

# The Lowell Ledger

Volume 35 Issue 41

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, August 15, 2007

## Ledger publisher Roger Brown passes torch to J-Ad Graphics

By Emma Palova

After a half century of putting ink on paper starting in his father's print shop, Lowell Ledger publisher Roger Brown sold the business, which includes The Lowell Ledger, Buyers Guide and Lowell Litho, to Hastings-based J-Ad Graphics last week.

Brown, who purchased the paper in 1975, was only the fifth publisher in Lowell Ledger history. "It was time for me to pass the torch," Brown said. "There is some stewardship with this paper."

During his publishing tenure, Brown kept the Ledger, the Buyers Guide and Lowell Litho as separate entities. This has proven especially prudent during the demise of small town newspapers in the 1980s. Though Brown felt he never had to supplement declining newspaper revenues with earnings from the print shop.

"Thanks to the print shop and the Buyers Guide, the paper tagged along," said Brown.

Brown watched newspapers in the surrounding communities go out of business one by one. He tried changing the name from "The Lowell Ledger" to the "Grand Valley Ledger" to target the Ada and Cascade areas. However, that didn't work out and Brown changed the name back to The Lowell Ledger in 1987. And the paper has always stayed a Lowell paper.

Inspired by Uncle Marcus' Cozy Corner column from the 1930s, written from the main floor of Moose Lodge, Brown started his own weekly column called "Cozy Corner." The very first column ran on Feb. 10, 1977. However, what was fun at first, has grown increasingly difficult over the years.

"It was difficult to come up with topics," he said. At first the topics came easy with little kids growing up in the community, and dogs running around without leashes. As kids grew up, and Brown moved permanently to Key West,

*Brown, cont'd., pg. 11*



Publisher Roger Brown beside "The Tools of Freedom" picture in the reception area of the Ledger office.

## New owners emphasize importance of community newspapers

When J-Ad Graphics, of Hastings, purchased the Lowell Ledger and Lowell Buyers Guide last week it was a natural marriage. J-Ad Graphics has been printing both Lowell publications for more than 40 years, and the new owners are enthused about the new dimension in the relationship.

J-Ad Graphics is owned by the Jacobs family, who bring 61 years of experience in publishing and printing to Lowell.

A community and

family-oriented philosophy with a commitment of personalized service undergirds the foundation of the company's eight other publications: The Reminder, Maple Valley News, Sun & News, Lakewood News, The Hastings Banner, Marshall Community Ad-visor, Marshall Chronicle and Battle Creek Shopper News. Six of those publications are known as "The People Papers." J-Ad Graphics was founded by the late Mel and Alice Jacobs, who started

the business in their garage at their Hastings home in the mid-1940s. Their grandson, Jonathon Jacobs, has been named publisher of the Lowell publications. He has 12 years experience in

publishing, most recently with the Sun & News, which primarily covers Middleville and Caledonia.

"We are very excited to be able to have this opportunity," the new

publisher said. "We plan to make both papers more community focused."

A sports writer will be added to the Ledger staff, he said, and plans also call for encouraging readers to

Savings Bank/Bill Porter Memorial Charity Golf Classic Committee and as president of the Hastings Country Club.

"All of us at J-Ad Graphics are pleased to be joining the community of Lowell as publishers of its local newspaper," said company President John Jacobs. "Our aim is to continue to provide the community with a valued resource of advertising and local news.

"As publishers of 'The People Papers,' our goal has always been to share fascinating stories about people in our local communities. That philosophy continues with coverage of their activities, local involvement, causes and accomplishments at school," he said.

"Providing the resource to document the lives of

*New owners, cont'd., pg. 4*

*"All of us at J-Ad Graphics are pleased to be joining the community of Lowell as publishers of its local newspaper,"*

-John Jacobs

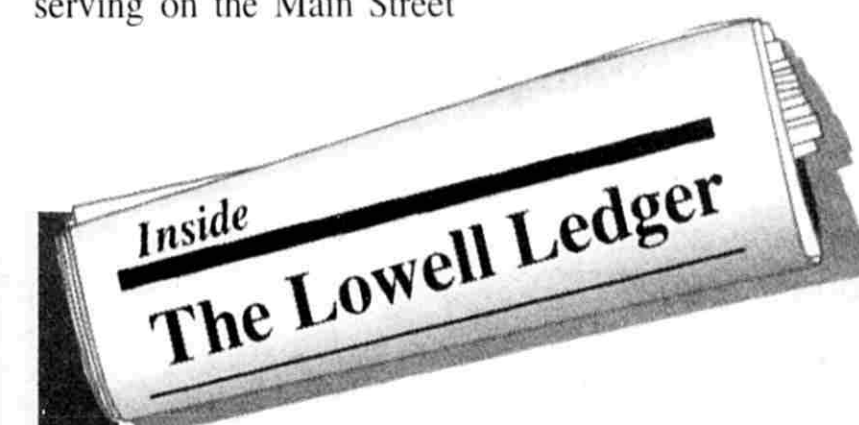
become more involved by expanding the "Letters to the Editor" column.

"We also plan to work closely with local government and with the schools to help keep our readers informed," Jonathon Jacobs said, as well as working with the Chamber of Commerce, Arts Council and other organizations.

He has been active in the Hastings area community, serving on the Main Street



Roger Brown shakes hands with the paper's new general manager Jonathon Jacobs and J-Ad Graphics co-owner Fred Jacobs.



*E.L. Phelps Remembered ... Page 2*

*Images From The Fair ... Page 9*



# Obituaries

**STOCKDALE** Michel Tetreault; brothers-in-law John (Sylvia) Stockdale, William (Diane) Stockdale; sister-in-law, Mary (Steve) Furniss; and many nieces, nephews and friends. Susan graduated from Butterworth Nursing School and was in long-term care nursing her whole career. A memorial service was held Friday, August 10. For those who wish memorials can be made to Hospice of Michigan.

**TARROW**

Mildred L. Tarrow, of Bay City; passed away August 6, 2007 after a battle with cancer. Preceded in death by her husband Herb Tarrow, parents William Francis, Renee Shumpert; brothers Paul Tatreau and friend Loli Vos, Roger (Judy) Tatreau, Mary Ellen Passmore

Francis-Peterson, stepfather Harry Peterson, older brother William Francis of Monterey, CA. She is survived by 6 brothers and sisters, Jim (Jerry) Francis, of Lowell, Don Francis, of Bay City, Tom Francis, of Big Rapids, Rosemary Peterson, of Big Rapids, Margaret (George) Tyler, of Saranac, and a twin sister Mary L. Kuhn, of Big Rapids, and many nieces and nephews. After a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Big Rapids on August 8, 2007, Millie was buried at Woodville Cemetery. Woodville was an old logging camp halfway between White Cloud and Big Rapids where she grew up and went to grade school.

**VENNEMAN**

Mrs. Evelyn Venneman (nee Norman), aged 88, of Ada, passed into the presence of her Lord on Sunday, August 5, 2007. She will be lovingly missed by her husband of 59 years, Blaine Venneman; by her children, Sandy Bono of Cascade, Bill and Joyce Venneman of Ada; by her six grandchildren, Brian

Shaffer of Cascade, Dawn Polmanteer of Lowell, David Venneman of Saranac, Julie Venneman of Ada, Bill (Katie) Venneman of Grand Rapids, Lisa Venneman of Ada; her great-grandchildren Ryan Esbaugh of Clarksville, Christopher Shaffer of Wyoming, Will Venneman of Grand Rapids; brother-in-law, Leo Venneman of Cascade; sister-in-law, Lila Venneman of Kentwood; and by her many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by seven brothers and sister. Mrs. Venneman was an active member of Cascade Fellowship Christian Reformed Church for 53 years. Funeral and committal services were held on Wednesday at Cascade Fellowship CRC. Interment Cascade Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Ada Christian Schools.

## Memorial service honors "Father of the Fair"

By Emma Palova

The late E.L. Phelps will always be remembered as "Father of the Fair."

With the livestock auction in full swing, family and friends paid homage to a man who dedicated his life to the youth fair in the first-ever memorial service held during the fair last week.

"It was a special deal," said fair manager Ron Wenger. "This was his week. It's appropriate to celebrate his life. He's at the big fair now where they don't have any problems, no heat or rain."

Phelps, who passed away during the fair, was best known as a supportive

mentor with plenty of humor to share.

Phelps' wife Wannetah learned to love the fair just as much he did. In fact, a few days after her husband's death, Wannetah was already at the fair riding in a golf cart. "He loved it all," said Wannetah.

Wannetah wrote a tribute to her husband recited by officiating priest Brian Rafferty. She also dedicated a poem titled "A Smile that says Hello" to Phelps.

Memorial service, cont'd., pg. 3



Wannetah Phelps with great nephew Randy Longcore at the memorial service held at the fairgrounds last week

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Vice President  
Lowell Office Manager

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## Lowell's own Great Lakes Band on stage this week

The Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts will feature the Great Lakes Band on Thursday, Aug. 16 from 7-9 p.m. on the Riverwalk Plaza.

A hometown favorite, the Great Lakes Band was originally formed over 30 years ago by a group of Lowell area musicians with

roots dating back to their school years in Lowell. They have a unique blend of high energy rock and roll with classic blues overtones

which has increased in popularity throughout the Western and Northern Michigan circuits, festivals and concert venues through the mid 1970s. Since their reunion resurgence in June of 2001, for the very first Showboat Summer Concert Series, they have performed several times on the Riverwalk stage continuing to thrill their many area fans. Lead singer is Mitch McMahon joined by Charlie Luscombe on harmonica and vocals, Dave Jones on keyboards and vocals, Rick Seese on drums, lead guitarist and vocalist Ryder Jones and newcomer Jeff Niemeier on bass and fiddle.

For more information about these concerts go to www.lowellartsandcouncil.org or www.discoverlowell.org



## Memorial service, continued ... From page 2

"Your great love was helping young people in 4-H," she wrote in the letter. "You always gave your all."

His 4-H fair board colleagues knew Phelps as a man's man or a cow man.

Former board member Larry Heyboer remembered Phelps as encouraging and supportive. "He was always consistent and steady," said Heyboer. "He kept everybody calm and in order."

Phelps, who was involved with the fair for 70 years, made the fair a big deal. According to his fair colleagues, Phelps always

kept the youth involvement at heart. He was known for his great sense of humor even when he didn't say anything.

