an application at any of the following locations:

- Lowell Township Hall,
- Vergennes Township Hall, City Offices of Lowell,
- Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce,
- the Englehardt Public Library or any Lowell Area School.

The Lowell Area Community Fund, a fund of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, awards grants to tax-exempt, nonprofit charitable organizations that have an impact in the Lowell area. The LACF funds innovative projects or programs that encourage community cooperation.

ENGAGED? CONGRATULATIONS!

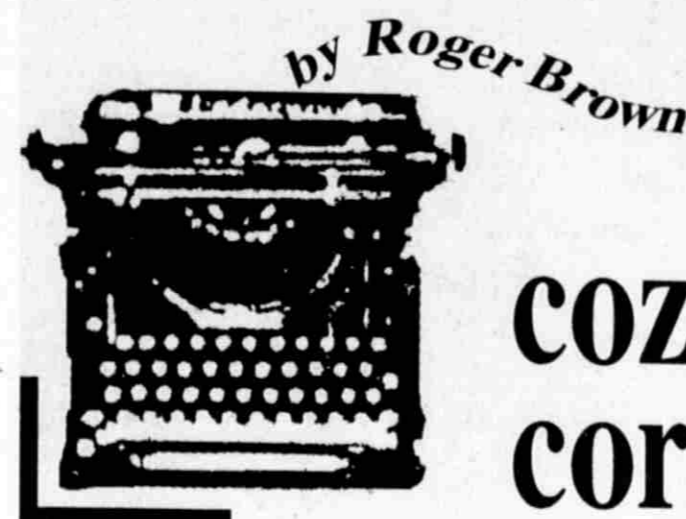
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Viewpoint



Somebody recently asked me for an update on my old biplane. My answer should have been, "How much time do you have?" Since I don't have any better ideas for this week's column, a status report on old N33NA seems like something to fill some space.

The past two years have been rather eventful for my 1941 Stearman biplane. First there was that botched engine rebuild in Florida that left us (me, my wife and the airplane) stranded in western Kentucky while on our way back to Michigan. That was late summer of 2005. The engine was re-built for a ferry flight from Kentucky on up to Michigan in mid-November. Just in time to beat serious winter, but not in time to keep from freezing my tail off during the open cockpit flight.

In the spring of 2006 I managed to fly the airplane enough to gain some trust in the rebuilt engine. After chasing oil leaks and tweaking various squawks, I was ready to tackle an extended trip to the west coast and back. That trip was well-documented here, so we don't need to re-hash that. (As a sidebar, I do intend to compile those articles into a booklet. I'll let you know if I ever get it done.)

Later in the summer there was the incident when the gas gauge failed, I ran out of gas and landed in a hayfield. The problem with the gas gauge was fixed and I learned a few hard lessons.

In September I made the annual pilgrimage to Galesburg, Illinois for the National Stearman Convention. I won a couple of awards. I took second in the short-field take-off competition. Then, out of over 130 Stearmans at the event, my plane came away with the tongue-in-cheek, "Stearman Most In Need of Restoration" award.

A month or so later, it was time for the annual inspection. Cracks were discovered in the rear spar of the center section, the part of the airplane between the two upper wings. The cracks were found near the metal brackets bolted to the 1" X 6" wood spar. These brackets mate with attach points on the wings. The cracks are significant only if the pilot wants the airplane to hold together in flight. Guess I really deserved that "Restoration" award.

Following the discovery of the cracks, I went through the agonizing decision process of whether to sell the old biplane outright, trade it (and some cash) to a re-builder for a fresh ship or fix the problem. For no good reason other than sentimental attachment to my old crate, I decided on the latter.

Building a new center section became the responsibility of a friend in Mason, Michigan. He built his Stearman from a pile of parts and has won several "desirable" awards for his work. Over the winter months he has made good progress, and is probably within a month of completing the job. He sends me update photos from time to time. The photos make me wish I could be more involved with the process. He's probably glad I live 1,500 miles away.

To perform this work, the upper wings had to come off. The plane was chocked and supports built to hold up the lower wings for the winter. If you look at a biplane, every piece is supporting something else. The wings, fuselage and center section are all held together with an assortment of bolts, spars and flying wires. Without the upper wings in place, the lower wings would simply fall onto the floor. Who wants to go up for a few spins, loops and rolls?

Of course, some problems were found when my old center section was disassembled to salvage the metal pieces inside. The spars and ribs are made from expensive aircraft grade Sitka spruce. That all had to be replaced. We knew that going in to the project.

That wasn't the case during the last rebuild. When the center section was apart this time around, it was obvious the rebuild in 1968 went on the cheap. He installed a new front spar, but used an old WWII vintage spar in the rear. Yup, the one with the cracks.

Some of the metal pieces we hoped to salvage were bent or corroded beyond repair. Also, problems were found with the 45-gallon gas tank, nestled within the center section. The threads were stripped where the fuel gauge screws into place. Worse, there were several fiberglass patches on the aluminum tank. What were these patches covering up? Cracks, holes, dents...worse?

A gas tank in very good condition was located near Atlanta. The price was reasonable. The guy working on my plane said the cost was likely to be less than paying him to refurbish mine. Nothing to do, but dig a little deeper.

If all goes well, the new center section will be installed in a month or so. The old biplane will be re-assembled and rigged. It should be flying in time for some adventure this coming summer.

The only problem with all of this is, the plane is really due for a complete restoration. Who knows what that 40-year-old fabric is covering up? As with that gas tank and a few failed metal parts in the center section, there are undoubtedly many similar "issues" in the wings and fuselage. So why not restore it now? Time and money! The two issues that plague us all.

Years ago we discovered a problem with my propeller. Luckily, a nice replacement was found. Then there is my new/used gas tank. The engine is freshly rebuilt. I will soon have a potentially award-winning center section. (Too bad they don't give out awards for individual parts.)

The rest of the airplane is made up of parts, pieces and workmanship scattered over the years since it rolled off the line in Wichita back in 1941.

I tell people my biplane is just like the Cadillac in the Johnny Cash song. I got her "One Piece At A Time".

Outdoors

By Dave Stegehuis



ON OUR OWN

At this time there is estimated to be over 400 wolves roaming the Upper Peninsula. I look forward to following the life and times of these large, sometimes misunderstood, predators.

The wolves wandered back into Michigan on their own after being banished as nuisance predators. The animals were granted protection under law in the late 1960s and later placed on the federal endangered species list. Numbers have increased steadily to the point where they will be de-listed. Baring any law suits by animal rights groups; it will now be possible for Michigan to implement its own wolf management plan. The wolves will still enjoy full protection, so as the population expands, management will become more challenging.

Wolves live in packs and occupy a home range of about a hundred square miles. That range is primarily determined

by available food. Grey wolves prey on deer, rabbits, rodents, and other small birds and animals as well as nuts and berries.

Judging by steadily increasing numbers in the Upper Peninsula, the limiting factor on wolf population will be social acceptance. For example, some predation of livestock has occurred, so steps must be taken to protect domestic animals in wolf-inhabited areas. Making it difficult to kill a domestic calf will encourage the wolves to go elsewhere to seek natural prey. Like any other animal, wolves are not looking for trouble; only their next meal.

Wolves normally don't present a danger to humans, although common sense should be applied in wolf country. In the last ten years, I have seen two live gray wolves in the U.P., and both quickly vanished into dense cover. In northern Canada, wolf sign is common, and the din of howling wolf packs often breaks the evening silence. I hunted there alone, and my natural senses were always at a peak knowing there might be some question as to who was at the top of the food chain. It turned out the wolves, like me, were interested in caribou. I watched a wolf shadow a bull caribou for three days on the other side of the river. I thought the bull might be sick or injured, but the bull finally swam across the river and the wolf disappeared. Who knows what was going on?

The prospect of observing a similar drama in our own state is exciting; another good reason to get off the pavement and into the backcountry.

We Are United in Support of the Troops

With Senator Carl Levin

Our nation has a moral obligation to provide quality health care to the men and women who are wounded while wearing our nation's uniform. This obligation extends from the point of injury, through evacuation from the battlefield, to first-class medical facilities in the United States, and ends only when the wounds are healed. When the wounds will never heal, we have an obligation to provide quality care throughout the lifetime of the veteran.

I am sad to say that we are not meeting this obligation today. A recent series of Washington Post articles described deplorable living conditions and bungled administrative

processing of injured troops staying at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C. as outpatients. Although the Army has now acted to move soldiers out of a worn, aging facility that should never have been used to house wounded soldiers, new reports indicate that these problems are not confined to Walter Reed and exist elsewhere in the military and VA medical systems.

Our heroes deserve far better than this. They all volunteered for service in our military forces with great hopes and dreams for their futures. Now many of them are faced with the daunting task of figuring out how to live with a lifetime disability. After all they have been through, these injured soldiers should not have to fight for what we, as a nation, have a moral obligation to provide.