"What you saw is what you got," said Heyboer. "He was totally transparent."

Heyboer recalled a joke he had played on a horse superintendent quietly condoned by Phelps. After filling a water tank, he stuck the fire hose into the vent of a Port-A-John and flushed the superintendent out.

Wenger too shared a joke from more recent days when Phelps wasn't getting around as well. He couldn't

find his teeth and had a sore butt. Finally, Phelps found the teeth in his chair. "It's the only time he got chewed out by himself," said Wenger.

Former board secretary Kay Grinage remembers Phelps as a father figure.

According to Wenger, Phelps never stood in the way of progress.

"He didn't stand in your way," said Wenger. "He backed you up."

For his 30 years of service on the board, Phelps was named an honorary member. In 2000, the fair board gave him the title "Father of the Lowell Fair."

## SYNOPSIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWELL CITY COUNCIL JULY 16, 2007

Minutes of the July 2, 2007 regular meeting were approved as written and the accounts payable were approved.

The following actions were taken: Motion to approve the variance which includes the setback and lot width requirements at 221 Amity regarding the construction of a duplex.

Yea: 3. (Zoning Boardmembers Shores, Matthews and Myers)  
Nay: 2. (Zoning Boardmember Hodges and Chair Pfaller) Motion carried.

Motion to have the City of Lowell formally join the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

Motion to adopt the police contract for 2007-2010.

Motion to approve the annual Toy Run on Sunday, September 9, 2007.

By general consensus, the Council accepted the resignations of Planning Commissioners Jim Hall, Mark Mundt and Jeri Teelander and reappointed Planning Commissioners Garland Berry, Vance Dimmick, Dee Doyle, Clark Jahnke, Laurie Noall and Maryalene LaPonsie. Their term of office would be determined at a later date. Councilmember Jim Hodges will serve on the Planning Commission as an ex-officio, voting member.

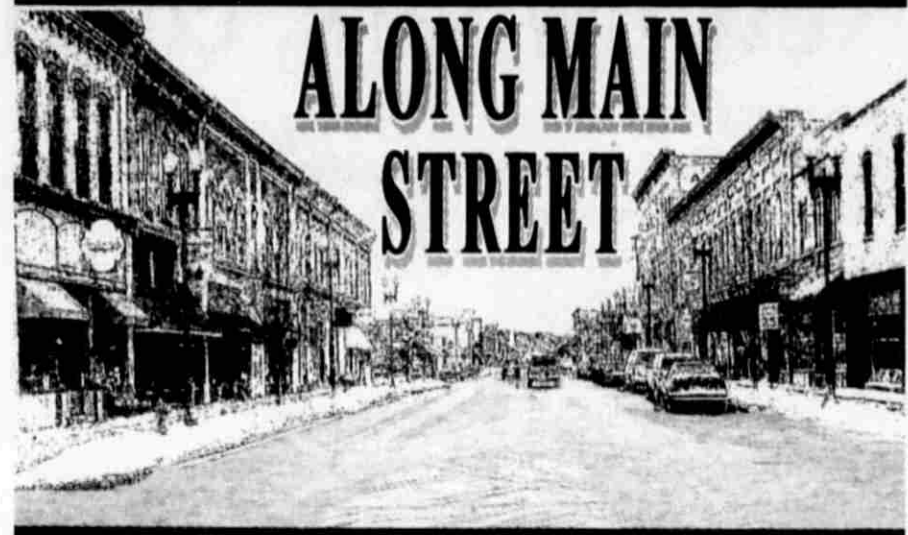
Motion to go into closed session at 8:27 p.m. regarding a personnel matter.

Motion to return to open session at 9:35 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 9:36 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, August 6, 2007.

Complete minutes are available on the City's web page at www.ci.lowell.mi.us or at Lowell City Hall, 301 E. Main St., or by email to bmorlock@ci.lowell.mi.us

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk  
City of Lowell



**HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2**

On Saturday, Aug. 18 at 7:30 p.m. the whole family is invited for some Wildcat fun at a viewing party for Disney Channel's newest original movie, High School Musical2. The event will be held at the Lowell YMCA Teen Center located at 1335 West Main Street. Kids and adults of all ages are invited. For more information contact Staci Messersmith 897-8445.

**LAS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB**

The Athletic Boosters will hold their regular business meeting on Monday, Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. at the football stadium concession stand. There will be a regular business meeting and then concession training for new parent reps. Please come and help support our athletes. Bring a lawn chair.

**ST. MARY PREGNANCY CENTER**

Donations are urgently needed for diapers, baby wipes, fruit and vegetables, and cash donations. A fundraiser will be held Aug. 24 and 25, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Lowell Showboat Nostalgia Night. If you can help sell popcorn and pop, even for one hour, please call Kathy Horsch at 897-2083.

**LHS CLASS OF 1982 REUNION**

The Class of 1982 is planning its 25th reunion, Aug. 25 at Deer Run. Tropical Hawaiian Luau theme with a slide show (photos wanted) including memories from elementary to the 8th grade dance to beyond. Contact Tonia North at 897-8612; northtj@gmail.com or Jamey Fitz at JameyFitz@comcast.net. Please contact us to reserve your seats, express your regrets or help with planning.

**HUNTERS SAFETY COURSE**

Qua-Ke-Zik Sportsman's Club will offer a free Hunters Safety Course beginning August 27, continuing on August 29 and 30, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. You must attend all three sessions to earn a certificate. Class will be held at 8731 W. Riverside Dr. Please call Dennis at 642-9243 to register.

**LHS STUDENT ORIENTATIONS**

Ninth grade orientation will be Aug. 27, last name A-K 9 - 11 a.m. and last name L-Z from 1 - 3 p.m. Tenth - 12th grade will be Aug. 27, last name A-K, 9 - 11 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m. and Aug. 28, last name L-Z, 9 - 11 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m. Pictures taken, bring your envelope, pick up all textbooks and schedules, find lockers and classrooms. May not attend the other alphabet's time slots, must go to the make-up day.

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THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (PG-13) 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00  
UNDERDOG (PG) 12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15  
HOT ROD (PG-13) 12:25, 9:55  
THE SIMPSONS MOVIE (PG-13) 12:15, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10

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## New owners, continued ... From Page 1

a community is an important task, one we take with seriousness and experience. We share this task in many hometown communities like Hastings, Marshall, Lake Odessa, Middleville, Caledonia, Nashville, Vermontville, Battle Creek and areas adjacent to the publication locations," John Jacobs said.

J-Ad Graphics Vice President Fred Jacobs said the staff of the Lowell publications will remain the same, except the sales manager whose responsibilities will be assumed by Jonathon Jacobs.

"Our plans are to put some news in the Buyers Guide because we think it's important to do that, continue the newspaper and continue the printing company," he said. "Jonathon (Jacobs) will be responsible for all three of them."

## LAS ratifies contract/merit scores rank among top three

By Emma Palova

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education Monday night approved a contract settlement with the Lowell Education Association and the Lowell Educational Support Personnel Association.

The teachers received a 1.5 percent pay increase for the upcoming school year, and a two percent increase for 2008-2009.

The support personnel received a 2.1 percent raise this year and a 2.5 percent increase next school year with adjustments to the

J-Ad's long-term connection with the Lowell publications began with the original owner Ken Ayres and continued with his son, Gary, and then recent owner Roger Brown.

J-AdGraphicsSecretary/Treasurer Steve Jacobs said, "The Lowell Buyers Guide was one of our first printing contracts as well as the Charlotte Shopping Guide over 40 years ago. That's how far back we go.

"It's a big investment, and I'm happy about it. I know the Lowell area quite well. My wife's mother was born in Lowell."

Steve Jacobs said the number of pages in the Buyers Guide will be increased "to make it a typical J-Ad family-type publication. We'll put a little bit of news in it and make it more like a J-Ad publication. We have to get it J-Adized, as I always call it.

"We've been in business since 1946, and my parents always did everything by the book... "My mother was a great person. She was P.R. (public relations) number one. If you needed something, she would always help. That's the way J-Ad was, and we always will be."

Fred Jacobs said J-Ad was interested in purchasing the Lowell publications because "they are connected to our distribution (area), so it's contingent, and we've been involved with it for so long - it makes sense. I really don't want the papers to go to a large group. I would rather have it stay independent, if we possibly can. When we started in this business, our customers included a lot of publishers who were all independent and now a lot of them are part of groups.

"I think we (as a

company) make a big difference to communities because we do give back so much in local promotions, especially to the non-profits. They wouldn't get that kind of coverage in most publications," he said.

For three consecutive years, two J-Ad Graphics publications - The Reminder and The Ad-visor - have been ranked in the top 1 percent of audited free community news publications in North America.

"It's an unusual award because it is a big deal. This speaks a lot about what we're all about," Fred Jacobs said of the Circulation Verification Council's Gold Standard Award. "There were only two awards in Michigan last year and that was the Ad-visor and The Reminder, and we own both of those publications."

CVC issues audit report information for more than 4,800 publications in North America.

"We're at the top 1 percent that not only has delivered circulation, but has the highest readership standards of anybody in the nation. When they (CVC staff) goes into the marketplace and checks our circulation, they also talk to the people who read it, and we had the highest numbers of receivership and readership of any publication. There

were only 44 (awards) in the whole nation and we had two of them," Fred Jacobs said.

"Ninety-nine percent of the copy is locally generated here. That's what the big difference is (compared to many publications in the audit). That's why we got the award," he said.

"We'll bring to the Buyers Guide some of our experience and knowledge that we've gotten over the years. My dad made a lifetime commitment to studying news and advertising and the impact it can have on a community. He understood that if you can sell a product in a paper, you can sell a lifestyle. You can bring communities closer together by publicizing the things people do and promoting their lifestyle and the activities they participate in. You build community connectiveness by doing that. It doesn't happen overnight...It does make a difference over a long period of time, and that's why we think we've made a difference in Hastings, Marshall, Battle Creek and other towns," Fred Jacobs said. "We've made it easier for non-profits to be successful because they can get the publicity and support they need. Most non-profits couldn't buy that kind of coverage."

Steve Jacobs agreed and noted, "My parents always said, help your customers as much as you can, and always try to do your best."

In the Hastings and Barry County area, for instance, he pointed out the variety of publicity J-Ad Graphics has provided - everything from charity golf tournaments to hospital, animal shelter and library projects and school and church activities.