I recently visited Walter Reed with four congressional colleagues and talked with a number of these wounded soldiers and their families. By and large, they had praise for the inpatient health care they received, and despite our personal observation of substandard conditions for

To The Editor

Dear Editor,

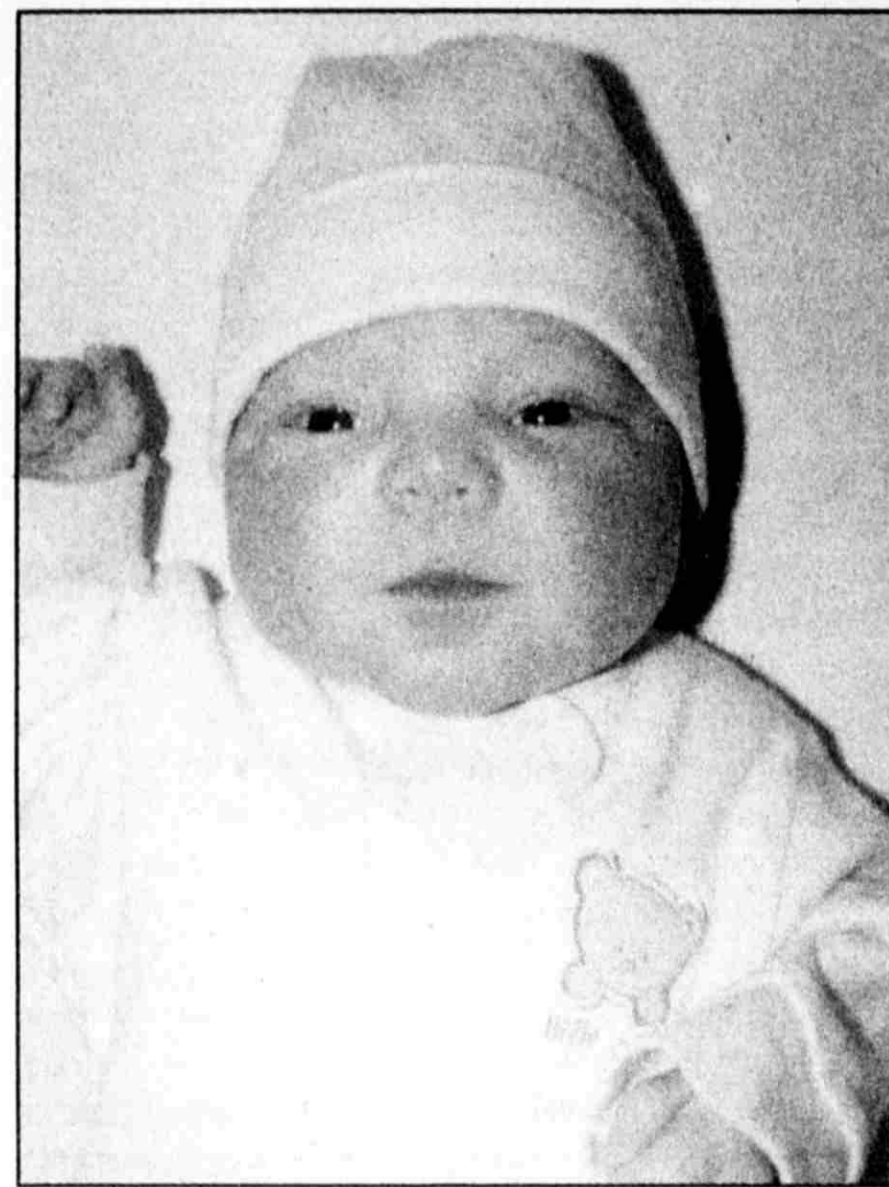
In response to the article in the Lowell Ledger "Power utility frustrated over tree cutting charges." Congratulations to Lowell Light and Power Board Chairman Dave Austin for coming forward and admitting he was shocked with what Bowes Road looked like after the project and said that they didn't have the vision and the utility shouldn't be in the tree business and a moratorium has been placed on all cutting until a tree policy is developed. I believe we should have a policy of not cutting down healthy trees which happened on Bowes Road but a "tree trimming policy." A policy that would not cut down everything within 10 feet of a power line but an annual tree trimming policy which would allow safety along with maintaining a population of healthy trees. I believe that Light and Power should donate to the planting of new trees but \$17,000 seems excessive considering I doubt very much that they cut down 83 trees on Bowes Road unless they were getting paid per tree and counted every twig. I would like to thank the Lowell Ledger for allowing me and any individual to come forward and express their opinions about our community.

Sincerely,
Jim Howard

Levin, cont'd., pg. 9

New Arrivals

Sturgeon



Carrie Zoulek and Shannon Sturgeon are happy to announce the birth of their son, Jaiden Caine Sturgeon. He was born March 18, 2007, weighing 10 lbs. 9 oz. and measuring 21 inches.

Proud grandparents are John and Sheryl Zoulek, Sandy Sturgeon, and Gene and Linda Sturgeon, all of Lowell.

Reflections of faith

By Rev. Randy Meyers
Calvary CRC

We northerners sure like it cold don't we? All the indoor time was good for connections. We saw this in the fact that our children kept coming home with colds they didn't have when they left. Yet God has given us such an amazing ability to fend off viruses. We are truly fearfully and wonderfully made. Many found this past winter a good time to connect with a family member or re-establish an old friendship. We did.

My wife prefers hot chocolate and I know many of you prefer coffee. So it must be the Chinese in me that thinks there is nothing better than enjoying a hot cup of tea and

Students perform *The Touch of The Robe*



Middle school students at St. Patrick School put on the play "The Touch of The Robe" March 29 at the Lowell Performing Arts Center at Lowell High School. The play presented the life of Jesus in a series of flashback scenes, as told by a Roman centurion who witnessed his crucifixion and came to believe that Jesus was the Son of God. The students put on the the play with the help of their teachers, Andrea Ceglowski, Cindy Hughes and Jenny Lastfogel.

watching the snow fall outside while we have a meaningful heart-felt conversation inside.

Recently, a shirt-tail relation very removed from me through several marriages died. Their family's sadness was compounded by the fact that the elderly husband was prevented from going to his wife's visitation and funeral because of a cold which was so bad he ended up in the hospital. In conversation, someone wondered to my wife if we (North Americans) knew how to grieve well? She had said that the funeral was, to put it crassly, fun.

The separation caused by death seemed as good a reason as any for a big happy family re-union. This comment struck me as so odd. I nosily stuck my head in the room and asked, "Do we not know how to die well, or is it that we do not know how to really live well?"

Isolation forces from without and within pressure bits of our soul to rigidly freeze into ice-cube sized boxes where stacked in trays they scream for escape. So, now that it is getting warmer, just a suggestion, or two:

1) Try an outdoor adventure with someone you'd like a deeper connection with. Bundle up if chilly, wear boots

if muddy, and a hat if sunny. Take a stroll late at night or early in the morning. The only thing that will distract your conversation is the beauty of seeing silence filled landscapes. Let creation help you praise your maker.

2) Invite a friend over for coffee, tea, and depending on how cool it is, maybe even hot chocolate. Open the windows to let in the fresh spring air. Pick a paragraph to read from a recent book that has fed your soul and share. Let the relational warmth God created you for melt away any winter icicles that may have existed between you.

My college roommate used to be a Southerner. He used to live in Florida. He is now a Michigander. One reason I've heard for his migration is the variation in seasons that our faithful God continues to bless us with up here.

Seasonally we may have it cold outside but as Christians there is no good reason for it to be cold inside. I thank Christ for thawing my heart and pray that Jesus will fill you with his spring joy, too! Don't get soaked. Take a quick peek at the forecast with the Yahoo! Search weather shortcut.

HEALTH

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



DEPRESSION IN CHILDREN AND TEENS

Depression is an illness that makes people feel sad or hopeless. If your child has depression, he or she may seem less confident or lose interest in things he or she used to enjoy. They may have trouble concentrating or focusing, or seem grouchy or angry. They may try to avoid school. Eating and sleeping habits may change. Some children with depression have aches and pains.

Depression is a serious illness. It's not anyone's fault if they become depressed. Depression may be caused by an imbalance of chemicals in the brain. It can be triggered by stressful events, and it can also run in families.

Depression can be treated with counseling or with medications, or with both. Counseling usually is used for mild or moderate depression. Counseling and medication together are used for more severe depression. Antidepressants are not addictive medications. They balance chemicals in the brain but do not cause a "high". The body does get used to having the medicine in its system, so side effects can occur if the medication is stopped too quickly.

Recently there has been concern between children and teens taking antidepressants and suicide. It's not known if there is a definitive link, but there is a warning label on antidepressants. It is important to keep in mind that depression itself makes people more likely to attempt suicide. Children need to be watched closely. If they begin to talk about suicide, they need to be seen by a physician immediately.

Recent radon tests show 1 in 5 is high

Recent radon gas testing conducted on Michigan homes has found that approximately one in five of over 3,700 residences tested exceeded the U.S. Environment Protection Agency's recommended level of 4 picocuries per liter. The testing occurred in homes across the state in January in response to National Radon Action Month.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is found in soil and rock and dilutes when in the outdoor air. When radon

leaks into a home through openings in the foundation floor or walls, however, it can accumulate to unhealthy levels and exposure over time increases one's risk of lung cancer. The EPA estimates that radon is responsible for approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States, and reports in Michigan estimate that more than 600 new lung cancer cases could be attributable to indoor radon each year.

"The response to Radon Action Month was tremendous and we

encourage those who have not tested their homes to do so this year," said Department of Environmental Quality Director Steven E. Chester. "When elevated levels of radon are found action can be taken to reduce those levels and keep our families safe."

Test kits are available from local health departments all across the state. The cost generally ranges from \$5 to \$15, including postage and lab fees. Kits are also available from some home

improvement centers and hardware stores, but not all retail kits include postage and analysis, so citizens are urged to carefully read the packaging before making their purchase.

To find out more about radon, visit the Department of Environmental Quality's Web site at www.michigan.gov/deq/radon or call the DEQ Radon Program at 1 800 RADON GAS (1 800 723 6642) for a free packet of information.

Happy Birthday

APRIL 4:
Troy Pethers.

APRIL 8:
Jay Vezino, Sandy Converse.

APRIL 5:
Doug Klahn

APRIL 9:
J.R. Guastavino.

APRIL 6:

Carol Hovinga, Brad Yonker, Fran Clouser, Connie Vaughn, Pearl Peckham, Malley Cahoon, Cheryl Foster.

APRIL 10:

Julie Webb, Nicholas Comdure, Chelsea Comdure, Betsey Walker, Sarah Rusch-Hildenbrand, Triston Lane Ellsworth-Bristol, Barbara Bechtel.

APRIL 7:

Corey Vollink, Rick Sauber, Lindsey Thaler, Kenneth Dalga, John Henderson, Mary Kimble, Brad Schoen.

College News

Davenport University has announced that the following students have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2006 semester. To achieve the Dean's List a student must maintain a minimum 3.5 grade point average while enrolled in at least nine credits of regular coursework.

From Ada: Jackie Avedician, Teresa Davis, Joseph Roelofs, Jacob Rose, and Scott Sprenger.

From Lowell: Katie Baker, Andrew Happie, Salley Hayden, Michelle Kooiman, Samantha Mol, and Amanda Schneider.