The Lowell publications will extend the company's coverage to about 120,000 homes per week.

"We'll be able to help people with their advertising, in just our papers, from Grand Rapids to Albion and from Richland to the routes of Grand Ledge," Fred Jacobs said. "With the publications we print, we cover the Jackson area to Grand Rapids to part of Kalamazoo to the better part of Grand Ledge.

"We can cover a lot of territory. When somebody wants to reach a larger audience, we can handle it right out of the office."

John Jacobs said, "Providing local newspapers is what our family does best, and we're excited about the opportunity to bring our philosophy to the community of Lowell."

## Board approves \$10.9 million bond sale

By Emma Palova

The Lowell Area Schools Board of Education Monday approved a \$10.9 million bond sale to fund districtwide improvements.

These improvements will cover renovation, technology and security needs as identified by a demographics committee and district consultants Owen, Ames and Kimball.

The renovations will start this fall and continue for the next three years.

The bonds were approved by voters in 2000 for a total of \$27.5 million. Due to changing demographics and the economy, a second new elementary school was never built and a portion of the bonds remained unsold.

A survey conducted in the spring indicated that voters would not approve a new bond issue.

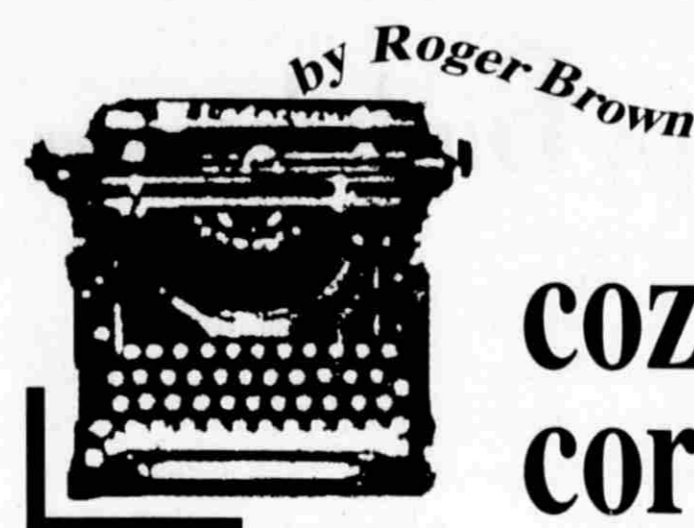
"We want to use the bonds wisely prior to going to the voters," said superintendent Greg Pratt.

"We want to take care of our infrastructure and place the best tools possible for our students."

The term of bonds is for 30 years with interest not to exceed 5.5 percent.

The board also approved a resolution to obtain a loan from the Michigan School Loan Revolving Fund. The loan will be used to make debt service payments rather than raising taxes.

# Viewpoint



There should be an old photo of me at the top of this week's column. It is not dated, but the typewriter, the furniture, my hair color and the vintage jogging suit put it in the late seventies. Written in the margin of the photo is, "The 5:00 a.m. blues."

Without researching old papers, I'm going to guess that I used the photo in the Cozy Corner to illustrate the difficulty of coming up with something for this column every week. In other words, it was a column about writing a column. The column almost certainly pointed out, that the procrastinator gene in my D.N.A. forces me to wait until the early hours of "press day" before getting even one word on paper.

For over 30 years (1,400 plus Cozy Corners) I have been rolling out of bed before 5:00 every Tuesday. Because of the deadline hanging over me, I usually don't sleep well the night before. After a couple cups of strong coffee, I am jolted to my senses enough to formulate an idea and begin typing. This column springs from a similarly diminished state of mind every week. Now you know where some of the quirky thoughts and ideas have come from.

As you have read in other parts of the paper, the Ledger has been sold. In fact, everything at 105 N. Broadway has been sold. J-Ad Graphics, Inc. has purchased the Lowell Ledger, Buyers Guide, Lowell Litho and the building. More on that later.

Sure, the jogging suit is gone, the furniture is different and instead of an old Remington, I'm pecking away at the umpteenth generation of computer typesetter equipment to come along over the years. Oh yeah... my hair is definitely a different color. As I write this, it is a little after 5:00 Tuesday morning. I didn't sleep well and I'm about to pour my third cup of coffee. Even though this might well be my last "Cozy Corner", some things never change.

The Lowell Ledger has been in continuous publication since 1893. I am only the fifth publisher in its 114-year history, and one of those was at the post for less than three years. Frank M. "Uncle Marcus" Johnson founded the paper and ran it for 36 years. My 32 years at the helm comes in second. The sheer weight of 32 years is reason enough for me to step aside.

There are other reasons behind the decision to sell. Most have to do with my limited abilities as an absentee manager. Despite the best efforts of my employees, the financial numbers for all aspects of the business have been in decline over the past few years. The business needs to be run by someone with a vested interest in it and on the job daily.

The businesses have been sold to J-Ad Graphics for a reason. I have known the Jacobs family since 1968 when my dad started the Ionia County Shopper's Guide. Beginning with the very first edition, the paper was printed by J-Ad Graphics. I believe The Buyers Guide dates back even further. Its founder (1954) and publisher, Ken Ayers, began printing on the J-Ad Graphics web press sometime in the sixties. The Ledger, Buyers Guide and my brother's Ionia County Shoppers Guide are among dozens of papers printed there every week.

Besides the large web press operation, J-Ad Graphics publishes several papers. The Hastings Reminder, Marshall Ad-visor and Battle Creek Shopper are free circulation community papers with a combined weekly distribution of well over 100,000. J-Ad publishes two paid circulation weekly newspapers in the Hastings Banner and Marshall Chronicle. They also publish several other weekly free papers in the area. And, as if that weren't enough, they own and operate a large sheet-fed printing plant that includes four-color capability and a complete bindery department.

About two months ago I finally came to the conclusion that it was time, probably well past time, for me to sell the business. My first move was to call Fred Jacobs, vice president of J-Ad Graphics. Fred and I are the same age

and have known each other for almost forty years. As our negotiations moved along, I became more comfortable with the idea of selling when Fred told me he intended to put his own son in charge of the Ledger, Buyers Guide and Litho. That was the kind of commitment I was looking for in someone to continue the rich history of the printing and publishing business here in Lowell.

I have only met Jon a few times. He seems to be a likable, warm and genuine young man. I know that he is in his early thirties, single, has a degree in business and several years of experience in the printing and publishing business behind him. With the natural exuberance of youth, the resources of J-Ad Graphics and the experience of his dad and uncles on his side, I believe the Ledger, Buyers Guide and Litho will grow dynamically with Jon at the controls.

As I move along toward wrapping this up, I'd like to thank a few people. Actually... a lot of people. First on the list are the employees, past and present. Your loyalty to the Ledger, Buyers Guide and Litho has kept these businesses going. I can't thank you enough.

Next up are the customers. That includes the big display advertisers on down to those advertising an occasional yard sale. That includes subscribers to the Ledger. That includes the biggest printing customers to the smallest business card purchase. You've all helped keep our doors open for the past 114 years. I thank you all for your continued support.

And finally, I'd like to thank my family and friends. Having been a self-employed business owner for nearly all my adult life, I can vouch for the fact it is sometimes not all it's cracked up to be. The support of family and friends has helped me through some pretty tough times. Not the least of which has been the decision to sell and some of the more painful aspects of getting through this process.

Earlier in this column I mentioned that, "This might well be my last Cozy Corner." Fred Jacobs has invited me to submit a "Cozy Corner" any time I feel the urge to write

## To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I have been following the controversy involving the cutting of the trees for many months. Recently, I read an article by the Arbor Day Society, which was written to show how trees fight global warming, and I wondered if Lowell Light & Power has considered this in their decision to cut the many trees.

To summarize, trees shade our homes, allowing us to save energy in summer through reduced air conditioning and in the winter by breaking the wind to reduce fuel bills. This lessened energy use means reduced demands on our local energy plant which, in turn, means less power plant emissions.

Trees remove carbon dioxide from the air, and release life-giving oxygen into the air.

Trees reduce heat by cooling buildings, sidewalks and parking lots.

Trees cool parked cars, reducing emissions from heated fuel tanks and engines.

Even though Lowell is a small city and it is expensive to find other ways to re-route our electricity, it is our responsibility to be concerned about the environment and global warming. I am not a tree hugger, but why do we want to selectively destroy a resource that will take up to 100 years to renew?

Diane LaWarre

one. He didn't say he'd print them, but I could certainly submit them. Just kidding. I do appreciate the offer, but I'm actually looking forward to going to bed next Monday without having a deadline hanging over my head.

It is now 7:30. We are in production of our paper here in the Florida Keys. My wife is going to be bugging me for the computer. Adios for now. Who knows, maybe I'll wake up early on the occasional Tuesday morning with a great idea for a column.



### 125 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL JOURNAL AUGUST 16, 1882

The demand for a foot bridge across the Flat River seems to be increasing.

A large number of catfish are being taken from the Grand River this summer.

### 100 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AUGUST 15, 1907

Lowell's first Homecoming was a memorable event and one that brought great pleasure to many people and was evidenced by greetings on all sides between friends who had been separated for years.

The picnic at Pine Island Lake Saturday was the largest gathering ever known at that place.

### 75 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AND ALTO SOLO AUGUST 11, 1932

Housewives of Parnell and vicinity are putting forth their best efforts for the annual supper this Thursday evening from 5-8 p.m. The men folks have cooperated by slaying 1,000 of the best and fattest chickens for the big feast.

### 50 YEARS AGO THE LOWELL LEDGER AUGUST 15, 1957

The Lowell Swimming Pool Fund now contains \$8,607.96, according to a Lions Club spokesman.

The 23rd annual Kent County 4-H Fair was in full swing Tuesday, when more than 1,180 persons had entered with from one to ten entries each.

For the second time this year, a truck cutting a corner too sharply knocked over a fire plug and created quite a stir for a few minutes.

Lester Stauffer, owner of Kent Acres, made an excellent showing with his entries of cage birds at the Ionia Free Fair last week.

### 25 YEARS AGO THE GRAND VALLEY LEDGER AUGUST 11, 1982

The 1982 Kent County Youth Fair will end with something new this year - a demolition derby.

Lowell High School class registration begins next week.

Lowell's new bridge over the Grand River at Division Street is in the final stages of completion.