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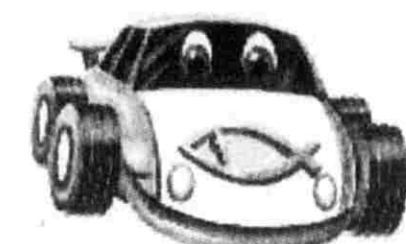
Palm Sunday, April 1
"Hallelujah to the King of Kings"

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

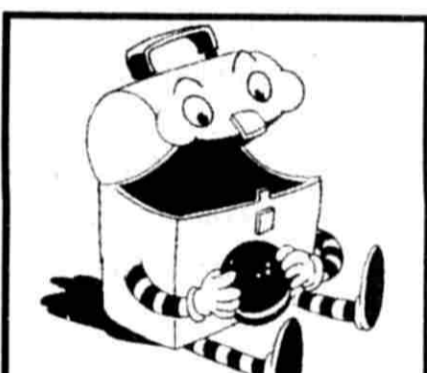
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ELEMENTARY MENU
Week of April 9, 2007

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

TUES: Spaghetti & Italian meatsauce w/ garlic breadstick (3 meat sub 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: Pizza dippers w/sauce (sloppy jo on wheat bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), whole kernel corn, fresh fruit wedges, gelatin w/whipped topping, milk.

FRI: Baked chicken strips w/dinner roll (fish/cheese on bun also offered at Alto & Murray Lake), mashed potatoes/gravy, assorted fruit, milk.

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell Across the street from the Vennon Dodge dealership 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Kirby and Hamson Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M. OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M. Nursery & Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>
<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 621 E. Main Street • 897-5936 Worship Services.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School.....9:45 a.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Nursery & child care available at both services Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God) 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, 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. Fokete 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 WIGGINS 897-7915 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 49, EARTH 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 LaWarre.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise & Worship</p>
<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell & Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Sunday School.....9:00 A.M. Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremet, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims & Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/CLUB J.C.....Wed. 6:15 & 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith 9:45 A.M.Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M.Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery & Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>		<p>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship.....10:40 A.M. Sunday Evening.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday Family Ministry.....7:00 P.M. PASTOR MICHAEL RHODABARGER Staffed Nursery Provided Barrier-Free Entrance</p>

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Levin, continued ... From Page 5

outpatients, they did not complain. What they were most concerned about is the military's disability evaluation system.

Many of these soldiers have extremely complex injuries that take many operations and a long time to heal. If their doctors tell them that further medical care will not improve their condition, and if it is determined that they are not fit for duty, most of these wounded soldiers just want to go home and get on with their lives. It is at this point in their treatment that they encounter the military's disability evaluation system.

A soldier's disability rating is extremely important because it determines the benefits he or she will receive. Those with disabilities rated at 30 percent or higher are medically retired, entitling them and their families to health care through the military's generous TRICARE program. Those whose disabilities are rated less than 30 percent are given a medical separation with severance pay. Although these service members whose disabilities are rated at less

than 30 percent will be able to receive health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs, their families will not.

One soldier with whom I talked had been injured by a blast from an improvised explosive device while on his second tour of duty in Iraq. He understands that he is no longer physically fit for military duty because of the seriousness of his injuries. He told me that he is "scared to death" that the physical disability evaluation system will rate his disability at less than 30 percent and will "put me out on the street" without the ability to take care of his family.

How can we, as a nation, ask our young men and women to serve, and when they are wounded while serving, put them in a position where they are "scared to death" that we will not take proper care of them and their families? Surely we must change such a system.

The American people are deeply angry about the shortfalls in care for our veterans. I recently chaired a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee to get to the bottom of what went wrong at Walter Reed and what we

need to do to make sure that it never happens again. While the Army appears to be taking the necessary steps to improve or replace substandard buildings and to hire additional staff, the more daunting task is to change the overly complex and bureaucratic system used to evaluate disabilities of injured service members.

As part of that effort, the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Veterans Affairs Committee will hold an unprecedented joint hearing in April to address the problems with service members transitioning from the military to the VA for care and benefits, and the problems with the disability evaluation systems.

The war in Iraq has divided our nation, but the cause of supporting our troops unites us. We will do everything we possibly can do, not as Democrats or Republicans, but as grateful Americans, to care for those who have served our nation.

Wege land, continued ... From Page 4

Steckler advised the committee that it may need consultants to clarify its vision for the multi-layered project. "There is a lot of opportunity here, but you need to pre-plan," he said. "Pre-planning is the latest trend in the USA."

Pre-planning is handled through Requests For Information (RFI) that gathers information around complex issues such as the Wege donation which involves multiple entities.

In about an hour, the committee set a strict timeline for the project. By April 17, each entity will submit a letter of support for a \$35,000 grant from the

Lowell Community Fund for a feasibility study.

The study will include funding sources for maintenance of the recreational areas, a recreation master plan, and a plan for the Wege land.

Lowell Area Schools will serve as the fiduciary for the funds. In May, RFIs will go out, while the grant is expected to be awarded in June. RFPs for the feasibility study will go out in July. The next meeting will be held on May 17 at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Area Schools Central Office.

CITY OF LOWELL
PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Lowell will be accepting letters of interest to serve on the Lowell City Airport Board from City of Lowell residents. Letters should be sent to Lowell City Hall, Attention Mayor Chuck Myers, 301 East Main St., Lowell, MI 49331.

Betty R. Morlock
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BUSINESSES SERVICES

Shopping made easy with professional shopping service

By Emma Palova

Sporting a French beret as trademark, Sarah Harmon, owner of Shopping Made Easy, loves her professional shopping job.

Harmon caters to people who have run out of energy, time and ideas. All she needs from a client is a budget and a vague idea.

"Busy people save time and money," she said. "It's one less thing you have to think about. Not everyone likes to shop."

Plus, professional

shopping prevents impulse buying - running into the store with one thing in mind and walking away with a bagful of needless things.

"You look at things you don't need, but like them, you buy them and spend money," said Harmon. "Professional shopping saves a lot of money."

Not that impulse buying hasn't happened to Harmon while professionally shopping.

To shop for a gift for a specific occasion, Harmon needs to know basic things

about the person, their color preferences, hobbies and interests.

"Give me a vague idea and I'll go from there," she said.

Harmon, who is in business with mother Yvonne, also does corporate shopping. Last year, for Christmas, they purchased jump starters in Prague for employees at Root Lowell.

Shopping Made Easy travels overseas to get unique gifts and bargains for a 10 percent extra charge.

After all, where do

you find herb liquor with a secret recipe Becherovka, inexpensive silk and high-quality leather other than in Czech Republic, Italy and France respectively.

Harmon, a 2004 graduate of Lowell High School, uses her versatility and language skills to hunt down the best deals. She learned French in high school in Ingrid Baird's class.

Harmon can get leather shoes for 10 Euros in Paris and herb liquor for \$6.50 in Prague.

"You have to be adventurous," she said.

Last year, the mother and daughter duo found themselves in the midst of Paris riots facing police in full riot gear.

Communication is sometimes difficult.

While in Prague, the shopper team got on a bus to go to their hotel, only to be driven in the opposite direction to the end of the route. The Harmons had to use hand gestures to tell the bus driver, who spoke no English, how to get to their hotel just outside of Prague.

One morning, when ordering French toast for breakfast, Sarah Harmon got a Spanish omelet instead.

Despite the communication issues, the Harmons still enjoy shopping abroad. "I just loved shopping in Prague," Sarah Harmon said.

In Europe, shopping means a lot of walking down the main shopping arteries

such as Mariahilfen Strasse in Vienna and Wenceslav Square in Prague.

However, it does have its benefits. Sarah Harmon trims down at least two dress sizes on each shopping trip despite devouring pasta and gelato. "Shopping in Europe is the best diet," she said.

Harmon also offers a grocery shopping service, shopping for flights and hotels, translating, interpreting and tour guide services.

She recently added floral arrangements and gifts to her shopper line.

"You can't complain about a job that gets you shoe shopping in Paris," she said.

The beret trademark makes Sarah Harmon easily recognizable wherever she goes. "People may forget my name, but they will remember my beret," she said.

The Harmon team will be shopping again this fall in Italy.

For shopping or travel-related needs call Shopping Made Easy at 970-0694 or e-mail at shoppergirlz@hotmail.com.



Sarah Harmon offers professional shopping services and silk arrangements. Harmon is pictured with her silk carnation spider Fred.



Harmon on one of her shopping trips to Paris.



Alto spelling champion competes at Ford museum

Alto Elementary fifth grade spelling bee champion Danielle Starkey lasted several rounds in the Greater Grand Rapids Spelling Bee on March 27 at the Gerald R. Ford Museum. Starkey, who also won the regional spelling bee, competed against 21 other spellers from fifth through eighth grades. She was knocked out of the competition when she misspelled the word "oregano." The winner of the Grand Rapids bee advanced to the National Spelling Bee in Washington DC.

You have to have confidence in your ability, and then be tough enough to follow through.

- Rosalynn Carter (1927 -)