**LIVE on the Flat River**  
Thursday Nights 7-9 pm

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616/897-8545

&  
Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce  
www.lowellchamber.org  
616/897-9161

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**Sizzlin' Summer Concerts**

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**GREAT LAKES BAND**  
**Rock/Blues Classics**

**AUGUST 23**  
**RIVER ROGUES**  
**JAZZ BAND**  
**Dixieland/Big Band**

The Sizzlin' Summer Concerts are located on the Riverwalk Plaza directly in front of the Lowell Showboat in Historic Downtown Lowell. Grandstand seating is available or bring your lawn chair or blanket and sit on the Green. Concessions are available and Admission & Parking are always FREE!

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## Financial Focus

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

### DO ALL YOUR STOCKS AND MUTUAL FUNDS LOOK ALIKE?

Like most people, you probably gravitate toward things that you're familiar with and that you like. If you enjoy classical music, your shelves may be full of Beethoven and Ravel. If you love pasta, your cupboards may be bulging with spaghetti and ravioli. In most parts of your life, there's nothing wrong with this type of devotion — but if it applies to your investment portfolio, you could run into problems.

Specifically, you don't want to own too many of the same types of stocks or mutual funds — even if you like these investments and are generally pleased with their performance.

What's wrong with "the more, the merrier" approach to investing? Simply put, it's too risky. Suppose you owned only stocks of companies that belonged to the same industry, or to a couple of related industries. If a particular set of economic or market forces should hurt these industries, then your stocks would take a hit — and if most of your investment dollars were tied up in these holdings, your overall portfolio could take a hit, too.

You might think you can avoid "over-concentration" by investing in mutual funds. After all, mutual funds may invest in dozens of companies at any time, so aren't you protected

from any industry-specific downturns? It's not that simple. There are many types of mutual funds available, and some of them concentrate in a particular market segment, such as technology. When something affects these segments, such as the bursting of the technology "bubble" in 2001, these types of mutual funds can be harmed. If you owned just one tech-heavy fund at that time, your overall portfolio probably wasn't shaken up too much, but if you had several of these funds, you would definitely have felt some pangs of regret when you opened your investment statement.

Keep this in mind: Different investments may respond differently to the same market forces. To give just one example, a steep rise in interest rates may hurt the stocks of financial services companies but have relatively little effect on pharmaceutical stocks. On the other hand, certain legal or regulatory changes can have a big impact on drug company stocks but not cause a stir in the financial services industry. Consequently, if you spread your investment dollars among different types of stocks and mutual funds (as well as bonds, certificates of deposit and government securities), you'll be less vulnerable to those forces — all beyond your control — that may affect one particular class of assets. (However, diversification by itself does not guarantee a profit or protect against loss.)

Here's one more reason to expand your investment horizons:

You probably won't be able to achieve all your financial goals if you own only one type of investment, such as growth stocks or growth-oriented mutual funds. Over time you will have other considerations, such as the need for income, so you'll need to address this in your portfolio.

These factors also affect the way you approach your

401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. You may have a dozen or more investment options in your plan, so don't just stick with one or two of them.

In the investment world, you've got many choices — so take advantage of this freedom and flexibility. It may pay off in the long run.

## Happy Birthday

### AUGUST 15:

Ben Raymor, Bill Barber, Dena Baylis, Vivian Johnson, Donnie Shaffer, Barb Callihan, Kim Tubergen, Deb Wright, Pam Kline.

### AUGUST 19:

Peggy Idema, Joseph Thaler, Lois Boonstra, Braydon Brown, Brian DeBolt, Daryl Chamberlain, Charley VanKeulen, Betty Wierenga.

### AUGUST 16:

Helen Vezino, Don Gasper, Trent Raab, Mike Mooney, Ryan Aksamitowski.

### AUGUST 20:

Mattie Dalziel, B.J. Rittersdorf, Alexis Holloway, Andrea Bryant, Katelyn Kaczanowski.

### AUGUST 17:

Brittany Essich, Jordan Harding.

### AUGUST 21:

Madelyn Pfaller, Charlene DeShane-Dalga, Tim Aksamitowski, Joshua Hobbra, Tom Barnes, Ethan Shindorf, Katelyn Videto, Owen II.

### AUGUST 18:

Matthew D'Agostino, Sandy Dykhuizen, Sean Pawloski, Paul Reggie Owen, Paul R. Owen II.

him, then he'll turn and take a few more steps repeating the same thing. I think to myself you little scamp, I'm a German and I know exactly what you're doing. Finally, if I don't say anything, he'll get down there, then takes off running but still looking back to see if I'm watching. If he gets too close to the road I'll yell at him. And then he throws all caution to the wind and runs like crazy right into the middle of that field until he finds some dead thing to roll in. It's then that I come thundering down the hill after him cause I don't like to clean him up in the tub. It's a really fun game and he feels secure cause he knows he can always come back, no matter how stinky he is because I love him and he has great worth to me.

This reminds me that humans act the same way with God many times. Here stands God at the top of the driveway watching us. And we try to see how close to the line we can come, turning every few steps to see if he's watching, and He always is. But if He lets us get all the way out into the meadow then we try to run too close to the road and He yells at us, HEY! Then we take off running into the middle of the field looking for some nasty stuff to roll in and we

hear His footsteps thundering down the hill to scoop us up.

Jesus told a story in Luke 15:11 about a man who had a son who did the very same thing. This kid got bored with things as they were at home and took off towards the meadow. As a matter of fact he got all the way down the hill, ran out in the road and got hit losing everything. Then he ran out in the middle of the field till he found some real nasty stuff to roll in. But the thing is, dad was always watching for him and although dad never physically went to get the boy he knew he would come back of his own accord. Of course the boy had a lot of scars when he did return. The moral of the story is this: sometimes we mess up. Sometimes we roll in the yuck and get really yucky. Sometimes we lose it all but we can always come back. In a sense it's the same reason that Buckwheat knows he can always come back, because he is loved so very much. In fact, God loved us so much that it killed Him to let us go. Maybe you've wandered out into the road and gotten smacked a time or two. Or you've run into the meadow and now you're just plain "yucky." I want you to know that you can never wander too far or stay too long that God is not willing to take you back.

## Reflections of faith


By Bob Roush

Pastor, Friendship Country Chapel

### COMING BACK

I love my dog! He and I are great friends. His name is Buckwheat and I write about him often because he teaches me so much about my relationship with God. We both have the same heritage, he's a Dachshund and I'm a Roush, both of us German so I pretty much know how he thinks and what he's up to. When I take him out to do his duties he likes to test me. We have a fairly large meadow that lies below our driveway so that when I stand at the end of the driveway I can look down on it. The road borders one side of it so I don't like for him to go down there. But he puts me to the test once in a while and he'll start down there, he'll stop every few steps and turn back to see if I'm watching

# AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p><b>ATTENTION: BIBLE BELIEVERS</b> If you would like to attend a church where the King James Bible is held up as the perfect, preserved word of God with all the words of God for all English speaking people, then give us a visit at: 901 W. Main, Lowell Across the street from the Venable Dodge dealership. 897-6284 or 485-4195 10AM Sunday School; 11AM Morning Service; 6PM Evening Service; Wed., 7:30PM Prayer Meeting.</p>	<p><b>ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Kirby and Harrison Alto • 616-691-8011 Worship.....9:30 A.M. Children's Church.....9:30 A.M.  <b>OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS - OPEN DOORS</b> Pastor Dean Bailey</p>	<p><b>DAY BIBLE CHAPEL</b> 9305 Centerline, Saranac 897-6332 Worship.....9:45 A.M. Sunday School.....11:00 A.M.  Nursery &amp; Jr. Church Provided Rev. Frank Lattimore, Pastor "A Nondenominational Ministry With A Blended Word Centered Service!"</p>	<p><b>CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> Rev. Randy Meyers - 897-7060 1151 West Main Street, Lowell, MI Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M. Sunday School.....11:20 A.M. Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M. Nursery available at both services Barrier-Free</p>	<p><b>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH</b> SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M. 119 Lincoln Lake, Lowell CALL FOR FREE HOME BIBLE STUDIES Pastor Robert L. Hubbard Phone: (616) 897-1267 website www.aplighthouse.com</p>
<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b>  621 E. Main Street • 897-5936  Summer Worship.....8:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m. DR. MICHAEL T. CONKLIN, PASTOR Barrier - Free Entrance</p>	<p><b>ALTON BIBLE CHURCH</b> Lincoln Lake Ave. at 3 Mile Road 897-5648 Sunday School.....10:00 A.M. Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M. Evening Praise.....6:00 P.M. Wednesday AWANA.....7:00 P.M. (Sept. - April) Prayer and Bible Study.....7:00 P.M. Pastor Ken Ford (Home) 897-6418 YOU ARE WELCOME!</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER (Assembly of God)</b> 3050 Alden Nash S.E. • 897-1100 • Staffed Nursery Robert W. Holmes, Lead Pastor John King, Youth Pastor <b>SUNDAYS:</b> 10:00 a.m. - Worship &amp; Evening: LIFE home Groups &amp; "The Source" Youth <b>WEDNESDAYS:</b> Family Night: (for all ages) 7:00 p.m. "The Source" Youth: 7:00 p.m. Loving God ... Loving People!</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Fr. George J. Fekete 402 Amity St. • 897-9820 www.stmarys-lowell.com Weekend Masses: Sat. 5 PM, Sun. 9:30 AM Weekday Masses: 7:45 AM Holy Day Masses: 9 AM &amp; 7 PM Saturday confessions: 10:30 AM Prayer &amp; adoration each Wed. 8:15 AM - 8 PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: CHILDREN TO ADULTS - CALL PETE WIGGINS 897-7815 SEE LOWELL CABLE CH. 48, EWTN FOR 24 HR. CATHOLIC BROADCASTING</p>	<p><b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> (United Church of Christ) 865 Lincoln Lake Ave. SE • 897-5906 Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M. Church School.....10:15-11:15 A.M. Thursday Faith Alive Worship.....7:00 P.M. Dr. Roger LaWare.....Pastor Shannon Hanley.....C.E. Director Barrier-Free.....Nursery Provided Come Join Us For Praise &amp; Worship</p>
<p><b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 10305 Bluewater Highway (Missouri Synod) Halfway between Lowell &amp; Saranac on M-21 www.goodshepherdlowell.org Worship Service.....10:00 A.M. (Nursery available) Joseph Fremer, Pastor 897-8307 All facilities are wheelchair accessible</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL</b> 2275 West Main Street • 897-7168 Internet: http://www.fbclowell.org Rev. David O. Sims &amp; Rev. W. Lee Taylor Wayne Haines, Youth Pastor Sun. Worship Service.....9:30 A.M. &amp; 6:00 P.M. Sunday School Hour.....11:00 A.M. AWANA/CLUB J.C.....Wed. 6:15 &amp; 6:30 P.M. Contact Church Office For Prayer Meeting Times Nursery Provided • Barrier Free</p>	<p><b>SNOW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 3189 Snow Ave. SE, Lowell Rev. Thurlan Meredith 9:45 A.M. ....Worship/Fellowship 11:15 A.M. ....Sunday School 897-9863 or 897-9588 Nursery &amp; Children Worship Programs Provided A friend...a family...a mission!</p>		<p><b>LOWELL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 201 N. Washington • 897-8800 Sunday School.....9:30 A.M. Morning Worship (at high school), 10:30 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>

## Arts Council seeks new home along the Riverwalk

By Emma Palova

The Lowell Area Arts Council may soon have a new home on the Riverwalk.

At last week's Lowell City Council meeting, Rick Seese presented a revised proposal for joint occupancy of the Riverwalk Building, which is now home to the

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce.

Seese, on behalf of the LAAC board of directors, requested a long-term commitment of 20 to 25 years from the city to relocate the arts council offices from 149 S. Hudson St. to the Riverwalk. The city would maintain ownership of the building.

However, the city charter currently limits long-term leases to 10 years. The council motioned for the city attorney to investigate the charter for other options.

"It makes sense for the city and the community to be located on the Riverwalk enhancing the cultural aspect," said Seese.

The city's vision for the

Riverwalk Plaza includes a cultural and entertainment center, according to Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Liz Baker.

The cooperative venture would further enhance the downtown area and provide additional economic growth for downtown merchants.

The proposal includes

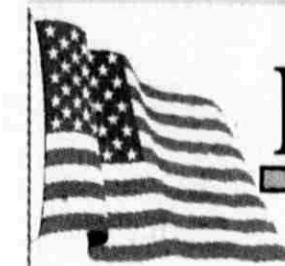
possible relocation of the Department of Public Works sign shop, and working around the cable company.

Baker said storage and public restrooms are still an issue for the chamber. "We are interested in working with the arts council," she said. "We're not in favor of (the) city selling the building, however, as we

grow we have to rethink the space."

The parking situation would also have to be addressed, according to Lowell mayor Chuck Myers, though most arts council activities take place in the evening.

The parties involved in the proposed move will continue talks.



## In The Service

Army National Guard Pvt. Patrick J. Yonker has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

He is the son of Doug and Sara Kukulis of Snow Ave. S.E., Alto.

Yonker is a 2006 graduate of the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy, Battle Creek.

Air Force Airman Ryan J. Karasiewicz has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic

training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Karasiewicz earned distinction as an honor graduate.

He is the son of Joe Karasiewicz of Ada. The airman is a 2005 graduate of Lowell High School.



Ryan J. Karasiewicz

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## Lowell's 4-H Youth Fair wraps up another successful year

By Emma Palova

It was a mix of rain, heat, humidity and home grown fun at summer's peak.

This year's fair again attracted large crowds to a variety of events. Although the attendance was slightly down due to the economy and weather, overall the fair was a success.

There were some anomalies such as the death

of E.L. Phelps, who was known as the "Father of the Lowell Fair." A first-time ever memorial service at the fair was held to honor Phelps.

"It's been good," said fair manager Ron Wenger. "We had good judges and some excellent shows."

The Hudsonville free ice cream social Thursday created long lines on the

Midway. As always, the mainstays of the fair are the livestock sales. Lowell fair livestock sales rank among top five auctions in the state of Michigan, according to Wenger.

The major supporters are King Milling and Michigan Wire. This year, the livestock sale generated \$380,000, slightly down from last year's \$411,000.

The livestock auction consists of small animals and livestock sale of swine, sheep, feeder calf, gallon of milk and beef at the Reath Barn.

A great rodeo performance by Flying Star Rodeo of Reed City featured bronco riding, barrel racing, ream roping, steer wrestling and bull riding. "It was a great rodeo," said Wenger. "It was a good fair."

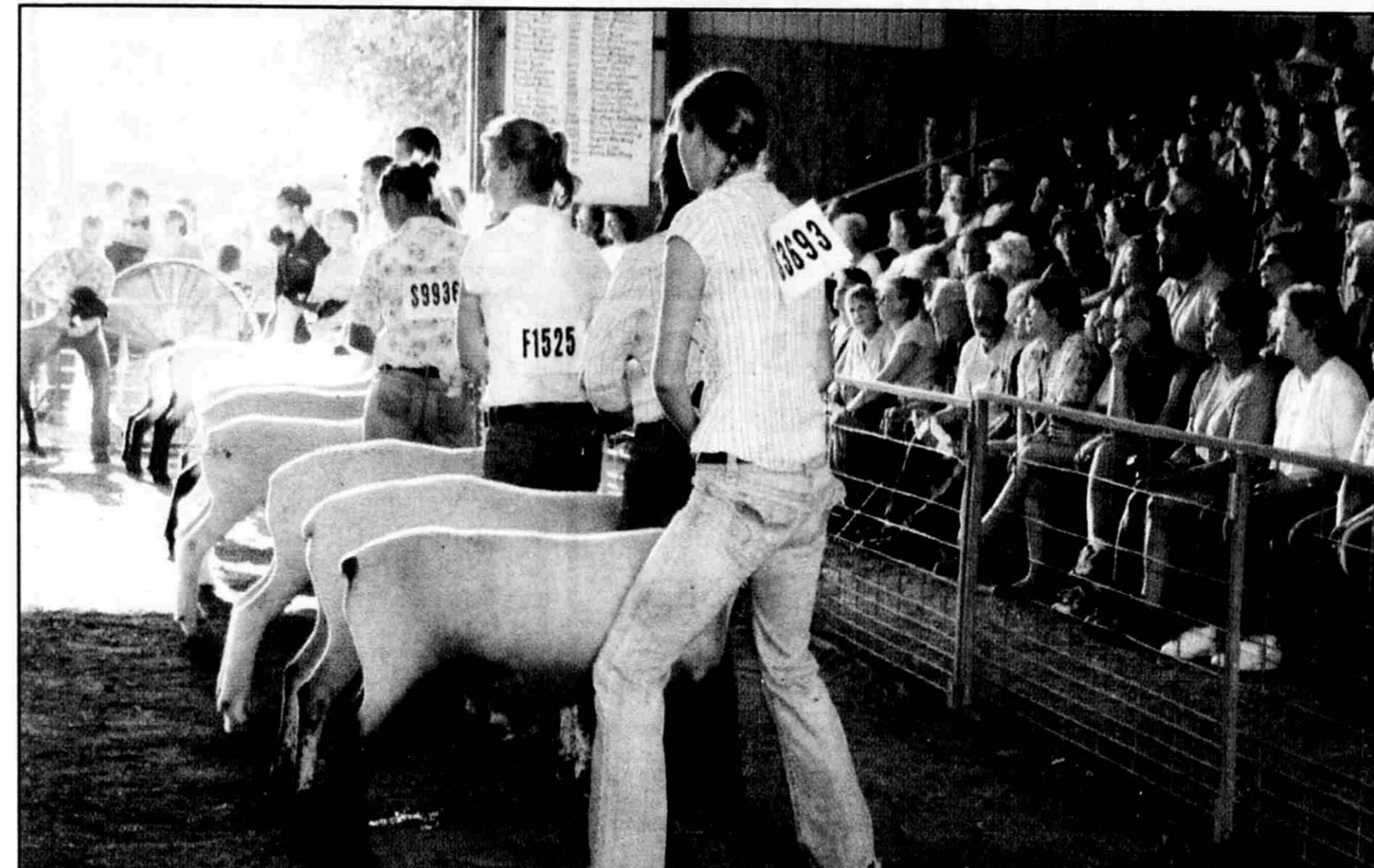
Activities this weekend at the fairgrounds include a horse show and Art Attack.



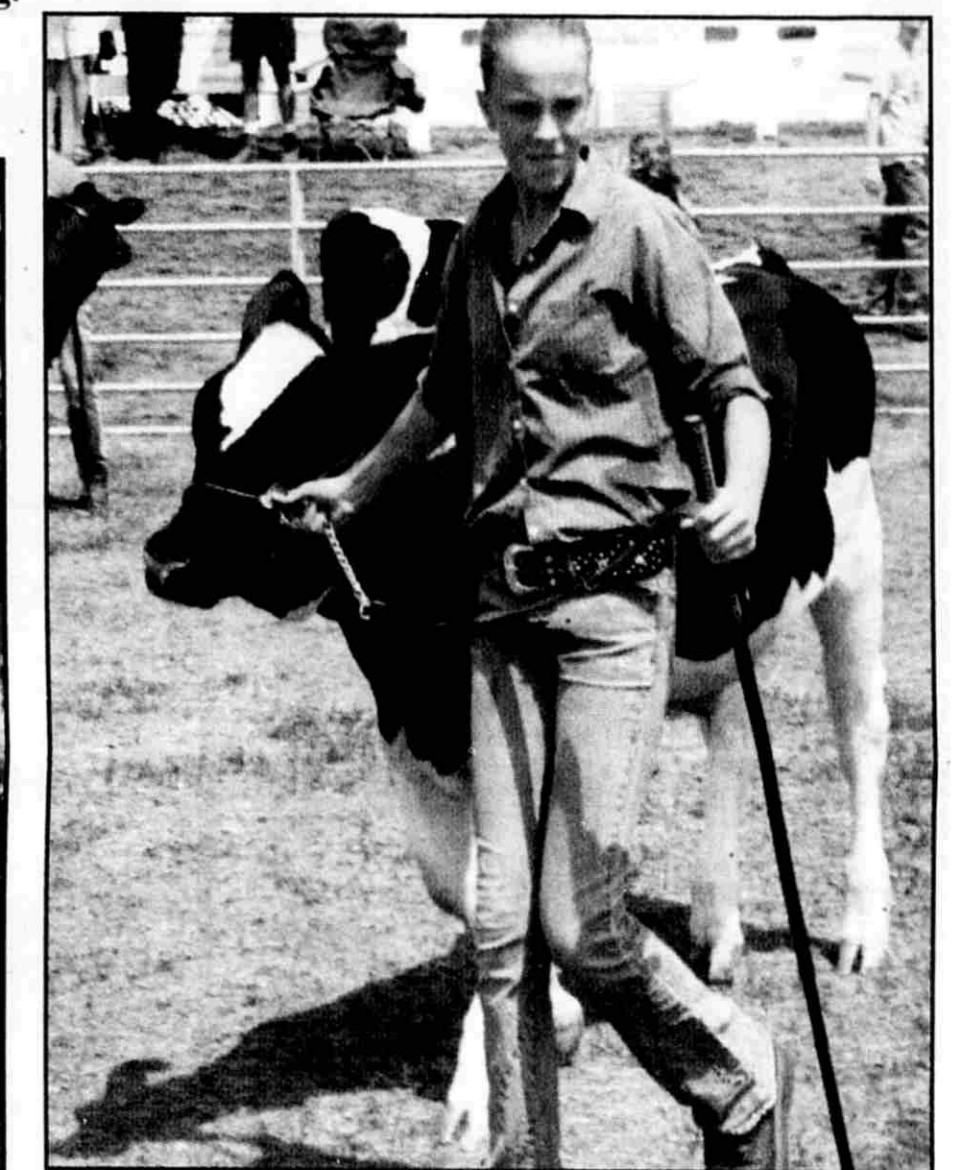
A horse drawn wagon shuttle toured around the fairgrounds last week.