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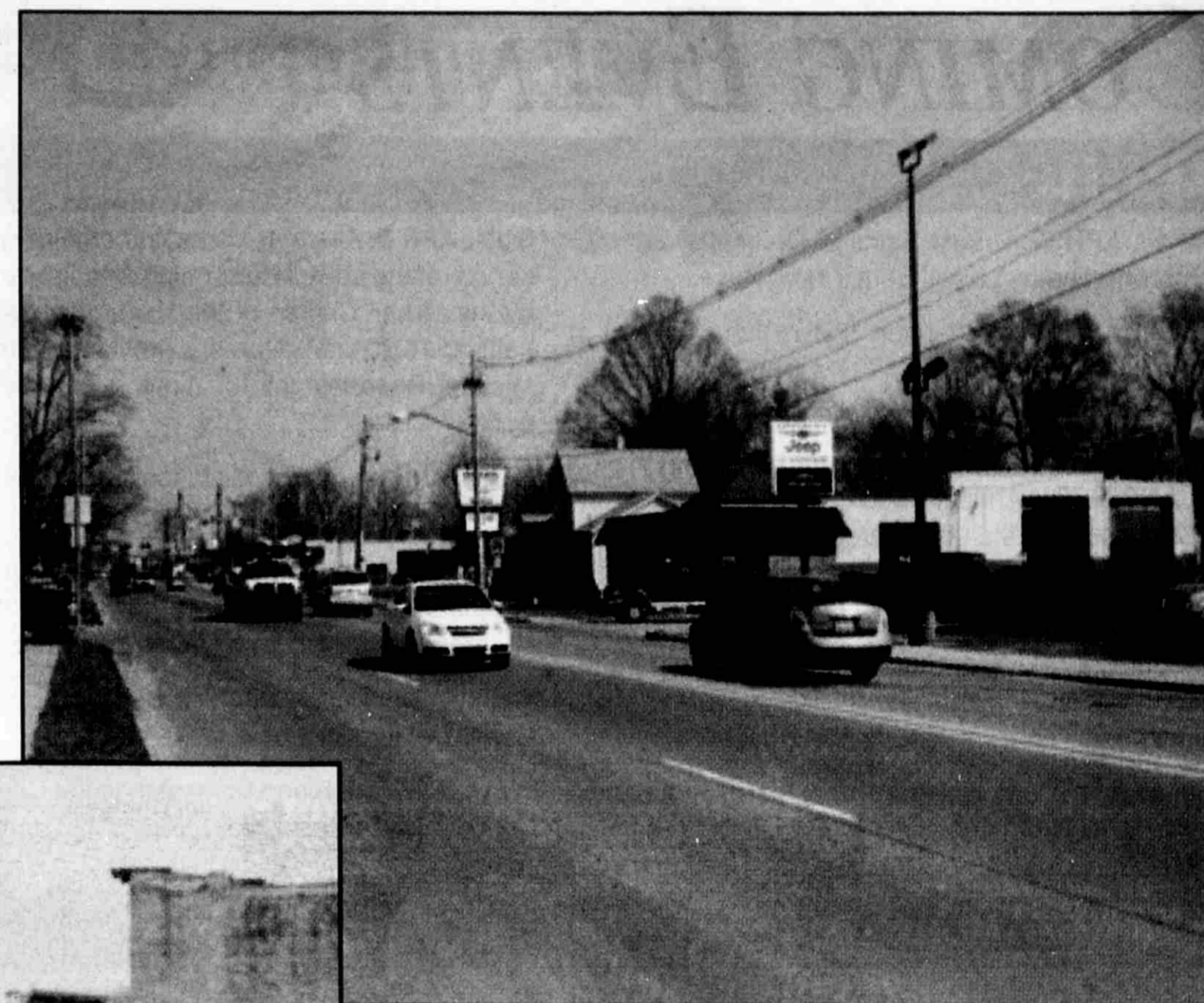
Downtown design, continued ... From Page 1

than an automotive strip," said Breuckman. In a block network, the magic walking distance is a quarter of a mile. Sidewalks need to be the right size lined with trees and benches. Parking should be behind buildings rather than in front of them.

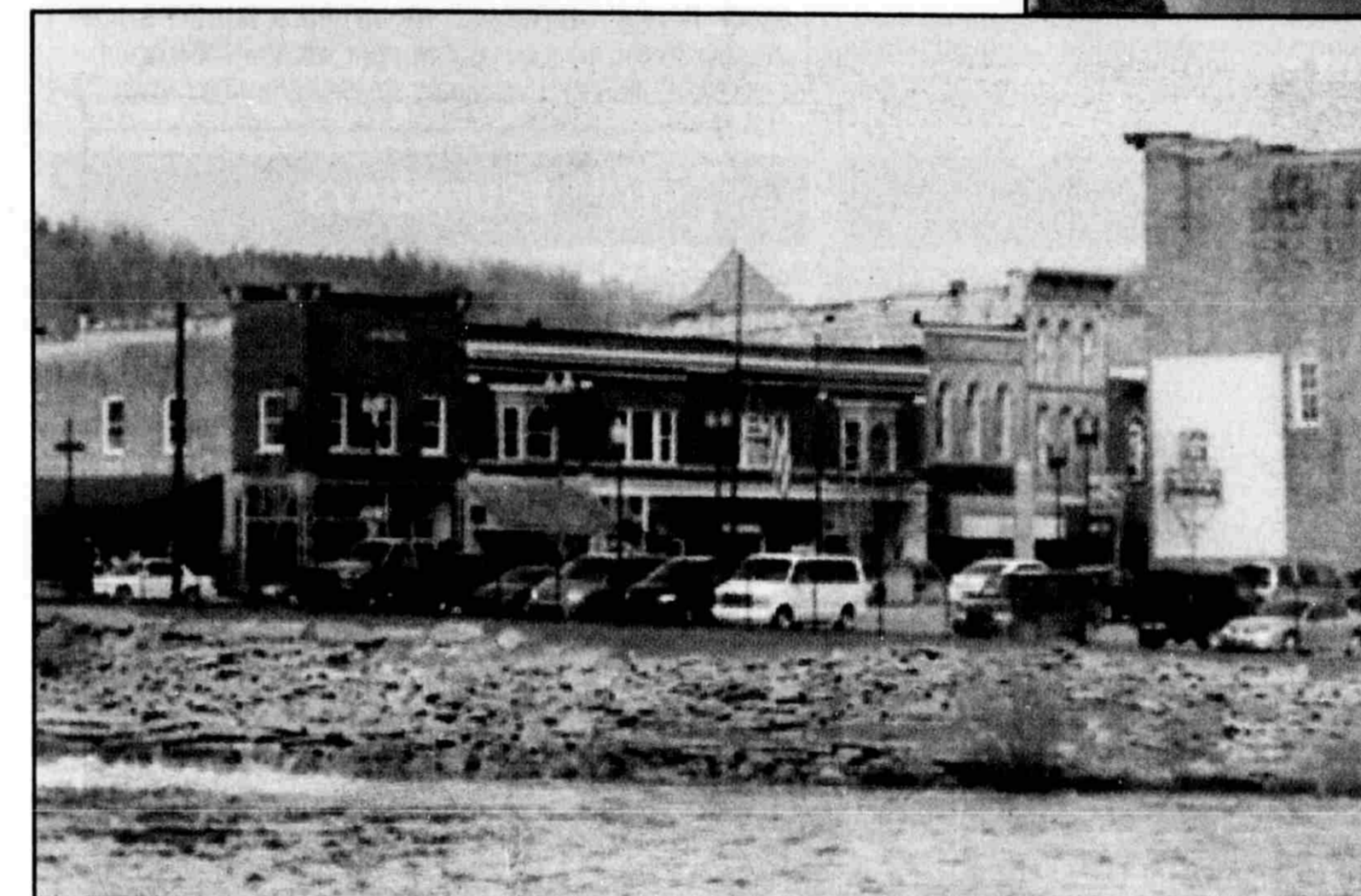
Western and eastern gateways to the city allow for residential and office mixed uses. An identity in mixed land uses should be created with activity centers rather than strip malls. The gateways then transition into residential neighborhoods.

In planned unit developments (PUDs), the master plan would set forth design guidelines to maintain a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere.

The master plan also addresses green developments with high energy efficiency. Although green developments are more expensive, in the long run they create savings over the life of the building.



From top, automotive strip design of West Main encourages speed and cruising. Design nodes downtown between Main Street and the railroad provide spaces for parking, commercial and light industrial uses and Main St. as it appeared in the 1940s.



Combat Boots and Hula Hoops

Museum program offers insight to days gone by

What was it like after World War II when the boys came home? What were the popular pastimes? What was happening in our town? Join the Lowell Area Historical Museum on Tuesday, April 17, at 7 p.m. at the Lowell Township Hall as moderator Ivan Blough interviews a panel of local citizens who will answer these and many other questions.

Dr. Robert Reagan, Nancy and Bill Wood, Mary Anne Gwatin, Bob Steward and Jean Huver will share

their memories about hula hoops, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, cowboy westerns on television, civil defense, bomb shelters, the Red Scare, Sputnik, Elvis Presley, and the Lowell Showboat. You will hear about the popular foods and eateries in Lowell and how the Lowell High School sports teams became the Red Arrows.

The public is welcome to the free event. For more information, call the museum at 897-7688.

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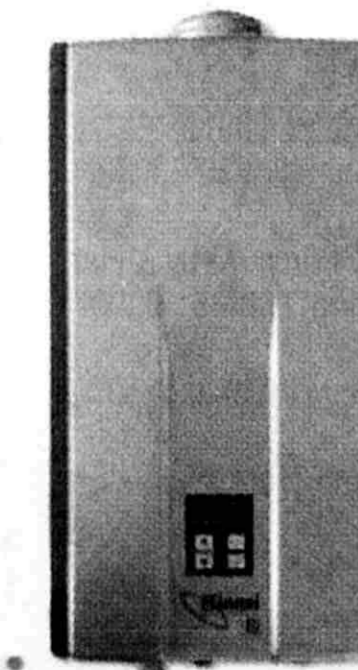
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Easter Sunday, April 8

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Please also join us for our Good Friday
Service (Friday, April 6, 7 pm)

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COMING EVENTS

APRIL

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. Hostesses: Norma Noall and Donna Ford.

FRI., APR. 6: The Annual Good Friday Ecumenical Service sponsored by the Lowell area ministers will be held at St. Mary Church, Lowell, at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

SAT., APR. 7: The 7th/8th grade youth of First United Methodist Church will conduct a pop can drive at 10 a.m. - noon in Whispering Hills and Eastgate. Profit will help fund their mission work camp this summer.

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

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 M#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.

SUN., APR. 8: All are welcome to a community wide Easter service at the Lowell Performing Arts Center, sponsored by the Lowell Church of the Nazarene. Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Nursery provided. Contact Pastor Michael Rhodabarger for more information 897-8800 or 902-4016.

MON., APR. 9: Food Assistance, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Sponsored by Lowell Senior Neighbors.

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.

WED., APR. 11: Food pantry, 12:45 p.m. Sponsored by Lowell Senior Neighbors.

WED., APR. 18: Blood Drive at the First Congregational Church, 865 Lincoln Lake SE from 3 - 7 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 a.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; may submit by 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

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.

Local beekeeper speaks to garden club

By Emma Palova

Pastor Roger LaWarre's bees seem to defy the latest buzz about the disappearing bee colonies due to Colony Collapse Disorder.

They're alive and well, and they soon will be buzzing around the apple orchard in LaWarre's backyard.

In a recent presentation to the Lowell Garden Club, LaWarre talked about the overall benefits of beekeeping.

"My purpose is to help people not to be afraid of bees," he said. "They're not the mean insect that attacks you."

In addition, LaWarre educates the public about the dangers of using pesticides and herbicides. Any contaminated pollen is carried into the hive, and it may poison the honey.

According to some hypotheses, it is the poisoned honey that kills the adult bees in hives eventually causing the colony to collapse.

"But we really have no idea what is causing it," said LaWarre.

As long as its cold outside, bees have to be fed honey in the hive to prevent

malnutrition stressing out the bee colonies.

However, inside a beehive the temperature can reach up to 93F with approximately 50,000 bees buzzing around.

Both wild bees and bees in apiaries are an essential part of the food chain because they pollinate fruits and garden products, according to LaWarre.

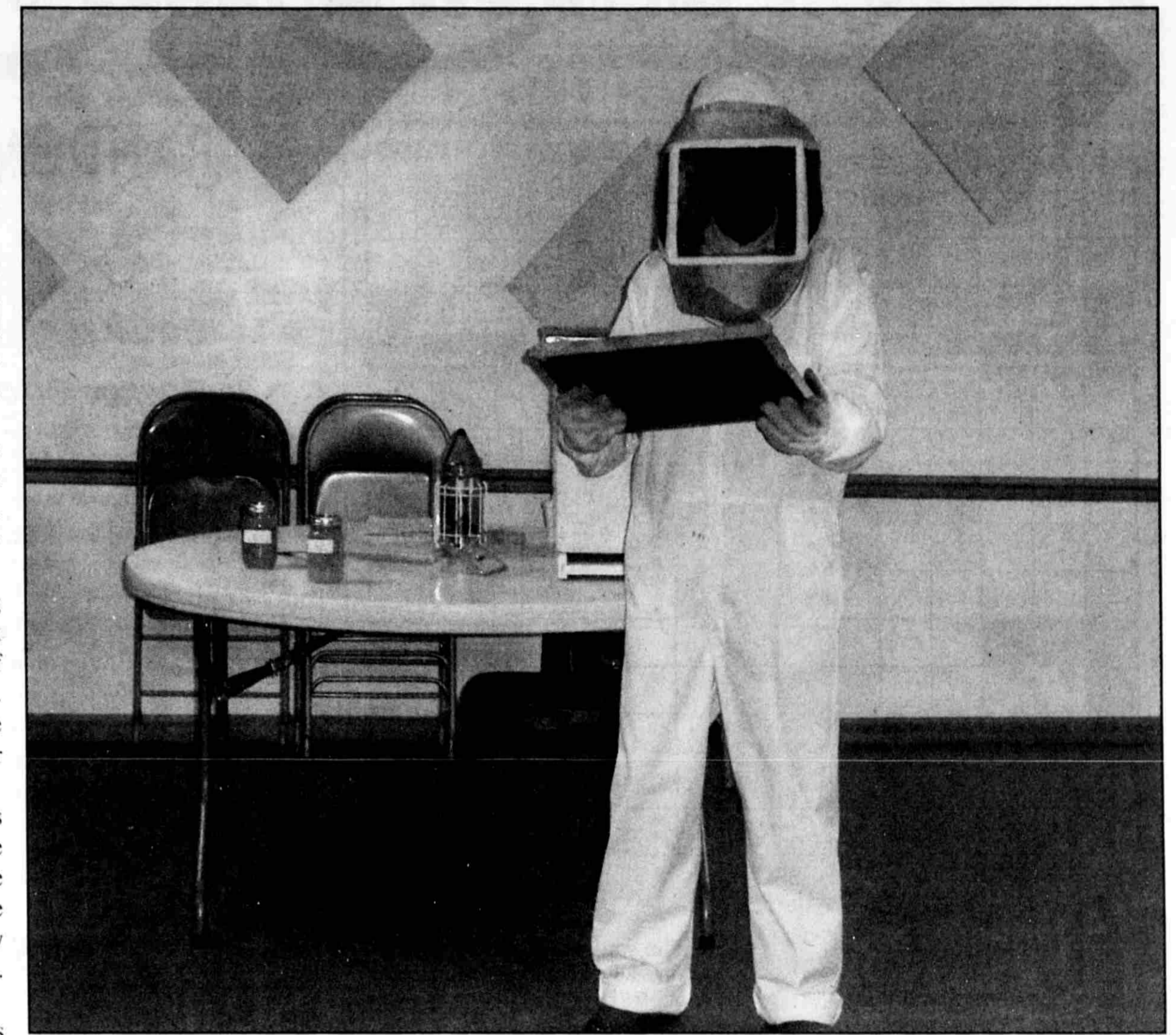
"If you don't have bees you only have the wind pollinating," he said. "All bees are affected by pesticides and herbicides."

LaWarre has been trying to change what people think about bees and the use of pesticides and herbicides. Even some weeds like dandelions are essential for bees.

"You have to see bees as a positive part of the life cycle," he said. "We have less and less bees because of pesticides. Consequently we're diminishing ourselves. It's a Catch 22."

LaWarre suggests lowering the use of both herbicides and pesticides, or replacing them with environmentally safe oils.

Instead of using herbicides for dandelions,



Roger LaWarre, pastor of the First Congregational Church, educates the public about the importance of bees.

people can try to pull them by hand or let them grow. Traps should be used for Japanese beetles.

LaWarre calls honey

the nature's perfect food for its healing properties. Loaded with enzymes and proteins, honey can be used for medicinal purposes

that include honey in hand cream for its antibacterial effects and for wounds. Also, natural honey will not spoil.

"You shouldn't be afraid of bees," said LaWarre. "They will buzz around, but they will not attack you."

To arrange a swarm pick-up, call LaWarre at 897-5906.

LaWarre offers to pick up swarms, which are actually balls of bees that left a compact hive. A new hive can be started with a swarm.

To arrange a swarm pick-up, call LaWarre at 897-5906.

Business Matters



Lisa Brown

Greenridge Realty announced that Lisa Brown received Realtor of the Month in March.

This award recognized Brown for her outstanding success and achievements.

available to the growing west Michigan market.

i2Integration, headquartered in Lansing, has opened a West Michigan office at 209 E. Main.



John Forsberg

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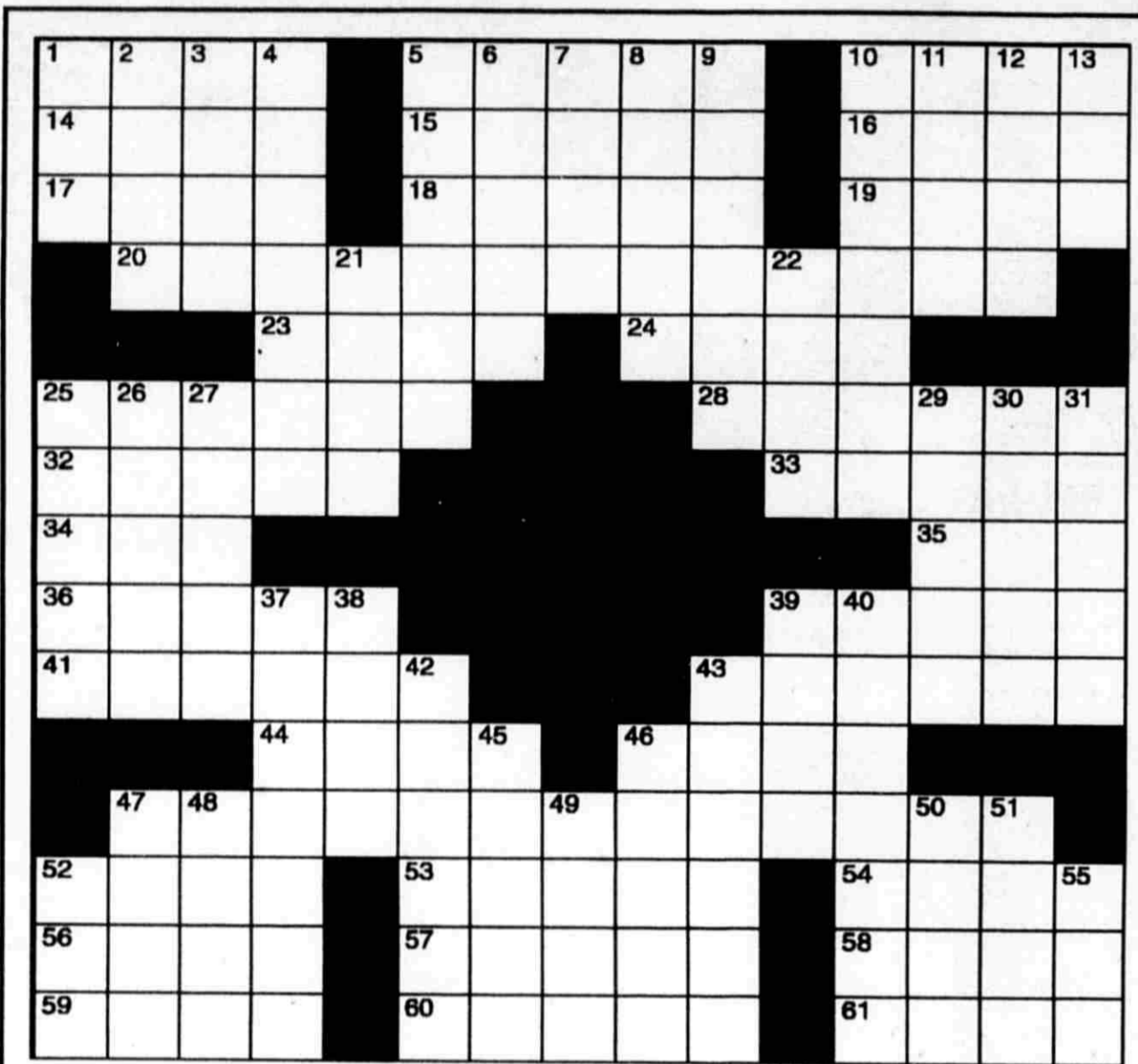