Emilee Van'Thof, Taylor Hurd, Lindsey Klomprens, Audra Mazie, Jackie Thome, Kimberly Van Thof, Nicole Yeager, Haley Nieuwkoop and Justin Van'Thof performed skits during clown judging.



Sheep were judged for showmanship, market and breed at the fair.



Sarah Oesch took first place in the heavy weight dairy feeder calf category.

\*\*\*

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- Aldous Huxley (1894 - 1963)

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Love U, Mike



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### Brown, continued ... From Page 1

Florida in 2002, the challenge of the column was exacerbated. In Key West, Brown started publishing "The Real Estate Guide for the Florida Keys," a monthly publication.

The Key West Citizen's "Citizens Voice" department inspired the much loved/hated nowadays "Sound-Off" feature in the Ledger. Other pieces like "Off the Blotter had to go."

In the heyday of the newspaper, Brown employed three full time pressmen, a bookkeeper, graphic artists and editorial staff. But Brown always felt he ran the business with a skeleton crew.

"I was always amazed how much we kicked out," he said. "I couldn't offer wages like a government job. So I made up for it in freedoms."

The small paper covered some big stories during Brown's ownership. The biggest feature, with a bold headline "Storm Rips Through Lowell" and a picture of the destroyed Showboat, was published

on Aug. 23, 1978. The story covered a tornado that touched at the very heart of Lowell.

Throughout the years, the paper has changed slowly with the times in content and design. In 1980, the Ledger changed size, heads and price. The format also changed from broadsheet to tabloid allowing for more flexibility.

Among his employees, who average 20 years, Brown is known as a people person who handed out freedoms in exchange for

wages or benefits, as long as the publications came out.

Managing editor Jeanne Boss said working for Brown has been totally entertaining. "Rog has been one of the most unique employers I've ever had," she said.

Cathy Acker, an employee of 20 years, said working for Brown was fun. "He was lenient," she said. "We had those extra little benefits." However, Acker said she would have liked a little bit more control.

"I like having one leader," she said.

Brown credits employee loyalty to his relaxed leadership style. The "Tools of Freedom" picture proudly hangs in the reception area of the multi-faceted, humming reception area of the business.

"I am really happy that the Jacobs family bought the paper," he said. "It was time to get somebody on

site. They're involved and devoted to the publishing business."

Brown said the community will notice some dramatic improvements, more involvement and more community coverage.

"I am going to miss the staff and the customers," he said. "But I will be around."

Brown's son Casey with wife Tammy live in Lowell. Brown also has a daughter, Angie Briggs. Even though Brown retains publishing rights to "Cozy Corner," he plans to take a break from writing it. He and his wife Terese will continue to publish the real estate guide in Key West.

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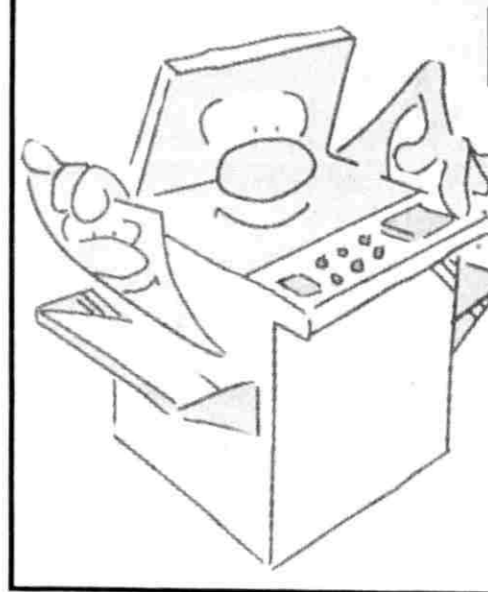
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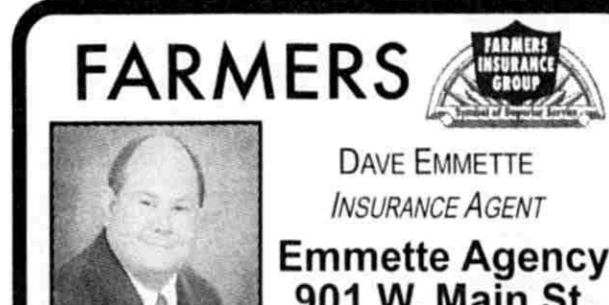
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**FINAL PLEA FOR AREA HOST FAMILIES**

Foreign high school students are scheduled to arrive soon for academic semester and year homestay programs, and the sponsoring organization needs a few more local host families. The students are anxiously awaiting news of their new families. These young ambassadors are looking forward to fulfilling their life-long dreams.

According to Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) Executive Director, John Doty, the students are all between the ages of 15 and 18 years, are English-speaking, have their own spending money, carry accident and health insurance, and are anxious to share their cultural experiences with their new American families. P.I.E. currently has programs to match almost every family's needs, ranging in length from a semester to a full academic year, where the students attend local high schools.

P.I.E. area representatives match students with host families by

finding common interests and lifestyles through an informal in-home meeting. Prospective host families are able to review student applications and select the perfect match. As there are no "typical" host families, P.I.E. can fit a student into just about any situation, whether it is a single parent, a childless couple, a retired couple or a large family.

Families who host for P.I.E. are also eligible to claim a \$50 per month charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student.

For the upcoming programs, P.I.E. has students from Germany, the former Soviet Union, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Japan, Hungary, Korea, Mexico, Australia, Yugoslavia, China, and many other countries. P.I.E. is also participating in two special government-funded programs to bring scholarship students from the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union

as well as predominantly Islamic countries such as Yemen, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar to the United States. P.I.E. is a non-profit educational organization that has sponsored more than 25,000 students from 45 countries since its founding in 1975. The organization is designated by the United States Department of State and is listed by the Council on Standards for International Travel (CSIET), certifying that the organization complies with the standards set forth in CSIET's Standards for International Educational Travel Programs.

Doty encourages families to contact the program immediately, as it will allow the proper time for the students and hosts to get to know one another before they actually meet for the first time.

Kent County area families interested in learning more about student exchange or arranging for a meeting with a community representative may call P.I.E., toll-free, at 1-866-546-1402. The agency also has travel/study program opportunities available for American high school students as well as possibilities for community volunteers to assist and work with area host families, students and schools.

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**Making College More Affordable for Michigan's Working Families**

By U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow

Today, more than ever before, a college education is a critical stepping stone to achieving the American dream. A college education improves your chances of getting a good paying job, having higher earnings and working your way into the middle class.

Michigan is blessed to have a number of world renowned universities that are at the cutting edge of research and education. These schools serve to open doors and create opportunities for thousands of graduates each year.

Unfortunately, more

and more students are being priced out of that opportunity. And even more are being saddled with crippling debt before they have even entered the work force.

With college costs tripling over the past 20 years, we need to be making it easier, not harder, for people to afford college and achieve the American dream.

That's why I am proud that the new majority in the Senate, has put education at the top of the priority list and has recently passed the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007 and the Higher Education Access Act of 2007.

After years of Pell Grants failing to keep pace with rising tuition, this bill will increase the maximum Pell Grant, meaning Michigan students will be eligible for an additional \$80 million in student aid next year, and over \$680 million over the next five years.

With the average cost of a four-year college education breaking the \$30,000 mark last year, too many students are being forced to turn to loans to cover the staggering price tag of a decent education. That's why this legislation will cap federal student loan payments at 15 percent of

a borrower's discretionary income, bringing needed relief to students saddled with excessive loan debt.

All that debt also serves to limit individuals who would like to devote their careers to public service. This legislation will forgive the debt of students who continue in public service careers such as nursing, teaching or law enforcement for 10 years. People in these jobs serve to strengthen our communities and deserve our thanks.

Having put two children through college I understand the full costs of a higher education, not only tuition, but room and board,

books and other costs. Each year, hardworking, middle-class American families and students are finding it harder and harder to cover those costs.

American families have a proud history of working hard so their sons and daughters can get a quality education. But we have moved beyond asking families to sacrifice. They are now being asked to break the bank. And that isn't right.

That's why passage of this legislation is so important. It is hard enough to make it in today's world. We are living in a time of

unparalleled competition, both within our own borders and across the globe.

The work place is asking more and more of its workers and we need our students to be prepared to face that reality.

Simply put, education policy is economic policy.

America is about everyone having a chance to make it if they're willing to work hard and play by the rules.

I'm proud that our new Senate majority has put higher education back at the top of our country's priority list, where it belongs.