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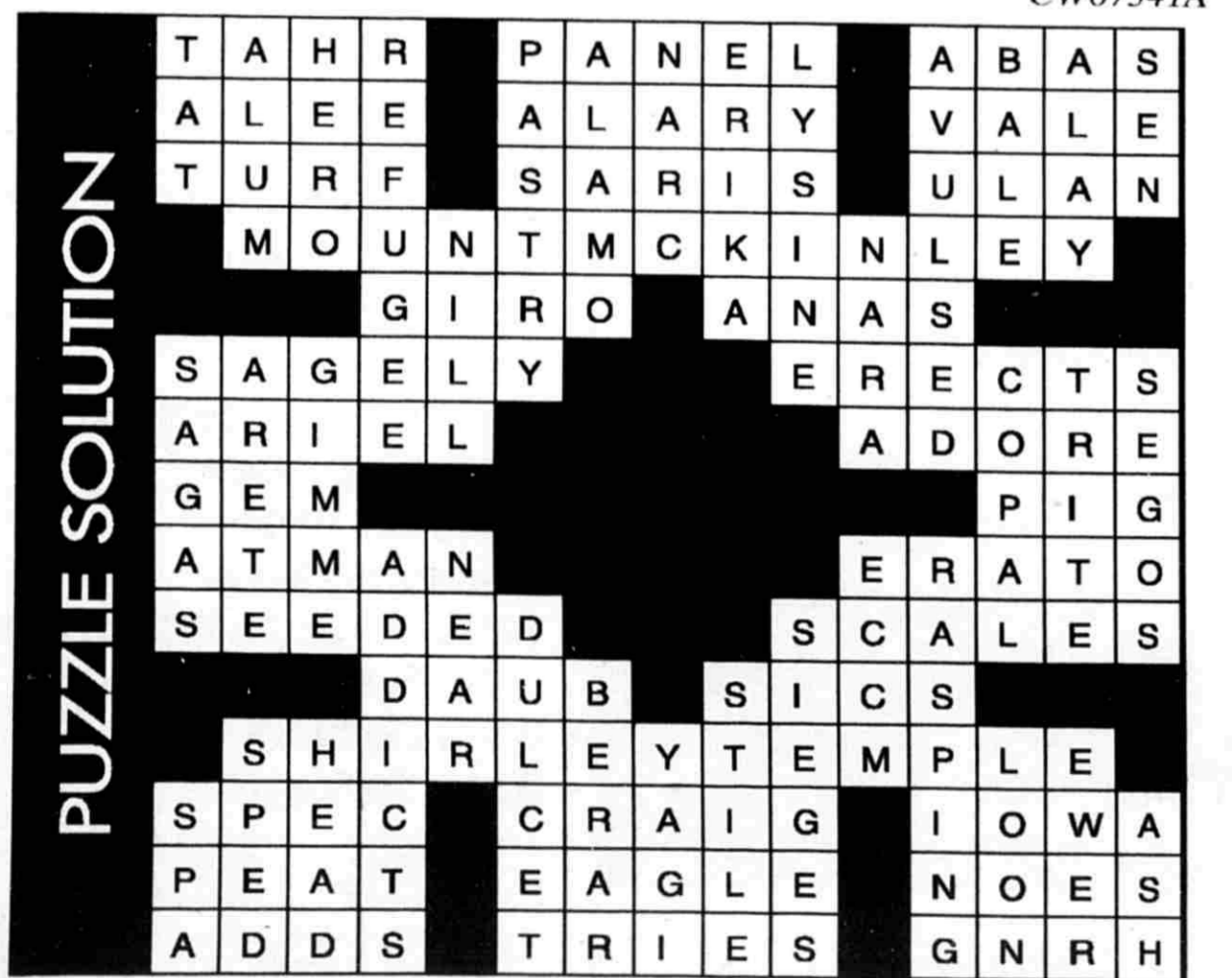
CLUES ACROSS

1. A wild Asian goat
5. Cover with wood
10. ...ement: a low state
14. Away from wind
15. Wing shaped
16. Valley
17. A piece of sod
18. Hindu dresses
19. ...Bator: Mongolian capital
20. Highest point in North America
23. Top bicycle helmet mfg.
24. Genus of freshwater ducks
25. In a wise way
28. Raises
32. Spirit in *The Tempest*
33. Feel deep affection for
34. Jewel
35. Swine
36. The soul in Hinduism
39. The Muse of lyric and love poetry
41. Planted
43. Fish plates
44. Plaster
46. In a way, launches an attack on
47. Kiddie cocktail
52. Detailed criteria for a piece of work
53. Jenny ...: diet method
54. American state
56. Material harvested from a bog
57. A former gold coin in U.S. worth 10 dollars
58. No No No
59. Forms a sum
60. Test
61. Gonadotropin-releasing hormone

CLUES DOWN

1. Make lacework
2. Grad
3. The main good male character
4. Flees for safety
5. Dough for sweet foods
6. "1836 siege" of U.S.
7. ...olepsy: sleep disorder
8. Celtic harp Lieberman
9. Essential amino acid
10. In a way, separated
11. A bundle of hay
12. Kyrgyzstan mountain range
13. Cambodian monetary unit
21. "...you, I will marry you"
22. Ancient Japanese religious center
25. Adventure stories
26. A sharp, narrow mountain ridge or spur
27. A granted putt in informal golf
29. A brittle aromatic resin used in varnishes
30. Worn out by use
31. Edible lily bulbs
37. Junkies
38. Close by
39. Electronic counter-countermeasures
40. Uttering in an irritated tone
42. Extremely pleasant in a gentle way
43. Encirclements
45. Part of Bombay state
46. Upright member of a panel
47. Rushed
48. Costume designer Edith
49. A sharply directional antenna
50. No. bird with a laughlike cry
51. Pitcher
52. A health resort near a spring or at the seaside
55. Residue

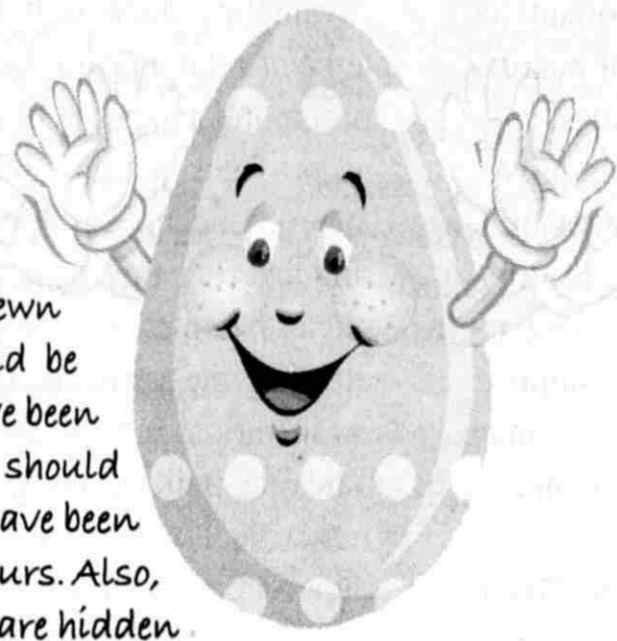
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RANDOM THINGS...

Eating Those Easter Eggs

While Easter eggs are fun to decorate and find once they've been strewn about the yard, some precautions should be taken before eating those eggs once they've been found. For instance, kids (and adults) should not eat eggs, even hard boiled ones, that have been out of the refrigerator for more than two hours. Also, make sure eggs hidden around the yard are hidden in safe places, away from harmful lawn chemicals, fertilizers, bird droppings or insects. Make sure eggs are thoroughly cooked (12-15 minutes for boiled eggs) as well, and then placed in cold water immediately after cooking. This makes the shell easier to remove.



EASTER CUSTOMS

A number of popular customs are observed during the Easter season. Some are followed by most Christians. Others are observed in a particular area or by a particular group.

Carnivals provide opportunities for feasting and merrymaking before the solemn fast days of Lent. The word carnival comes from the Latin word *carnelevarium*, which means removal of meat. The most famous carnival is the Mardi Gras, celebrated on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent begins. Mardi Gras is a French term that means Fat Tuesday. It refers to the fat ox that traditionally led a procession on Shrove Tuesday in France.

Easter eggs. Exchanging and eating Easter eggs is a popular custom in many countries. In most cases, chicken eggs are used. The eggs are hard-boiled and dyed in various colors and patterns. Many countries have their own traditional patterns.

Passion Plays dramatize the Easter story. Such plays have been performed during the Easter season since the Middle Ages. The most famous one is usually presented every 10 years in Oberammergau, in southern Germany. It dates from 1634. In the United States, Passion Plays are performed annually in several cities.

Wearing new clothes for Easter is a custom common among many Christians. It may have originated from the old practice of having newly baptized Christians wear new white clothes for the Easter celebration.

READER'S CORNER

SUDOKU

		7	4					
4	9	6						
		1	6	2	8			
	6	8	3	1			7	
2					6		9	
	1	3	9	7				6
		9				8	4	
				8	5	3	1	
1	5		4		6	9		

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

6	9	7	8	2	9	8	1	5
1	8	9	6	8	2	7	7	9
2	7	8	9	1	6	8	2	7
9	8	7	2	4	6	8	1	5
8	6	1	9	5	8	7	2	7
7	9	2	1	4	6	8	9	6
7	2	6	8	2	9	1	5	8
8	2	8	7	1	5	9	6	7
9	1	9	8	6	7	2	7	8

ANSWER:

ATTENTION READERS Are You Feeling CREATIVE?

If you would like to submit a poem, verse, cartoon, drawing or recipe for the Reader's Corner, we'd like to print it.

Not all will be accepted and submissions will not be returned unless a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included.

You may bring your signed creations to the Ledger office 105 N. Broadway, OR mail them to: Ledger/Readers Corner P.O. Box 126 Lowell, MI 49331 OR E-mail: ledger@lowellbuyersguide.com Subject: "Readers Corner"



Sharing The Vision

With Nancy Hopkins
Board of Education President

The Board of Education is presently conducting its first evaluation of Superintendent Greg Pratt. Selecting and evaluating the superintendent is one of the board's most important jobs. An evaluation done well helps develop good board/superintendent relationships, provides clarity of roles, creates common understanding of the leadership being provided, and provides a mechanism of public accountability. As superintendent, Mr. Pratt is charged with leading and administering the district organization according to the policies adopted by the school board. The purpose of evaluating the superintendent is not to micro-manage the organization, but to provide oversight and public assurance that the policies are being effectively implemented. Another critical purpose is to provide input and feedback to the superintendent in order for continuous performance improvement to occur. The board also believes the superintendent's evaluation is most effective when it is designed and used for communicating future expectations, not simply for reviewing past performance. The board sees the evaluation process as a critical information tool about district activities and progress being made toward goals. It helps Mr. Pratt know what the board expects and how to develop best strategies and plans. And it helps the board monitor progress towards its goals. It is the board's intent that the superintendent evaluation process is a win-win situation for the board, Mr. Pratt and the Lowell community. Critical input and feedback lead to stronger professional development, continuous performance improvement and a deeper understanding of our staff and community. The superintendent evaluation process provides the board with an opportunity to communicate with the school and local communities the status of our district's progress and future plans. At the completion of the evaluation process a summary will be presented at a regular Board of Education meeting and be made available to the public.

Comments may be made to the Board of Education at boardofed@lowellschools.com.

[Spring is] a true reconstructionist.

- Henry Timrod

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP SYNOPSIS

MOTIONS APPROVED:

- Minutes of the February meeting. List of all invoices.
- Award mowing bid.
- Accept proposed budget 2007-08.
- Renew contract for GIS mapping with Progressive AE.
- Approve Palm Sunday walk.

Copies of entire minutes available on the website bownetwp.cc

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk

Lowell YMCA "Move It to Lose It" group succeeds in taking the weight off

With the obesity crisis facing our communities, the Lowell YMCA is one of several groups addressing the issue. In January, 14 people took part in the YMCA's new "Move It to Lose It" weight loss challenge program. The program focused on living a healthier lifestyle by making changes in fitness and nutritional routines.

By teaching participants to add exercise and change their eating habits, the group lost over 276 pounds and 336 inches over a 10-week period.

"Many have had to buy new clothes," said YMCA program director Staci Messersmith. "Our biggest loser was Joe Melle. He lost 54 pounds and a total of 51 3/4 inches."

The public is invited to take part in the next session that begins on April 17.



The pilot "Move It to Lose It" group pictured, front from left to right: Wendy Jeffrey, April Davis; back row left to right: Jill Race, Charlie Jeffrey, Deb Schuitema, Joe Melle, Karen Kleinhessel and Michele Boss.

What luck for rulers that men do not think.

- Adolf Hitler (1889 - 1945)

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Ask Kathryn

With Kathryn DenHouter Ph.D.



One of my readers wrote a note to me and asked - what are the dangers of binge drinking? This is a timely question, because more and more complaints have been expressed about binge drinking especially on college campuses.

At many colleges it has become part of the college culture and a fruitless way of life. It is not only prevalent on college campuses, but also binge drinking (especially on the weekends) is common as well throughout our culture.

First of all, it is important to note that there is no consensus on the definition of binge drinking. The International

Center for Alcohol Policies even says that there are varied definitions for binge drinking. The ICAP has suggested that a commonly held definition is five or more drinks for men and four or more drinks for women per party or occasion.

Another criteria that is used in conjunction with how much a person is drinking is: how much does it disrupt the life of a person? With this amount of drinking, there is the time lost in dealing with the hangover the next day. For some, there is a risk of alcohol poisoning which in some cases can be fatal. Another problem of consistent binge drinking is that a person requires a larger and larger amount of alcohol to get the same feeling. In other words, their tolerance to alcohol gets greater.

Drinking and driving becomes another problem that can result in injury or loss of life. These are very grave outcomes for binge drinking.

Other dangers are the negative social habits that are created by binge drinking. Quite often, social life becomes limited to drinking with others. Other options such as walking, cycling, going to the theatre, going out to dinner

and/or cultivating the art of conversation are not even considered.

Drinking and socializing can become a negative and life-limiting way of living. Also, drinking alcohol can become a way of "self-medicating." By that I mean that instead of treating the underlying condition of anxiety or depression, the use of alcohol at least alters the way a person feels temporarily. Drinking becomes only a temporary fix and if the underlying problem of anxiety and depression are not addressed, the anxiety and depression can become much worse.

Drinking becomes another problem on top of problems. The binge drinker would be much better served by talking through how and why he or she might be anxious and depressed.

Counseling is a much better way to alleviate these underlying problems. This is an excellent and a timely question. If there are more questions about the use of alcohol amongst the readership, please email them to me at kathryndenhouter@gmail.com.

Artist emphasizes character traits in song at Cherry Creek Elementary



Pictured from left to right: Beth Henry, Allie Knight, Dylan Stanton, Carol Johnson

Students at Cherry Creek Elementary recently were able to joyously sing and participate in a program featuring Carol Johnson.

Johnson, who writes and publishes her own songs, was pleasantly surprised with how many of her songs our children were familiar.

Barb Gumina and Tom Rhein, music teachers at Cherry Creek and Bushnell

elementaries, have taught students her songs for several years. The kids, laughing and giggling, especially enjoyed the "More, More More" song when teachers were called to the front to lead the motions. The song's message was about maintaining balance in life. Johnson's "Music with a Message" celebrates the Character Traits of the Lowell school district: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness,

Caring and Citizenship. The music focused on Respect - the Character Trait for March. The trait covers respect for yourself, respect for each other, and respect for the environment. The afternoon assembly was followed by an evening of music with Johnson to which our Bushnell family members were invited. Children eagerly ran to

the front of the cafeteria to participate in leading the songs. The Cherry Creek Character Committee, sponsors of this event, seek to heighten the awareness of the Character Traits within the school through monthly assemblies. Character Recognition awards, the Foundations for Life National Essay Competition, plus much more.

Character at Cherry Creek



Cherry Creek Elementary students recognized for modeling the character trait of "Respect" are front row left to right: Sarah Mayhew, Tyler Ritchie, Sara Schuitema; middle row: Brianna Massey, Jamie Lynn Urban, Abbi Gerig, Diana Mexicano, Mary Hess; back row: Cameron Harper, Joseph Kline, Madison Smith and Devan Timmerman.

At Your Local Library



SYSTEMWIDE BOOK SALE AT THE ENGLEHARDT BRANCH OF KDL

Residents may find those great spring break books and hunt for hidden gems among the rest.

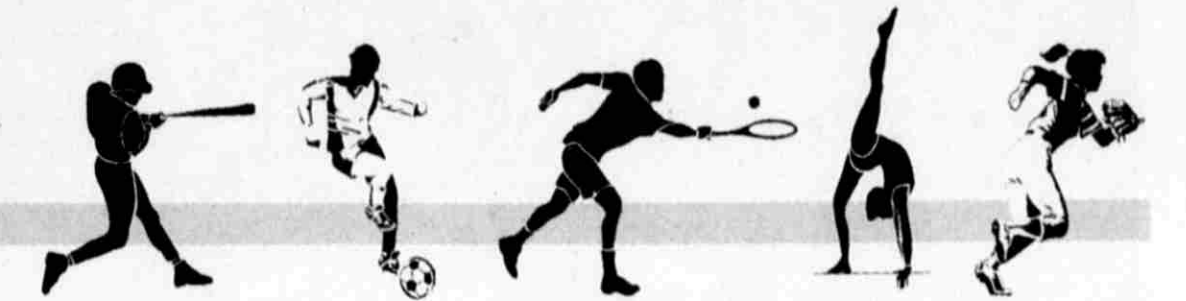
The Englehardt branch of Kent District Library will hold its semi-annual book sale on Friday, April 20 from 9:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the library located at 200 N. Monroe.

All donations will be gratefully accepted. All books will be sold for \$3.00 per bag.

This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Englehardt Branch of KDL in conjunction with the systemwide book sales. All proceeds benefit the library building fund.

For more information, contact the Englehardt branch at 647-3920.

RED ARROW SPORTS



Red Arrow Lacrosse off to a good season start

By Aly DeYoung

The Red Arrow lacrosse team started the season right beating Catholic Central 10-6 on March 27.

"Catholic Central

started strong and took a 3-1 lead," said Lowell coach Eric Bredin. "But Lowell's offense dominated the second half of the game."

Lowell started catching

up before the first quarter ended, closing the gap to 3-2. Catholic Central kept it competitive, but by the end of the third quarter, Lowell pulled ahead 8-4.

Much of the fourth quarter was played at Catholic Central's end of the field.

Senior Adam Bowers made six goals. Also scoring

for Lowell were Nick Lachniet, Ryan Padgett, Austin DeClerq, and Andrew Kuhn.

DeClerq's goal in the third quarter brought loud

cheers from the crowd. DeClerq tossed the ball almost as far back as the middle of the field, directly into Catholic Central's goal.

"Bowers fed the crease and DeClerq was in the right place at the right time and was able to finish," Bredin said. "That kind of teamwork is a testament to what we're trying to accomplish this year."

DeClerq had two assists and Bowers one for the Red Arrows.

Lowell will play Zeeland West High School at home after Spring break, on April 12.

Youth team wrestles at state competition

The Lowell Youth Wrestling Team qualified 32 wrestlers for the MYWA Individual State Championships held at Michigan State University March 24-25.