**Cheer team places fifth in nationals**

The Young Champions/Cheer America National Cheerleading Competition was held Saturday Aug. 4 at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Madison, Wisconsin. Lowell's Level III girls (ages 9-plus) placed fifth out of 22 teams from the states of Michigan, Arizona, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, Minnesota, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Illinois. The girls placed second at regionals and third at the state competition to earn their place at nationals. Young Champions offers classes for girls and boys ages 4-18. The next session will begin in September at Cherry Creek Elementary. Flyers will be sent home with all students attending schools in the Lowell district a few weeks in advance. Call the Young Champions office at (616) 538-2888 for more information.

Pictured, back row: coach Mandy Vezino, front row: Riley Breimayer, Amber Cook, and Autumn Chrisman.

\*\*\*  
*No matter what side of the argument you are on, you always find people on your side that you wish were on the other.*  
 - Jascha Heifetz (1901 - 1987)

**LOCAL FAMILIES NEEDED TO HOST FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

Pacific Intercultural Exchange, a nonprofit organization is looking for local families to host foreign exchange students. The host family is responsible for board, room and guidance. The student has their own medical insurance and spending money. PIE has 31 students who have host families with 11 students that are still waiting. The following student is one who is hoping for a family as soon as possible.

**Anania - 15 year-old boy, from Armenia is waiting for a host family willing to share their home with him for the coming school year in the Lowell area. Anania is a scholarship student with excellent grades, likes playing soccer, watching movies, biking, swimming, running, tennis, video games and is very active and enjoys outdoor activities.**

If you have questions or are interested in hosting Anania, or another student, call your local coordinator at 616-527-0012 or 1-800-382-7439

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# GARAGE & YARD SALE FINDER

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

- PORCH SALE**  
Aug. 14, 15 & 16, 9-4 p.m. Household items, furniture, good low prices. Key Heights Trailer Park, 11355 Shiela St.
- YARD SALE**  
Friday, 8/17. DVD's, VHS, tools, toys, bar stools, camping stove, lawn chairs, dishes, sheets, towels, typewriters, silverware, dehydrator, golf balls, lots of misc. Mercer/Lincoln Lake. 10-4.
- GARAGE SALE**  
Aug. 10-26, 9-5, 700 Cumberland, Lowell, 1 1/2 miles N off M-21, W-Alden Nash. Handmade video cabinet, electronics, tools, toys, exercise, knives, sporting, household, Christmas, gift items, 1000's of books, 400 Precious Moments, many new and collectible items.
- ESTATE SALE**  
Aug. 16, 17 & 18, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Household items, exercise equipment, office equipment & antiques. 2575 Gulliford, off Grand River, 1 mile W. of Lincoln Lake.
- GARAGE SALE**  
Fri., Aug. 17, 9-5 p.m. A whole lot of everything that must go! 11346 Peck Lake Rd. (on the corner of Hastings, 1 mile N. of Jimmy's Grill).
- GARAGE SALE**  
Saturday, 18th, 9 - 4 p.m. BRAND NEW patio set and dining room table. Weight bench, clothes, mirrors, lamps and many more household items. Plus much much more. Items all in nice condition. 1560 Lincoln Lake, one mile north of Fallsburg Rd.
- GARAGE SALE**  
Clothing & household goods, 8/17 9 to 4 & 8/18 9 to 3. 708 High St.
- GARAGE SALE**  
Aug. 16 - 18, 9 - 6 p.m. 1607 Stonewood Dr. (Eastgate).
- HUGE**  
Multi-family yard/barn sale at 1316 Hawley Hwy., Saranac from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., August 16 & 17 and until noon on the 18th. Schwinn exercise bike, King comforter & shams, dishwasher, Home Interior, dressers, computer accessories, microwave, misc. furniture, horse trailer, 2005 JD 650 EX Quad, Cincinnati Knee Mill, Cold/steel saw, shop parts and tools and ALL kinds of NICE clothing from infant to adult boys and girls and of course kid toys. We have something for everyone.
- MULTI-FAMILY SALE**  
Thursday & Friday, Aug. 16 & 17 or 23 & 24, 8-4. 71 Foley's Grade off Burroughs in Riverbluff. Stephen King & Danielle Steele paperback books, furniture, May-tag gas stove, dishes, name brand teen clothes, many more misc. items.
- ESTATE SALE**  
451 Alden Nash, August 15 & 16, 9 to 5. House & garage full. Park on Alden Nash.
- LARGE GARAGE SALE**  
Aug. 16, 17, & 18, 8 to 6, rain or shine. 7905 Whitneyville SE. Too many items to begin listing.
- HUGE MOVING SALE**  
Aug. 16, 17, 18 (Thurs. - Sat.) Antiques, go-kart, men's tools, motor lift, John Deere mower, snow blower, rototiller, leaf blower, furniture, metal detector, paintball gun, rollerblades, surround speakers, home decorations, and lots more. 1277 Alden Nash NE (N. of Bailey).
- HUGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE**  
8070 60th St., Alto. Fri., Aug. 17 & Sat., Aug. 18. Large variety of boy's clothes, infant to size 14, men & women's clothes too. Travel system stroller in excellent condition, plus other strollers & baby items. New toy & gift items, handmade cedar Adirondack chairs, Nordi Track exerciser, & so much more at very low prices.
- YARD SALE**  
Vintage Studio, 3480 Buttrick SE, Cascade Twp. Thurs. - Sat., Aug. 16 - 18, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 8 - 2 p.m. Antiques, glassware, antique painted furniture, vintage linens, handmade lavender sachets, candles, word signs, calligraphy, and much more.
- LAST YARD SALE OF THE YEAR**  
Thurs. only, August 16th, 9 - ? 10822 Woodbush Dr., Lowell (Eastgate).
- GARAGE SALE**  
Aug. 17 & 18, corner of Howard & Amity. I missed my sale last summer so have twice as much this summer. Clothes: men's, women's, baby girl 0-3 mos., boy's 0-3 yrs. & 10's, plus baby items. Computers, printers, scanner, shoes, purses, blankets & loads of household things.
- INDOOR YARD SALE**  
Key Heights Community Building, Aug. 16 & 17, 9 to 5 p.m. & Aug. 18, 9 to 2 p.m. Lots of everything.
- MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE**  
Thursday, August 16, 9am-5pm, Friday, August 17, 9am-5pm, Saturday, August 18, 10am-1pm. 8635 Nash Highway, 1 mile south of Clarksville exit on left. Furniture, toys, name brand (Abercrombie, Hollister, AE, etc.) women and children clothing, porcelain dolls, household decorations, encyclopedias and books, flower arrangements, small appliances, something for everybody!
- BIG SATURDAY SALE**  
August 18th, 8 - ? 9771 2 Mile Rd., Lowell (Vergennes, then north to Parnell to 2 Mile). Lg. sz. ladies clothes, books, dishes, Christmas & camping stuff, stacking chairs, kerosene heater, air hockey table, antiques, and tons more!
- GARAGE SALE**  
Aug. 16, 17, & 18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 13008 Grand River Dr. SE, Lowell. Something for everyone. Our junk - your treasures.
- MULTI-FAMILY SALE**  
Kids/adult clothes, queen bed, horse tack, grill, antique collectibles, household items & much more. 1661 & 1751 Whites Bridge Rd., Lowell, Aug. 16 & 17, 9-5 p.m.

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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".

Thank you to the kind person who stopped and gave my son some gas when he ran out.

What is happening to the quality of the printing of the Ledger? Four unreadable pages last week-one the week before.

What is going up on the corner of Vergennes and Parnell?

Did you go to Lowell Schools? Don't miss the Alumni Gathering on Sept. 29. Lowell.k12.mi.us look under Alumni News!

It's so hot outside! I wish Lowell had a community pool.

The 4-H fair was great but...

I'm really disappointed in the customer service on Main Street.

we need more handicapped parking areas.

My family and I would like to thank whoever dropped an old white schnauzer at the end of our private drive about 3 weeks ago.

The bag of dog treats you left with her proved to our kids just how caring you were - Jerk!

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In response to all the noise stuff. Dogs barking, firecrackers, lawn mowers, loud cars, weed blowers.