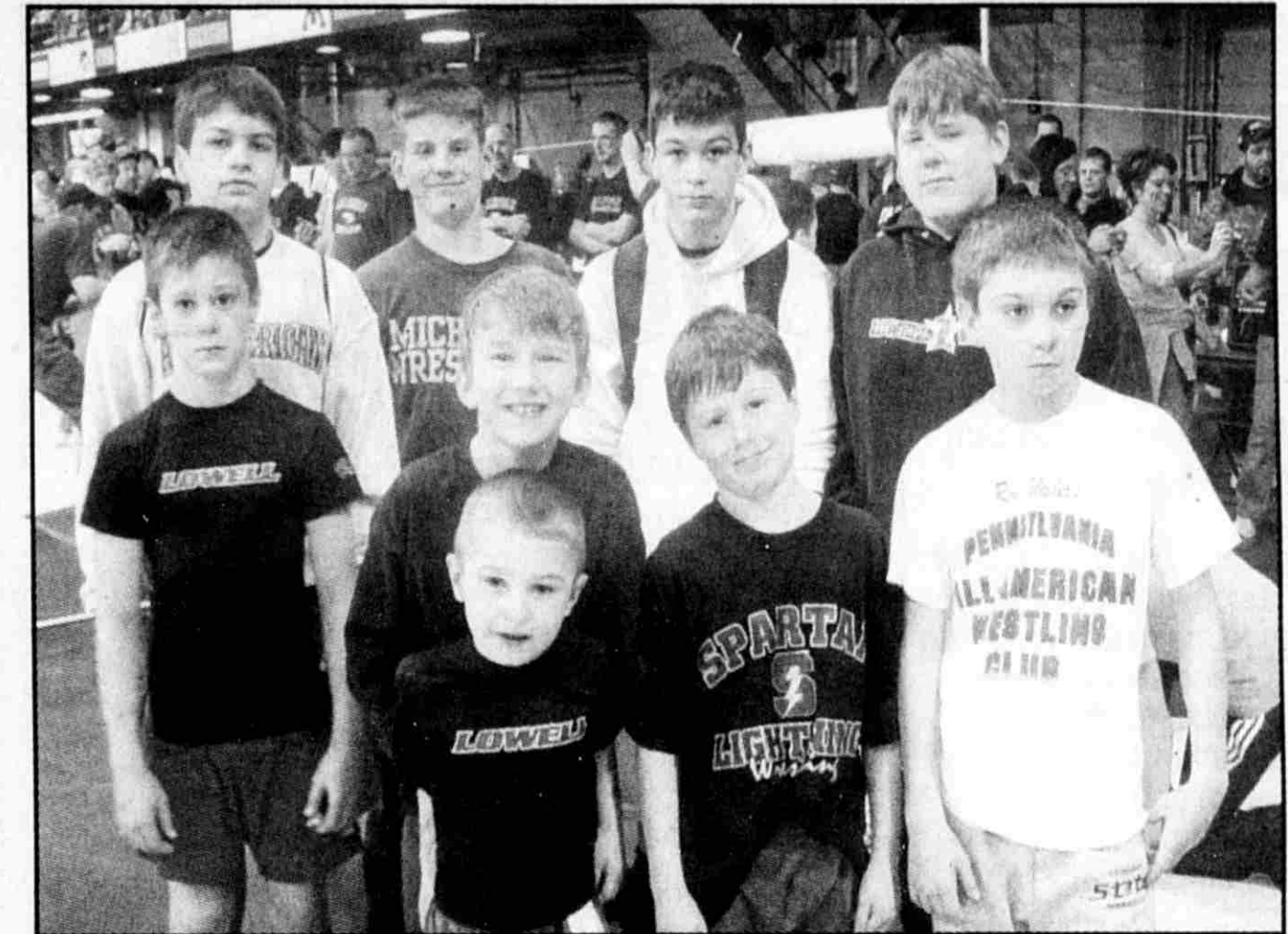
Seventeen advanced to the finals held on the second day and 12 will compete in national competition after placing in the top four in their respective age and weight class divisions.

National qualifiers are: Sage Serbenta, Max Dean, Derek Krajewski, Garrett Stehley, Andrew Morse, Gabe Morse, Garret Taylor, Zeth Dean, Tyler Mitchell, Nate Limmex, Jacob Stehley and Dan Fleet.

Also competing on the second day were Bailey VanAmburgh, Jacob Stephens, Shane Seger, Jacob Murray and Wade Schlosser.

Rounding out the 32 competitors at state were Avery Mutschler, Alex Richmond, Holly Seger, Jake Denison, Logan Blough, Jake Mitchell, Andrew Metternick, Kanon Dean, Jacob Sweet, Mark Harden, Jordan Drake, Gabe Dean, Sam Young, Luke Stephens and John Schaibly.

The top eight wrestlers for each age and weight class competed on Sunday. Placing first were Sage Serbenta, Max Dean, Derek Krajewski, Garrett Stehley and Andrew Morse. Gabe Morse placed second. In third place were Garrett Taylor, Zeth Dean and Tyler Mitchell. Placing fourth were Nate Limmex, Jacob Stehley and Dan Fleet. Bailey VanAmburgh and Jacob Stephens placed fifth. In sixth place was Shane Seger; in seventh place was Jacob Murray and in eighth place was Wade Schlosser.



Some Lowell Youth Wrestling team members who competed at state are: first row: Sage Serbenta; second row: Nate Limmex, Garret Taylor, Shane Seger, Jacob Stephens; third row: Jacob Stehley, Tyler Mitchell, Garret Stehley and Jacob Murray

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CITY OF LOWELL PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The City Planning Commission-Citizen Advisory Committee will conduct a public hearing at their regular scheduled meeting of Monday, April 23, 2007 at 7 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Lowell City Hall, Second Floor, 301 East Main Street, Lowell for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the following:

An Ordinance to amend Subsection C of Section 4.19 "Keeping of pets and other animals," of Chapter 4, "General Provisions," of Appendix A - Zoning Ordinance of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lowell.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance are available for public inspection during normal business hours at City Hall and the Englehardt Public Library.

Interested persons may submit written comments to City Hall, 301 East Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 prior to the meeting or appear in person.



Betty R. Morlock
City Clerk

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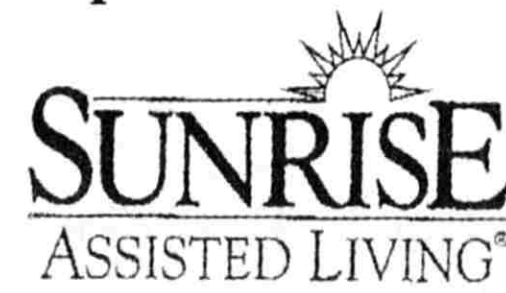
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Senior Neighbors visit elementary school

The Lowell Senior Neighbors visited Denise Washburn's classroom at Murray Lake Elementary. The first graders used this opportunity to read to their new friends and played an exciting game of Bingo. Both the children and adults enjoyed the time together and hope to do it again soon. Pictured left to right: Evan Roth, Caleb Devereaux, Lil Bosscher and Eden Nethercott play a game of Bingo.

BANKING OFFICE MANAGER

Huntington Bank, selected as one of West Michigan's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work for the last four consecutive years, is pleased to begin its search for a Banking Office Manager at our Lowell Banking Office.

Responsibilities include generating new consumer and business banking customers, meeting minimum sales requirements to maintain licensing/certification and managing associates including hiring, terminations, salary adjustments and/or disciplinary actions. Requirements include a Bachelors Degree, a minimum of one year of Retail Banking sales and management experience in a team and goal oriented environment, excellent verbal and written communication skills, and proven leadership skills. Acquire or maintain licensing/certification.

Applicants must meet minimum criteria established by Huntington based on review of their personal Consumer Credit Report. Only applicants who meet the minimum qualifications and have acceptable credit will be considered. Qualified applicants must apply via our on-line application process at www.huntington.com. Please click on our Careers page, register for employment and apply for the Banking Office Manager IRC32514.

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Sound Off

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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".

To all of you in Lowell who support the troops/sailors. Thank you. You do not realize how much we appreciate it.

Does anyone feel like kickin' off their Sunday shoes down in the boon docks? I know I do!

There is more than one elementary in Lowell. It is up to your school to submit photos or articles for the Ledger. Ask your principal to submit more. Go Mustangs!

I second the vote for the food channel!
I don't want to leave for the dish to get it.

Great job WLHS on Channel 2 on Lowell Cable TV.
You kids are great!

How come we don't hear about the music programs anymore? Isn't there a lot going on?

Hey Nosey Neighbors - stay out of our open houses if you're not interested in buying our houses.

I know who Otis was. My dad sprinkled the park so your mom could pick up the night crawlers. She's a great gal.

Who's the talented, tradesman that has left the area?

A responsible pet owner is either with his/her pet while outside or the pet is in a safe area thus alleviating the worry that one's pet will be killed in the road or run off with the neighbor's Airedales. Keep your pets safe Roger!

F.Y.I. If you have a 1996 Jeep Cherokee Sport buy a fire extinguisher A.S.A.P. Mine had a fire in the dashboard and burned to the ground. Only 90,000 miles.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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.

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

FOR SALE - Garden tractor, 20 hp, 46" deck, MTD, 5 years old. Bad motor. \$200 obo. Call 897-0942.

FOR SALE - 1996 32.5 ft. Terry 5th wheel w/2 slides. New tires, carpets & drapes. Must see to appreciate. Paid \$37,000 asking \$10,800 or 1996 Chevy 3500 crew cab w/tow package, AM/FM/CD, very low miles, \$20,000 for both. To see call 616-642-6159. For info call 616-581-1391.

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.

FOR SALE - Dining room set, dark colonial, crows feet base, 45" round table with 17" insert. 6 chairs, 2 captain chairs. Lighted hutch with glass door. Caining in chair backs, like new. 897-0369.

FOR SALE - Bed, off white metal head and foot end, with metal frame, brand new, still in box. Full size. 897-0369.

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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."

GIRLS FRESHMAN/JUNIOR VARIETY BASKETBALL COACHES - Applications should be submitted with a cover letter and resume to Barry Hobria, Athletic Director, Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes, Lowell, MI 49331 by 12 noon, April 10, 2007.

NEEDED - dental assistant. Orthodontic specialty practice. Experience necessary. Ionia location. Part-time. Excellent pay. Resume to: 8720 Bennett SE, Ada, MI 49301.

ATTENTION - It's hot! It's summer. Position FT/PT, high school/college students, customer service, set up display, general help. \$600/week to start (no sales required). Gasoline allowance incentives, company expansion, paid weekly. Call 616-522-9783 between the hours of 9:30 - 4:30 only. Local company must add to its work force. All positions are entry level with some opportunity to advance. No layoffs. Due to expansion. Call for an one on one interview. No 3rd shift.

RETIRED PERSON - or college student wanted for live-in position in adult foster care home. Free room, board and small salary. 897-8340.

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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.

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

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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AFFORDABLE DAYCARE - Comfortable, clean & spacious in-home daycare. Great references. Call Brenda 987-9351.

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.

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

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.

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

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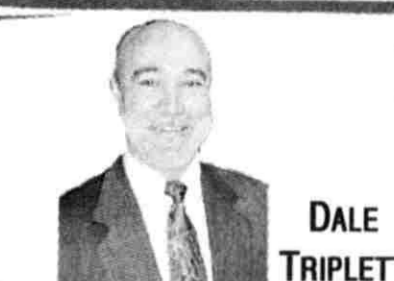
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Business Matters cont'd. ... From Page 13

customers can try the color on their wall before buying. "As an independent retailer since 1950, we've found that customers were looking for a personalized shopping experience that they weren't getting at the big home centers or company-owned stores, said Sandy Kingsland, owner of the store. "There is, after all, more to hardware than meets the eye. We've just finished a complete makeover of our store that is already attracting more consumers and professional maintenance personnel. Not only can our customers match colors to their ideas more easily, and feel great about their decisions, but we can also offer expert advice in maintenance and repair from our own experts. The average industry experience of our employees totals over 15 years, and that translates to sound professional advice for our customers."

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