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Mary F

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- 1972 DODGE - 2wd, 1/2 ton pickup, Arizona truck, rust free with AC, 400 CID, auto, less than 60k on rebuild. \$1,500. 616-550-9643.
- 2005 JAYCO POPUP TRAILER - good condition, furnace, refrigerator, stove, awning, sleeps 7. \$5,500. Contact Mike 262-5071 or 897-9535.
- BEDROOM SET** - 7 pc. Cherry bedroom set, includes sleigh bed! Brand new. Must sell. \$550. Can deliver. 616-949-6525.
- 1990 FORD ECONOLINE - with Braun hydraulic wheelchair lift, \$5,000. Call 616-813-7842.
- LOWELL - 2 secluded 5 acre parcels at the end of a private road. Mature woods, walkout sites available, perked and surveyed. \$98,500 each. 616-550-0558.
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- POTTED TREES** - 5 ft. Norway Spruce, \$25. Call 616-761-7588.
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- PROWLER** - 1994 5th WH-28DS, no slide, like new inside & outside, stored inside. \$5,900 or offers. 676-1093.
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- WINDMILL FOR SALE** - 30 ft. tower height approx., complete, \$1,400. 676-0287.
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- FOR SALE** - Woman's Mountain Bike with 6 speeds and padded seat cushion. Good condition with recent brake work but has some rust from outside storage. Currently stored inside and has been stored for last 2 years. Great potential! \$60 obo. Call Laurie at 897-5768 if interested.
- 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.
- MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS** - Relieves back pain. Never used, all sizes. Starting at \$200. RCD Wholesale GR. 682-4767 or 293-6160.
- GOLF BALLS FOR SALE** - All in perfect condition with no scuff marks. Assorted brands, only 25c each. Practice balls, \$15 per 100. Call 897-1355.
- LEDGER OFFICE HOURS:**  
MON. - THURS. 8-5  
FRI. 8-4  
Closed Sat. & Sun.  
105 N. Broadway, Lowell.  
Phone 897-9261
- EVENTS**  
LHS BOWLING CAMP - open to all ages. Aug. 20 - Aug. 23, 3 - 4:30 p.m. Contact Rocky Eickhoff, 901-7635 or Dave Adrainse 897-6731.
- MARTINY LAKES COTTAGES FOR RENT** - Bar-ryton 49305. Completely furnished including air, gas grill, canoe, paddle & row-boat. Pontoon rental available. Newly remodeled in knotty pine. 897-5062.
- FOR RENT** - 3 bedroom, 1 bath, \$775 per month + all utilities. 713 N. Washingt-on, Lowell. 648-5533.
- HALL FOR RENT** - with kitchen, seats 150. Call 897-6050.
- FOR RENT** - Ionia, 2 - 2 bedroom apartments with garage, \$525 per mo. plus deposit. Garbage/water included. No pets, lease. 517-541-2818.
- SMALL HOUSE IN COUNTRY** - \$550 per month plus very low utilities. Studio floor plan. Small deck & fireplace in yard. Semi-private. 1 mile to Lowell, 15 miles to Grand Rapids. Call John at 745-1587.
- HOUSE FOR RENT IN ADA** - available Sept 1st. 1 bedroom, fenced back-ward, workshop, deck, A/C, washer & dryer, quiet neighborhood, dead end street. \$600 a month plus \$600 security deposit. Call 581-0989.
- LOWELL MOBILE HOME PARK** - Under new management. Nice 1, 2 & 3 bedroom trailers for rent. For info call Stacey at 616-754-0276 or 616-890-1610.
- MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT** - Clean 2 br, \$400, first & last, no pets, by the lake. 3 br, 2 bath, \$550. 868-6950.
- SENIORS!** - Rent could be as low as \$70 per month! 1 bedroom HUD subsidized apartments for rent! Rent based on income for those who qualify! BEAUTIFUL 6 acre country setting! Pets welcome! Conveniently located 20 minutes East of Grand Rapids. Call today to join our small waiting list. Equal Housing Opportunity. 616-693-2271, hearing impaired dial 711.
- HALL FOR RENT** - Lowell Veteran's Center, 3100 Alden Nash. Newly remodeled, smoke-free, private, great location & great rate! Call John at 299-0486 or 897-8303.
- ATTENTION** - Immediate openings. Carpet cleaners needed, \$400 a week. Call now 616-245-7298.
- TRUCK DRIVER** - tractor trailer flat bed exp required. Minimum 2 years driving exp. & good driving rec. CDL-A required. Home weekends, most week-days. Competitive pay, "hub miles", assigned equipment, weekly paychecks, health insurance, dental, 401(k). Part time also avail. Apply in person. Michigan Wire / D & D Trucking, 2487 W. Main St. Lowell, MI 49331.
- RECEPTIONIST** - Immediate opening pt, flexible hours for small christian assisted living community. Send resume to Emerald Meadows, 6117 Charlevoix Woods Ct., Grand Rapids, MI 49546 or apply in person.
- HELP WANTED** - General Labor, full time, factory, good pay & benefits. Apply in person to HR Department, Michigan Wire Processing, 2487 W. Main, Lowell, MI 49331.
- C.N.A.** - Immediate opening pt/ft, experience for small christian assisted living community. Do you have the "calling" to serve and enjoy enriching the lives of older adults? Are you flexible and enjoy serving as part of a professional team? Send resume to Emerald Meadows Assisted Living Community, 6117 Charlevoix Woods Ct., Grand Rapids, MI 49546 or apply in person.
- CHILD CARE TEACHERS/ASSISTANTS NEEDED** - At Lowell church for moms group. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of month, Sept. - May, 9 - 11:30 a.m. Call Karen at 340-7385.
- DRIVERS - TOP PAY/BENEFITS!** 2 positions avail. Home wknds! PD Hollidays/Vac. 98% No-touch. Sign-on bonus for Hazmat. 800-998-5005.
- THE LAURELS OF KENT** - a premier Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is now accepting applications for Activities Assistant. This is a part-time, 16 hour per week position with evening hours / every other weekend. A high school diploma is required. Please apply in person at 350 N. Center St. Lowell, MI 49331.
- CUSTOMER SERVICE/CUSTOMER RELATIONS** - Immediate hire. No experience necessary. Company take over by major investor has created openings for dependable/energetic people. Several positions available delivery, setup, and customer service. No experience, company training provided over \$500 a week to start. We have flexible hours, bonuses and paid vacations are a part of this attractive package. For one on one interview call 616-522-9783. Call between 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon. - Thur.
- ATTENTION** - Immediate openings. Carpet cleaners needed, \$400 a week. Call now 616-245-7298.
- TRUCK DRIVER** - tractor trailer flat bed exp required. Minimum 2 years driving exp. & good driving rec. CDL-A required. Home weekends, most week-days. Competitive pay, "hub miles", assigned equipment, weekly paychecks, health insurance, dental, 401(k). Part time also avail. Apply in person. Michigan Wire / D & D Trucking, 2487 W. Main St. Lowell, MI 49331.
- CASHIER-PROCESSOR** - Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids is seeking full-time and part-time retail cashier-processors to work at our Lowell store. You may apply in person at 11625 Fulton St. or send a resume to Human Resources, Goodwill Industries, 3035 Prairie SW, Grandville, MI 49418, or by e-mail to employment@goodwill.org or fax HR at 616-532-3044. EOE/MFH.
- HOME HEALTH AIDE** - Do you need help in your home? Will do light housekeeping, laundry, meals, shopping, take to appointments. Over 25 yrs. experience. Excellent references. Reasonable rates. 616-481-9082.
- SENIORS** - Affordable photography. Now scheduling. Call Val Fleet at 897-2587. Have camera, will travel.
- ALTO DAYCARE HAS OPENINGS** - for 1st shift. Fenced in back yard, quiet neighborhood, food program, CPR trained. Call 868-0752 or 893-2676.
- RD TILLER AUCTIONEERS** - 616-437-9104, www.rogetiller.com.
- JOHN DEBIAK** - certified farrier. Horseshoeing & hoof trimming with twenty years of professional, full-time experience. Call 897-4290.
- TURNED DOWN OR DECLINED FOR MEDICAL COVERAGE?** - I have the solution! Call Tom NOW at 616-421-4366.
- FALL INTO BRENDA'S DAYCARE WITH EASE** - licensed christian home has openings. Come enjoy the laughter, games & all around fun time at Brenda's. Very affordable rates. Call 987-9351.
- CAN'T AFFORD HEALTH INSURANCE?** - Now you can! Call Tom NOW at 616-421-4366.
- TK'S HEART PET SITTING** - Loving & expert care for your pet(s) while you work or vacation! References available. Call Teri, 897-7347 or cell 616-328-2445.
- NEED A DUMPSTER?** - Dudley's Dumpsters. Dumpsters priced to get rid of your trash & save you cash! Garage, attic, household cleanup, roofing, trash, junk etc. 14 to 20 yards available. Call for free estimates. Contact Doug 616-295-6640.
- GALLERY & CUSTOM FRAMING** - Fire and Water Art! 219 W. Main in Lowell. OPEN Wed. - Sun. 1-6 p.m. Have your GRADUATION & WEDDING photos framed by the "Framing Artist." ART, artist created GIFTS, art CLASSES & MORE. www.fire-and-water-art.com or 890-1879.
- SHIP UPS AT THE LEDGER OFFICE** - Daily pickup at 3 p.m. We cannot accept hazardous materials or firearms. Compare our prices! Call for a price quote! We will need weight, zip code & dimensions for a price quote over the phone. 105 N. Broadway. 897-9261.
- PAYROLL & BOOKKEEPING SERVICE** - by certified Quickbooks advisor. Call Kathy 897-6351.
- HORSE BOARDING** - N. of Lowell, inside/arena. Call Peggy at 616-897-5807 or 616-915-4200.
- AVON** - Buy or Sell. Only \$10 to start. Call evenings/weekends: 616-897-5086, e-mail: AvonbySherry@atcmi.com, website: www.youravon.com/sgrimm.



Here Comes  
Lowell

# SHOWBOAT NOSTALGIA NIGHTS



★ **August 24 & 25**

Two Great Nights- FREE!

★ **CONCESSIONS BEGINNING AT 6:30 PM**  
*Flat River Grill* • Pulled Pork Sandwiches • Adult Beverages  
*Lowell Rotary* • Rotary Dogs • Chips • Soda Pop  
*St. Mary Pregnancy Center* • Popcorn • Soda Pop • Water  
*Wow Wee Concessions* • Snow Cones • Cotton Candy  
• Peanuts • Caramel Corn • Ice Cream

★ **NOSTALGIA DISPLAYS & LACF Tent 6:30 PM**  
*Lowell Area Historical Museum*  
Nostalgia displays on Avery Street & Showboat  
*Lowell Area Community Fund*  
Tent on Avery Street, Free balloons  
• Cookies • Ten-year anniversary books

## FRIDAY EVENING SHOW - 7:00 PM

"HERE COMES THE SHOWBOAT" .....CHORUS & ENDMEN  
"ARE YOU FROM DIXIE?" .....CHORUS & ENDMEN

**AMATEUR TALENT SEARCH WINNER**  
Lynette Rohrbacher

"TOOT TOOT TOOTSIE GOODBYE" .....ENDMEN

**AMATEUR TALENT SEARCH WINNER**  
Becky and Tess Reagan

"SHOWBOAT NOSTALGIA MEDLEY" .....SHOWBOAT CHORUS

**AMATEUR TALENT SEARCH WINNER**  
Steve Flohr

"ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET" .....ENDMEN

### ★ BOOGIE WOOGIE BABIES ★

"GOD BLESS AMERICA" .....ENTIRE CAST & AUDIENCE  
"WAITIN' FOR THE ROBERT E. LEE" CHORUS, ENDMEN & ALL

## SATURDAY EVENING SHOW - 7:00 PM

"HERE COMES THE SHOWBOAT" .....CHORUS & ENDMEN  
"ARE YOU FROM DIXIE?" .....CHORUS & ENDMEN

**AMATEUR TALENT SEARCH WINNER**  
Mariah Moore

"TOOT TOOT TOOTSIE GOODBYE" .....ENDMEN

**AMATEUR TALENT SEARCH WINNER**  
Ryder Jones

"SHOWBOAT NOSTALGIA MEDLEY" .....SHOWBOAT CHORUS

**AMATEUR TALENT SEARCH WINNER**  
Gabriel Estrada III

"ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET" .....ENDMEN

### ★ JOYRIDE & SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY ★

"GOD BLESS AMERICA" .....ENTIRE CAST & AUDIENCE  
"WAITIN' FOR THE ROBERT E. LEE" CHORUS, ENDMEN & ALL

★ LIMITED BLEACHER SEATING AVAILABLE, BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR AND ENJOY ★



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